

# WOMEN

OF EXPERTISE & ACHIEVEMENTS

# 2019

# 2020



#Women\_of\_Expertise

#Rescue\_Lebanon

#Women\_in\_Politics







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## Alia Moubayed



**Business & Economy**



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**Alia Moubayed** is an experienced economist, a policy practitioner and strategist with more than 25 years of experience in government, international financial institutions, financial markets and think-tanks. She assumed research, policy and management responsibilities in the design and implementation of economic reforms covering the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and emerging markets more broadly with strong analytical presentation and communication skills.

She is currently the Chief Economist for the MENA region at Jefferies, an investment bank based in London. Prior to that, she worked at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London (2017-18), where she directed the Geo- economics and Strategy Program (GESp) analysing the interplay between economics and geopolitics at the global and regional levels, and providing advice to government and private sector corporations. Alia also worked as Chief Economist for the MENA region at Barclays in London for more than 8 years (2008-2017). She joined Barclays from the World Bank which she integrated through the Young Professionals Program (YPP) and became a senior economist responsible for analytical research, policy dialogue and development policy lending to countries in Europe and Central Asia, as well

as Indonesia (2002-2008).

She was also a member of the Task Force for World Bank Engagement with the Arab World. Prior to that, she held policy responsibilities in various economic institutions in Lebanon (1994-2001), including: head of section at the research department at the Banque du Liban; advisor to the Minister of Economy and Trade and Minister of Industry; and finally Managing Director of the Economic and Social Fund for Development (ESFD) at the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR).

Alia holds a BA in Economics with distinction and an MBA from the American University of Beirut, as well as a Master equivalent in Public Policy and Public Administration from the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) in France. She has authored several publications and reports, and her commentary has featured in the Financial Times, the Wall Street Journal, Foreign Policy, CNN, Bloomberg, CNBC, Sky News, the BBC, Al Arabiya, CNBC Arabia, Sky News Arabia, Al-Nahhar, Al-Joumhouria..., and other local, regional and international media outlets and on Twitter. She is also the founder of AWEAMENA – the Association of Women in Economics across the Middle East and North Africa aimed at promoting the role of women in economic policy making in the region.

## Aline Kamakian



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**Aline Kamakian** is the CEO and Co-Founder of FIG Holding. She founded her own brokerage firm Insurance, Investment Consultants which focuses on corporate insurance. IIC grew into one of the biggest brokerage firms in Lebanon. She is the treasurer of the Lebanese Franchise Association and active board member the Lebanese League for Women in Business.

She has also been an active member of AYA and AGBU. She was awarded “Woman entrepreneur of the year 2015” by BLC and Mayrig gained the socio-economic award in 2011. She was also named honorary board member of the Armenian Food and Wine Association for her outstanding work in the preservation of the Armenian culinary heritage.



# Asmahan Zein



Political Activist



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**Asmahan Zein** established herself in the business field with over than four decades of experience. She entered the service of industry as an independent woman then ventured into several different jobs within the services sector, from airlines executive in Lebanon to hotel management in Ivory Coast. In 2014, she started a new company Crypta. She was among the team that started Aramex Lebanon, as Lebanon Country Manager then was assigned to different

executive projects in Europe and West Africa. She is the President of the Lebanese League of Women in Business and Vice Chair of Ruwwad Altanmiya in Tripoli. She is Member of the Steering Committee of United Nations Global Compact. Through the years, she has participated in major social activities, in addition to different CSR projects and was the first woman elected for the Presidency of Lebanese Freight Forwarders Syndicate.

# Dr. Carmen Geha



Political Activist



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**Dr. Carmen Geha** is an Assistant Professor of Public Administration with a specialization in leadership, human resources, and organizational development at the American University of Beirut.

She is also the Director of “Education for Leadership in Crisis” Scholarship Program for Afghan women at AUB. Dr. Geha has held Research positions at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University and the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. She is currently the Principal Investigator for a research project on refugee education models in Lebanon and Kenya; in collaboration with the Peace Research Institute in Oslo and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is also a Co-PI on a project to create the first regional index on women’s economic participation across the Middle East and North Africa, funded by the US State Department. Dr. Geha’s first book Civil Society and Political Reform in Lebanon and Libya examined the challenges to mobilization and reform in power-sharing political systems by

studying campaigns on elections and constitutional development. Her work has appeared most recently in the Journal of Refugee Studies, Social Movement Studies, Journal of North African Studies, and the British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr. Geha has a BA and MA in Public Administration, from the American University of Beirut. She has taken graduate courses in public policy at Georgetown University and has a certificate in Strategic Non-violence from the Fletcher School at Tufts University. She holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of St. Andrews. Dr. Geha is an activist and an advocate of gender equity and refugee protection. She is a member of the Lebanon Policy Research Network on Displacement. She has published policy papers at Daily Star, and Al Hayat newspaper.

In addition to her academic track, Dr. Geha has several years of practitioner experience having worked as a consultant and adviser to international organizations, UN agencies, and government institutions in Myanmar, Tunisia, Libya, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Lebanon.



## Carole Babikian



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**Carole Babikian** was born on November 26, 1962 and raised in a politically and socially engaged family; her late father Khatchig Babikian was MP from 1957 till he passed away in 1999, and many times Minister. She studied Political Science and Public Administration following her desire to be of help for others. Carole engages herself with many Associations. As such, she is an active member in JEBID NGO, an active member in ACHRAFIEH 2020 since its creation in September 2012 and President of the Association since 2014. She is also member in the Board Committee for the promotion of the Aram Beizkian Museum for the Orphans of the Armenian Genocide. Her love to spread and support culture led her to write (in French) and produce music Albums, one of which, MIDAN by Eileen Khatchadourian, was Winner of the Best Armenian Rock Album in LA –USA in 2009.

She also supports, along with her sisters, The Khatchig Babikian Fund at University Saint- Joseph of Beirut-USJ and the Margo Babikian Fund for musical talents. As a peace-loving person, she has been nominated Ambassador for Peace in the World Peace Federation. Her many social and political concerns led her to attend the training sessions offered by WIF - WOMEN IN FRONT; the first Association for political empowerment of Women in Lebanon. All the above mentioned activities brought Carole Babikian to run for Lebanese Parliamentary Elections in May 2018 as candidate in Beirut 1 strongly believing that Lebanon needs more women participation in the political life and also that Lebanon needs open minded, honest, peace seeking people to rebuild the country and avoid further social, economic and political collapses.

## Caroline Fattal



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**Caroline Fattal** has held management roles in Europe, Latin America & the Middle East. She started her marketing career in Unilever's European Business Group based in Paris, then transferred to Buenos Aires where she became a Senior Brand Manager. Ms. Fattal later moved to Lebanon where she became the Sales Director of Unilever Levant's newly established operation. She was the only woman Sales Director in Unilever Asia Middle East & North Africa and the only woman Board Member of Unilever Levant. Following her Unilever experience, she joined her family's business, Fattal Group, first as Assistant General Manager of the Food & Beverage division, later as Chief Operating Officer of the entire group.

