



"To be or not to be" a Good Citizen



“Fondation Diane” Calls for Women’s Solidarity and Organizes the Roundtable Discussion: “8/8 Women Change Makers: Union in Times of Crises”



In the occasion of the International Women's Day, “Fondation Diane” organized a roundtable discussion entitled **“8/8 Women Change Makers: Union in Times of Crises”**. The event took place at Saint Joseph University (USJ) - Campus de l'Innovation et du Sport (CIS), and gathered men and women, and representatives of institutions, associations and organizations that believe in the effective role of women in society and their cause. It featured interesting interventions and discussions from 8 prominent figures of women empowerment: Diana Sfeir Fadel, Ali Khalife, May El Khalil, Madiha Raslan, Michel El Helou, Sarah El Yafi, Tracy Chamoun & Joelle Abou Farhat.

[Press Release \(eng\)](#) - [Press Release \(ar\)](#) - [Press Release \(fr\)](#)



This roundtable discussion falls under the mission of “Fondation Diane” which is to contribute to Sustainable Development and promote Civic Awareness & active citizenship. Through this initiative, “Fondation Diane” aims at contributing to the implementation of the fifth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG5) which calls for “achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.”



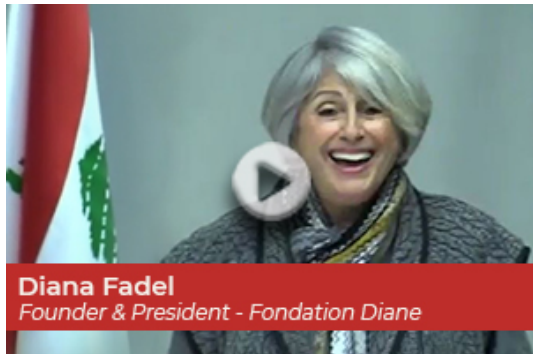
In her interview, Mrs. Fadel shed the light on the effective role of women in society, especially in times of crises. She continued: **“The status of women in our country is miserable and their rights are violated. Just look at the personal status laws, and count the number of women in parliament”**. In this context she called for women’s solidarity “their union constitutes an unstoppable force for change!” She focused on women's ability to revive the nation and put it back on the right track, starting by reaching the parliament in big numbers, and fiercely fighting for their rights.



At "Fondation Diane", we seek to play a central role in supporting women on all levels: socially, economically, and politically, especially now with the upcoming parliamentary elections!

We are proud of the positive feedback we received from the audience and glad to have mobilized women on the importance of their civic engagement and gender equality. Our event serves as a call for participation of women in the civic sphere, most importantly to reach leadership and decision-making positions in politics and public administrations. In parallel, a big thank you goes to the media who showed great interest in our event and supported us to reach a wider audience:

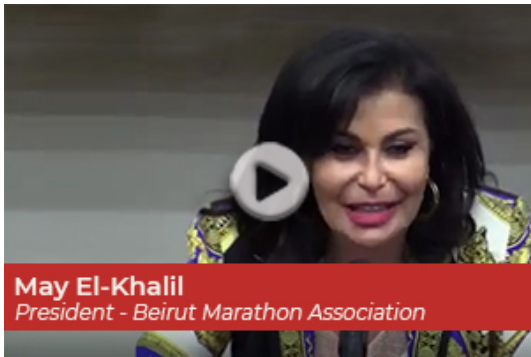
In the Media: [L'Orient Le Jour](#) - [Ici Beyrouth](#) - [Addiyar](#) - [Tayyar.org](#) - [Al Liwaa](#) - [Wikalat Anbaa Maraa](#) - [Tele Liban](#) - [NNA \(eng\)](#) - [NNA \(ar\)](#) - [Executive Magazine](#) - [Al Joumhouria](#) - [El Shark](#) - [Al Minbar](#) - [Al Kalima Online](#) - [VDL](#) - [Addawra Al Iktisadiya](#) - [Al Loubnaniya](#) - [Sayidat Wa Aamal](#) - [Lebanon Light News](#) - [Press Lebanon](#) - [Al Mountasher](#) - [Snaa TV \(ar\)](#) - [Snaa TV \(eng\)](#).



"Women are majority. Since they constitute 52% of the electorate in Lebanon, they are capable, with their votes, to elect half of the parliament members. Let's unite to make history and empower women with decision-making positions they deserve with dignity, independence, responsibility, and authority".

"The 2018 Global Gender Gap Report ranked Lebanon amongst the lowest on the political empowerment of women in Arab countries, knowing that the Lebanese women were given the right to vote and to stand for a seat in the parliament since 1952, way before many Arab countries.





May El-Khalil
President - Beirut Marathon Association

"Businesswomen are agents of change, in many economic fields as their fellow businessmen. Now is the best time for women to invest and grow to become active players in the local economy especially in growing our National GDP after this severe economic crisis."

"Our decision is to continue our path as women for the sake of life and hope, and for the sake of women. To every woman I say, your path is your decision. We will stand with you inside and outside the parliament."



Madiha Raslan
President - Women Leaders Association

"The struggle for women's rights concerns all of us, and the beneficiary is society as a whole, including men. My message to all women who wish to stand for elections, don't think, do it! Today our country needs a mother to protect it!"



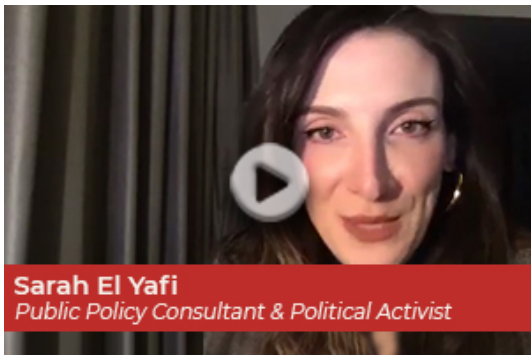
Michel El Helou
Candidate in the parliamentary elections

"The male representatives - who often fight each other - united and voted against women's quota. The Lebanese are in a difficult situation, and women have a national duty and role. Women should be encouraged to stand for elections, to elevate women in the political sector, which to this day still deprives them access to decision-making positions".



Tracy Chamoun
Politician & Former Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan

"22 centuries of human civilization and progress are completely devoid of any mention on equality! Moreover, women have been denigrated, deprived of power and dignity. All societies that do not adopt equality are more violent, poorer and less stable than others, underdeveloped on the economic and cultural levels... and are doomed to disappear!"



Sarah El Yafi
Public Policy Consultant & Political Activist

"Lebanon ranked 183rd out of 187 countries in the world, in terms of women's representation in parliament, and 15th out of 17 in the Arab world, being the only Arab country that did not take any serious measures to support women. Let's vote for women, and most importantly give them our preferential vote to change facts and grant them seats in the parliament."



Joelle Abou Farhat
President - Fifty Fiftylb



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