تقاطعات
Takatoat.org

NURTURING OUR ROOTS

Building the Foundation for a Steadfast Feminist Movement

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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REFLECTION ON THE LAST YEAR

A WORD FROM THE HEART

Dear all,

Bell Hooks says in her book, All About Love: "All my life I have thought of love as primarily a topic women contemplate with greater intensity & vigour than anybody else on the planet... but women are more often love's practitioners...women often feel we are in a constant state of yearning, wanting love but not receiving it."

After all the challenges we have been through in the last few years, it was our hope that 2023 brings us love and solidarity among us as feminists and activists. Especially with all the different realities women and feminists encounter, all of us need a lot of love and much more solidarity in our lives and work. It's not just something we say, it's not just something we write about…it's something we need to think about, know, and practice. It's what we believe in, unconditionally. Love and solidarity means creating a strong and supportive world for all of us.

We know that current strategies will not get us to a just & equal world from a feminist perspective in our lifetimes. Systemic solutions to advance women's rights in all walks of life are diverse and viable, but we need massive collaboration and investments to scale these reforms in a meaningful way.

In the last year, we were painfully reminded of the weakness in our systems of social protection, the omnipresence of gender-based violence, and the dire need to fill the gap in supporting women under threat: from offering protection, to creating knowledge around guidance and support, & disseminating tools that can help us feel safe. This is our responsibility towards each other. This year we also saw major violations of women's fundamental right to lives free of all forms of violence across our region. These phemomena of intersectional political, economic and social violence were compounded by natural disasters, acts of war and war crimes, and economic crisis in a number of states in the region.

In the midst of these struggles, we found love and hope present and steadfast in the feminist movements we belong to and with our allies. This love came in the form of public solidarity, mutual aid, and collective action in the face of grave injustice on individuals and whole communities.

Our biggest, broadest wish for 2024 is that the power of women—our voices, our stories, our very being—be the driver of the policies and laws, work and practices, norms and culture we know are needed to ensure just lives for all in the communities we exist in and love. Yes, we are weary—there's been little chance for reprieve in the face of violent colonial and neocolonial structures, shrinking civil space, and lack of social protections in our region. This reminds us that we must centre building an apparatus of care and healing in our feminist movements as a primary part of our work.

To make these hopes realistic and true, we rely on the support and love from all of you. This wouldn't have been and will never be complete without you, and for you, we are forever thankful. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for standing by us in each step of the way.

Love and Solidarity,

Banan AbuZainEddin
Co-Founder & Executive Director
Takatoat Feminist Collective

ROADMAP OF 2023

ANNUAL REFLECTION RETREAT

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

SRH-R WORKSHOP

ALAM HAMRA

DESIGNING & HOSTING SRH-R SESSIONS

STAFF COLLECTIVE GROWTH & HEALING

PARTICIPATORY LEARNING IN A FEMINIST LENS SESSIONS

STAFF TRAINING

PERIOD POVERTY DISCUSSION SESSIONS

4TH ANNUAL REGIONAL FEMINIST SCHOOL

TEAM STARTS WELLBEING HOLIDAYS

ZARQA | KARAK | AMMAN | IRBID

FEMINIST TACTICS EMPLOYED IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

FOUNDING OF FEMINIST CLUBS

POWER DYNAMICS SERIES

GROWING COMMUNITY IN NEW SPACES & PLACES

CLUB MENTORSHIP DAYS

REGIONAL FEMINIST SESSIONS PROGRAMME

BOYCOTTING AS A TOOL OF RESISTANCE

CRITICAL KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

LIBERATION PSYCHOLOGY

NAVIGATING THE LABYRINTH OF GYNECOLOGICAL CARE IN JORDAN

VISIONS OF A FEMINIST FUTURE

DEVELOPING TAKATOAT'S DIGITAL MEDIA STRATEGY

INITIATION OF SESSIONS AT TAKATOAT

PALESTINE IS A FEMINIST ISSUE

ARCHITECTURE & FEMINISM

EMANCIPATORY EDUCATION

THE RIGHT TO ANGER

MOTHERHOOD

Engage women and girls proactively in the feminist movement

In 2023, Takatoat reached **1,425 women and girls** through our different community building, learning, and knowledge production activities. **521 women and girls** were dedicated members in our community this year.

Takatoat activated its **feminist space** this year, welcoming old and new members and hosting intimate activities. We also established key relationships with **four women and youth-led spaces across Jordan** in Ibrid, Karak, and Zarqa, wherein Takatoat members convened for diverse activities throughout the year.

Takatoat established **four feminist clubs** across Jordan in 2023. These clubs bring together Takatoat members in Amman, Irbid, Karak, and Russeifa, Zarqa to read, exchange ideas, and learn as a group in a safe and welcoming feminist environment.

Takatoat held a number of participatory, feminist learning programmes this year, including the **Feminist Sessions Series, Power Dynamics Series, Regional Feminist School, Sessions at Takatoat, and SRH-R educational workshops and trainings.**

Takatoat also invested greatly in our team, in an effort to take care of all staff holistically and raise our professional capacity to meet the demands of our work nimbly.

Mobilising and campaigning in solidarity with social justice movements

Takatoat launched public solidarity statements and offered **support to individual feminist and social justice activists in Jordan and the greater region** targeted for the critical work as human rights defenders.

Takatoat also organised in response to intersectional regional issues, including **natural disasters in Syria, Turkey, Morocco and Libya, and political struggles in Sudan and Palestine.** Our organising tactics were diverse and ranged from **solidarity statements and petitions, to a companionship initiative with peer feminists,** to **mutual aid** for emergency relief.

Members of Takatoat also represented our movement in key global meetings including the **Commision on the Status of Women & World Bank Annual Meetings to lobby against policies and approaches that perpetuate oppression and violence** in our communities on a global scale.

Developing intersectional and critical feminist thought

Takatoat produced and commissioned a number of knowledge resources that spring from intersectional, critical feminist thought in the last year. These resources included **translation of feminist texts** by pioneering feminist thinkers like **bell hooks and Silvia Federici.**

We also worked on original feminist studies and publications, including the **Visions of a Feminist Future Booklet** that focused on diverse imaginations of a feminist future from the perspective of feminist actors from different fields and professions, and the **Feminist Tactics Employed in the Global South** research study and paper.