She serves today as Senior Vice-President and Board Member. She was the first woman to reach the board of directors of their 120 years old family business. She has been recognized by the magazine Forbes Middle East as one of the 200 "Most powerful Arab Women in Business". Ms. Fattal is a sought-after speaker and workshop facilitator on the topic of family business, and women's leadership at the board level. Recently, Ms. Fattal launched "Stand for Women" initiative advocating for women empowerment and gender equality in the Middle East. She is an angel investor in the first Lebanese Women Angel Fund and a formal mentor for both women entrepreneurs & corporate leaders.



# Darine Dandashly



Political Activist



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**Darine Dandashly** started her career at Audi Saradar Group, where she rotated through multiple operational jobs. She was also part of the product development team, and ultimately became a project manager in the planning group after graduating with a degree in political science from the American University of Beirut in 2000. At Audi, she has built both project design and execution skills, having had to deal with complex challenges and multiple stakeholders. In 2013, she has shifted her career to focus on her

passion: social and political activism. She co-founded Soura/Zakira, an organization dedicated to preserving the country's memory through photography and has been an active member and contributor to its projects since then. Ms. Dandashly also co-founded Qudurat, an NGO aiming at building NGOs' organizational capabilities through skilled volunteering. She is now a social and political activist, invested in human rights, alternative politics and support of vulnerable groups.

# Dina Harake



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**Dina Harake** assumed the role of an ambassador for Global Compact Network Lebanon in 2016, she has strenuously committed herself to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals aligned with the principles of the UN Global Compact. After two years of successfully representing the Global Compact Network Lebanon within both the global network and externally vis-à-vis companies, governments and the media, Ms. Harake was appointed as the Executive Director of Global Compact Network Lebanon, a position she still holds today. As Executive Director, Ms. Harake oversees and executes the Global Compact Network's strategy, manages strategic partnerships with other UN agencies, and advances thought leadership in areas of corporate sustainability. Additionally, she oversees member recruitment and supports network companies in

meeting reporting requirements. A true SDG pioneer, Ms. Harake spearheaded several national projects aimed at the empowerment of women in rural areas. A thought leader with sustainable thinking, Ms. Harake not only thrives for SDG fulfillment, but also leads efforts in transforming this mission by advocating for the GCNL chapter as a separate legal entity in Lebanon. She is also a highly driven entrepreneur with rich experience in business management in both Lebanon and abroad. Alongside being executive director of the Global Compact Network Lebanon, Ms. Harake is founder and co-owner of Well B Concept S.A.R.L in Beirut, but most importantly, a contributing force to her society through the channels of Beirut Marathon Association, Blessing Foundation, and Tamanna Foundation, among many others.



## Dr. Elham Kallab



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**Dr. Elham Kallab** holds a PhD in History of Art and Archeology from La Sorbonne – Paris (1977), and a master's degree in Literature from the Lebanese University – Beirut (1965).

University professor and lecturer over the course of forty years, at: The Lebanese University, the Lebanese American University, the Balamand University, the Antonin University, The Beirut Arab University, the ESMOD (International Fashion School), on: History of Civilizations, History of Art, Religions and the image of the 'Other', and Condition of the Arab Woman. She is currently a lecturer on the 'East-West Relations' at the Institut d'Etudes Islamo-Chrétiennes at Saint-Joseph University - Beirut.

Dr. Kallab was the Vice-President at the Centre International des Sciences de l'Homme de l'Unesco - Byblos, Lebanon, for five years (2000- 2005). Her researches and writings included different fields, mainly in Education, Women's image in the schoolbooks, Gender issues, the impact of violence and wars, the history of Arts, the 'Histoire des objets usuels', 'La Route de la Soie', 'L'orientalisme dans l'art',

the Effect of the Technology and social media on Family, and literary texts about tens of influential artistic, social, academic, literary and historical personalities in the Lebanese society. She has a pioneer experience on TV (National Lebanese Television), where she participated in the preparation and the presentation of cultural programs for many years. Active member in many civil organizations and cultural and artistic bodies. Currently, president of the Association of the Lebanese University Graduates. Formerly, president of the Circle of the Cultural Dialogue and the Family Planning Association in Lebanon and its Regional Committee in Arab countries. She was lately and for many years a member in the National Commission for Lebanese Women, and during the civil war in Lebanon she was an activist in the Peace group and the Non-violent movement. Dr. Kallab is also a Board member in the International Festival of Byblos.

Awarded in various occasions in Lebanon and abroad, Dr. Kallab received in 2014 "Le Grade de Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Cèdre" of the Lebanese Republic.

## Dr. Fadia Kiwan



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**Dr. Fadia Kiwan** is a Professor of Political Science at Saint Joseph University in Beirut, and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of UNESCO affiliated program MOST. She founded and directed the Institute of Political Science at USJ for 12 years. She held several positions in Lebanon and abroad including being a representative of the President of the Republic General Michel Aoun in the "Conseil Permanent de la Francophonie", an advisor to Minister of Education and Fine Arts, and an advisor to Minister of Culture and Higher Education. She is a member of the Executive board of the National Commission for Lebanese

Women. Dr. Kiwan was also a member of the United Nations University Council from 2007 to 2013, and a former representative of Lebanon in the executive board of the Arab Women Organization. She was a consultant to the World Bank and several UN organizations. She wrote hundreds of researches, studies, and articles. She is an active advocate for human rights, women rights, education, democratization, public good governance and sustainable development. Dr. Kiwan holds a PhD. in political science from the Sorbonne University in Paris, and a degree in philosophy and psychology from the Faculty of Education at the Lebanese University.



## Ghada Eid



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**Ghada Eid** is a Lebanese TV presenter famous for tackling corruption in her TV show, “Badda Thawra” (It’s Revolution’ Time). She holds a master’s degree in media and communications from the Lebanese University, as well as a license to practice law, and began her journalistic career as a press editor in Nidaa Al Watan Newspaper

and ICN Television, before their closing. She worked as an editor at Al-Massira Magazine, before moving to New Television to become a reporter in 2001. Today, she continues to be a talk-show host on Murr Television (MTV). Ms. Eid ran for the Maronite seat in the district of Chouf under Sabaa’s electoral campaign and the “Kollouna Watani” coalition.

## Gina Chammas



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**Gina Chammas** graduated from the University of San Diego California with a Bachelors’ Degree in Business Administration and Accounting, she also graduated with a Masters’ Degree in Science in International Leadership. She is a former President of the Syndicate of Certified Public Accountants in Lebanon. She was the advisor to the president of the Republic, General Emile Lahoud on finance and budget, and advisor to the Minister of Economy and Trade Affairs. From 1982 till 1989, Ms. Chammas was the Audit Manager at Deloitte & Touche. From 1989 till 1994 she was the Assistant Director of

Finance at City of Chula Vista in San Diego. In 2011, she was the President of Lebanese Association of Certified Public Accountants, and the president of the Retirement Fund and board members. From 2014 till 2018 she was a member in the Board of Directors in the International Arab Society of Certified Accountants (IASCA). She is the founding partner in ISA Lebanon Audit and a founder and senior Consultant in SME clinic. Ms. Chammas is founding member, CEO, and consultant in Tomorrow’s Advice Global,s.a.l offshore Lebanon. Moreover, a senior advisor at the American Anti-Corruption Institute in the MENA region.



