

CALLING FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY: WOMEN AND GIRLS FIGHTING FOR THEIR RIGHTS

THE LEBANESE WOMEN
DEMOCRATIC GATHERING (RDFL)

RDFL

التجمع النسائي الديمقراطي اللبناني

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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1. LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



DR. CAROLINE SIKKAR SLAIBY

After a full year of work, struggle and challenges, as beekeepers, the tasks assigned to each of us were distributed to be completed as planned, with a clear and consistent identity, with the target groups and covering the largest number of beneficiaries.

I am delighted to be in the midst of this experienced feminist team, which has the capabilities, qualifications and experience to lead RDFL to continue its struggle against all kinds of discrimination and violence against women and girls, and advocates for minors to criminalize their child marriage, with tireless faith. We played our role in reducing the risks women and girls face from sexual exploitation, domestic violence, health problems, forced marriage, putting the government before its responsibilities, obligations and promises to eliminate child marriage by 2030.

The continuation of this important process, despite all its challenges, stems from the investment of the energies and efforts of all our members to overcome this period, which is one of the most dangerous and difficult stages that our country is going through at all levels without exception. This is to recover from the setbacks and crises in our society and to combat any discrimination or violence that is classified as GBV.

There is no doubt that our great sense of responsibility and strong affiliation in this issue has led us to carry out all these activities, from social and legal psychological support to women who have been abused, to training aimed at empowerment, to conducting media interviews, public debates, advocacy of women's causes, meetings, awareness sessions and networking with all organizations and civic umbrellas... We are always ready and prepared to do so without any difficulty.

The key to our success is the values and concepts on which we work, the most important of which is equality, justice and the exercise of indivisible citizenship. We will strive to complete the road and implement our plan for the next three years, which will be the basis of our direction and the road map for our core objectives without moving away from our issues, which we are always eager to develop and renew. This gives us psychological satisfaction that enhances our motivation and helps us think seriously and effectively about developing our work in all directions.

I hope that the coming period will be illuminating in the history of RDFL in terms of the women's movement in Lebanon and the whole world. We will work hard to build a clear and systematic structure based on foundation, responsibilities, accountability and transparency, activating our role and feeding it with ongoing knowledge and evaluation.

2.RDFL TODAY



The deteriorating economic situation in the country has affected girls and women, in particular, especially those in underprivileged areas. This has led to huge shift of needs of women and girls in Lebanon. Women and girls were more concerned of how to secure buying a sanitary pad instead of worrying on how to continue their education. They were more focused on basic needs (food, electricity, medicine...) than looking to enhance their capacities. In addition to that, there was a shortage in fuel and electricity outage for 5 consecutive months in 2021.

RDFL had to face challenges related to mobility, security, changing priorities, civil unrest, pandemic, and many more. This has pushed RDFL to think of ways to deliver the activities and services in relevance to the current situation.

In the past year, RDFL have stood stronger than ever to face all the challenges, set emergency plans, mobilize its units, motivate its staff and members, and collaborate with its partners to ensure making positive impact in the lives of every women and girl who approaches RDFL's centers or workers. RDFL was, is and will always stand still to make challenges interesting opportunities for creating change. Therefore, RDFL's board thanks first its members and staff for being loyal and determined to continue the journey of fighting to achieve gender equality in Lebanon and end GBV in Lebanon for girls and women.

3. OUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RDFL's members have always participated in grassroots movements calling for Democracy and Transparency. And starting from the belief that elections are essential, RDFL's members had the opportunity to choose who they would like to represent them.

As such, a new board of directors was elected on June 2021. The new board includes women from different generations, backgrounds, experiences and knowledge. The feminist causes have joined them to continue the fight of their ancestors towards a more gender-equitable world full of opportunities to women and girls in Lebanon and worldwide. This new board is open to inter-generational and inter-cultural dialogues to ensure that challenges are addressed and opportunities are generated to all women and girls suffering from Gender Based Violence.