Lastly, we invested time in research related to women and girls experiences with sexual and reproductive health services in Jordan and the region, through a study and paper on **Period Poverty** in Jordan and Syria, and another, on the experiences of women and girls with **gynecological services** in Jordan.

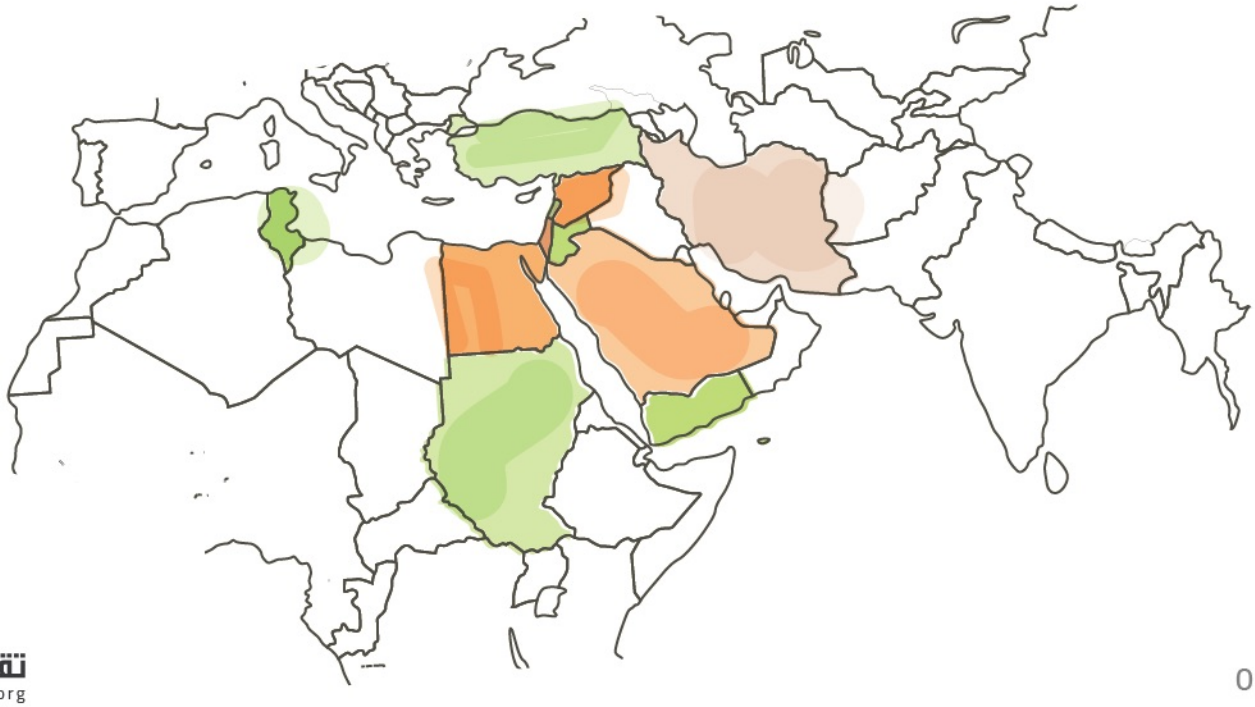
A GROWING COMMUNITY
OUR PEOPLE

OUR MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNITY REACH IN JORDAN & THE REGION

In 2023, Takatoat reached **1,425 women** and girls through our different community building, learning, and knowledge production activities. **521** women and girls were active members in our community this year. Among these active members are volunteers, community coordinators, and routine activity participants who engage in diverse ways with Takatoat. Their presence and contributions range from producing digital media content, to partaking in research studies, to organising and attending community learning programs and events.

Women and girls from across South-west Asia and North Africa joined us in producing knowledge resources including research studies and original publications, and in sharing their knowledge as part of learning programmes and community events that Takatoat hosted this year. In 2023, we were joined by women and girls in our online and offline activities from **Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Tunisia, and Yemen.**

We are blessed to have been enriched by the solidarity, love, and knowledge conveyed through shared experience with this community in the last year. In working toward strengthening local and regional feminist networks, we hope that we can gradually nurture and deepen bonds with the women and girls that we connect and learn with from year to year.



ACTIVATING TAKATOAT'S COMMUNITY SPACE

Takatoat inaugurated the opening of its office and community space in late 2022 with the intention of providing a safe, welcoming place for the members of Takatoat's community to meet, learn, work and grow.

During the past year, the space has taken meaningful steps toward shaping this environment in an organic, responsive fashion to our collective's needs.

The space welcomed a new learning series, **Sessions at Takatoat**, wherein invited guest speakers and interested women and girls engaged in participatory learning discussions on a wide variety of feminist and social justice topics. Takatoat's community space contributed to forming a receptive, intimate environment for critical and generative knowledge exchange in these sessions.

Takatoat's **Feminist Reading Club** in Amman was initiated in 2023 and benefited from having a dedicated space to regularly meet and discuss feminist reading materials circulated among the Club members. The group contributed to building a community library in the space that holds written resources on feminist thought, novels and short stories, articles and magazines, and academic and research studies regarding social justice and gender issues, and diverse contexts of women and girls.

Establishing a working office also relayed great benefit to Takatoat's staff, volunteer team and colleagues. The presence of multi-purpose working space enabled Takatoat to host capacity building training, in-house for staff and volunteers, conduct core administration functions, and host partners & colleagues from allied organisations, groups, and initiatives. Further, Takatoat community members also were able to use this space as a place to meet, learn, and work.

We look forward to engaging with the space more deeply in the next year, and have great appreciation for the women and girls who offered their energy, love, and labour to enrich the space in 2023.

"[I HAVE] **A WARM RELATIONSHIP WITH SPACE OVERALL. AT TIMES IT IS BUSTLING, AND AT OTHER TIMES CALM AND STEADY. THE SPACE MEDIATED MANY DISCUSSIONS, QUESTIONS, AND REVERSALS, ALL OF WHICH MOVED ME TO RESEARCH, MAINTAIN** [MY THOUGHTS] **OR REFORM THEM.**"

- Member, Amman Feminist Club

FOSTERING COMMUNITY IN NEW SPACES

We were fortunate to build community bonds through new and renewed platforms and spaces in Jordan and the greater region in 2023.