## Dr. Halimé El Kaakour



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**Dr. Halimé El Kaakour** holds a PhD in Public International Law. She is a professor at the faculty of law and political & administrative sciences at the Lebanese University and previous instructor at many others such as USJ, AUST & LIU. She is a trainer and consultant in many international and local organizations in the field of gender,

leadership, good governance, local development and others. She devotes her time working on different cases such as human rights, and women's rights, and environmental rights. She's one of the toughest fighters against corruption calling for a secular state providing equal rights for everyone without discrimination.

## Dr. Hanadi Said Mirza



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**Dr. Hanadi Said Mirza** holds a PhD in Education from the Lebanese University, Doctoral School of Literature and Human Sciences. She graduated as a school counselor from the American University of Beirut (AUB) after completing her BA in English Language and TEFL Diploma there.

Dr. Hanadi Said Mirza has been an English instructor and teacher trainer at the Lebanese University, Faculty of Pedagogy since 2000. She's also been teaching in private institutions mainly L.I.U. and ISSAE-Cnam since 2011 and she's been the educational consultant and teacher trainer for English and Arabic teachers from KG up to grade 7 in two private schools since 2014.

Dr. Mirza has been delivering a wide variety of workshops for pre-service and in-service teachers locally and internationally since 2006. She has also presented her research papers in local and international conferences since 2015. Her teaching experience since 1998 has contributed greatly in perfecting her teaching skills, strengthening her relationships with students, and improving her testing skills. Her knowledge in psychology and educational psychology refined her relations with colleagues, administrative people, staff, and others. She believes that collaboration, cooperation, and coordination through teamwork are the key to success for any educational organization.



# Hayat Arslan



Political Activist



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**Hayat Arslan** has been commissioned to the task of preserving Human dignity & the right of citizens to live decently. That was expressed by the claim of securing education, medical care & housing. She has established a school, and an infirmary. She has empowered women economically by training them on how to earn their living by earning skills and to become productive members in their families.

Ms. Arslan has established a training school in Aley which is still functioning. This school has graduated and is still graduating big numbers of women. Ms. Arslan empowered women politically by lobbying, advocating & claiming for Quota adoption. She has established "The Committee for Women Political Empowerment" in 2004 which was licensed in 2006.

# Hayat Mirshad



Political Activist



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**Hayat Mirshad** is a Feminist and human rights activist, researcher, trainer and journalist. She is the Co-founder and Head of Programs at FE-MALE, a non-profit feminist collective. Ms. Mirshad is a board member and Head of communications at the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering and editor in Chief for Sharika wa Laken feminist online platform.

She is a Member of the Technical Advisory Group – Empowered Aid, Lebanon- established by The Global Women's Institute (GWI) at the George Washington University in Washington, DC, USA and she has Worked as an editor and anchor at Sawt Al Shaab Lebanese radio station and as a freelance reporter for social talk shows at Aljadeed TV and OTV.



## Dr. Hosn Abboud



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**Dr. Hosn Abboud** got her bachelor's degree in political studies in 1987 at AUB. Few years later, she finished her master's degree in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at the university of Toronto, Canada in 1993. She received her Doctorate degree in Islamic Philosophy, also in the University of Toronto in 2006. She is an expert in the Qur'anic studies and Hermeneutics, Islamic feminism, Arabic Feminist Writings, and women's role in consolidating the culture of peace and dialogue. She is currently a lecturer at AUB.

Dr. Abboud has attended and organized in discussions about inter-faith dialogues and ethical principles. She is the co-founder and active member in Darb Maryam, the Path of Mary. She is also an active member of the Lebanese Association of Women Researchers. She

has written several publications, journals and articles tackling issues of women in the world, feminism, and religion. She wrote a book called Mary in the Qu'an: Literary Reading. Dr. Abboud ran for Municipal Elections in 2016 and Parliamentary Elections in 2018 in Beirut. She successfully lobbied the municipality of Beirut in 2010 to fix the public stairs in her neighborhood to overcome a pollution and help ease traffic in public space.

She organized a one-day symposium at the institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World at the LAU in cooperation with Bahithat, sponsored by the ministry of culture under the project Beirut Capital of the Book. Dr. Abboud also edited the issue No. 125 of Al Raida journal titled Women and Scripture in the Arab world.

## Dr. Josephine Zgheib



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**Dr. Josephine Zgheib** was a candidate for the 2018 parliamentary elections, enlisted with Kulluna Watani. She was also a parliamentary candidate for the 2013-2014 elections.

She is a social activist and board member of the city council of Kfardebian since 2010.

As a local women leader, she developed and implemented an environmental and ecotourism programs and launched a women's development prototype bureau in her city and now expended it to 12 bureau across Lebanon. Dr. Zgheib is a young social entrepreneur. After a two years trip touring 45 countries back-packing spreading a peace message of accepting each other, she founded in 2004 Beity association and Auberge Beit , a hostel for youth and an incubator for activities in social development and rural tourism. She is a certified trainer in

communication, leadership, social accountability, fighting corruption, citizenship. Dr. Zgheib is the general secretary of the Lebanese youth hostel federation since 2009 and the vice president of the Arab affiliated network for social accountability ANSA, a network of activists from seven MENA countries funded by the world bank.

She is a Board member in the Lebanon eco movement network for more than 60 NGO to protect Lebanese environment, board member in MEPI-LAA middle east partnership initiative Lebanese Alumni association, Zgheib hold a BA physical therapy from Notre dame of Lebanon paramedical university, Master in leadership and management from chambers of commerce, industry and agriculture Beirut, she attained her PhD in Local Governance Development from Birmingham University,UK.



# Joumana Haddad



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Human & Women's rights



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**Joumana Haddad** is a writer, journalist, and activist for human rights, equality, freedom of expression and marginalized groups, born in Beirut in 1970. She has worked for Lebanon's An Nahar newspaper from 1997-2017. Since 2005, she has been the editor of the newspaper's cultural section. Since 2014, she's been selected as one of the world's 100 most powerful Arab women for her cultural and social activism. In 2017, she was also selected as one of the 100 most

influential Lebanese people in the world. Speaking seven languages, she has published several works of poetry, fiction, nonfiction and theater and translation. She writes regularly for several international newspapers and magazines, including The New York Times, Libération, The Guardian, Corriere della Sera and Die Zeit. She also has a weekly radio opinion on Radio Monte Carlo, as well as a weekly editorial in An Nahar newspaper.

