



# Tanšeeq

COORDINATION

For Ending Gender Based Violence In Lebanon

Issue 4 / July - December 2011

## EDITORIAL

The phenomenon of Gender Based Violence (GBV) is widespread in Lebanon. It virtually affects all spheres of human development without exception, and ultimately disrupts its balance. GBV also takes its toll on women's rights in the following areas:

- Civil rights: Mainly women's rights within their families, hence the struggle for the enactment of the Draft Law to Protect Women from Domestic Violence which, to this day, faces numerous objections, along with the Nationality Law by virtue of which the Lebanese nationality may only be passed on by the father.
- Political rights: For instance, introducing gender quota to the Lebanese Electoral Law, at least for the pool of candidates who stand for election, in order to sensitize political parties and figures on the importance of women's political participation in the decision-making process.
- Economic, social and cultural rights: Such as the Labor Law, the Social Security Law, the Public Sector Pension Scheme, and women's access to soft loans on an equal footing with men in order to enable them to independently break through the entrepreneurial glass ceiling.

Perceiving this imbalance, and in an effort to rectify it, the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) undertook the following steps:

- Urging the Presidency of the Council of Ministers to nominate gender focal points. This step was implemented in over forty ministries and administrations. It aims at enabling the adoption of gender-sensitive strategies, activities and budgets within these entities.
- Supporting the enactment of the Draft Law to Protect Women from Domestic Violence and advocating women's right to confer their nationality to their children and husbands, on an equal basis with men.
- Launching a campaign to amend laws with adverse economic and social impact on women. The campaign included draft amendments for thirteen laws and decrees submitted by the NCLW either directly or through Members of Parliament; both the Transfer Fee Law and the Income Tax Law were amended as a result.
- Carrying out several activities, notably a seminar on gender-sensitive budgeting, among others.

In light of the above, the NCLW is working to join national efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women through consultations with the public sector and civil society to draw up a unified national plan.

Last but not least, the NCLW would like to commend the efforts of the "TANSEEQ for Ending GBV in Lebanon" newsletter; an invaluable tool to exchange and disseminate relevant GBV information, initiatives, expertise and achievements carried out by national actors and stakeholders.

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**Secretary General of the National Commission for Lebanese Women**

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## ENGAGING THE MEDIA AND GENERATING EVIDENCE

UNFPA Lebanon has been collaborating with GBV actors in Lebanon, since 2008, to support national efforts for ensuring appropriate prevention of and response to GBV. Building on the outcome of the national stakeholders' meeting organized in March 2011, which stressed - among others - on the vital role of media in fighting GBV, and reiterated the need for availing data about the nature, true extent of the various forms of GBV, magnitude, causes, consequences, and implications of GBV at the national level, UNFPA supported a couple of key strategic interventions.

Firstly, the Fund partnered with the Journalism Training Program (JTP) at the American University of Beirut for organizing a training workshop in November targeting local media personnel from all types of media (print, electronic, audio-visual). The workshop aimed at equipping the participants with an impartial and evidence based approach for investigating, analyzing and processing socially complex and taboo issues such as GBV from a human rights perspective. Media personnel who attended the 5-days workshop acquired essential multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional knowledge pertaining to GBV, in addition to creative and advanced reporting/journalism techniques and skills with hands-on exercises to effectively report on GBV issues. The workshop evaluation revealed high satisfaction of the participants with the information, topics and resource persons, and committed to address GBV issues and concerns using reliable evidence. It is worth noting that the workshop came as a result of the recommendations emanating from the study supported by UNFPA in 2010 and undertaken by the Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women (LECORVAW) and titled "Assessment of Media Coverage of GBV in Lebanon". A policy brief summarizing the key findings and recommendations of the study was developed and shared with the participants as well as key stakeholders.

On the other hand, UNFPA initiated preparations for supporting the undertaking of a national prevalence survey on violence against women. With the aim to conceptualize and lay out a framework, and in order to plan a methodologically and ethically sound national survey, a technical consultative committee composed of representatives from national counterparts, UN agencies, experts, and the European Commission was established; a concept note specifying the objectives, scope, and proposed sampling was developed; and a review of GBV surveys conducted by countries in the region was carried out. Priority will be given in 2012 for the implementation of this landmark survey.