With the foundation of our Feminist Club network in Jordan this year, Takatoat began working regularly in Irbid, Karak, and Russeifa, Zarqa. We were tasked with finding well-suited spaces to host Club meetings in these different areas, and were incredibly lucky to develop relationships and host activities with four, women and youth-led spaces across Jordan.

Each of these spaces, in addition to Takatoat's community space, contributed uniquely to the development of the different Club communities across Jordan. In Irbid and Karak, we formed partnerships with independent art spaces dedicated to creative expression of different kinds (visual arts, music, and performing arts). These spaces are singular because they're warm, private, youthful, and ever-developing due to the creative production that happens within their walls.

In Russeifa, Zarqa, we partnered with a local women's association to host Club activities and women and girls' health research sessions. This space offered not only privacy, but also versatility to host meetings and group activities as a partner with Takatoat.

The attributes of each of these spaces greatly supported the Club members in feeling comfortable, inspired, and embraced as they built relationships and learned as a group throughout the year. We are grateful to the individuals and groups who care for these spaces and welcomed us in the last year.

"THE SPACE WAS UNDER DEVELOPMENT – THE FOUNDER IS AN ARTIST AND WAS ESTABLISHING A PRIVATE SPACE [FOR HER PRACTICE] **– WE VISITED AND THEN STARTED HAVING SESSIONS THERE.**

EACH MONTH, WE VISIT AND FIND A NEW ARTWORK IN A DIFFERENT CORNER. I'VE OBSERVED THE PLACE GROWING AND DEVELOPING...IT'S DAZZLING."

- Facilitator, Karak Feminist Club

STRENGTHENING & CARING FOR OUR TEAM

This year, Takatoat's core staff team reflected on our needs and aspirations, as individuals and as a group. This reflection was prompted by the steady growth of both the scope of our work and team. This growth came with increasing demands on the team to find a healthy, effective work balance, build our professional readiness and experience, and protect and care for ourselves in the process.

We initiated the use of a variety of practices and tools in an attempt to strengthen and support our team. This included setting **annual, radical vacation breaks** for the entire team three times per year – in the spring, summer, and winter. We instituted these rest periods and planned our work activities in correspondence with them, in an effort to collectively take space away on a regular basis for our small, dedicated team to recharge.

The Wellbeing Sessions was another tool for communal care we used this year. This two-part session series was held from April to June 2023, with facilitation support from a feminist community wellbeing and healing specialist. In these meetings, we sought to learn more about each other's individual backgrounds, needs, and motivations, and how to establish care practices for a healthy work environment.

Our team also partook in **Critical Thinking Sessions** with local experts who practise within this intersectional field of communication and philosophy. The Critical Thinking sessions supported us in confronting how we think, communicate, process information and take decisions. We found this added value to maturing our communication capacities individually and as a team, as well as our ability to host critical conversations and discussions in different contexts.

In an effort to strengthen Takatoat's organisational capacity, the team took part in **Professional Development Training** and **Internal Policy Development Processes** throughout the last year. These activities supported Takatoat in gaining insight and establishing suitable internal strategies and procedures with the support of field experts on digital security, data and asset management, financial management, fundraising, monitoring, evaluation, and learning, and social media communication. We also

hosted Safety and Security training for all Takatoat team members, which covered digital security and general safety protocols.

Our organisational capacity raising activities also extended to skills development and mentoring with women active in our local community. We hosted a **Facilitator Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop** for Takatoat members to gain insight into feminist facilitation and participatory learning methods. This ToT workshop helped bring up the coordinators who now lead Takatoat's local network of feminist clubs in Jordan. We also hosted **Digital Safety Sessions** for general community members and feminist activists respectively in the last year. These activities contributed to nurturing an apparatus of growth and care within the feminist movement to which our members and extended community belong.

This year was one of great growth for Takatoat's team. We welcomed new faces, and said farewell to dear colleagues. We were also able to take practical steps toward improving our professional practice, and began building an apparatus of care that takes into consideration our needs and aspirations as individuals and as a group.

"WE DESCRIBE OUR ANNUAL TEAM BREAKS AS 'RADICAL' BECAUSE AMPLE TIME FOR REST IS PART AND PARCEL OF REMAINING STEADFAST IN OUR WORK."

- Takatoat Staff Member

BUILDING OUR FOUNDATIONS
OUR WORK

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY AND ALLIANCE WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE CAUSES AND MOVEMENTS

SOLIDARITY WITH FEMINIST, SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISTS

This year, we witnessed severe, targeted attacks on pioneering feminist and social justice activists in Jordan and the greater region for their work as human rights defenders. In response to different oppressive tactics used against these figures, Takatoat launched public solidarity statements and offered support to these individuals, including Hala Ahed (Jordan), Salma Al Shihab (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Hayat Mirshad (Lebanon), amongst many others.

While appearing as individual cases, we recognize that attempts to demonise activists within our extended networks and communities ultimately aim to punish us as a whole and concentrate sacrifices on leaders who are publicly active and accountable in their work.

As colleagues and allies, it is our responsibility to rally in support of one another and maintain that as a community, no one of us stands alone.

MOVEMENT BUILDING & SOLIDARITY ON INTERSECTIONAL REGIONAL ISSUES

In 2023, our region saw major environmental crises that were felt the hardest by communities already combating structural social, economic and political violence. The Syria-Turkey earthquakes in February 2023 were devastating for communities across northern Syria and southern Turkey. Takatoat not only raised awareness about the impact of the earthquakes on communities in these areas, but also partook in **Mutual Aid** efforts to support them. Takatoat's Syrian members at the regional level, who regularly take part in Takatoat activities, supported in collecting emergency relief funds and ensuring they reached affected individuals and families. Further, we collaborated with Fe-Male, a partner feminist organisation in Lebanon, in our mutual aid efforts to raise support at the regional level for our kin in Turkey and Syria.