# Kholoud Wattar Kassem



Political Activist



Social & Local Development



Anti-Corruption



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**Kholoud Wattar Kassem** graduated from the American University of Beirut with a BA in Sociology Anthropology and a diploma in child education to join Terre Des Homes organization as a volunteer during the civil war to help less fortunate children with medical problems. In 2000, she started supporting NGOs through actively promoting them and in

2010, went back to university to get her master's in political sociology. Ms. Kassem was a candidate to the Lebanese Parliamentary Elections in 2014 and became the first Arab woman in the Women in Parliament Global Forum representing the MENA Region. In 2017, she became the Global advisor for Women Political Leaders Global Forum.



# Lamia Moubayed Bissat



**Public Administration  
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**Lamia Moubayed Bissat** is the president and director of the “Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan” at the Lebanese Ministry of Finance. She has more than 20 years of experience focused on institutional reform and human capital formation in Lebanon and the MENA region. Ms. Moubayed teaches public governance at the University of Saint Joseph in Beirut. She was appointed by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to serve on the United Nations Committee of Experts in Public Administration (UNCEPA) and in this capacity, she evaluates candidacy to the United Nations Public Service Award (UNPSA). Ms. Moubayed is a fervent proponent of South-South cooperation for development. She contributed to founding the GIFT-MENA network of civil service training schools and is currently serving as the network’s president. Ms. Moubayed also contributed to founding the MENAPAR network of Research in

public administration. She is also a member of the board of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA). She authored and contributed to more than 41 publications including books, reports, policy papers, and guides and founded the semi-peer reviewed journal “Assadissa”-Journal of Public Finance and State Building. Ms. Moubayed was awarded the highest French distinction of “Légion d’Honneur” (2015) and the prestigious “Chevalier de l’Ordre National du Mérite” (2004) for her contribution to the development of cooperation ties between France, Lebanon and the MENA region, and her commitment to advancing the values of state building, good governance and the rule of law. She is an avid supporter of women rights and is a strong believer in the changing force of a financially literate youth.

# Laury Haytayan



**Political Activist**



**Oil & Gas Governance**



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**Laury Haytayan** is an oil and gas governance expert in the Middle East and North Africa. She is the director in the Natural Resource Governance Institute. Prior to joining the Institute for Natural Resource Governance, Ms. Haytayan was Executive Director of Arab Parliamentarians Against Corruption, working with parliamentarians to develop strategies and action plans to strengthen oversight and legislative capacity of parliamentarians, and to promote accountability and transparency. For 15 years, Ms. Haytayan has worked with different stakeholders to build a community based on promoting an understanding of accountability, transparency, and the rule of law in public institutions in the Middle East. In 2013, she ran for parliamentary elections for the

Armenian Orthodox seat in Beirut, the second district where her program focused on parliamentary reform, the civil state, women’s rights and oil and gas. In 2014, She was given the award of “Golden Shield of Excellence Award” by the Arab Women Council for being one of the distinguished women leaders and administrative leaders and active in the field of social responsibility in the Arab region. In 2015 the Green Party of Lebanon gave her an award for efforts to promote the role of Lebanese women in politics and decision-making. In 2016, the Indonesian Association of Parliamentary Advisors awarded her an award for her efforts in developing the capacity of parliamentarians and consultants concerning the subject of natural resources.



## Lina Hamdan



Political Activist



Human & Women's rights



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**Lina Hamdan** works in the field of humanitarian support, development projects, resource monitoring and reporting on results with a global advisory group working for the EU. She has served as Communications and Public Information Officer at the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee. She also worked as a political and media analyst in the International Information Office of President Saad Hariri and served as media communication expert at the Ministry of Agriculture.

During her career, she has pursued several training courses in strategy and project management and has contributed to the financing and implementation of development projects targeting segments of refugees, Palestinian camps and low-income communities. Her expertise includes refugee affairs, peacebuilding, post-war reconstruction, dialogue, conflict resolution, capacity-building and development, funding monitoring, donor relations, communication and reporting to government institutions and donors, and networking with UN and international NGOs.

## Dr. Maha Yahya



Political Activist



Human & Women's rights



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**Dr. Maha Yahya** is the director of the Carnegie Middle East Center, where her work focuses broadly on political violence and identity politics, pluralism, development and social justice after the Arab uprisings, the challenges of citizenship, and the political and socio-economic implications of the migration/refugee crisis. Prior to joining Carnegie, Yahya led work on Participatory Development and Social Justice at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA). She was previously regional adviser on social and urban policies at UN-ESCWA and spearheaded strategic and inter-sectoral initiatives and policies in the Office of the Executive Secretary which addressed the challenges of democratic transitions in the Arab world. Dr. Yahya has also worked with the United Nations Development Program in Lebanon, where she was the director and principal author of The National Human Development Report 2008–2009: Toward a Citizen's State. She was also the founder and editor of the MIT Electronic Journal of Middle East Studies. Dr. Yahya has worked with international organizations and in the private sector as a consultant

on projects related to socioeconomic policy analysis, development policies, cultural heritage, poverty reduction, housing and community development, and postconflict reconstruction in various countries including Lebanon, Pakistan, Oman, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. She has served on a number of advisory boards including the MIT Enterprise Forum of the Pan Arab Region and the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies. Yahya is the author of numerous publications, including most recently Unheard Voices: What Syrian Refugees Need to Return Home (April 2018); The Summer of Our Discontent: Sects and Citizens in Lebanon and Iraq (June 2017); Great Expectations in Tunisia (March 2016); Refugees and the Making of an Arab Regional Disorder (November 2015); Towards Integrated Social Development Policies: A Conceptual Analysis (UN-ESCWA, 2004), co-editor of Secular Publicities: Visual practices and the Transformation of National Publics in the Middle East and South Asia (University of Michigan Press, 2010) and co-author of Promises of Spring: Citizenship and Civic Engagement in Democratic Transitions (UN-ESCWA, 2013).



## May El Khalil



**Social & Local development**



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**May El Khalil** is the Founder and President of the Beirut Marathon Association, which oversees the annual Beirut Marathon.

Ms. El Khalil has been recognized for her work nationally and internationally. The assertion she made in her most powerful TED GLOBAL talk was that “peacemaking was not a sprint, but a marathon”, meaning that this kind of endeavor was a long race that requires commitment, endurance, and optimal belief in a goal.

In addition to her work at the Beirut Marathon Association, she speaks at different Universities and organizations about the power of sport, perseverance,

unity, and making the impossible dream of peace happen through running. She is a member of World President Organization (WPO). Some of her major achievements were organizing and managing 16 major international races, organizing grassroots free running programs, and organizing an annual women’s race since 2013. She has also won awards from different countries around the world such as Abu Dhabi, the “Laureus Sport for Good Award”; Lausanne, “Power of Sport Award”; Brazilian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce, “Women of the Year”; Rotary Foundation, “Achievers” Award; and Ministry of Tourism, “Achievers Award”.