### Topics Addressed

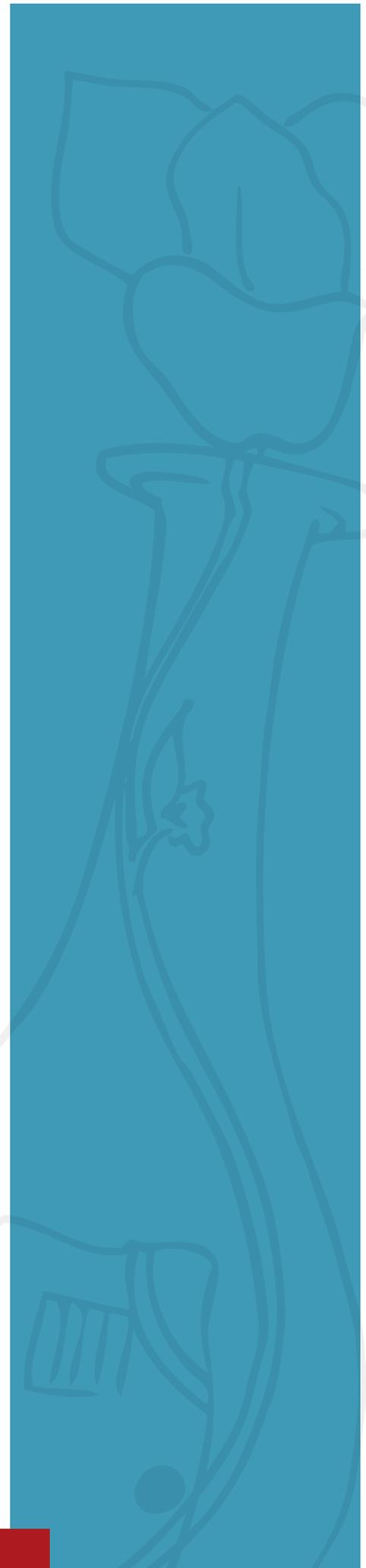
- Understanding GBV: causes and contributing factors
- Forms and manifestations of GBV in different settings
- GBV and its alignment with human rights treaties: Lebanon international commitments
- Key findings and recommendations of the study: media coverage of GBV in Lebanon
- Social, cultural and religious aspects of GBV
- GBV legislation and policies in Lebanon
- GBV programmes and services in Lebanon
- Consequences of GBV: health outcome
- Using social media to disseminate news
- Media ethics in GBV coverage
- Writing and editing a GBV story

### Participants Feedback

"The workshop covered interesting aspects in a comprehensive way. It is certainly going to have a significant impact on my future work".

"I believe the workshop brought together resource persons with high expertise and skills working on different aspects of GBV. Their valuable tips and information were very helpful".

"The workshop was well tailored for media personnel and responded directly to our needs. It also served in establishing closer relations with key players in the field of GBV".



## WOMEN IN LEBANON WILL SOON HAVE A LAW AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The “Adventures of Salwa” campaign launched on July 30, 2011 a booklet entitled “Salwa’s Guide to Fighting Sexual Harassment” in Arabic and English. The booklet offers a definition of sexual harassment as well as a structural analysis of the reasons for its occurrence. The booklet also includes a practical manual on fighting harassment on both individual and collective levels, in addition to personal stories of sexual harassment.

In parallel, and with the aim of filling the legal void in the Labor Law and the Penal Code which do not provide for any type of protection for victims of sexual harassment, Nasawiyya organized a first workshop in October 2011 to discuss a draft law against sexual harassment. The workshop was attended by a number of representatives from women’s associations, trade unions, rights associations and lawyers. In December, a second workshop was arranged to discuss a draft legal text submitted by civil society organizations in Lebanon.

Moreover, Nasawiyya launched a hotline for victims of sexual harassment in order to listen to their cases and provide them with support and advice. The collective has also held regular awareness seminars on the subject of sexual harassment in universities and in its Nasawiya House in Ashrafieh.

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## “KILLING OF WOMEN IN THE NAME OF HONOR: AN EVOLVING PHENOMENON IN LEBANON”

Within a one-day expert group meeting called for by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women (VAW) and convened at UNFPA New York headquarters on October 12, sixteen experts from different countries around the world presented papers on the manifestations, root causes and consequences of gender-motivated killings (femicide and femicide) in selected countries from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, South East Asia, Canada and Europe.

It is in that context that Azza Charara Baydoun from Lebanon presented a paper entitled “Killing of Women in the Name of Honor: an Evolving Phenomenon in Lebanon”. In her intervention, Baydoun argued that family femicides in Lebanon are drifting away from the classical form of the so called “honor crimes” and tend to be perpetrated by intimate partners on the one hand, and are invariably an end point of a continuum of ongoing escalating family violence on the other. She further contended that the root causes of family VAW may be reverted to the disruption of gender arrangements within the concerned families and the maladaptation of male perpetrators to the changing roles of women. The role of the adoption of UN approaches to women’s issues by the Lebanese women NGOs combating VAW as well as the importance of UN organizations’ support was highlighted. The struggle of the Lebanese women movement for the enactment of the “Law to Protect Women from Family Violence” was finally recounted and contextualized within the current political situation.