In September 2023, the Moroccan and Libyan peoples also experienced calamitous environmental crises. The earthquake in Southern Morocco and unprecedented flooding in North-eastern Libya greatly impacted the infrastructure and livelihoods of rural and urban communities across these regions. Takatoat issued a statement of solidarity with these communities. In which, we emphasise their right to unconditional support, and clarify the causal relationship between present environmental disasters and colonialism and neocolonialism.

In a similar vein, Takatoat also allied itself in diverse ways around political intersections with feminist and social justice causes and groups regionally and globally this year.

These organising tactics included initiating a Companionship Initiative with Sudanese feminists. This Initiative developed organically from network building between our collective, and Sudanese feminist activists and groups in 2022. The **Companionship Initiative** was designed to encourage mutual knowledge exchange, learning, and support on feminist organising. The Initiative was paused in the first phase due to the outbreak of ongoing armed, political violence in Sudan. Takatoat's team took care to maintain communication

to maintain communication with our colleagues, especially in the initial period following the start of violence on the ground. From the outset of the crisis to the present, we continue to issue statements of solidarity with the Sudanese people and maintain consciousness to the aggressive killings, dispossession and displacement across the country, particularly in Darfur.

A FEMINIST MANIFESTO

ANTI-COLONIALISM
IS A FEMINIST ISSUE

We, the undersigned feminist groups and institutions, express our solidarity with Palestinian resistance in all its forms and stand firmly against injustice and colonization. As feminists within these groups and institutions, we, like millions of women in the region, **reject any stigmatisation or scepticism of this resistance as anything other than an anticolonial liberation struggle, one that will only conclude with the liberation and restoration of the historical land of Palestine and all bodies oppressed under the military and structural despotism of Western settler colonialism in Palestine.**

We view feminism as both a liberatory thought and a practice that combats injustice and oppression, primarily seeking to enforce justice and dismantle power imbalances. Palestinian resistance in all its forms represents a legitimate practice for confronting a ruthless colonial system that has abused and denied the lives of millions for decades. **We commend it and see it as an integral part of our struggle for a just world.**

Colonial and liberal discourses attempt to construct a single model of feminism: the feminism of the white bodies in the metropoles (Europe and North America). It is a form of feminism constricted to a so-called "human rights" framework **created by colonial powers and employed in the sustenance of their interests.** Liberal feminism is puzzled by any departure from this model and strives to negate and erase it. Consequently, our feminism faces disparagement and scepticism because it supports liberatory practices that **challenge and threaten** existing colonial and patriarchal systems at once; the armed resistance of the Palestinian people is one of those saluted practices.

Takatoat also organised with allies and our collective's community on the Palestinian cause in 2023. There was great escalation in colonial violence of all kinds on Palestinians across Occupied Palestine this year – culminating in the unparalleled, ongoing aggression that commenced in October. Takatoat responded to the occupation's targeted assault on Jenin city and refugee camp in July with a statement in solidarity with the people of Jenin, and in condemnation of regional and international silence on the issue. Following October 7th, Takatoat also issued a series of collective statements and awareness raising content on our unequivocal position on the Palestinian right to resistance and liberation from colonial oppression.

The joint-statement, Anti-colonialism is a Feminist Issue, A Feminist Manifesto, was released in English and Arabic in cooperation with feminist groups from the SWANA region. The statement openly invited feminist groups and allies from around the world to sign in support of its message. The statement went on to be translated into 12 languages, and was circulated and signed by feminist entities from the Global South and North with aligned values.

We believe that oppressive political, economic and social systems and practices are interconnected. They perpetuate colonialism, racism, classism & patriarchy across the world. As a feminist collective, it is part of our work to draw clear lines between the intersectional struggles we face as whole individuals and communities.

"OUR FEMINISM HAS TAUGHT US TO UNDERSTAND OUR POSITIONS, MAP OUR ALLIANCES, AND AMPLIFY THE VOICES OF THE MARGINALISED WITHOUT DICTATIONS OR CONDITIONS."

- Excerpt from Anti-colonialism is a Feminist Issue, Collective Feminist Statement on Palestine

SIGNATORIES

Iraqi Women Network
JÎN Women Association
Kohl Journal
Kyp community
Namaa Women For Culture Development
Nassawiyat
Marche mondiale des femmes - Liban
The Sex Talk Arabic
نساء شرق السودان
NOUN Solidarity Rural Feminists
Takatoat
feminist consciousness revolution
FEMALE
Aswat Nisaa
SLÉTATE
GAFM.1 Group d'action féministe Maroc
Jawaher Ibrahim Muhammad
Kamelia Asma Al-Khadami
Mouzayan Zahida
Dr. Asmaa Hassan Al-Toum
Haneen Ahmed
Reem Khashman
Hanaya Al-Nuhaas
Aisha Khalil Abdullah
Intilaq Muhammad Ghayd al-Malik
Laila Khaled Ahmed Ayad
Rasha Khalifa
Dina Batshoon
Rahma Aidoudi
Sandy
Maryam Bouatour
Hened Hamadeh
Dareen Alkayyal
Mahasin Mudalah
Safana Abu Safia
Khadija Jouda
Salima Ishaq Al-Khalifa
Jahan
Howeida Daud
Lana Bandak
Ghina Bashir Itani
Bayan Qadir Rasool
Sanaa Taher Ali Abu Awad
Aahed Al-Sabani
Nadine Bani Yassin
Islam
Hossam Shehadeh
Basmat amal
Noon movement for women
AL-Muthana
Calam
École féministe Lina Ben Mher
PWHO Women's Humanities organisa
درة سمراويات من أجل الوطن
Seen for Gender and Sexual Er
Cairo Foundation of Development
إعلميون من اجل الاطفال
Ganoubia-hora
Falgatna
Hakinasawi
Omar Khatib
Rama Sabanek
Besan

NETWORKING, GATHERING, AND LOBBYING IN GLOBAL POLICY MEETINGS

In the past year, Takatoat was represented by its members and general assembly in several key global meetings that touch on supranational strategies and policies that affect women and girls in our local and regional context. We attended the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2023, where in our Executive Director, Banan AbuZainEddin, spoke about the Palestinian Cause and Takatoat's work strengthening local and regional feminist movements as a collective in solidarity with its counterparts across the SWANA region.

