

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

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

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

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

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

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

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