(Paper available on: [www.facebook.com/notes/azza-baydoun/killing-of-women-in-the-name-of-honor-an-evolving-phenomenon-in-lebanon/1968005574726](http://www.facebook.com/notes/azza-baydoun/killing-of-women-in-the-name-of-honor-an-evolving-phenomenon-in-lebanon/1968005574726))

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## PREVENTING TRAFFICKING AT BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

On September 6, 2011, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC) and the Directorate General of the General Security (GS) launched the project «Lebanon, the Country of Cultures and Diversity of Civilizations, Welcomes You» at the Beirut International Airport, a first in the Middle East. Through the provision of linguistic guides and booklets, available in 8 languages, this project aims at raising awareness of women migrant workers on their rights and duties as well as on services available for them, and therefore preventing them from falling into trafficking while in Lebanon. In addition, CLMC will also build capacities of GS border management officers on how to identify victims of trafficking arriving to or leaving Lebanon and elaborate a referral mechanism with service providers.

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## ASSESSING RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND PARTICIPATING IN CEDAW COMMITTEE GENERAL DISCUSSION ON WOMEN IN CONFLICT

On 18 July 2011, in conjunction with the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, representatives from Association Najdeh attended the general discussion on the protection of women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict contexts in New York where they presented a statement as well as an in-depth review of the situation of Palestinian refugee women in Lebanon within the general context of the Palestinian-Arab Israeli conflict. (For further information, see <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/WrittenContributions2011.htm>)

In December 2011, Association Najdeh undertook a special "end of year review" of the first international conference it conducted on the role of women and women NGOs in current transitional processes towards democracy with a focus on Arab revolutions/uprisings. The conference took place earlier in 2011 with the participation of 80 human rights women activists whereby 13 country experiences' papers were presented and highlighted the impact of conflict on women and their role in promoting peace. The review aimed at assessing the implication of the conference recommendations on various activities implemented by Association Najdeh during the last two quarters of 2011, and at developing related strategies and actions for 2012.

Association Najdeh also attended the Arab Women's Forum -AISHA- meeting on the democratic and transitional processes and role of women. The meeting resulted in the election of its new steering committee and of its coordinator which is Association Najdeh.

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## IMPLEMENTING THE THIRD CYCLE OF INTERACTIVE THEATRE TRAINING ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

On October 14, with the support of the European Commission and the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), the Palestinian Women's Forum presented a successful show on GBV in Naher el Bared camp for Palestinian refugees in North Lebanon. A total of 136 persons from the local community, camp representatives as well as local and international NGOs attended the show, 113 of which were females and 23 were males.

In addition, and on October 21, the Palestinian Women's Forum initiated a new cycle of interactive theater training sessions on GBV, women rights, as well as other sensitive issues such as unemployment, addiction, and school violence. Within this cycle, more than 10 sessions were held every Friday in Shatila camp, in the premises of Association Najdeh's kindergarten. Participants showed a high sense of commitment and enthusiasm to the interactive theater training sessions and a total of 20 representatives from various Lebanese and Palestinian NGOs participated.

The shows contributed to improving understanding about GBV. In one instance, they even led to the uncovering of a case of sexual harassment by a teacher against his girls students, whereby the students, after seeing the show, felt empowered to voice out the abuse they were subjected to and informed their parents.

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## DEVELOPING THE CAPACITIES OF PEOPLE WORKING TO FIGHT SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST YOUNG GIRLS

In cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Higher Council for Childhood and Acting for Life, Dar Al Amal association organized training sessions entitled "Developing the Capacities of People Working to Fight Sexual Violence against Children" for 100 individuals working directly with children in different Lebanese regions for their prevention and protection from sexual exploitation. These sessions were inaugurated on October 10, under the auspices of the Minister of Social Affairs.

The sessions tackled the following issues: the "Convention on the Rights of the Child" in general and the right to protection in particular; sexual violence in international conventions; United Nations' studies on violence against children; definition, manifestations and forms of sexual violence; indicators of sexual violence; identity of the offenders; effects of sexual violence on children; ways for identifying victims of child sexual violence; Law no. 422; mechanisms of referral, reporting and follow-up; role of people working directly with children; and protection from sexual violence. Furthermore, all sessions stressed on the importance of addressing sexual violence against women.