In August 2023, we were invited among other groups, organisations, and initiatives working on women's and gender-based issues to attend the World Bank Annual Meetings in Morocco. At these meetings, we offered insight from a CBO perspective on the challenges faced by women and girls in our community when it comes to economic justice and how hegemonic, global economic policies contribute to oppression and violence against the communities we belong to.

Further, we attended a global gathering for women's rights and feminist organisations and groups in September 2023 hosted by Oxfam International in Colombia. In this forum, we learned from and linked with women activists working in Africa and Central and South America whose work aligns with our vision and values in feminist activism.

ENGAGING WOMEN & GIRLS IN THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT

FOUNDATION OF FEMINIST CLUBS IN JORDAN

This year, Takatoat took foundational steps toward realising our aspiration to support the development of a decentralised, local feminist network in Jordan. In past years, we built relationships with feminists of different walks of life across Jordan and in the region through our online and offline participatory learning activities, including reading circles, dialogue and discussion sessions, and feminist meetings and schools. These communal relationships were nurtured through mutual learning & shared experiences that developed organically in the last three years.

In 2023, we sought to establish **four Feminist Clubs** in different areas of Jordan – Amman, Irbid, Karak, and Russeifa, Zarqa – where we already had built bonds with women and girls interested in and committed to feminist thought and community building. We envisioned that these clubs would be spaces for feminist knowledge exchange, reflection, and communal growth between women and girls in different localities.

Takatoat developed and recruited for the different clubs in cooperation with interested community members from the respective localities: Amman, Irbid, Karak, and Russeifa, Zarqa. We aimed to recruit women between the ages of 18 and 36 years old who were interested in feminist thought and practice and committed to holding spaces of inclusivity, privacy and safety for fellow club members. The base pool of women and girls that we approached to participate in this initiative were a diverse group of individuals from across Jordan, who had previously organised and learned with Takatoat in its activities prior to the formation of the clubs. Many of Takatoat's first members were young, Jordanian women and girls from outside of Amman.

Club sessions began in May 2023 in the four different localities, with **55** women and girls participating on a regular basis. Club coordinators in each city centre support the planning, development and facilitation of the different feminist clubs. Takatoat brought together these coordinators to form a peer companionship group. The intention behind forming this group was to offer mentorship and support to the coordinators in order to build their capacity to host a participatory learning environment, to facilitate critical feminist discussions and analyses, to offer and apply feedback, and to undertake logistical and conceptual planning for the club groups.

spaces for reading, exchanging and discussing ideas and experiences, and creative expression on feminist thought and issues that touch the lives of women and girls. Takatoat convened **34** club sessions dedicated to different topics and learning materials (books, articles, TV series, films, and creative art) throughout the year.

The curated content reflected each respective group's interests and level of background on feminist thought. The subjects covered this year in the Clubs included but were not limited to norm setting & inclusive community building, feminist history and foundational ideologies, political, feminist imagination, bodily relations, and gender as a social construct.

FEMINIST DIALOGUE & DISCUSSION SERIES

The **Feminist Sessions** programme is one of Takatoat's baseline, annual programmes that focuses on mobilising young women from across the MENA. Each session in the program hosts a pioneering feminist speaker from the region and focuses on feminist-related issues, topics, and themes.

The programme has been implemented annually since 2021, and this year marked its third round of implementation. The programme consists of ten dialogue and discussion sessions, each led by a feminist activist from the SWANA region to discuss issues and topics on feminism, gender, sexual and gender-based violence, discriminatory legal frameworks, women's bodily and sexual rights.

This year, Takatoat announced the call for applications on its social media platforms and received over **220** applications from young women from across the region. We shortlisted around 50% of the applicants, arriving to a final cohort of **80** dedicated women who attended and completed the programme online.

Takatoat also piloted **the Power Dynamics Series** programme this year. This series was designed based on focus group discussions held with Takatoat community members in different areas of Jordan regarding their areas of interest for feminist learning in a structured discussion programme. Our community members expressed interest in issues related to the intersection between feminism and colonialism, gendered power dynamics, collective care, social norms and traditions that hinder women's liberation, and discriminatory structures.

Accordingly, the Power Dynamics curriculum was produced in harmony with community members' aspirations. In the six-session programme, we worked and learnt with a cohort of **20** diverse, gifted women. This programme proved incredibly successful – it was engaging, responsive to participants' interests and needs at present, and well-designed and developed. Takatoat plans to continue the implementation of this programme, deepening the existing content in the curriculum and exposing it to new audiences.

Sessions at Takatoat is another, new participatory learning programme that was initiated this year. The theme of each session was unique, and chosen in response to the current political and social environment, as well as for its potential for feminist enrichment. A variety of important, relevant subjects were covered in these sessions, including emancipatory education, liberation psychology, Palestine is a feminist issue, boycott as a tool for resistance, motherhood, collective care and right to anger, the relationship between feminism, social justice and architecture.

Takatoat held **eight** sessions under this programme at its community space. The sessions were facilitated by Takatoat staff and knowledgeable guest speakers who were dedicated to the topic at hand for each session. The sessions aim to be educational using a horizontal learning approach that encourages discussion and co-facilitation. This approach was deliberately taken to break the traditional environment for knowledge sharing that is vertical, and enforces power dynamics by assuming the expertise of specific individuals.

ANNUAL REGIONAL FEMINIST SCHOOL

Takatoat hosted our third annual, **Regional Feminist School** in 2023. We received **240** applications, of which **25** dedicated, young women were shortlisted and chosen to participate. We were joined by women from Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria in this year's cohort.

The seven-day programme is designed to facilitate networking among emerging feminist activists, foster knowledge exchange, and allow space for practical skill development in organising practices. With the aim of effectively bridging the gap between theoretical understanding of feminist thought and consideration of practices for real-world application.

