

ESCWA in The News

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➤ LAU and ESCWA Prioritize Women, Peace and Security on the Arab Agenda

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Conf. calls for increased woman involvement in peacemaking

Date : 09/08/2016

BEIRUT, Aug 8 (KUNA) -- Speakers at an international conference on woman and security called Monday for empowering women to play a greater role in peacebuilding through increasing their representation at relevant decision-making circles.

The conference, themed "Towards Prioritizing Women, Peace and Security on the Arab Agenda," is co-organized by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) of the Lebanese American University (LAU), and the Danish Centre for Gender, Equality, and Diversity (KVINFO) at the Beirut Commodore Hotel between August 8-10.

Addressing the opening session of the event, Mehrinaz Al-Awady, deputy director of ESCWA Centre for Women - Lebanon, said it is inevitable for restoring peace in conflict-hit areas that women take up leading positions in peacekeeping and monitoring operations of the peace accords.

The ESCWA has been working with many Arab countries in developing national programs for woman empowerment, peacekeeping and maintaining security since the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 of 2000, she pointed out.

These programs resulted in positive results through capitalizing on the plans for preventing conflicts, Al-Awady added.

On her part, Lina Abi-Rafe', director of the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, complained that the progress made in involving women in peace operations over the last 15 years is insufficient.

"The Arab world has a historic opportunity to put an end to inequality and discrimination against women, she said.

Recent studies indicate that there is a direct relationship between peace index and the way a government is handling the woman affairs, she noted.

On a similar note, Connie Christiansen, advisor at KVINFO - Denmark, said women in the conflict-hit areas of the Arab world is in need of better protection and more efforts to help her play a role in peacebuilding.

She added that this is a problem not only for Arab women but for women in many parts of the world.

The conference gathered representatives of government and civil society institutions from 11 Arab countries as well as experts and academics from around the globe. (end)
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<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2517535&Language=en>

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<http://www.menafn.com/1094891277/Kuwait--Conf-calls-for-increased-woman-involvement-in-peacemaking>



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NNA - The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) at the Lebanese American University (LAU), in collaboration with The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and The Danish Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KVINFO), is organizing an international conference entitled "Towards Prioritising Women, Peace, and Security on the Arab Agenda", on 8-10 August 2016.

The conference will start at LAU at 9:00 AM on Monday 8 August, in Adnan Kassar School of Business (AKSOB) Room 903, then will continue in the Beirut Commodore Hotel.

Participants in the conference include speakers representing governmental as well as non-governmental agencies from 11 Arab countries, in addition to high level international and regional experts, academics and other stakeholders.

This conference aims to enrich and expand the debate on issues relating to women, peace, and security across the Arab region, with particular emphasis on the role of institutions in addressing this critical issue and engaging with the global agenda. The conference will also focus on opportunities to strengthen Arab women's participation in peace-building processes across the region.

Over three days, the conference will discuss the roles and mandates of various national institutions in responding to the global Women, Peace, and Security Agenda. It will also emphasize the role of women in current peace processes in several Arab countries; their successes, limitations, lessons learnt and the way forward.

The meeting will close with a series of recommendations, which will be announced publicly at 2:30 PM, on Wednesday, the 10th of August 2016 at the Commodore Hotel Ballroom.

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