## May Nasrallah



**Business & Economy**



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**May Nasrallah** founded deNovo Corporate Advisors, a Middle East based corporate finance and M&A advisory boutique. deNovo has acted as the advisor on many M&A and restructuring mandates across the MENA region and cross border on behalf of well-known regional corporates, family groups, PE firms and sovereign wealth funds. Prior to founding deNovo, Ms. Nasrallah spent over 15 years at Morgan Stanley in numerous capacities and roles across investment banking and in various geographies including New York, Hong Kong, London and lastly Dubai. Most recently, she was Head of Investment Banking for the Middle East and North Africa region, where she

established, led and grew Morgan Stanley’s first on-the-ground Investment Banking presence in the Middle East. Ms. Nasrallah has been ranked in the top 500 Most Influential Arabs in Arabian Business magazine in 2013 and 2012 consecutively and was similarly ranked in the top 100 Most Influential Arab Women. In 2015, she was named Businesswoman of the Year for the UAE at the Arab Women Awards Ceremony. Ms. Nasrallah graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. She also received her master’s in management and Finance from MIT’s Sloan School of Management.



# Myriam Sfeir Murad



**Human & Women's rights**



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**Myriam Sfeir Murad** is currently the Director the Arab Institute for Women (AIW). She Joined the Institute in 1996. Previously she served as managing editor of Al-Raida, the double-blind peer reviewed journal published by AIW. She has worked on several groundbreaking issues of Al-Raida that dealt with various subjects considered taboo in the Arab world. She has also worked extensively on issues

related to gender rights and has organized several conferences, film festivals, and lectures at LAU. She is knowledgeable on issues related to human rights, gender-based violence, and sexuality. She has earned her Bachelor degree in Philosophy from the American University of Beirut and her Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Women's Studies from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom

# Nada Zaarour



**Political Activist**



**Environment**



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**Nada Zaarour** is the President of Green Mind, a leading Non-Governmental Organization in the MENA region working on sustainability, and President of the Green Party of Lebanon. Ms. Zaarour has led top Green movements in Lebanon advocating environmental protection, CO2 emissions reduction, eco-attitudes integration, women empowerment and Green

economy stimulation. She is a Board Member of the CAN Arab World, Partner with religious authorities in Lebanon and abroad developing programs for Faith and Conservation, Member of the Environmental Committee in Bkerké, Member of the National Coalition for Political Participation of Women, and Member of the civil society dialogue table.



## Dr. Nadine Itani



Political Activist



Aviation



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**Dr. Nadine Itani** got her Doctorate degree in Air Transport Policy Development in 2011-2015, in Cranfield University, United Kingdom. She got her master's degree in Air Transport Systems in 2010-2011, in Cranfield University, United Kingdom. She gives lectures at AUB. She is also a managing director at Aviation Minds consultancy. She is the founding member of the Middle East Aviation Research Society, and the president of the Women

in Aviation Forum. Ms. Itani is a member of the royal Aeronautical Society. She was a speaker, Moderator at several sessions in Oman, Qatar, France, and Turkey. One of the conferences she attended was in United Kingdom, where she tackled the issue of "Women in Aviation in Middle East: Rise and Shine", organized by Aeronautical Society in 2015. She received the UN-International Civil Aviation Organization Award for her research in aviation in developing countries in 2011.

## Nadine Labaki



Political Activist



Cinema



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**Nadine Labaki** was born February 18, 1974 in Baabdet. She obtained a degree in audiovisual arts at Beirut's St. Joseph University. She is a director, actress and an activist. She portrays stereotypes and touching on fundamental issues such as Religion, war, women's role in society, and the different challenges that the Lebanese person undergoes in daily life. She directed a film called "11 Rue Pasteur," which won the Best Short Film Award at the Biennale of Arab Cinema at the Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris) in 1998. She has directed adverts and many music videos for renowned Middle Eastern singers, for which she won several awards. By age 30, Ms. Labaki has already worked on being a director of over 50 television ads for high-profile firms. Her work earned two back-to-back Murex D'Or "Best Video Clip Director of the Year" awards. Her film "Caramel," which she wrote, directed, and played a leading role in, premiered at the Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival in 2007.

The film collected prizes at many festivals around the world and the industry newspaper Variety named her among 10 Directors to Watch at the Sundance Film Festival. Ms. Labaki directed, co-wrote, and starred in her second film "Where Do We Go Now?" (Halla La Wen). The film premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in the "Certain Regard" category in 2011. It won the Cadillac people's choice award at the Toronto film festival and was a winner at the Cannes Film Festival, the San Sebastian Film Festival, and the Stockholm film festival. The film was nominated for best foreign film at the Critics' Choice Awards in Los Angeles. Her movie Capernaum was nominated in the foreign-language Oscars category, which was a first for a female director. She is the first female Arab director to ever be nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Ms. Labaki is also a goodwill ambassador for the Brave Heart Fund of the Children's Heart Center at the American University of Beirut Medical Center.



# Najah Jaroush



Political Activist



Environment

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**Najah Jaroush** is Founder of Tassamim, an enterprise for landscape & irrigation which is currently compiling successful dreams in more than 200 residential garden projects.

Another successful joint venture is C-Green which is now growing yearly by a 25% increment since it was established in 2003. She is also Coordinator of the Landscape Department at EduDMG- Beirut for

continuous learning for adults. Ms. Jaroush joined the Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB), in 2007, and took intensive training and workshops with MEET & MEPI, which ultimately injected a fresh thought of expanding more. In 2009, triggered by the women's campaign for empowerment, a new joint venture saw the light as she opened a shop for selling gift articles.

# Najat Rizk



Political Activist



Communication

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**Najat Rizk** is currently Partner and CEO of Firehorse. She previously served as a Channel Manager for Orbit Satellite Network and LBC Network, before joining Firehorse Films in 1999. Ms. Rizk has won acclaim as the second most successful CEO in Lebanon with over 18 years of experience. She is a producer and manager of a wide range of programming activities on current affairs, factual entertainment, documentaries and

corporate films in the Arab World. She has left her personal mark on several documentaries touching crucial topics such as women empowerment, religion, civilian-military relations, and political investigations in the region. Ms. Rizk holds a masters' degree in human Geography and Demographic Statistics, as well as a BA in Geography from Saint Joseph University in Beirut.



## Dr. Najat Saliba



Environment



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**Dr. Najat Saliba** is a Professor of Analytical Chemistry and the Director of the Centre for Nature Conservation at the American University of Beirut. She was appointed a laureate of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science program in 2019. Her research considers ambient pollutants in Lebanon and the Middle East. Dr. Saliba investigates the toxic and carcinogenic chemical constituents of electronic cigarettes and hookahs. She was the first to identify compounds such as formaldehyde in hookahs and went on to show that electronic cigarettes can generate carbon monoxide.

She is part of the Center for the Study of Tobacco Products at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Saliba is part of a National Institutes of Health project to investigate the impact of smoking shisha. She was part of a \$2.8 million grant to develop computer models to analyze tobacco toxicity. Dr. Saliba contributed to the World Health Organization Air Quality Expert Meetings. She established the first Lebanese atmospheric pollutants database. She showed a variety of toxins are emitted during the burning of waste and measured their concentration at the top of a four-story apartment building in Beirut.