The School's curriculum and facilitation methodology builds from intersectional feminist knowledge resources and the enrichment of the thoughts and experiences of attendees, following a participatory, feminist approach. Including curricular and extracurricular activities, this comprehensive approach ensures that participants engage with feminist thought in a holistic and regenerative manner, connecting theory with lived experiences. Takatoat relied on the School's training manual to guide the flow of core knowledge shared in the programme. This manual was introduced in 2022, and covers key feminist theories, schools of thought, global & regional historical contexts, and practical aspects of feminist understanding and practice in our lives. The manual is based loosely on the publication produced by Takatoat in 2022: We Exist and Resist in Solidarity: An Intersectional Guide to Feminist Thought. The core curriculum is as important as the extracurricular, organic activities that the School participants partake in throughout the consecutive school days during their mornings and evenings. These activities range from dancing, to singing, to sharing stories and playing games as a group. These integral activities provide space for intimacy and genuine connection building, as well as collective healing.

From year-to-year, we are reminded that the Regional Feminist School is a seminal programme led by Takatoat because it essentially offers a catalyst for change in participants' lives, both personally & professionally. This year's participants, similar to their past peers, completed the School journey with a deeper understanding of feminist concepts and a commitment to justice, critical thought, diversity and inclusion.

Facilitators' and participants' reflections resonate the great need for and transformative impact of such initiatives in our region.

Hosting feminist meetings that offer welcoming and safe spaces for exchange, learning, and the development of peer relationships are critical to nurturing steadfast, resilient feminist practice across the region. These meetings offer opportunities for connection outside participants' local contexts, which can strengthen their sense of care and communal support, as well as their imagination and capacity for continuing activism work in the challenging contexts we navigate. We were happy that participants' journeys with each other and with Takatoat stretched well beyond the School space. We saw evidence of this as a number of former participants rallied in solidarity and support of communities affected by the earthquake earlier this year in Syria and Turkey. Further, a number of participants went on to continue organising, convening and linking through activities at the local and regional levels based on connections made during the School.

"THROUGH ALLIANCES, REGENERATIVE EDUCATION, ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT, REMARKABLE ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY, & TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT, THE REGIONAL FEMINIST SCHOOL STANDS AS A BEACON OF TAKATOAT'S COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT AT THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS."

- Takatoat Team Member

"PARTICIPATING IN THE REGIONAL FEMINIST SCHOOL EXPOSED ME TO A CONTEXT WIDER THAN MY OWN. I BEGAN TO CONSIDER FEMINIST IDEAS AND WORK IN A MUCH BROADER LENS THAN WHEN I ENTERED, AND THIS WAS DUE TO THE DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCE AMONG OUR GROUP."

- School Participant

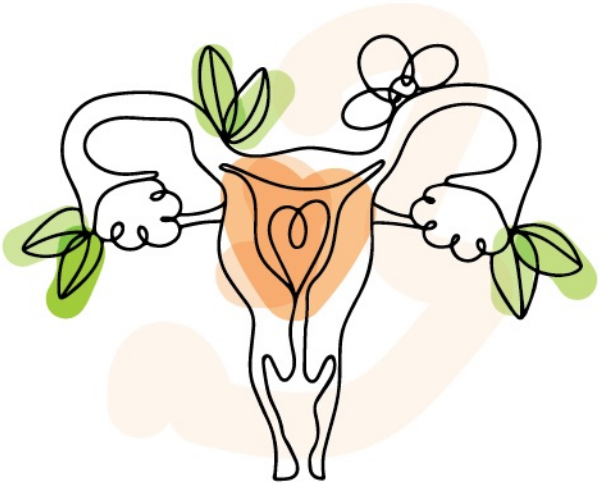
SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

This year, Takatoat dedicated a number of its diverse program activities to sexual and reproductive health rights (SRH-R) education and awareness raising. In an effort to build an understanding of women and girls' experiences with menstruation, we continued a series of **Period Poverty Discussion Sessions** in January and February 2023 with Ruwwad Al-Tanmeya in Amman & the Working Women's Association in Russeifa, Zarqa. In these sessions, **57** participants discussed their experiences with menstruation including practices, dealing with symptoms, myths associated with menstruation, and the range of different menstrual products available for use. In these sessions we were able to establish a safe and trusted space where women and girls felt safe to break the silence around their menstrual experiences and share thoughts, stories and questions around topics related to our bodies, sexuality and health. Participants left sessions comfortable and encouraged to share this knowledge with other family members and friends after seeing the impact of having the discussion openly with other women and girls. Later in the year, Takatoat had the opportunity to expand the Period Poverty discussion sessions to different geographical regions of Jordan, including Tafilah where we met and discussed the topic with **47** women at Ruwwad Al-Tanmeya. The outputs from these discussions will be included in a research paper on the causes and circumstances of period poverty in Jordan and Syria during the upcoming year.

The Marsa Center for Sexual-Health shared **23** cartons of reusable pads with Takatoat for distribution among our community in 2022. We used these period poverty discussion sessions, in addition to other spaces we partner with in different areas of Jordan, to introduce attendees and visitors to reusable pads and share this resource with them for personal use. We successfully distributed **17 of 23** cartons (approximately 1,500 kits) to upwards of **750** women and girls in our extended community.

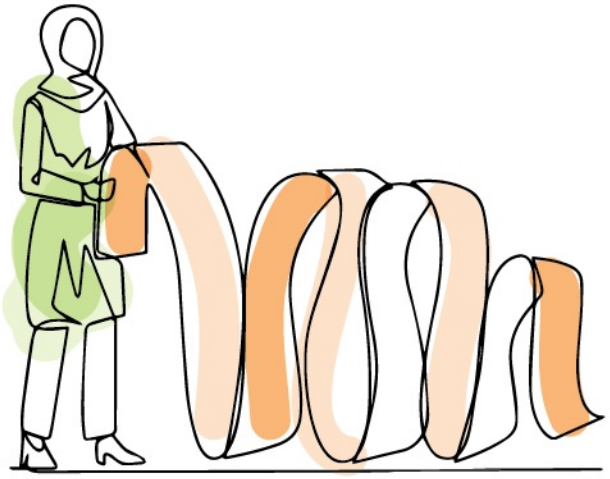
In April and May 2023, we held an **SRH-R Workshop** attended by **ten** women in our immediate community in Jordan. The workshop was led by a feminist, SRH-R trainer over four, four-hour sessions and covered a robust curriculum on gender, sexuality and sexual and reproductive health. The workshop was held fully in Arabic, to encourage conversations on these topics in our native language. The curriculum is designed to facilitate a self-exploration journey, wherein participants get to know and understand their own sexual & reproductive health development experiences; and gain insight to accurate, up-to-date information regarding sexual and reproductive health knowledge from a biological and social perspective.