The sessions were conducted in Beirut, Bekaa, North Lebanon and South Lebanon. The trainers were Judge Najah Obeid, Professional Psychologist Dr. Jacqueline Saad, Ms. Sanaa Awada from the Higher Council for Childhood, Ms. Jermaine Frem from Dar Al Amal, and social workers from the Child Protection Office. Certificates were distributed to all participants on November 21, 2011.

Following up on this initiative, Dar Al Amal and Acting for Life will be preparing a guide to assist and develop the skills and capacities of people working with children for the prevention and protection of children from violence in general and sexual violence in particular, in the first half of 2012.

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## CELEBRATING A "UN OPEN GLOBAL DAY ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY" AND LAUNCHING THE GENDER THEMATIC WORKING GROUP FOR THE SOUTH

A "UN Open Global Day on Women, Peace and Security" was observed in Lebanon in November 2011 at a ceremony at Cinema AK 2000 in Abbasiyeh. The event was organized by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Gender Unit. The event started with the screening of the Lebanese movie "Halla2 La Wein?" (Where Do We Go Now?), which illustrates the proactive role of women in armed conflicts and their aspiration for peace through a musical comedy-drama set in an isolated village in Lebanon during the war. The event, attended by the movie director, Nadine Labaki, and her crew, took place with the participation of UN agencies, ministries, international and local NGOs, local authorities and civil society representatives. The aim was twofold: to highlight the role and challenges faced by women and their contributions to conflict resolution and peacebuilding on the one hand, and to influence policies and programmes related to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on "Women, Peace and Security" on the other. The ceremony was concluded with participants submitting an appeal to stakeholders for supporting the role of women in conflict prevention and peacemaking.

In addition, the newly established gender thematic working group for the South chaired by ABAAD, with technical support from the UNIFIL Gender Unit and UNRCO, was launched.

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## SUPPORTING LEGISLATIVE REFORM AND BLUE HEART CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The involvement of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Office in Lebanon in the fight against trafficking in human beings has increased with the implementation of Phase II of the project "Strengthening the Capacity of the Lebanese Government to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings". Benefiting from the technical assistance provided by UNODC, the Ministry of Justice undertook legislative reform which culminated in the adoption of a new anti-trafficking law on 1 September 2011. This law is in line with the provisions of the "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children", supplementing the "United Nations Convention against Transitional Organized Crime".

The new law defines the crime of human trafficking and grants the judiciary authorities the power to take appropriate measures in terms of victim and witness protection. It also organizes the role of the different stakeholders concerned, including ministries and NGOs.

In addition, and in order to rally the public opinion about this issue, UNODC launched end of November the "Blue Heart Campaign" in Lebanon which seeks to inspire action and allows people to show solidarity with the victims of human trafficking.

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## LAUNCHING A GBV CONCEPT AND TERMINOLOGY GUIDE

As part of its program to fight violence against women and young girls, the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering prepared a specialized GBV concept and terminology guide after it saw the great need for clarifying and unifying concepts and terminology among all actors in the area of GBV, in light of the severe lack of data and studies, especially in terms of defining concepts and describing the international context which highlights aspects and dimensions of the phenomenon of violence.

Furthermore, the Gathering began implementing its plan to train organizations, municipalities, clinics and parties on the proper use of this guide to sensitize them on GBV issues and to introduce them to GBV concepts and terminology, the international context, the UN literature on the causes, psychological, physical and sexual effects of violence, and tips for confronting it.

In this context, two workshops on Gender Based Violence were organized in Jounieh and Verdun in June and July. These workshops will be followed by additional sessions in Tripoli, Baalbek, Beirut, Jounieh and Beirut's Southern Suburbs during the first half of 2012.

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## "MEN SAYING NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN" NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality and Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, in partnership with the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs and in collaboration with the Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue, launched a nationwide media campaign entitled "Men Saying No to Violence Against Women". This media campaign began the revolutionary journey towards using positive psychology to foster male allies in the world of women's human rights. The campaign did not focus on blaming the males in society who are the perpetrators of domestic violence. Rather, it praised the men in society who are against the gender biases and who are active in the fight to end violence against women. Relying on a TV spot, unipoles, newspapers' advertisements, thousands of SMS, flyers and posters and a number of awareness raising activities, the campaign supported men who, like their female counterparts, refuse to remain silent about the issue of violence against women and gender inequalities in Lebanon.