## Nayla Geagea



Political Activist



Law



Human & Women's Rights



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**Nayla Geagea** is a lawyer and researcher with more than ten years of experience and practice with a focus on international human rights, protection of vulnerable groups and international criminal justice. Since 2008, she has engaged in legal research and drafted legal briefs, memoranda, and draft laws encompassing a range of issues related to human, social and economic rights. She has worked with multiple local and international organizations including research centers to develop public policies and advocate for legal reforms, to implement projects and activities aiming at addressing forms of discrimination and marginalization of various vulnerable groups, in addition to conducting workshops and training for local communities in

remote areas on active citizenship and economical sustainability and supporting civic campaigns on the local and national level. She has an extensive experience assisting civil society actors working on human rights issues as well as engaging with Lebanese authorities and parliamentarians to advocate for laws and policies reforms to comply with Lebanon's international commitments and promote mechanisms for the protection of human rights. She graduated from the Faculty of Law at the Lebanese University with distinction and holds a master's degree in International and Human Rights Law from the Faculty of Law at Paul Cezanne University based in Aix en Provence, France.



# Neamat Bader Al Deen



Political Activist



Law



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**Neamat Bader Al Deen** has a BA in Political Science from the Lebanese University, a BA in Clinical Psychology from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities from the Lebanese University, a Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from Beirut Arab University, and an MA in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Islamic University. She has worked on Voice of the People Radio and Al Akhbar newspaper as a writer in political localities

and a newspaper delegate to the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She participated in the preparation of social, youth and trade union programs and was involved in the establishment and organization of the campaign to bring down the sectarian system in Lebanon. Ms. Bader Al Deen has dedicated the role of women in the struggle against power in protests, where she has always been at the forefront of demonstrations and sit-ins.

# Dr. Olfat El Sabeh



Political Activist



Law



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**Dr. Olfat El Sabeh** is an instructor of Business Law, Social Security, Labor Law and Civic Engagement at the Lebanese American University since 2010 and at La Sagesse University since 2014. She graduated from the School of Law at La Sagesse University with a master's degree in Public Law and from the Lebanese American University with a degree in Business Management. Formerly, she was an alumni board member at the International School of Chweifat (currently SABIS) and a legal advisor in Dubai, United Arab Emirates for few years. Olfat has played a major role in defending human rights and fighting corruption through the civil society movement in Lebanon. Olfat has participated in many conferences about Oil & Gas, environment issues, obligatory free education

and women empowerment. She was also a candidate for parliamentary elections for three times and municipality elections in her district thus promoting the role of women in politics, revolting against corruption and proposing solutions for local problems. She also served as an editorial member and reviewer of several international reputable journals and authored many research articles and books related to Law and Business. Olfat's main concern is youth and future generations with whom she has been dealing with for several years now. Through encouraging them, she hopes they will be able to stand on solid grounds via new legal and economic standards that will create different job and life opportunities to them.



# Paula Yacoubian



Political Activist



Communication



Public Administration  
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**MP Yacoubian** studied Political and Administrative Sciences at the Lebanese University and graduated in 1999. She began her career at the age of 17 at the Lebanese news station ICN in the news section. She then started working at LBCI where she appeared on a show. In 2000, she started working at MTV Lebanon and the radio station ART. Throughout this period, MP Yacoubian has attended public seminars, open debates, and international conferences. After working with MTV and ART, she has moved to working in the Future TV, and wrote in the Lebanese newspaper “السفير”. She helps many students who are practicing media. In 2017, King Philip awarded her the Belgian Throne Medal as a reward for her outstanding journey in social work. She has received several awards and honors for her work and the last reward was from

Rene Mouawad Foundation. MP Yacoubian launched the Dafa Campaign, one of the largest donation campaigns, which later became an association. Through this association, donations and aid have helped 180,000 of the poorest families across Lebanon. She also takes part in the yearly clean-up campaigns of the Lebanese shores and sea and supports several environmental associations and startups that work on renewable energy for their activities. She is a CEO and Managing Director at “Integrated Communication”, a company specializing in communications strategy and media relations. She announced her candidacy for the 2018 Lebanese Parliamentary Elections, running for the Armenian Orthodox seat in the Beirut I, and she was officially announced that she had won a seat.

# Raghda Jaber



Public Administration  
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**Raghda Jaber** is currently working on Institutional Assessment and Capacity Building to support Planning functions and the implementation of Oman National Spatial Strategy. She has been serving as Senior Policy Adviser at the Supreme Council for Planning (SCP) in Oman, working on housing policy. Ms. Jaber also oversaw scoping, developing ToR, and co-managing procurement for two SCP Projects: the Oman National Spatial Strategy Project (ONSS), and Oman Vision 2040. ONSS involves the preparation of a strategic spatial framework to guide land use and development in the country for the coming decades.

Vision 2040 is the guiding economic and social development vision for Oman in the next decades. Prior to that, Ms. Jaber was the senior policy adviser under the Office of the Prime Minister of Lebanon, supporting the work of the Project Administration Office (PAO), a unit in charge of managing programs funded by the European Union. Ms. Jaber also was the project coordinator, in charge of planning and implementation of the Cadastre Operations Modernization and Automation Project (COMAP), under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) from its inception to successful completion in 2005.



# Raghida Dergham



Political Activist



Communication



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**Raghida Dergham** is a Senior Diplomatic Correspondent, and the New York Bureau Chief for the London-based Al Hayat newspaper. She is Dean of the international media at the United Nations. Ms. Dergham is also the Founder and Executive Chairman of the Beirut Institute, an indigenous think tank that aims to encourage innovative, solution-oriented analyses of the opportunities and challenges affecting the Arab region. Ms. Dergham was named one of the 100 Most Powerful Arab Women in 2011 and in 2016.

She is a specialist on strategic international relations and member of the Council on Foreign Relations and an Honorary Fellow at the Foreign Policy Association.

In addition to covering the American-Soviet summits and the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party in the 1980s, Ms. Dergham has interviewed over 40 global leaders. She has contributed to Al Arabiya English, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Newsweek. She was a political analyst for NBC, MSNBC, and LBC for eight years as well as a contributing editor for Global Viewpoint produced for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Ms. Dergham was appointed to the Task Force on the Reorientation of Public Information by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, and she served as Chairman of the Dag Hammarskjöld Fund Board in 2005.

# Dr. Rana Abdel Malak



Business & Economy



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**Dr. Rana Abdel Malak** holds a Doctoral degree earned from the University of Texas. She is Certified in Project Management by the American Academy of Project Management (AAPM) and 20 + years of progressive nurse executive experience in leading tertiary health care centers in the Middle East. She is the recipient of the Lebanese Order of Nurses 10 years achievements award and the Buie Presidential Scholarship for Doctoral Studies. Moreover, she is Responsible to provide strategic leadership at the patient care executive position.