In June and July 2023, Takatoat expanded its work on SRH-R education to the regional level, through the **Lipstick ('Alam Hamra') Discussion Series** hosted online in collaboration with TheSexTalk in Arabic. A dedicated curriculum was produced by TheSexTalk in Arabic, featuring robust knowledge on SRH-R. Through the program, we reached **20** participants from across the region over **two** cycles, each consisting of five, two-hour sessions.



The knowledge sharing sessions followed a dedicated curriculum, which contains well-rounded information on SRH-R topics including: bodily rights, bodily autonomy, gender identities, sexual identities, relationship boundaries, sexual safety and protection. The programme employed a participatory learning approach, wherein core knowledge is enriched and co-generated by participants who shared their personal experiences and stories. Participants were incredibly dedicated and engaged while attending the programme, despite being a virtual learning group.

We recognize a great need for safe, inclusive spaces to discuss SRH-R in a holistic manner that reflects our local context. Takatoat is dedicated to supporting the growth of spaces that normalise and celebrate discussing SRH-R topics.



INTERSECTIONAL, CRITICAL KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

TRANSLATIONS OF FEMINIST TEXTS

In 2023, Takatoat dedicated effort & resources to translate pertinent feminist writing originally written in English, to Arabic. With the support of bright, tactful translators with a core understanding of feminist thought, we translated Silvia Federici's Social Reproduction Theory: History, issues, and present challenges. We also translated an excerpt from Barbara Ehrenreich's Dancing in the Streets: A History of Collective Joy. Lastly, we continue work on translating bell hook's seminal book, All About Love. We see the translation of these resources and many others as critical for meaningful access to feminist knowledge in the Arabic-speaking world. A range of prominent & powerful feminist texts have yet to be translated to Arabic, and this limits connection & thoughtful exchange between Arabic-speaking communities and this incredible work. To narrow this gap, and also consider the thoughts shared by pioneering feminist thinkers in our own language, we hold fast to our commitment to translate a wide range of intersectional feminist texts that can serve as sources of enrichment and knowledge in our communities as they learn, organise, and grow.

VISIONS OF A FEMINIST FUTURE, Study & Booklet

This year, Takatoat sought to produce a research-based publication that offers insight into diverse imaginations of a feminist future. We found it relevant to undertake this project to help spark inspiration and generative energy in ourselves and others struggling in the feminist movement. The absence of political imagination hinders us from conceptualising and making real the spaces, communities, and worlds that reflect our values and aspirations. In order to make meaningful change and build within the feminist movement, we found it important to concretely imagine the futures we wish for & direct our energy to manifesting them. Imagination is itself a radical act and plays a core role in allowing us to continue our work with the energy and focus it heavily demands.

With this intention, we undertook research with the support of a bright, dedicated feminist researcher, Rama, on different visions of a feminist future. The research process consisted a literary media review, & a series of interviews with Arab and Arabic-speaking feminists

from South-west Asia, North Africa and the diaspora, of different personal & professional backgrounds and interests. We invited these individuals to reflect on their imaginations of a feminist future from different disciplinary perspectives including: education, urban design, health, art and culture, politics and the environment.

Each invitee shared their thoughts with Rama in a long-form interview. Portions of these interviews were chosen by the team to be recorded and illustrated for publication on Takatoat's social media platforms, under the campaign #Feminist_Future. This campaign successfully provided one of many participatory spaces for members of Takatoat's community to share their thoughts and ideas regarding a feminist future. We also held an in-person discussion session at Takatoat's space to discuss the topic with a group of women from our community in an intimate setting. Both of these channels offered a diverse range of perspectives on how we conceive of feminist futures and what is the utility of imagination in liberatory movements. The booklet, Visions of a Feminist Future, will be shared with the public via our website in 2024. Our hope is that the publication and its contents will serve as an accessible learning resource for our extended communities.

"WE YEARN FOR ARABIC, FEMINIST CONTENT THAT REFLECTS US IN OUR OWN LANGUAGE. LET THIS BOOKLET & ITS FIELD RESEARCH METHODOLOGY BE AN EXPERIENCE THAT WE CRITICISE AND EXAMINE IN ORDER TO LEAVE WITH THE BEST OF IT, IN A SUSTAINED AND CONTINUOUS WAY."

- Excerpt from Visions of a Feminist Future Booklet

FEMINIST TACTICS EMPLOYED IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Study & Research Paper

This year, Takatoat sought to expand research on feminist movement building, actors and tactics used in contexts that resemble ours in the Global South. We saw this research as a progression of our existing commitment to intersectional, critical knowledge production on feminist thought and practice in the Arabic language. In order to open the large task of starting such a research project, we chose to begin with desk research on feminist thought and practice in the Global South. We were supported in this research process by a dedicated, gifted feminist researcher, Ibtisam, who mapped out a literary and media review of feminist histories, movements, and tactics in different areas of the Global South.

The research study was conducted using an intersectional, decolonial lens that takes into consideration how different structural factors – including political, economic, and social oppressions – are responded to using effective, and diverse context-responsive tactics. The feminist tactics covered in the research study include those used to fight gender-based violence and discrimination, realise women's economic autonomy, and open space for political thought and action driven by women. Our intention in laying this foundation is to continue robust research in this area during the upcoming years that handles first hand accounts of feminist practices from different geographies in the Global South. In 2024, we will undertake field research on feminist tactics used by women and girls in the SWANA region. In coming years, we hope to extend the scope of this field research to capture women's employment of feminist tactics in different geographies.

NAVIGATING THE LABYRINTH OF GYNECOLOGICAL CARE IN JORDAN

Study & White Paper

In 2023, Takatoat tackled the major undertaking of piloting field research on the experiences of women and girls with gynaecological care in Jordan. We took this strategic decision in response to raised awareness of the structural challenges that women and girls in our community face when seeking gynaecological care. Despite being an essential healthcare service, gynaecological services remain severely curbed in Jordan due to deeply rooted stereotypes and taboos associated with sexual and reproductive health services, and poor and incorrect guidance and care provision by health service providers.