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## TOWARD EQUALITY: DIALOGUE AND DEMOCRACY WITHIN LEBANESE FAMILIES

Any hope of changing women's situation and status in society must be based on making radical changes in the institution of the family, which is considered to be the educational actor and value carrier of the status and role of both men and women. In cooperation with 15 civil society groups, the Committee for the Follow-Up on Women's Issues is currently implementing a project entitled "Developing a Culture of Dialogue and Democracy within Lebanese Families" with the support of the Foundation for the Future in Amman and in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs. An analytical field study was also prepared within the framework of this project in order to address this issue and come up with results and recommendations that can contribute to enhancing women's status in families and societies. Furthermore, roundtables were organized with young men and women in Beirut and other Lebanese regions to discuss the results of the study and listen to their suggestions on how to develop the culture of dialogue, democracy and human rights within families.

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## EMPOWERING GBV SURVIVORS AND CONFRONTING SEXUAL ABUSE

Within the project "Empowerment of Women Victims of Violence and Amelioration of the Listening and Counseling Centers" funded by the British Embassy, the Lebanese Council To Resist Violence Against Women (LECORVAW) helped in establishing a "mental health support group" for women beneficiaries of the Listening and Counseling Centre (LCC) of its Beirut branch during the second half of 2011. This activity falls within the project's specific objective "to empower abused females, a vulnerable and underserved category in the Lebanese society, through counseling, social services, mental health, medical care and legal aid services".

In addition, and in cooperation with Middle East Partnership Initiative, LECORVAW launched the project "Together We Make Change – Stop! Sexual Abuse" during a press conference held on November 18. The project aims at moving the subject of sexual abuse from the private to the public sphere in order to maximize the wider public's awareness of the issue. The project also offers practical solutions to prevent and resolve incidences of sexual violence, through various activities consisting of awareness-raising targeting students and parents from 20 schools in Beirut and Tripoli. In parallel, self-defense classes will be organized where young girls are expected to acquire basics of the Aikido martial art in order to understand the importance of avoiding conflict, and learn how to deal with aggression constructively. These activities will be carried in the first months of 2012.

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## "DO NOT PUSH HER TO COMMIT YOUR CRIME"... TOWARD LEGAL PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC WORKERS IN LEBANON

"Do Not Push Her to Commit Your Crime" and "Toward Legal Protection of Domestic Workers in Lebanon" are two integrated titles of a campaign launched last July by KAFA (Enough) Violence and Exploitation, as part of a larger project on migrant domestic workers in Lebanon implemented since the beginning of 2010. This campaign aimed at highlighting the high suicide rates among migrant workers and at calling upon competent authorities to take appropriate legal action to protect migrant workers from tough working conditions where their basic human rights are not respected. The campaign called for providing migrant workers with the right to work for specific hours, the right to keep their private documents such as passports, the right to rest, the right to freedom of movement and communication and the right to enjoy personal freedoms. Many civil society organizations now recognize that the sponsorship system – which regulates the residence of migrant workers in Lebanon and their relationship with their employer – lays the groundwork for several violations and practices, starting from depriving workers of their liberty, to subjecting them to violence, physical and sexual abuse and human trafficking. In this context, KAFA (Enough) Violence and Exploitation launched a new study towards the end of 2011, in which it proposes alternatives to the sponsorship system as well as models that can be implemented and made use of in Lebanon.

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## LAUNCHING THE GUIDE FOR WORKING IN WOMEN PRISONS IN LEBANON AND CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and under the auspices of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities, and in the presence of the Lebanese American University's (LAU) President and UNFPA Representative, the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) organized on November 28 a launching ceremony for the "Guide for Working in Women Prisons in Lebanon". The guide was authored by Anita Nassar, Assistant Director of IWSAW, in collaboration with UNFPA. The objective of the guide is to equip personnel from governmental and non-governmental organizations, with the adequate methodology to rehabilitate inmates while fully respecting their human rights. The event was attended by ministers, parliamentarians, uniformed service officers, academicians, researchers, students, and NGOs and gained considerable attention by the media. (Guide available on: [www.unfpa.org.lb/Publications.aspx](http://www.unfpa.org.lb/Publications.aspx)).

On December 16, and in line with the United Nations Secretary General "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" campaign's focus on working with youth in ending Violence Against Women (VAW), and in partnership with International Medical Corps and ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality, IWSAW organized a panel discussion with LAU students entitled: "A Future with Opportunities to End Violence Against Women with Youth in Lebanon: Experience of filmmaking workshop "Men Saying No to VAW". The discussion aimed at engaging university students, the actors of tomorrow, in a dialogue with young activists to bridge the gap between academia and activism especially in initiatives targeting women's human rights.

