



Editorial

This issue of Tatimma focuses on the question of civil rights and liberties in Lebanon. Whilst it is usually considered that civil freedoms in Lebanon are light-years ahead of other Arab countries. Yet this state of liberties appears to be more a facade for a discriminatory system which limits the liberties of Lebanese citizens, specifically Lebanese women, refugees, foreign workers to name a few.

The Lebanese constitution in its preamble, section b, states the following:

"[...] Lebanon is also a founding and active member of the United Nations Organization and abides by its covenants and by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Government shall embody these principles in all fields and areas without exception." Eventhough the Lebanese constitution abides by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, large portions of the population face discrimination on a daily basis.

Most experts and civil society professionals agree that one of the major challenges to the progress of civil liberties in Lebanon is due to the sectarian system. whence sectarian arguments are used in all areas of life to either block or to shift the focus of some causes that have become more and more vital to large portions of the general public in Lebanon.

In the logic of sectarianism, demographic balance between the different sects is the most visible barrier hindering the granting of rights to citizens, thus we see thousands of Lebanese citizens banned from civil marriage, Lebanese women denied the right to give their nationality to their spouses and children, and Palestinian refugees being granted a strictly limited access to the job market and complete denial of all civil rights. This culture of sectarianism also fuels discrimination against foreign workers and refugees. Indeed, it is widely observed that foreign domestic workers suffer tremendous hardship within the work place and many of those workers compare their conditions to that of "slavery"; while refugee communities remain denied basic rights and protection services.

Lack of civil rights in Lebanon is not only problematic but is becoming a major impediment against the progress and advancement of society . This situation is contributing to the increased segregation and conflict within Lebanon's social fabric. In this context, civil action, campaigns and initiatives calling for and demanding for such rights has become essential to building unity and solidarity among different segments of society to stand against and consequently abolish discrimination.

In this issue of Tatimma, we will be focusing on four of the main problematic axes that are at the central to discussions and work of civil society in Lebanon: Lebanese women's right to nationality, with an interview with Rola El-Masri from the Nationality Campaign (page 2-3); the story of a migrant domestic worker trying to achieve economic independence (page 4) ; we will also try to shed light on the situation of refugee communities through an overview of Amel's work with non-Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, namely Iraqi refugees (page 5); Last but not least Civil Society Movement tells us more about their campaign for civil marriage (page 6).

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in focus

The Nationality Campaign

Claiming Equal Citizenship: Lebanese Women's Right to Full Citizenship

<http://nationalitycampaign.wordpress.com>

An interview with **Roula El-Masri, CRTD.A**, August 2010

The Collective for Research and Training on Development – Action (CRTD.A) is a Lebanese non-governmental organization officially registered in 1999, and based in Beirut. CRTD.A is committed to contributing to gender equality and social justice in Lebanon and in countries in the MENA region where it is presently working.

1- When did the Nationality campaign start?

Work on Gender and Citizenship (women's right to nationality) has started in 2001 when CRTD.A identified the issue of Gender, Citizenship and Nationality as a regional priority for intervention, the strategy of intervention was summed up through the following:

- Research & information gathering
- Training and capacity building at the community and policy levels
- Advocacy and lobbying for change as well as influencing policy

Following the initial phase, CRTD.A launched its regional campaign on "Arab Women's Right to Nationality". The campaign developed its messages, strategies and alliances on the basis of the findings of the action research process described above. The countries covered by the campaign are: Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Yemen, Jordan and Bahrain.

Since its launch, the "My Nationality is a right for me and my family" campaign has focused its efforts on ensuring full and equal citizenship rights for Arab women. The right to nationality has been identified as a key area of legal, administrative and attitudinal discrimination against women and as a major obstacle towards achieving full and equal citizenship.

2- What is the relevance of the campaign in a context such as Lebanon?

Nationality is important as it is:

- Directly linked to citizenship and enjoyment of citizenship rights and entitlements
- Indicates how citizenship is gendered
- Defines relation with the State

As such, the denial of nationality:

- Leads to the violation of other basic rights and entitlements
- Places women in a subordinate "second class" position
- Undermines access to all other rights
- Has direct impact on children, spouses,
- Has impact on voice and political representation
- Leads to marginalization and social exclusion



Picture of one of the Nationality Campaign's actions in front of the National Court House, Beirut

Photo by: Hanna Nehme

3- What is the lobbying strategy used to achieve your goals?