DR. CAROLINE SEKKAR SLAIBY
PRESIDENT

DR. AHIDATALEB
VICE-PRESIDENT

CAMALE CHERFAN
SECRETARY GENERAL

ZEINAB MROUEH
TREASURER

NADINE SEIFDINE
ACCOUNTANT AND SUPERVISOR OF
THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MAY DIRANI
SUPERVISOR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

SARA EL OUTA
SUPERVISOR OF THE COMMUNICATION AND
ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The new board seizes this opportunity to assure their continuous cooperation and work to achieve gender equality and ending all types of violence against Women and Girls.

4. OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

AT A GLANCE

IN RESPONSE TO THE BEIRUT EXPLOSION

810 affected individuals and families among the vulnerable populations were outreached.

355 women and men received awareness sessions on SGBV, protection means, and general mental health through online awareness/discussion sessions.

135 women and girls were referred to specialized services.

49500 viewers were reached on Social Media Platforms to raise their awareness on SGBV.



GBV/SGBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

297 girls & boys received awareness sessions.

2132 women & men received awareness sessions.

345 Women and girls received GBV/SGBV case management.

73 Consultations & **60** Lawsuits were given to women and girls survivors of GBV/SGBV.

489 women and girls received PSS cycle including mental health.

100 Girls participated in focused PSS.

90 Women participating in focused PSS.

68 Participants were referred to individual mental health service.

31 Girls/Women/Couples received mediation to prevent early marriage.

400 persons received Family Guidance through awareness sessions.

1589 Participants were reached through legal awareness sessions.



COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

45 women in WPAGs groups are trained, mentored and conduct protection initiatives to address the protection risks in their communities.

40 young women and men were given a capacity building program by YACIs groups (Youth Groups).

652 Community members were provided with GBV and SRH information materials.

More than **2000** Community members reached through informational sensitization sessions



IMPACT BEYOND OUR PROJECTS

Through its projects, RDFL proves to the community and partners that they don't just execute projects, but also leaves a trace for people to follow when talking about gender equality.

RDFL's projects and programs have contributed to enhance the lives of many women and girls through one or more of the following key programming:

SERVICE PROVISION

- Provision of specialized services on PSS, SRR, family planning and GBV.
- Provision of legal information, consultations and advice: women have greater and safer access to comprehensive multi-sectored legal, psychosocial, SRR and GBV related services.
- GBV services and legal support to women survivors of child marriage or GBV: case management and legal consultation and lawsuits.
- Focused and Cycle PSS sessions were delivered.
- Mediation sessions were delivered to couples and family members.

COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND OUTREACH

- Increase at the level of activism and volunteerism in their communities: Women Groups have attained a remarkable improvement of knowledge and awareness on topics related to rights, reporting of violence, and identifying risks and taking actions to combat violence against vulnerable people. They are now active actors in breaking taboos and stereotypes in their societies. Their speech and verbal expression tends to be more humanitarian and based on human rights conventions' articles.
- Increase the sense of responsibility towards reporting incidents of violence.
- Proper coordination with relevant specialized organization took place: visits to Red Cross in Lebanon, Magna, LUPD, and Salama. Visits were done for coordination purposes, referrals, mapping of services, introduction of RDFL, and exploring opportunities. For example, five pregnant women were referred to Magna to benefit from Reproductive Health services and consultations.
- Contribution to strengthening referral mechanism system.
- Networking with other groups to lead initiatives and achieve humanitarian interventions in response to the current economic and social crisis.
- Partnering with Municipalities to outreach communities and offer them the protection and response GBV services.
- Partnering with Youth -Led Groups in Bekaa Area and Mount Lebanon area to lead youth-led advocacy work on SRHR.
- Conducting 13 training days separated of the first primary package of capacity building training - champions of change module, safeguarding, monitoring and evaluation including log frame and IT and tool revision, financial checklist, anti-fraud, anti-bribery and corruption training, procurement SOPs training.
- Participated and Organized more than 56 Gender-related public events.