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## PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION OF WOMEN INMATES AT THE BARBAR KHAZEN PRISON

Mouvement Social is currently undertaking many activities. Among them is a program funded by Diakonia and designed to professionally and socially rehabilitate women inmates at Barbar Khazen prison. In this context, and during the second half of 2011, 14 women inmates completed a training session in women's hairdressing for which they received a certificate; while 20 women inmates participated in a training session on the use of computers. The inmates also painted murals on the walls of the prison courtyard reflecting their reality, a project which was carried out in the framework of the organization's art workshop. In addition to these activities, Mouvement Social's staff has conducted social, psychological and judicial follow-up with these women inmates to ensure their successful reintegration into society following their release from prison.

Moreover, in the framework of a joint project between Association Justice et Misericorde and Dar Al Amal, women inmates at the Barbar Khazen prison also benefited from awareness sessions aimed at reducing the risks of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. It should also be noted that this project, funded by the UNODC, is conducted in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and under the supervision of the Internal Security Forces.

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# COORDINATED EFFORTS

## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN AND WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

### “16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence” Campaign

The “16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence” is an international campaign linking violence against women and human rights, organized every year between November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) and December 10 (International Human Rights Day), throughout the world. The following NGOs have marked these campaigns through a series of activities.

#### KAFA (ENOUGH) VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION AND THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR LEGISLATING THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE



Since 2006, KAFA (Enough) Violence and Exploitation has participated in the 16 Days campaign in order to raise awareness on the issue of protecting women from family violence. Family violence continues to be a socially and culturally accepted practice and thus the campaign calls for the legal protection for victims of family violence as these protection measures are currently absent from the national secular laws.

This year's campaign was critical: the draft law for the protection of women from family violence prepared by KAFA and supported by the National Coalition for Legislating the Protection of Women from Family Violence is under discussion by a sub-committee within the Parliament. However, there is fear that the draft law will be changed to weaken some of its provisions in response to the demands of an opposition campaign introduced by some religious groups. These groups argue that the law is a western imposition and that no family violence exists in Lebanon. The 2011 campaign focused on advocating for the passage of the draft law without major changes weakening its protection measures.

The global theme of the 16 Days campaign for this year was: “From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World”. In Lebanon, the main objective was to lobby for the passage of the law to protect women from family violence in its complete and comprehensive form. To this effect, an advocacy campaign with the slogan “Towards the Protection of Women from Family Violence” was implemented through the following activities.

The “*Marital rape is a Crime*” campaign implemented by KAFA (Enough) Violence and Exploitation and the National Coalition for Legislating the Protection of Women from Family Violence was supported by UN Women, the Danish Center on Gender, Equality and Ethnicity KVINFO, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Norwegian People's Aid, the Norwegian Embassy in Beirut, the Swedish organization Kvinna till Kvinna, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

#### MEDIA CAMPAIGN

The Campaign was launched during a press conference held on November 23 at the Lebanese Press Syndicate in Beirut, and included the following actions:

- 1. TV and radio spot** addressing Parliamentarians, members of the sub-committee in charge of the revision of the draft law, and featuring their pictures and names with the following message: “honorable members of the Parliament, the law is your image, do not distort the content of the draft law for the protection of women from family violence”. The TV and radio spots were broadcasted during November and December on all local TV and radios. (Spots accessible at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=bg7YisIbfWo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=bg7YisIbfWo))
- 2. Cinema spots** (using the same advertisement as the TV spot) were broadcasted during the period of 24 November to 8 December.
- 3. Unipoles** focusing on marital rape were displayed all over the Lebanese regions on the main roads, throughout November. The Unipoles' message emphasized that “rape is a crime regardless of the perpetrator: do not distort the content of the draft law for the protection of women from family violence”.

**4. Advertisements on public transportation buses:** The advertisements were displayed for 10 days, and the message contained the pictures of the members of the parliamentary sub-committee and stated: "honorable members of the Parliament, the law is your image, marital rape is a crime: do not distort the content of the draft law for the protection of women from family violence".

**5. Advertisements on three newspapers' websites,** in addition to flyers distributed in three local newspapers.

**6. Social media campaign** (Facebook groups, Facebook advertisement, Youtube videos, 16 points- 16 days, Twitter...)

## AWARENESS RAISING SESSIONS ON THE DRAFT LAW

Awareness raising sessions were implemented in different regions throughout Lebanon in coordination with the members of the National Coalition for Legislating the Protection of Women from Family Violence. These sessions focused on the content of the draft law, specifically on marital rape, and featured documentaries on family violence in Lebanon ("Survivors" and "About Latifa and Others...") and were closed with the signing of a petition in support of the passage of the law.