The key strategy endorsed by the campaign since 2006 was lobbying to amend the nationality laws that discriminate among women in most Arab countries, especially those which present the most politically charged and challenging context (namely Lebanon). In Lebanon, the campaign has adopted and developed the following strategies to secure women their right to full and inclusive citizenship:

Phase I (2002 – 2005) – consisted of Action-oriented Research.

Phase II (2005 -2006) – was based on Awareness raising campaigns including: awareness campaigns in universities, press conferences, panel discussions with MPs and activists, petition signing, legal counseling, community mobilization among others.

Phase III (2007 – 2010) – was composed of Lobbying and advocacy mainly regarding legal reform, at international, regional and local levels.

4- What are the main difficulties faced by the campaign?

In a nutshell, the main challenges the campaign had and is still facing are linked to: The lack of political will and political bickering, the recurrent attempts by several politicians to denounce the right of nationality under the claim that it encourages the "tawtin" (normalization) of Palestinians. In addition the political and security instability facing the country has constantly been used to postpone the discussion on the issue of women's access to full citizenship.

5- Do you think that the right to nationality will be granted anytime soon?

In the last two years (2008 – 2009) the nationality campaign in Lebanon met with Lebanese politicians and decision makers, to gauge their positions with regards to women's right to nationality. The results came as follows:

The majority of supportive political positions were in favor of limiting

the nationality right to children, thus excluding husbands. Yet according to the campaign, excluding the husbands from receiving the nationality would threaten the socio-economic foundations of the family especially by limiting the husband's ability to be employed; moreover it would lead to denying women free marriages.

All political views were allegedly in favor of women's right to nationality yet in practice they denounce it. One of the roots of the problem lies in the insistence of some parties to link this issue with naturalization of Palestinians.

Needless to say that these positions reflect sexism and a patent derogation in women's status and right to equality. Furthermore, the nationality campaign insists on women's right to nationality out of the principle of equality with the Lebanese man who can grant his nationality to his family members. This is particularly the case in terms of solving social and economic complexities, given that the man is generally considered to be the breadwinner of the family. Thus, depriving husbands from getting the nationality of their wives has serious economic complications on women and children. This would also lead to the dismantling of the family, should husbands be deported from the country. Having said this, the nationality campaign believes in the importance of a serious political will that would lead to amending the current law, on the basis of equal rights and away from political alignments and bickering.

6- How do you respond to those who use the normalization ("tawtin") argument to hinder your advocacy efforts?

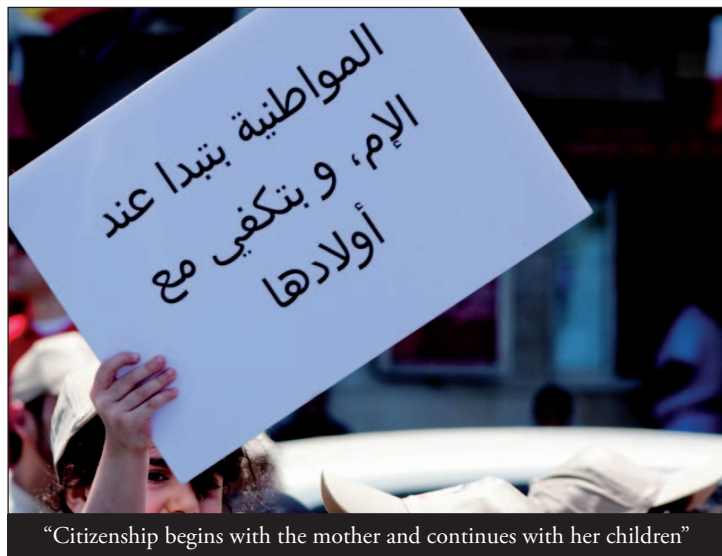
With regards to the exception of the Palestinians, it should be noted that the right of Lebanese women to full citizenship is enshrined in article 7 of the Constitution and, therefore, can not be relinquished for any reason.

