



لجنة الانتخابات المركزية - فلسطين
Central Elections Commission - Palestine

15 April 2024
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To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

I first met Michael Bruter and Sarah Harrison in 2013 at the Centre for Parliamentary Studies in Kuala Lumpur. Their presentation on voter participation in elections was a revelation in that it not only looked at the implementation of elections but considered the operational environment of polling stations.

They influenced the Central Electoral Commission in Palestine to foster stronger ties with election stakeholders, so we are not only the implementer of the elections process, but also promote the democratic process in full partnership with the community we serve. This is evident in our new approach to addressing first-time voters and in our design of polling stations to respond to the needs of people with disabilities.

This also affected our electoral reform process of the Palestinian municipal elections where the Central Electoral Commission worked as a catalyst. We brought stakeholders together so they could raise their concerns, such as the need to reform the electoral system as well as the need to reform other social and technical issues.

As a result, the system now encourages better gender representation of voters in elections and more young people are now able to run for election due to the lowering of potential candidates' age. At a technical level, the Central Electoral Commission has now introduced processes to enable people with disabilities to exercise their voting right independently.

The research insights from Michael and Sarah have contributed to better serving voters in elections, regardless of age, gender or disability, and this will lead to a better experience and increased voter participation among Palestinian citizens in the coming years.

Kind regards,

Hisham Kuhail
CEO
Central Elections Commission, Palestine

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