

Hanan Ashrawi

Hanan Ashrawi is head of the department of public diplomacy and policy and member of the executive committee for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In 2009, she was elected a member of the executive committee of the PLO making history as the first woman to hold a seat in the highest executive body in Palestine. In 2006, she was elected a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

In 1999, Ashrawi founded the National Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN). In 1998, she founded MIFTAH, the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy and continues to serve as head of its board of directors. In 1996, Ashrawi was appointed as the Palestinian Authority minister of higher education and research. That same year she was elected to the Palestinian legislative council representing Jerusalem. Prior to that, she founded the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) in 1994 and served as its commissioner-general until 1995. Ashrawi has also previously served as dean of the faculty of arts at Birzeit University and head of its Legal Aid Committee.

She is the author of several books, articles, poems and short stories on Palestinian politics, culture and literature, including *This Side of Peace*. Ashrawi received both a bachelor of arts and master's from the American University of Beirut and PhD in medieval and comparative literature from the University of Virginia.