On the other hand, this right does not conflict with the issue of rejecting settlement of Palestinians, which is also pointed in the Constitution. In other words, the adherence to the refusal of resettlement (which most Palestinians in Lebanon subscribe to) must be accompanied by the principle of upholding the right of return for Palestinian refugees, which is the basic guarantee for achieving the national rights of Palestinians residing in Lebanon. Thus the question of granting citizenship to families of Lebanese women married to Palestinians (which are a small percentage compared to the others) must be separated from the question of resettlement of Palestinians in Lebanon.

7- What are the key achievements realized to this day by the Campaign?

At the regional level it would be important to note that Algeria remains the only country that has radically amended its nationality laws granting full equal rights to women. Egypt has partially amended its nationality laws granting women the rights to pass on their nationality to their children only and without retroactive effect. In Morocco the law was amended in March 2007.

In Lebanon, the recent development is yet a first step on the road of a thousand miles, towards a State of rights and equality: a three years residence permit for children and husbands of Lebanese women.



The campaign welcomed this step, however, assured that such "band-aid" solutions remain deficient because they continue to deny women full citizenship rights. Thus, the only solution is to amend current outdated law, by which, all Lebanese women would be granted their full rights.

8- After some achievements such as the law against domestic violence for example (see Tatimma issue Zero), do you believe that today, issues related to women's rights have more chances to be heard and taken into consideration by the Lebanese policy makers and wider public?

Making a change happen in Lebanon depends on the sensitivity of the issue in terms of political alignments and confessional balances. The issue of women's right to nationality is a highly charged political issue (sectarian imbalances and resettlement of Palestinians). Accordingly, amid the political and confessional system the country is engulfed in, brining forth solutions and making breakthroughs is something that needs time and effort, let alone if the matter relates to women's right.

9- What are your next steps in the frame of the nationality campaign?

The campaign will continue lobbying the government and parliament to pass the new law. We will also be focusing more on mobilizing and organizing concerned women in order to set a future agenda of action while continuing with the counseling services. Finally we will systematize the information gathered from cases of concerned women in order to inform policy makers and practitioners about the implementation of the law amendment once adopted.

10- What are your expectations regarding the recognition of the right of nationality for women especially after the case of Samira Sweidan and the appeal made against the decision of Judge John Azzi?

The nationality campaign although regretted the judicial decision in the case of Samira Soueidan; it was not in the least surprised, given the discouraging track record of the Lebanese State in dealing with this issue. In that sense, the campaign stressed that the only way for justice and equality to prevail, is through amending the nationality law. This, however, could only be achieved through concerted efforts of all Lebanese women and civil society organizations.



Success story

Samira challenging the system: the story of a migrant domestic worker

By **Carole Kerbage**, Journalist, August 2010

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This issue's success story is bitter sweet; it's a testimony of a woman migrant worker who has tried and succeeded to a certain extent, to challenge the existing status quo regarding the situation of women migrant workers in Lebanon and become relatively independent.

She walks out of one of the Barbir alleys, screaming at a man in her broken Arabic «I work for myself and not for you, if you do not like my work, get someone else to do it, But do not scream in my face», Samira, a Bangladeshi domestic worker, who has been working in Lebanon for the past 15 years.

Samira tells us her story. She is in her forties, and she spent her first five years in Lebanon working as a «slave» as she puts it. She never had any days off during those five years, and while at her employers' home, she had to serve them at all times no matter if it was day or night. She spent those five years locked up in the home of her employers. They would lock the house when they leave. She didn't even get the chance to know the streets around the house.

«Life is difficult, I swear to God, it wasn't a house it was a prison, but I didn't mind and I was ready to do everything so my kids could live in Bangladesh» she admits sorrowfully. She adds that beating was almost the only language used by her employer, physical and psychological violence were a central part in her daily experiences, all of this for 100 USD per month.

We are used to hearing horror stories such as these in Lebanon, and we have become habituated to reading almost daily in newspapers about suicides of domestic workers. But what we have not been accustomed is witnessing one of these workers retort angrily to her employer when badly or unjustly treated, this is worthy of our attention.

Ten years ago, Samira decided that she could no longer tolerate her abusive employers and she broke her work contract with them she was supported by her employer's son who sympathized with her. And she flew back to Bangladesh.

