

**The Right of Return as a Human Right: Jordanian women of Palestinian Origin**

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The last century has witnessed many kinds of political conflicts. These conflicts are causing traumatic effects throughout the world. In Jordan, a kingdom in the Middle East, about 50% of the population are of Palestinian origin who fled their country as a result of the ongoing conflicts in the region. Occupational therapy emerged as a profession during wartime. Occupational therapists have been urged to expand their services to include the promotion of health and well-being for all persons, especially those living under grave political and social conditions. However, there is little evidence of occupational therapy involvement in this domain, illustrated by the scarcity of published data. Yet, the purpose of this study is to illustrate the factors that are influencing and shaping the Jordanian women's occupational role in the context of ongoing political conflicts. A qualitative research approach using a variety of ethnographical methods guided the research design. Ethnographic interviews, which include everyday conversations, were conducted in face-to-face contexts with 25 Jordanian women; most of them are of Palestinian origin. Participant observation, for six months, has been undertaken within various Jordanian community contexts. Writing fieldnotes and reflections have generated information about Jordanian women's roles and activities.

Based on the content analysis and interpretations of the data, the findings of this study identify some of the factors affecting occupational role of the Jordanian women. Holding on the right of return has been embraced, by many Jordanian women of Palestinian origin, as a crucial factor in attempting to cope with traumatic impacts of political conflicts. Throughout women's narratives we can recognise how the right of return has been manifested in their daily lives. By understanding the symbolic and intimate relationship which connects individuals to their homelands; occupational therapists can offer support for these women who are calling for international legal and social reforms in order to undertake their roles like other people elsewhere. It also helps occupational therapists in grounding cultural appropriate psychosocial interventions.