

International Conference on Women, Religion and Human Rights

27-28 June, 2022

Lebanese American University - Byblos Campus
Frem Civic Center

Conference Program



Women, Religion and Human Rights Conference Program

Monday 27 June 2022

9:00

Welcoming Remarks:

- Dr. Nayla Tabbara
- Dr. Marwan Rowayheb
- Ms. Myriam Sfeir

9:10 - 10:45

Panel 1 - Reading and Reinterpreting Scripture

Chair: Dr. Souraya Bechealany

Professor - Faculty of Religious Studies, Saint Joseph University of Beirut

- **Sister Dr. Yara Matta:** Women in the Scriptures: A Reading and Interpretation of Some Problematic Texts
- **Reverend George Mrad:** Women in the Scriptures
- **Dr. Asma Lamrabet (online):** Women and Men in the Ethical Structure of the Qur'an: Justice or Equality?
- **Shaykh Mohammad Haidar:** The New Interpretations of Religious Texts Deconstructing Prevailing Patriarchy

10:45 - 11:15 - Coffee Break

11:15 - 1:00

Panel 2 - Unreading Patriarchy and Producing Feminist Knowledge

Chair: Prof. Nayla Tabbara

President of Adyan Foundation

- **Dr. Rita Faraj:** Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza: The Dance of Hermeneutics and Reconstruction
- **Professor Omaila Abou Bakr:** Did the Exegetes Understand the Qur'anic Revolutionary Message? Tabari as an Example
- **Ms. Huda Jawad:** Introduction to the Musawah: Challenging Centuries of Patriarchal Interpretations
- **Dr. Hosn Abboud:** Mercy and its Relation to the Mother: A Humanist Approach to Women's Rights in Islam

1:00 - 2:00 – Lunch Break

2:00 - 3:30

Panel 3 - Negotiating with the Discourse and the Perception of Women

Chair: Dr. Marwan G. Rowayheb

Chairperson, Department of Social and Education Sciences, LAU

- **Dr. Sami E. Baroudi:** Women, Politics and the Public Sphere: The Evolving Perspective of the Muslim Brotherhood
- **Dr. Mulki Al-Sharmani (online):** Qur'anically-Grounded Ethics of Muslim Marriage: Constructive Engagements with Islamic Interpretive Tradition
- **Dr. Fatima Seedat:** Gendered Legal Capacity: Historical and Contemporary Approaches to Women as Subjects of the Law
- **Sister Emilie Tannous:** The Situation of Women Today Between the Encyclicals and Synods of the Catholic Church



3:30 - 4:00

- **Professor Asma Barlas (online)** - In Defense of an Ungendered Theology

4:00 - 4:30 – Coffee Break

4:30 - 6:30

Panel 4 - Different Stakeholders in Conversation: Religion, State, CSOs and International Documents

Chair: Ms. Ghida Anani

Founder and Director of ABAAD

- **Ms. Zainah Anwar:** Finding Common Ground: CEDAW and Muslim Family Laws
- **Professor Anne Hege Grung:** Negotiating Gender Justice in the Lebanese Context Between Feminisms, Religious Practices, and the State
- **Dr. Connie Christiansen:** Secular and Islamic Strategies among Women's Rights CSO's for Reforming the Moroccan Mudawana
- **Judge Fouad Younes:** A Proposition for a Unified Charter on Women's Rights in Marriage in Lebanon
- **Father Nehme Saliba:** The Orthodox Personal Status Law in Light of the International Human Rights Legislations

Tuesday 28 June 2022

9:00 -10:45

Panel 5 - Between Theory and Practice: Personal Status Laws in Lebanon

Chair: Dr. Mirna Mzawak

Coordinator of the Women's Pastoral at the Maronite Patriarchate

- **Judge Mohammad Abu Zayd:** Equity Towards Women in Personal Status Laws: Between Theoretical Analysis and Judicial Implementation
- **Shaykh Rabih Qobeissi:** Women Between Inherited Texts and Unjust Applications ... A Light of Hope?
- **Esq. Samia Abi Nader:** Between Law and Practice in Church Courts
- **Bishop Hanna Alwan:** Women in Personal Status Laws in Application in the Maronite Courts

10:45 - 11:15 - Coffee Break

11:15 - 1:00

Panel 6 - Reforms in Personal Status Laws: Examples and Best Practices

Chair: Ms. Myriam Sfeir

Director of the Arab Institute for Women, LAU

- **Prof. Zahia Jouirou:** Family and Personal Status Laws in some Islamic Countries - Between Reality and Aspirations



- **Dr. Marwa Sharafeldin:** Is ‹God›s Law Reformable? Positive Legal Developments and Pathways of Reform in Muslim Family Laws Globally
- **Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan** and Ms. Suad Younan: Interrogating Gender Justice Policies and Practices
- **Esq. Iqbal Doughan:** Our Experience in Bringing about some Reforms in Religious Personal Status Laws

1:00 - 2:00 Lunch Break

2:00 - 4:00

Panel 7 - Possible Reforms in Personal Status Laws and their Challenges

Chair: Dr. Elie Al Hindy

Executive Director of Adyan Foundation

- **Dr. Saumya Uma:** Women's Rights in Hindu Family Law: Challenges to Law Reforms in South Asia
- **Dr. Salma Nims:** Reforms in Court Practices and Procedures with regards to the Implementation of Religious Personal Status Laws
- **Esq. May Muller:** The Main Lines of Reform in the Personal Status Laws of the Evangelical Community in Lebanon and Syria
- **Ms. Chantal Abi Akl:** Possible Reforms in Christian Personal Status Laws in Lebanon
- **Esq. Manar Zaiter:** Possible Reforms in Muslim Personal Status Laws in Lebanon

4:00 - 4:30 - Coffee Break

4:30 - 5:30

Panel 8 - Raising Awareness and Advocating for Change

Chair: Ms. Jumanah Zabaneh

Programme Management Specialist, UN Women

- **Ms. Asma Gharib:** From Knowledge to Advocacy to Reform
- **Ms. Vija Herefoss-Elisa Chavez:** Learning and Un-Learning: Countering Common Misunderstandings about Religious Freedom and Women's Rights

5:30 - 6:00

Final Remarks

- Ms. Myriam Sfeir
- Dr. Marwan Rowayheb
- Dr. Elie Al Hindy
- Prof. Nayla Tabbara

Thank You for Your Participation





#WomenRightsinReligion
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