Once back in Bangladesh, the economic and financial pressure was unbearable so she had to go back to Lebanon, but this time she did not want to be living in «another torture camp», she wanted to be independent. She borrowed 3000 USD from her cousin who has been working in Lebanon for years, she paid them to an employment office, for the purpose of arranging her a fake sponsor to guarantee her stay in the country while she works on an hourly rate. She rented out a small room in Al-Barbir area for 150\$ and she managed to pay back her debts in 2 years time.



After falling from the seventh floor of her employers' home, the body of 28-year-old Theresa Seda from the Philippines lies in a Beirut street under the rain for hours before medical workers arrived.

Photo by Mathew Cassel, KAFA Association

«It's alright» that is her answer when asked about her current situation, she has managed to develop a steady customers base quite quickly, and a new customer has to call her several days in advance to arrange for an appointment as her schedule is often quite busy, her hourly work provides her with approximately 500USD per month (6,000 LBP per hour) but such work does not allow her any sense of stability or security.

«Life is still difficult», but she confirms that she feels more at ease now, if the client does not like her work or if he tries to harass her, she would just leave. There are a lot of other customers waiting, «I'm not only working for money I want to be comfortable in my work» she confirms proudly.

Yet this comfort that Samira talks about is fraught with a lot of problems. She has lost her residency permit some time ago, because the employment office that she deals with, has taken 1000USD, 500USD more than the costs of the residency permit, but they did not renew her permit, she objected furiously but the office owner told her: «If you do not like it, go ahead and sue us».

Few months after, her landlord kicked her out of the apartment, because he received a better deal, «but god leaves no one» she says. She told one of her «good» customers about her situation, he offered her the key for an empty apartment that she could use for 3 months till she finds another place of her own.

Of course life is not always this gloomy, the efforts put out by the domestic worker herself contributes somehow to better her own conditions. But in the best cases, the ability to better work and livelihood conditions clashes with the sponsor-system that is adopted in Lebanon, a system that reminds us of slavery, since the residency of the domestic worker is not only linked to the employment permit, but also with the personality of the employer, his morals, his moods and his «goodness»! This system serves the interest of the employment offices; through it the worker is able to «rent» a sponsor. And the employer is easily able to disregard her rights, and the office is easily able to steal her money, and the landlord is easily able to kick her out of her residence, as per the sponsor-system in Lebanon she is nothing but a domestic worker banned from all rights.

from the field

Amel's community centres: a safe space for Iraqi refugees

Based on an interview with **Roula el-Maalouf**

Head of Chiah Community Centre for Refugees, *Amel Association*

A difficult context

Up to five million Iraqis, nearly one out of five, have deserted their homes since the US invasion in 2003, with a significant increase after the Samarra shrine bombing in February 2006. About half became internally displaced persons (IDPs) while the other half fled mainly to neighbouring countries namely Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Approximately 10,000 Iraqi refugees are registered with UNHCR (United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees) in Lebanon the majority of them staying illegally in Lebanon.

Because of their illegal status, Iraqi refugees face a number of challenges: first lack of security and the constant fear of being arrested and detained while on the move despite the relative flexibility exercised by the authorities. Second, they face economic difficulties resulting from their exclusion of the Lebanese labour law. When they do have a job, they work as informal workers under very unfair working conditions. In addition, Iraqi refugees face difficulties integrating in the host community especially children who are having difficulties in following with the Lebanese curriculum in schools.

Iraqi refugees don't live in camps which constitute a further challenge to reach them and identify the most vulnerable among them. They consider Lebanon as a transit country and often hope for resettlement in a third country.

During 2009, approximately 2,200 Iraqis were resettled in a third country. In fact Resettlement is an option for only a few of them. In order to normalize their situation in Lebanon their legal status should be addressed as a priority especially that the majority of them do not intend to return to Iraq in the near future and voluntary repatriation has not been a realistic option in 2009 for most Iraqi refugees living in Lebanon mainly because of the drastic security situation in Iraq.

The 1951 Refugee Convention

The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees is the key legal document in defining who is a refugee, their rights and the legal obligations of states. The 1967 Protocol removed geographical and temporal restrictions from the Convention.

Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html>

Lebanon has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention. For an updated list of ratifications check <http://www.unhcr.org/4848f6072.html>

Amel's three community centers

In this context, Amel's community centers for Refugees aim to contribute to building the capacities and improving the psychosocial well-being of refugees through a participatory and community based approach. The work of the centers is focused on fostering the protection of refugee children by providing educational and psychosocial activities; on empowering men and women by providing access to life-skills and vocational training activities and through psychosocial activities, awareness raising sessions, and social counseling. By organizing inter-community events and targeting Lebanese citizens, the centers also aim to ameliorate the temporary integration of refugees in the Lebanese community.

There are currently three centers: Chiah center operational since July 2007 in partnership with the UNHCR, Ain El Roumaneh center for women in partnership with the UNHCR and Haret Hreik in



A drawing of "Home", made by a 14 year old iraqi-kurdish refugee in the Chiah Community Center.

partnership with Save the Children Sweden. The two latter centers were established in 2008.

A targeted intervention

Amel Community Centers constitute "a safe and secure place where refugees can meet, express their needs and benefit from several activities".

The main purpose of the programme targeting refugee children is to prevent school dropout and ameliorate the integration of refugee children in the host schools. Psychosocial and recreational activities are also implemented like theatre, drawing, music, learning through playing, outings to help children overcome trauma caused by the situation in Iraq or their difficult living conditions in Lebanon. Community centers constitute a safe environment where children can enjoy – as much as possible given the context – a healthy childhood.

As far as youth and adults are concerned, the centers focus on empowerment through providing life skills and vocational training activities as well as psychosocial support and recreational activities. The aim is to improve their well-being, enhance their social and professional integration in Lebanon and to contribute to a better preparedness of return to Iraq or increase their chances for resettlement in a third country. Psychological support and counseling are also available for refugees suffering from acute psychological distress through a referral system established between different stakeholders working with refugees (Local and International NGOs, UNHCR).

Furthermore, in order to encourage ownership in the management of services committees are elected every year by the refugees in Chiah and Ain El Roumaneh centers. The Committees play a significant role in identifying the needs of the refugee community, suggesting and taking part in new activities as well as in their implementation and assessment.

Amel centers receive all non Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon; the centers receive refugees from all nationalities (Sudanese, Somali, Ethiopian...). The number of beneficiaries varies according to the type of activity, for example during the last six months; around 650 beneficiaries participated in the activities of Chiah, Ain El Roumaneh and Haret Hreik centers.

But as Ms Roula El-Maalouf confirmed: "community centers like Amel's are necessary to support the Iraqi refugee community in Lebanon; however this remains insufficient as long as their legal status is not seriously addressed".

Amel association, founded in 1979, is a non-governmental, non-profit and non sectarian organization that supports the most underprivileged populations in Lebanon, through various programmes involving health care, psychosocial support, rural development, vocational training, child protection and the promotion of human rights. Through its programmes, Amel also supports Iraqi refugees in Lebanon through its Community Centers for refugees in Chiah, Ain El Roumaneh and Haret Hreik.

on civil society initiatives

Civil Marriage Not Civil War!

Based on an interview with **Bassel Abdallah**, *Civil Society Movement*

“In marriage, jobs, social life, sectarianism affects just about every person in Lebanon»”

Aman Makouk, a sixty-two year old retired teacher

Lebanon is a multi-confessional country with 18 recognized sects. Yet it is frowned upon to marry from another faith by religious leaders and more often than not by a number of politicians and sections of the general populace. Although coexistence is praised to high heaven, civil marriage is banned by law however offshore civil ceremonies are recognized. Meaning it is a luxury only afforded by the well-off.

As the lines of social and geographical divide are getting weaker between the different confessional communities, and the levels of social intermixing between people of different faiths are becoming higher, the question of civil marriage has radically moved from being a topic of intellectual discussion to a life-necessity and consequently a much needed right for thousands across the country.

In April 2010, the “Secularism March” gathered thousands of Lebanese in central Beirut calling for the establishment of a secular system in Lebanon and the abolishment of sectarianism. One of the main slogans in the demonstration was: “Civil Marriage and Not Civil War”. This demonstration was the first of its kind both in numbers and in political and social significance. It brought back to the public space the discussion on civil law for family and personal status.