Provides oversight of the overall delivery of nursing care and the professional practice of nursing in all areas of the medical facility in Beirut and provide support to CMC offshore locations (Dubai and Riyadh). Provides direction, leadership, planning, organization and general management for all aspects of patient care ensuring integration of services and compliance with long range objectives and strategies, with the provision of excellent quality services and sound fiscal management. Represents nursing/patient care on the hospital executive level.



# Rana El Chemaitelly



Political Activist



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# Rana Ghandour Salhab



Business & Economy



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**Rana El Chemaitelly** has a background in mechanical engineering and masters' degree in Engineering management. She has created The Little Engineer, a STEM education institution for engaging young minds in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through hands-on learning activities to unleash their full potential in pre-engineering skills while highlighting robotics, renewable energies, aviation and

space, working in parallel on youth leadership and presentation skills. The Little Engineer works with ministries of education in the MENA region to integrate the program in school curricula. Ms. El Chemaitelly is committed to being a voice of change by investing in young minds and empower women in her community, country and around the world.

**Rana Ghandour Salhab** is a former member of the board of directors, and member of the Executive Committee at Deloitte in the Middle East. She has extensive international experience in human capital consulting, talent and diversity management, social responsibility, corporate branding and communications.

Ms. Salhab is on the Executive Board of the National Commission for Lebanese Women, which advises ministries in Lebanon on gender equality laws and practices. She sits on the advisory boards of regional NGO's and on the Middle East Advisory Board (MEAB) of the Olayan Business School, American University of Beirut.



## Rania Ghaith



Political Activist



Law



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**Rania Ghaith** has a diploma of law and social sciences, political and she is a social activist who has participated in many conferences in Lebanon and abroad to promote the role of women in society and political life. She was one of the most prominent participants in the political program leader, and the civil movement nominated for the 2013 elections, presented with a group of activists Draft accelerated

repetitive moratorium on executions adopted by one of the deputies. She is one of the most prominent aspects of the civil movement in the last five years and believes that the country needs the authority of the Constitution and the rule of law to consolidate the strong sovereignty of the state, equality between citizens and gender specifically in all areas is the stage of salvation to move forward to a strong state.

## Regina Kantara



Political Activist



Law



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**Regina Kantara** is a Lebanese Advocate from Tripoli. She has been a candidate for the 2009 and 2014 parliamentary elections.

Ms. Kantara is the Co-founder of the International offices of the Lebanese Cedars Revolution and has participated in the “Lebanon 2020” summit. She has also been a member of the Lebanese Delegation to Istanbul in 2012 for the “Peace in the Middle East, Islamo-Christian perspectives”.

Ms. Kantara has also been part of the conference of the El Mechrek committee in Brussels. She has been the initiator of the petition, addressed to the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon for the protection of peace, democracy, sovereignty and human rights in Lebanon. Ms. Kantara also advocates for the implementation of UN resolutions related to Lebanon, including 1559 and 1680 resolutions.



## Rima Koteich El – Hussein



**Business & Economy**



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**Rima Koteich El-Husseini** earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration and her master's degree in Money & Banking from the American University of Beirut (AUB). She leads Blessing, a company specialized in chocolates and gifts for luxury events. After graduating from AUB, Rima served Citi Bank for 5 years. She and her sister, Rana, created the Blessing brand in 1996 and have since expanded the company in the Middle East, with branches in Riyadh, Khobar, Bahrain and Oman, in addition to Lebanon's main boutique

and workshop. She plans to expand the business to the U.S. and Europe. In 2012, she attended the Fortune/ U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership, then founded The Blessing Foundation, an organization aimed at empowering women in business. She is a winner of the 2015 TIAW World of Difference 100 Award and was elected as The Most Impactful Lebanese Woman for 2016. She is also one of the two winners of the Goldman Sachs/Fortune Global Women Leaders Award for 2016.

## Rindala Beydoun



**Political Activist**



**Law**



**Business & Economy**



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**Rindala Beydoun** is the founder and managing partner of Tribonian Law Advisors. Her practice focuses on cross-border and domestic mergers, acquisitions and dispositions, real estate development and asset purchases, as well as a wide variety of corporate transactions. Prior to founding TLA, Ms. Beydoun was a partner at

Vinson & Elkins in the UAE and the managing partner at Latham & Watkins' offices in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Qatar.

Ms. Beydoun is recommended by The Legal 500 for M & A in the UAE (2006- 2018) and ranked as a leading lawyer for Corporate and Commercial Contracts in the UAE by Chambers Global (2008- 2016).



## Rola El Mourad



Political Activist



Social & Local development



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**Rola El Mourad** is the founder and the president of 10452, a political party working primarily towards a secular state with gender equality. In 2018, she ran for Parliament, leading the first electoral list of women. She graduated from Balamand University and has been very active in politics. However, politics is not her only area of expertise. For the past fifteen years, Rola El Mourad has been actively involved in social work around Lebanon. She is the founder and president of Afaq Association, an NGO focused on development in the region of Akkar, North Lebanon. Through Afaq Association, she has worked on the empowerment of women and youth, development of rural areas, sustainable development, lowering school dropout rates, and bringing startup business culture to Akkar. Starting at the age of seventeen, she was an active

member in an association of people with disabilities and has worked extensively in this field. Later, in 2008, she founded Educare, a center for children with special needs and learning disabilities. In 2013, Mrs. El Mourad attended a session of the European Parliament in Brussels to discuss women quota in politics. In 2014, she was invited to a conference in Rabat, Morocco to speak of her experience as the first woman to found a political party in Lebanon. Mrs. El Mourad has lectured at many conferences on the following topics: women and politics, women in political parties, women and economy, school dropouts, prison conditions, kids with special needs, voluntary sector, women in rural areas. She has been honored by Lions Group Tripoli and by Green Party Lebanon.

## Salam Yamout



Political Activist



Business & Economy



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**Salam Yamout** was born in Beirut in 1963. She is the Head of the National Bloc Party. She holds a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Arizona in the United States and an MBA from ESA Business School in Beirut. Ms. Yamout has been Internet Society's Regional Manager for the Middle East since November 2016. This organization was founded in the United States and deals with Internet protocols and relevant international policies. Prior to joining Internet Society, Salam served as the National Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) Strategy Coordinator at the Office of the Prime Minister of Lebanon in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers,

a post she held for a six-year period. She brings over 25 years of experience in the development and management of ICT systems domain and their impact on business, governments, and society at large. She worked with industry leaders such as Cisco Systems and international organizations such as the European Union and UNDP. Ms. Yamout has founded several associations, the most important of which is "Women in IT". She also serves as vice chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB), and she served on the boards of international organizations such as RIPE NCC - The Internet Registry for Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia.