## STREET PERFORMANCES OF A "GIANT PUPPET THEATER"

Five giant puppet street performance shows entitled "بنفس العيلة وبنفس البيت، ناس بسمنة وناس بزيت" in coordination with ZOUKAK NGO took place during the 16 Days campaign in various areas of Greater Beirut. An event was created on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/events/202015113213359/>

## SYMBOLIC COURT TRIAL ON MARITAL RAPE CRIMES

A symbolic court trial on marital rape crimes was held on December 9, 2011 at Babel Theater, Beirut. For the first time ever, four women survivors of violence and beneficiaries of KAFA's Listening and Counseling Center (LCC) shared their experience on marital rape. Their testimony illustrated the implications of marital rape and the failure of the current legal system to protect them.

A symbolic jury listened to the testimonies and consisted of: Ms. Julia Kassar (actress), Ms. Claudia Marchelian (Actress and Script Writer), Dr. Botrous Rouhana (Professor - Lebanese University), and Dr. Ahmad Beydoun (Historian and Academic Researcher). The jury members gave statements supporting the criminalization of marital rape and advocating for the eradication of violence against women. The court was attended by Parliamentarians Shant Janjanian, Strida Ja'jaa and Amin Wehbeh, as well as representatives of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities and selected political parties.

Accompanying the event, an art exhibition was organized at the Babel theater hall. The artwork was created by the beneficiaries of KAFA's LCC during the art therapy sessions and represented the women's experiences of violence and illustrated the physical and psychological impacts of the abuse. An event was created on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/events/213438518730663/>

## CARITAS LEBANON MIGRANT CENTER



## RAISING IRAQI CHILDREN'S AWARENESS ON GBV

From November 25 to December 10, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC) took part in the 16 Days Campaign "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World", initiated by the US-based Center for Women's Global Leadership. CLMC provided awareness trainings to over 100 Iraqi women on peaceful skills and approaches to react against gender-based violence. This activity was held in the context of the project «Education Assistance to Iraqi Refugees» funded by Save the Children and the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and aiming at offering education assistance to around 1,030 Iraqi children.

## THE LEBANESE WOMEN DEMOCRATIC GATHERING



## LAUNCHING A GBV CONCEPT AND TERMINOLOGY GUIDE

During the "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence" Campaign, the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering distributed a GBV concept and terminology guide to civil society organizations and institutions.

## ABAAD- RESOURCE CENTER FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS



### “BEATING IS... SHAMEFUL” – MEN AND WOMEN SAYING NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

International Medical Corps, in partnership with ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality, launched on November 24 their joint campaign for the internationally recognized “16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence” campaign using a message which emanated from youth – the real agent of societal transformation in Arab countries. The National campaign adopted the message “Beating is... Shameful - Men and Women Say No to Violence against Women”. Using a common phrase that stems from our popular culture, the campaign draws attention to the roots of discrimination in our patriarchal society and cultural heritage which continue to justify beating women. Early November 2011, and in partnership with Wonderbox Productions, 16 Lebanese and Iraqi young men completed a filmmaking training workshop, in which they also learned about gender roles, gender equality, and the importance and theory of engaging men in ending violence against women. These young men produced eight TV spots that focus on sending a message to men and women alike: “We all have a role to play in ending violence against women”. Each TV spot also constituted a call for action for men, by men. The 8 spots were aired on Lebanese and Arab TV stations, along with other media and advertising tools and a number of local awareness activities.

## “White Ribbon” Campaign

The “White Ribbon” campaign is an international campaign aiming at engaging men in ending violence against women. In conjunction with the “16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence” campaign, the “White Ribbon” campaign also continued this year for the second consecutive year in Lebanon.

## KAFA (ENOUGH) VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

The theme of the “White Ribbon” campaign for this year was: “Not Violent, Not silent... Women and Men, Hand in Hand to End Violence against Women”. In this regard, KAFA focused on engaging men in speaking out against violence. Thus the main message emphasized that it is not enough for men not to commit violence, but they should not be silent on violence they witness and should speak



out and act towards ending violence against women. As such, men in this campaign pledged not to commit any form of violence and to advocate for this issue accordingly. The “White Ribbon” campaign for this year consisted of the following activities:

### PRESS CONFERENCE

The “White Ribbon” campaign was launched during the aforementioned press conference held to launch the “16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence” campaign, whereby the slogan and pledge were announced to the media.