A protestor at the secularism march holding a banner which says: “Fatima and Tony Love each other, problem?”, April, 2010, photo by ivysays.com

Bassel Abdallah from Civil Society Movement (CSM) spoke to Tatimma about one of their initiatives, a campaign to reform the family and personal status laws, suggesting an optional civil family and personal status law be adopted in Lebanon.

The Civil Society Movement (CSM) is a political and social movement that aims to build a society based on secularism and equity in collaboration with civil society organizations and individuals. CSM’s belief is, change can be achieved through peaceful transformation of society. One of the main objectives of the CSM is to build a nation of free, democratic and secular citizens guided by the principles and values of secularism, democracy, justice, comprehensive and global development, transparency and Arabism. CSM aims to achieve a secular democracy in Lebanon founded by free independent citizens who participate in building a fair and open society within its surroundings.

The CSM was founded in the late 1990s and was officially registered in 2006. One of its main founders is Bishop Grégoire Haddad, one of the most controversial religious figures in Lebanon and a fervent defender of secularism. The CSM has started a campaign for an optional law for civil marriage in Lebanon with the aim of providing Lebanese the option to marry within the framework of Lebanese civil courts without the need to go to another country to be able to do so.

The necessity for such a law is spurred or fueled by the existing barriers to mixed or inter-faith marriages. The campaign is composed of several committees working on interlinking tracks. One of the committees is a legal taskforce working on drafting a proposition for a new law, another committee is concerned with organizing activities, workshops and actions to promote such reform, at the same time a university-based census is being organized along with an accompanying media campaign.

The aim of the campaign is to strengthen the concept of citizenship and the sense of belonging to a civil society, and a State where every citizen is able to practice his/her rights without confessional and sectarian barriers.

If the law is passed it could unify the understanding of citizenship, and enforce nondiscriminatory policies to transform relations within society and free it of sectarianism and confessionalism. In addition it could guarantee equal rights and duties between men and women within the institution of marriage. Moreover it would help prevent the necessity to change faith in the case of divorce.

The law would be one of the major reforms that could lead to a civil secular State in Lebanon; and reduce immigration of Lebanese youth.

The campaign targets youth through the dissemination of information and knowledge about the importance of adopting a civil personal status law in Lebanon. Another target group is parliamentarians, which the campaign will try to lobby to push for the discussion and the adoption of this law within the Lebanese parliament.

The campaign will be officially launched by 2011, and it is currently in its preparatory phases.

Achieving civil marriage in Lebanon is said by many to be the cornerstone to reinforce a more structured sense of secularism in a country where for the past 30 to 40 years civil wars and disputes are the daily fodder.



* Quoted by Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE63O0RP20100425>

featured publication

The 2010 Civil Society Directory

The “Civil Society Organizations Directory 2010” is a continuation to the efforts initiated by Lebanon Support following the 2006 July war in the purpose of facilitating communication, networking and cooperation between civil society organizations in Lebanon. In 2008, Lebanon Support in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNDP, Handicap International and Echo produced the first NGO Directory in Lebanon, which listed more than 450 organizations.

The 2010 directory lists about 1,200 organizations and was published in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs’ NGO Resource and Support Unit and with the support of UNDP and Oxfam Quebec.

The Civil Society Directory is an ongoing project hosted by an active partnership between Lebanon Support and Ministry of Social Affairs, it includes in addition to the print directory, the Civil Society Portal which is an online platform containing a newswire, a job vacancies section, an e-library and a directory of registered organizations, among others.

The directory is composed of four main sections: 1) National NGOs; 2) International NGOs; 3) United Nations and International Agencies; 4) Social Development Centres and Embassies in Lebanon.

Each section lists the contact and address details of the registered organizations. This directory is intended to serve as a guiding tool for NGOs and all players in the field of relief, social assistance and development.

Why Get Listed in the Civil Society Directory and Portal?

Getting listed in the Civil Society directory is free of charge, allowing organizations to be in contact with each other, facilitating coordination and cooperation between civil society actors. Moreover the directory proved to be through its first edition (2008) a catalyst for partnerships between National and International civil society organizations, as well as facilitating partnerships between on the one hand, International Organizations, Donor agencies



and UN Agencies and on the other, National and International Civil Society Organizations.