# Sarah Al Charif



Political Activist



Social & Local development



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**Sarah Al Charif** is the Founding Director of Ruwwad Al Tanmeya NGO in Lebanon since 2012. She has been leading the community development and youth empowerment organization in Tebbaneh and Jabal Mohsen in Tripoli, in a center situated on the front lines between the 2 disenfranchised communities witnessing previous rounds of sectarian clashes. As a strong believer in women advancement, Sarah founded Atayeb Tarablos community kitchen, as a social enterprise within Ruwwad meant to economically empower women living in financial distress who are victims of armed conflict. Sarah previously served in 2010 as a program manager for Maurice Fadel Prize, a Business Entrepreneurship Competition promoting creation of startups within North Lebanon. She managed in 2008 educational, professional and training programs at Amideast and started her career path back in 2007 as an intern at Cisco in Silicon Valley. Sarah holds a BS in Business from the Lebanese University. She is currently enrolled in the Executive

Leadership Program at THINK Creative School of Leadership in Amsterdam. She attended the INSEAD Impact Social Entrepreneurship Program in France in 2017 as one of the 2 women leaders in the MENA region, awarded the Soraya Salti Social impact Scholarship. She was also previously enrolled in Harvard Kennedy School Executive Course “Organizing, Leadership & Action – Leading Change” and in George Washington University Course “Project Leadership, Management and Communications”. Sarah is an alumni member of the World Economic Forum’s Global Shapers Community for the Tripoli-LB Hub; she represented Lebanon in the WEF Annual Summit at Davos in 2018 being part of the DAVOS 50 Youth Delegation. Former Member of Junior Chamber International Tripoli-LOM and Lebanon’s Young leaders of Tomorrow Program (LYLOT); Member of the Lebanese League for Women in Business; Community Organizer; Social Activist; Interpersonal Skills Trainer and accredited Coach by Relational Dynamics 1st & Culture at work, UK.

# Dr. Tamara El Zein



Sciences



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**Dr. Tamara El Zein** has received a PhD in physical chemistry from UHA (2002), followed by a position of “Maître de Conférences”. Since 2014, she has been a Research Associate at the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission of the CNRS-L. She is the director of the doctoral fellowships program of CNRS-L, and since 2016 she has been a member of

the AUF international scientific board. Moreover, She is the Head of “DAWReK’n” - the National Observatory for Women in Research. In 2016, Ms. Zein was awarded the “L’OREAL-UNESCO for Women in Science” regional fellowship “Levant & Egypt”, and then in 2017 the “International Rising Talents” prize.



# Violette Ghazal Balaa



**Business & Economy**



**Communication**



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**Violette Ghazal Balaa** is Public relations & Strategy Manager at First Protocol and Editor in Chief of Arab Economic News since 2014. She was the Former Head of Economic Department at ANNAHAR Newspaper. Her experience is the result of over 34 years in the field of Economic Journalism. She has worked on the Innovation of the Arab

Economic Application (AEN) mobile application, a unique free-of-charge application which can be downloaded on smartphones. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from the Lebanese University. Ms. Ghazal Balaa received many Training Certifications and trained several figures.

# Zeina Daccache



**Political Activist**



**Human & Women's Rights**



*zeinada@hotmail.com*



**Zeina Daccache** founded Catharsis-Lebanese Center for Drama Therapy in 2007, establishing Lebanon's first organization dedicated to theatre as a social and psychological therapy tool. Both her theatrical and film productions of Twelve Angry Lebanese, interpreted by male inmates residing in the Roumieh Prison, received international recognition and brought much-needed attention to the issue of penitentiary reform in Lebanon. These productions were essential to the enactment of the early release law in Lebanon, which had been published in 2002 but was finally enacted in 2009. Following Twelve Angry Lebanese, Zeina created the play Scheherazade in Baabda and the documentary Scheherazade's Diary, in which female inmates of the

Baabda prison share their personal stories in an attempt to heal their wounds and hold up a mirror to Lebanese society about the oppression of women. Her theatre productions have a dual purpose: to help participants deal with their own psychological trauma, and to give voice to marginalized and disadvantaged communities within Lebanon. Her latest play was created with migrant domestic workers (MDWs), raising awareness about the needs and rights of MDWs. Catharsis has continued to grow since its inception, and now features a professional drama therapy training program where people learn the necessary tools and skills to become Registered Drama Therapists.



## Zeina El Helou



Political Activist



Human & Women's Rights

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## Zeina Majdalani



Political Activist



Environment

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**Zeina El Helou** was elected to serve as the Secretary General of the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections for a two-year term (March 2016 – March 2018). She has worked at the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies between 2006 and 2010, and currently associated with LCPS as a Senior Researcher. She sat as Lebanese representative on the Radicalization Advisory Group of the Third Way Institute, Jordan in 2010; produced two research papers on radicalization

in Lebanon. In 2015, Zeina El Helou has established a private research company, Ra'i for Research and Development. She has established and ran the first public policy focus group center in Lebanon in 2006, at the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies. She is Holder of a master's degree in journalism from Université Assas – Paris II in conjunction with the Lebanese University, In addition to master's degree in political science from Saint-Joseph University.

**Zeina Majdalani** is recognized as one of the most experienced landscape architects in the region, she has worked with many pioneering engineering companies. She worked for years in London before returning to Lebanon to start her own business, which later expanded to the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. During her career she has implemented several projects

in Lebanon, the Middle East and Europe, including the development of modern cities, tourist resorts, housing projects, commercial projects, public squares, gardens and characteristic streets. Ms. Majdalani has won several Lebanese, Arab and International awards and competitions. Among her most recent projects is the restoration of the Sanayeh Park in Beirut.



# Zoya Jureidini Rouhana



Political Activist



Human & Women's Rights



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**Zoya Jureidini Rouhana** received her bachelor's degree in business administration at American University of Beirut (AUB). She is an expert in Gender Based Violence, child sexual abuse, and trafficking in women and children. She was the Social and Economic Research Assistant at The Consultation and Research Institute from 1978 till 1985, and the general coordinator from 1997 till 2005 at the Lebanese Council Resist Violence against Women. She was also a general coordinator at the Arab Women's Court (an Arab network to resist violence against women), from 1996 till 2008. In 2005 Ms. Rouhana became the director at KAFA, Lebanon. She was the Secretary of Women's Affairs, at Secours Populaire Libanais. Ms. Rouhana initiated several campaigns and projects

dealing with women's issues, specifically breaking the silence about the forms of violence against women and providing them with assistance. During her career, she contributed to Establishing and managing the Listening and Counseling Center for Abused Women in Lebanon and creating and operating the hotline service for women. Ms. Rouhana organized the first regional public hearing on violence against women in the Arab world in Beirut and organized several regional meetings on violence against women. She managed to work on drafting the law which was passed to the parliament and the related campaign to protect women from family violence. In, 2007, Ms. Rouhana won The U.S. Secretary of State's International Women of Courage award.

# WOMEN

OF EXPERTISE & ACHIEVEMENTS

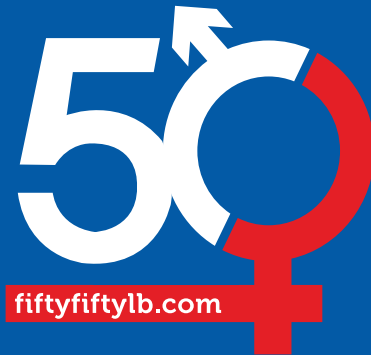
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