In order to begin work to both understand and support remedying these challenges, Takatoat undertook desk and field research on women and girls experiences with gynaecological care services in Jordan. With the support of a dedicated, resourceful researcher, Rand, we conducted a literature review of existing research and documentation on this topic and held a series of **nine** focus group discussions with **98** women and girls from diverse backgrounds residing in Jordan. The mixed methodology approach aimed to take into account the experiences and backgrounds of women from a wide range of backgrounds, particularly those whose experiences are marginalised in practice and documentation. Women from refugee backgrounds, women with disabilities, unmarried women, and women from across different geographical regions – including Amman, Azraq, Irbid, and Karak – participated in the study to help broaden and validate the sample.

The study showed that women and girls face significant barriers to seeking out and receiving appropriate, comfortable, & safe gynaecological care for a variety of health conditions and issues. These barriers are compounded by a lack of sensitivity, confidentiality, and care in health service provider practices and societal taboos and myths that deter and determine women and girls' access to care. The findings and recommendations for interventions based on the research study were translated into a white paper that will be published in 2024. Takatoat is committed to continuing work in the field to create spaces for women and girls to discuss their experiences and learnings with gynaecological care, as well as to better equip health service providers with gender sensitive practices when providing care.

"FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON HEALTHCARE EMPHASISE THE RECOGNITION OF GENDER-BASED DISPARITIES, BODILY AUTONOMY AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH, AND INTERSECTIONALITY... FEMINIST CRITIQUES ADDRESS THE MEDICALIZATION OF WOMEN'S BODIES, EXPLORE HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND UTILISATION, EXAMINE MENTAL HEALTH AND GENDER, ADVOCATE FOR MATERNAL HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, & HIGHLIGHT THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS."

- Excerpt from white paper, "Navigating the Labyrinth of Gynecological Care in Jordan: A Call for Systemic Transformation"

DIGITAL MEDIA STRATEGY & PRESENCE

Takatoat in the Digital Space

Takatoat's work in digital media is near and dear to our hearts because it represents a space to share our voices, thoughts, and stances with allied movements, individuals and causes. This space allows us to reflect on issues relevant to the present moment, as well as think, discuss, and build community toward the long-term trajectory of work in the feminist movement. This year Takatoat developed a digital media strategy to support intentional, effective work in the virtual space we care deeply about. With the support of an external consultant, we evaluated the status of our digital media work to date and identified clearly the role of Takatoat's digital media arm within the collective's greater strategy and umbrella of work. **Based on analysis and reflection, we chose to move forward with:**

- ☐ Developing our website as a space to archive our collective's work and experiences
- ☐ Connecting our short-form knowledge production work on social media with long-form counterparts on our website
- ☐ Diversifying our digital media content to reach different audiences
- ☐ Establishing a digital media team co-led by Takatoat community members

This year we are happy to have intentionally and unintentionally taken steps toward these milestones. By the end of 2023, we established a resourceful, talented digital media team that produces and shares regular content on our digital media platforms. Further, we were

able to connect short-form work produced and enriched by audience engagement on our social media platforms to long-form knowledge production resources including research studies and publications that we worked on throughout the year. In the last half of the year, our region faced a number of critical, political events and processes. Our work in knowledge sharing regarding these developments inadvertently widened our audience base, and resulted in greater engagement from demographics that we didn't traditionally reach (i.e. higher percentage of interaction from communities outside of the Arabic- speaking world and from men and boys).

We were also able to dive deeply into a number of themes on our digital media platforms this year that reflected our present aspirations and needs. These themes included but were not limited to information and awareness-raising content regarding SRH-R issues, intersectional visions of a feminist future, solidarity statements with allied movements, groups, and individuals in the struggle, and intersectional thought on gender and feminism and critical theory, economic structures, and political and environmental events and processes intimately affecting the lives of our communities.

THIS YEAR'S MEDITATIONS & LEARNINGS 2023

We learned a number of lessons during the last year, which was rich with new and formative experiences for us as individuals, as a group, and as a community. Takatoat closed the year in December with a retreat for staff, general assembly members, and community members. We convene this space annually to take time away as a larger community to reflect on work undertaken in the last year, our values and principles as individuals and as a group, and what expectations and wishes we hold for work in the upcoming year.

At this year's annual retreat, staff and members shared their experiences as part of the Takatoat community, and gave critical feedback and suggestions on the collective's work moving forward. These contributions illuminated the relevance and importance of having diverse spaces of different types to discuss feminist thought, be in community with allied women and girls, and experience support for imaginative and practical work in our local context.

The meaning of these spaces for personal and communal growth, although differing in degree and form from person to person, is apparent and striking as they are still young and developing. We learned that certain learning programs piloted this past year have the potential to become cyclical or annual activities conducted by Takatoat based on demand and interest from our community. We were also able to consider implementable solutions to logistical and conceptual challenges related to programs and activities we held in the last year, including outreach, space needs, community growth, and accessibility. It is our hope to continue sustaining and expanding the availability of these learning & community spaces in a grassroots fashion that is led by the women and girls who work with us.

OUR OUTLOOK FOR NEXT YEAR 2024

We begin 2024 with a commitment to holding relationships, spaces, and work that centre **fellowship, authenticity, responsibility,** and **resistance**. This year we will continue with new iterations of our annual participatory learning programs, including our feminist club meetings in Jordan, Annual Regional Feminist School, skills workshops and trainings, and feminist dialogue and discussion sessions. We plan to share with our community and the greater public, major research and fieldwork projects that concern women and girls right to safe, accessible and caring social services, and strategies for feminist organising in thought and practice.

We aim to develop stronger and deeper connections with women and girls in our local and regional communities, with the intention to support them in realising aspirations they have for themselves as learners and activists. It is our belief that collective knowledge and action will support us in maintaining the creativity, diligence and capacity for continuing work within the intersectional feminist and social justice struggles that we live and work within.

We enter the year with the conviction that hope is first and foremost a commitment to moving toward more just communities and worlds that affirm, care for, strengthen and ground us.