Moreover getting listed in the directory allows organizations to be more visible towards donor agencies and international organizations, which facilitates access to funds and communication between donor agencies and implementing agencies.

The Civil Society Directory is the only directory in Lebanon that consolidates information about the most active NGOs in the country, and is a very useful guide for starting and for experienced organization to get to know who is out there and how to get in contact with the civil society community in Lebanon.

How to Get Listed?

To get listed, all you need to do is send us an email at register@lebanon-support.org detailing the following: 1) Name of the Organization; 2) Contact details for the organization; 3) Name of contact person, phone number and email address.

Once you send this information a staff member will contact you in a short while to help you fill your organization’s profile

The Directory is restricted to organizations that are:

- 1) Non-Profit;
- 2) Operational and/or implementing projects in Lebanon;
- 3) Active with an office and a fixed address in Lebanon;
- 4) Not a political party or a private company

fyi

did you know that?

“Out of 70 surveyed Sri Lankans Domestic workers, **88 per cent reported having no days off**. Some might have an hour or two on Sundays to attend church services. [...] **Rarely can the live-in worker go outside**, visit friends or just go walking.” Moreover it is reported that domestic foreign workers “**work between 16 to 17 hours a day**”.

Source: Ray Jureidini, Women Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon, International Labour Office, Geneva (2002).

ilm & khabar | the civil society newswire

June, July & August 2010

▶ June 8th, 2010

KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation held a photo exhibition: «Unseen Lives: Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon» in Al-Madina Theater, Hamra.

▶ July 19th, 2010

Human Rights Watch affirmed in a letter sent to the UAE interior minister: «The United Arab Emirates government should allow hundreds of deported Lebanese citizens and Gazans an opportunity to appeal their expulsions».

“It’s now been more than a year since the UAE started deporting hundreds of Lebanese and Gazans, and the government has yet to give any adequate justification,” said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at Human Rights Watch. “The UAE needs to provide these families, many of whom had lived in the country for decades, a chance to appeal their deportations.”

▶ July 23rd, 2010

The **IFI Research and Policy Forum on Youth in the Arab World** held a roundtable discussion on «Young Lebanese: What they feel, how they behave» with Charles Harb, Jad Melki, Azza Baydoun and Maud Stephan in AUB’s College Hall.

▶ July 24th, 2010

World Vision Lebanon and **Palestinian Children and Youth Institute (PCYI)** organized «I also ... would like to speak» an event within the «Caring for Caregivers» project, the event in clouded 2 drama plays, a photo and painting exhibition as well as a documentary about the project.

▶ July 26th, 2010

The **Issam Fares Institute** organized a research briefing with May Al-Dabbagh on “The Gendered Effect of Globalization on the identities of Young Saudis” in Van Dyk Hall, AUB.

▶ July 29th, 2010

Cosv, Samadal, Insan association and **Najdeb association** organized “A comics competition on multicultural societies” at the Palestinian Youth Center at Chatila Camp.

▶ August 5th, 2010

Relief International organized the «Live Akkar» trade fair, a major event to promote Akkar businesses and attract private investors, the event was organized in Halba, Akkar.

▶ August 19th, 2010

The “**Middle East Initiative Center for Knowledge Society/ Virtual Activism**” – USA & “**The Lebanese Development Network (LDN)**” organized the “Social Media & NGOs” seminar designed for nonprofit organizations working on human rights, research and development.

Upcoming Events: September 2010

▶ September 14th, 2010

The Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH) cordially invites you to the screening of the documentary «12 Angry Lebanese», a film by Zeina Daccache, September 14th, 2010 – 8 pm, Metropolis Empire Sofil, Achrafieh

To order tickets: please call 01-240023, or send an e-mail to info@cldh-lebanon.org

▶ September 7th, 2010

Nasawiya is pleased to invite you to a conference on its training program, «Feminist Tools for Change». The conference aims at introducing the audience to the objectives of Nasawiya’s training program. It discusses differences between gender and sex, feminism and women’s rights, power dynamics and cross-cutting issues.



Contact us

Professionals involved in the field of Aid, Recovery and Development are invited to contribute their views and opinions, or to exchange and share information with other professionals in the sector.

Let us know what you think of individual articles, or suggest topics you feel we should take up in future issues.

Contact us at the following address: tatimma@da3em.org

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