



Success Story:

## **The Success Story of the Inclusive Education Unit in accommodating students with hearing disability**

As part of the Edu4all project, funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ program, Palestine Technical College (PTC) established the Inclusive Education Unit in early 2022. This unit is dedicated to supporting and empowering students with disabilities, helping them seamlessly pursue higher education. By offering trained staff, contemporary tools, programs, and technologies, the Unit has facilitated their integration with peers and ensured access to all necessary educational material, functions, and activities. We present here the story of students with hearing disability who managed to pursue their higher education at PTC.

Inside a hall filled with pictures of fashion and accessory designs, 6 female students with hearing disabilities sit, their eyes carefully and passionately monitoring the movements of the sign language teacher, so that she will be a beacon for them that guides them to the world of designing and sewing clothes, like other able-bodied students. Palestine Technical College opened its doors wide to the deaf group, out of its belief in the ability of Palestinian youth to give despite the circumstances and obstacles surrounding them. There is no obstacle that can restrain a person's will and determination except the obstacle to thinking and ambition. At first glance, the six female students studying fashion design at the Palestine Technical College in Deir El-Balah in the central Gaza Strip do not appear to be hearing-impaired. Their rapid engagement with their able-bodied colleagues enabled them to learn quickly, without major obstacles.

The student Ola, whose parents encouraged her to continue her academic career, was afraid that she would not integrate with her classmate without disabilities, and that disability would stand in the way of her journey. However, her fears quickly dissipated as she began studying and adjusting to her classmate.

### **A big challenge**

Ola says in sign language through an interpreter, "To succeed while you are healthy and in good health is normal and expected, but to succeed while suffering



from a chronic disability is the challenge.” She added, “I studied high school at AL-Rafi'i Secondary School for the Deaf in Gaza, and I wanted to stop there, but my family encouraged me to enroll in the fashion design major at Palestine Technical College, to achieve my dream.”

She pointed out that her father enrolled her in the fashion design major in college and bought her a “sewing” machine to sew what she learned, pointing out that the first piece of clothing she will sew is a “jalabiya” as a gift from her to her father.

### **A new and useful experience**

Samah Al-Helou, a sign language translator, confirms that integrating female students with disabilities with others who do not suffer from any disability is a new and useful experience, and has positive results for those with disabilities in various aspects. Al-Helou explained that the female students faced difficulty at first in dealing with their colleagues, but this soon disappeared when they found acceptance, satisfaction, and freedom from bullying by them. She pointed out that the flexible interaction between female students and teachers facilitated the integration of female students in a faster time, noting the great cooperation between everyone.



**Photos:**





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## Success story as a video

– Videos on this topic

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- <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/vwjFMQgum7HfqsJ6/?mibextid=Fsk8u8>

**The End**