



International Conference

Women Leaders as Agents of Change:

The Role of Women in the
Changes Taking Place in the
MENA Region

— July 27-30, 2015 —



PROGRAM

Inaugural Session

The opening session for the conference will take place at:

Irwin Hall, Auditorium
Lebanese American University
Beirut, Lebanon

Conference Sessions

All other conference sessions will be held at:

Crown Plaza Hotel
Hamra Main Street
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: +961(0)1754744

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Monday July 27

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Registration

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony - Irwin Hall, Lebanese American University (LAU)

Welcome Words

- Word of Dr. Joseph G. Jabbara, President, LAU
- Word of Dr. Samira Aghacy, Director, Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW), LAU
- Word of Dr. Walid Touma, Director, University Enterprise Office (UEO), LAU

Reception

11:30-1:30 p.m. Panel I

UN Resolution 1325 - International Instruments and How they Benefit Women

Moderator: Dr. Sami Baroudi, LAU, Lebanon

1. UNSCR 1325, An Instrument for Women's Leadership – *Dr. Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, Global Network for Women Peacebuilders, USA*
2. How to Get More Women into Decision-Making Positions: The Case for Supporting the UN Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security with National Action Plans – *Senator Mobina Jaffer, Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights, Canada*
3. Gaps and Achievements in the Implementation of SCR 1325 (2000) in the Arab Region – *Dr. Samira Atallah, ESCWA Center for Women, Lebanon*
4. The Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in the Fight Against ISIL – *Dr. Karim Kamel, the Social Science Research Council, USA and Dr. Sabrina Stein, Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, USA*

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Break

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Panel II

Gender Rights and Feminist Concerns: Current Debates in the Region

Moderator: Dr. Samira Attallah, ESCWA Center for Women, Lebanon

1. Political Islam and the Future of Women's Rights – *Dr. Amel Grami, University of Tunis, Tunisia*
2. Constitutionalizing Women's Issues in MENA: Towards a Thick Constitutional Guarantee for Women's Rights – *Dr. Naoko Kuwahara, Fukuyama City University, Japan*
3. Knowledge Formations, Gendered Pedagogies, and Radical Imaginaries – *Dr. Carol Fadda-Conrey and Dr. Dana Olwan, Syracuse University, USA*
4. Women, Progress, and the Arab Uprisings/Revolutions: Lessons from Iran – *Dr. Elham Atashi, Georgetown University, USA*

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Tuesday July 28

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Panel III

Human Rights Concerns and Violations in the Arab Region

Moderator: Dr. Azza Sharara Beydoun, Bahithat, Lebanon

1. Those Awful Tahrir Rapes – *Dr. Lama Abou Odeh, Georgetown University Law Center, USA*
2. The Importance of Positionality in Addressing Syrian Refugees Reproductive and Sexual Health: How Liberal Discourse Can Advance Xenophobic Agendas – *Rola Yasmine, The A project, Lebanon*
3. Promoting Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment from a Human Rights Perspective – *Yasmine Masri, Search for Common Ground, Lebanon*
4. "To Protect Her Honor": Child Marriage in Emergencies – The Fatal Confusion Between Protecting Girls and Sexual Violence – *Danielle Spencer, CARE International, U.K. (via Skype)*

11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Coffee Break

11:30 - 1:30 p.m. Panel IV

Women's Political Participation & Activism During and After the Arab Uprisings/Revolutions

Moderator: Dr. Samira Aghacy, IWSAW-LAU, Lebanon

1. Egyptian Women Activism: Is it Commensurate with their Political Participation? – *Ambassador Moushira Khattab, Egypt*
2. Democracy and Women's Rights in Libya – *Judge Naima Gebril, Libya*
3. Tunisian Women: Before and After the Tunisian Spring – *Dr. Khadija Arfaoui, University of Tunis, Tunisia*
4. Four Years After the 2011 Constitution: What has Changed and What Needs to be Changed for a Real Empowerment of Women in Morocco – *Dr. Larbi Touaf, Université Mohammed I Oujda, Morocco*

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Break

2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Panel V

Changes Impacting Women in the Arab Region I

Moderator: Dr. Dima Dabbous, LAU, Lebanon

1. Gender and Social and Solidarity Economy in the Context of Women's Movements in the Region – *Dr. Simel Esim, ILO, Switzerland (via Skype)*
2. New Social Roles of Women Between the Family and Public Spheres in the Gulf States – *Dr. Kaltham Ali Al-Ghanim, Qatar University, Qatar*
3. The Noor Project – *Dr. Alaa Murabit, The Voice of Libyan Women, Libya*
4. The Jordanian Women's Movement Fight Against Discriminatory Laws – *Rana Hussein, The Jordan Times, Jordan*

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Wednesday July 29

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Panel VI

Changes Impacting Women in the Arab Region II

Moderator: to be confirmed

1. Civil Marriage: What is the Issue? – *Talal Al-Housseini, Civil Center for National Initiative, Lebanon*
2. Family Violence Law and the Changes it Introduced – *Maitre Leila Awada, KAFA, Lebanon*
3. Translation, Language, and Change: The Politics of Arab Women's Literature – *Dr. Michelle Hartman, McGill University, Canada*
4. Cross Dressing in the 1920's Photographs – *Dr. Yasmine Nashabe Taan, Lebanese American Univeristy, Lebanon*

11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Coffee Break

11:30 - 1:30 p.m. Panel VII

Conflict and Gender Rights

Moderator: Nicia Dannawi, UNFPA, Lebanon

1. The Situation of Iraqi Women Under ISIS Control – *Dr. Nahla Naddawi, University of Baghdad, Iraq*
2. Women are the Red Line? Gender Relations and the Military State in Egypt – *Nada Ali Ramadan, Population Council, Cairo office, Egypt*
3. Women Leaders Emerging from the Yemeni Conflict - Agents of Change? – *Dr. Connie Christiansen, University of Roskilde, Denmark*
4. Wives of the Missing and the Disappeared in Lebanon – *Wadad Halawani, The Committee of the Families of the Kidnapped and Disappeared in Lebanon, Lebanon*

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Break

2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Panel VIII

Screenings

The Trials of Spring (USA)

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Thursday July 30

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Panel IX

Leadership, Empowerment, Activism, and Gender Rights

Moderator: to be confirmed

1. Transformative Women's Leadership: What it is, and What it Means to be a Transformative Leader – *Dr. Srilatha Batliwala, India (via Skype)*
2. Cyber-Activism and Gender Rights – *Alia Ibrahim, Al-Arabiya News, Lebanon*
3. Voices of Women: Post Arab Uprisings/ Revolutions – *Amna Abdullatif, Women's Aid, U.K.*
4. Women in Action: Leading by Example – *Ghid Amhez, MEPI Tomorrow's Leaders Alumna, Lebanon*
5. A Poem: Revolt – *Nathir Haimoun, MEPI Tomorrow's Leaders Student, Syria*

11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Coffee Break

11:30 - 1:30 p.m. Panel X

Closing Session: Recommendations

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Break