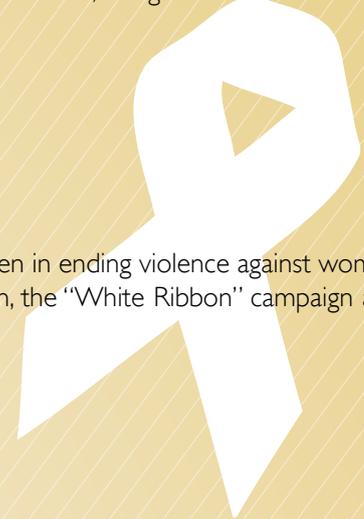
### MEDIA CAMPAIGN

**1. Billboards** were displayed in the Bekaa area, mainly on the road to Baalbek as the focus of this year’s “White Ribbon” campaign. The message of the billboards consisted of the slogan of the 2011 campaign “Not Violent, Not Silent... Women and Men Hand in Hand to End Violence against Women”.

**2. Flyers and posters** were distributed in Baalbek, at universities and by partner organizations. The flyers

The “White Ribbon” Campaign was implemented by KAFA (Enough) Violence and Exploitation in partnership with OXFAM GB, and funded by EU, UN Women, UN Trust Fund, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

More specifically, the campaign’s activities in universities were implemented with the support of UN Women, the Danish Center on Gender, Equality and Ethnicity KVINFO, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Norwegian People’s Aid, the Norwegian Embassy in Beirut, the Swedish organization Kvinna till Kvinna, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).



explained the campaign, the importance of engaging men and featured pledges made by men who are actively working to eradicate violence against women.

**3. Stickers, T-shirts and dog tags** with the campaign's slogan were distributed to university students in Beirut, and to school students in Baalbek as well as to the general public throughout the activities.

## AWARENESS RAISING

**1. Awareness raising sessions** were held to the general public in Baalbek and Yammouneh and focused on the necessity of engaging men in the struggle to end violence against women, as well as on the issue of violence itself. The documentary "About Latifa and Others..." was screened in addition to information provided underlying KAFA's approach to addressing this phenomenon and serving as an entry point for fueling an interactive discussion.

**2. Role of religion in working to end violence against women** was discussed through a lecture held in Baalbek and provided by religious scholars.

**3. A panel discussion with lawyers** in Baalbek was organized on the draft law to protect women from family violence. MP Marwan Faris made an intervention during the event highlighting his actions and efforts in the Parliament regarding the law and stating that he will vote in favor.

**4. An interactive discussion with school teachers** in Baalbek was held on how to integrate the issue of violence against women in school curricula and the ultimate benefits this integration would entail on the quality of life and respect of human rights.

## SILENT WITNESS IN BAALBEK

An event consisting of displaying silhouettes of women victims of femicide with their personal stories on a street in Baalbek aimed at provoking reactions and discussions by passersby. The activity was a great success as it triggered some debates with people who are not usually exposed to awareness raising sessions. Supporters and non-supporters attended the session and people kept talking about it for several days and demanded to hold the activity again.

## THE "WHITE RIBBON" CAMPAIGN IN UNIVERSITIES

This year's "White Ribbon" campaign was organized in four public and private universities: University of Balamand (UoB) – Beirut Campus, American University of Technology (AUT) – Halat Campus, Lebanese American University (LAU) – Beirut Campus, and American University of Beirut (AUB).

**1. Awareness sessions at UoB and AUT** targeted students and focused on the necessity of engaging men in the struggle to end violence against women, as well as on the issue of violence itself. A discussion took place with the students building on the documentary "About Latifa and Others..." as well as additional information provided by the speakers on the concepts, causes, and implications of violence.

**2. Forum theatre on marital rape at LAU** was performed by Live Lactic Culture, where a play portraying different forms of violence (including marital rape) took place on campus, in partnership with the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World at LAU. Many students attended this event and took part in it by playing the role of the wife victim of marital rape. The play fueled discussions among students on how to address the issue of violence against women where the opinions were very diverse.

**3. Symbolic funeral at AUB** took place in collaboration with the Human Rights and Peace Club and the Civic Welfare Club. As part of this symbolic funeral of patriarchy, a coffin was displayed on campus in which students buried in it the discriminatory practices of patriarchy. During this event, speeches and statements were given by the clubs' members whereby they supported and adopted the struggle to end violence against women.

## "PLAY IN HER SHOES" BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT AND RALLY PAPER

In collaboration with GAM3 association, KAFA (Enough) Violence and Exploitation held a street basketball tournament in Beirut for boys and girls under 18, in order to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women. Over 100 players participated in the tournament with their friends and families. The commentator delivered messages of gender equality during the game, and a 3-point competition as well as a dribble competition were held where girls played between silhouettes of men. Moreover, a rally paper competition was held around the theme of gender equality and ending violence against women. Winners received medals at the end of the competition.