POWER TO GIRLS AND WOMEN: ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE AND ALL TYPES OF GBV/SGBV

NOT BEFORE 18 CAMPAIGN

RDFL have led the advocacy work to end child marriage in Lebanon since 2016. RDFL submitted a law that sets the age of marriage as 18 years old in 2017, launched the National Coalition to Protect Children from Early Marriage, had more than 25 meetings with Parliament members, and executed more than 6 online and offline campaigns with different approaches. However, due to the multi crises faced in Lebanon, the discussion on the law was kept on halting for several times. RDFL managed to push back the law back on the Administration and Justice Committee for discussion.

As such, in the framework of the international campaign for the 16 days of activism against gender – based violence, RDFL launched a continuous campaign for the main campaign that was launched on 2017 to end child marriage in Lebanon under the title Mish Wakta taking the accountability as an approach and putting pressure to pass the law of setting the age of marriage with an indication that child girls are not eligible for marriage. RDFL produced short videos that were publicized on the main social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and youtube in addition to 6 main posters. The campaign shed light on the 3 different approaches of child marriage education, adolescence and traditions. Some teasers preceded the launch of the campaign #ميش_وقتها and were posted online. The campaign was launched on 25th of November 2021 and 2 main campaign videos were streamed on 3 National Television channels LBCI, MTV and New Tv.



Yazbek Wehbe @YazbekWehbe

#مش_قبل_١٨ال حرام تزويج الفتيات قبل بلوغهن الثامنة عشرة، حتى ولو كانت بعض الأديان تسمح بذلك... فليكن هناك قانونٌ صادرٌ عن المجلس النيابي يُحرّم ذلك.

#مش_وقتها_تنزوح

Translate Tweet

12:20 PM · 29 Nov 21 · Twitter for iPhone

Abir Chebaro @AbirChebaro

الزواج المبكر يزيد من احتمال تعرض الفتيات والنساء للفقير، للعنف، للمخاطر الصحية، للبطالة وللانقطاع عن التعليم. على مجلس النواب اقرار قانون لحماية القاصرات من #التزويج_المبكر #مش_قبل_١٨ال

Translate Tweet

6:43 PM · 29 Nov 21 from Lebanon · Twitter for iPhone

Larissa Aoun @Laris... · 29 Nov 21

كم من تحرك وحملات وطنية وتكثيفية وتوعوية! يكفي ملاحظة وتأجيل! جان وقت اقرار قانون يحمي الطفلات من الزواج المبكر #مش_قبل_١٨ال @RDFLwomen



3,522 views · From RDFLwomen

Mahassen Moursel · 29 Nov 21

مع زيادة الفقر خطر الإتيار بالطفلات عم يزيد #مش_وقتها_تأجلوا. وقت إقرار قانون تحديد سن الزواج. #مش_قبل_١٨ال

Caroline Bazzi @Baz... · 29 Nov 21

#مش_وقتها_يضيع مستقبل أطفالنا وطفلاتنا. وقت إقرار قانون تحديد سن الزواج #مش_قبل_١٨ال

Halimé El Kaakour @ha... · 29 Nov 21

بعدنا ب ٢٠٢١ منسج #مش_وقتها! مش وقت حقوق النساء مش وقت حقوق الأطفال مش وقت حماية حق التعليم للفتيات!! وقت إقرار قانون تحديد سن الزواج.

#مش_قبل_١٨ال #16DaysOfActivism2021

Salman Andary @sal... · 29 Nov 21

تزويج القاصرات يعتبر من اخطر الظواهر التي تشكل خطرا على الفتيات والنساء. فمع زيادة الفقر يتضاعف خطر الإتيار بالطفلات. #مش_وقتها.. صار وقت إقرار قانون يحدد فيه سن الزواج ويحمي الطفلات والفتيات. #مش_قبل_١٨ #16DAYS

أمانى جحا @amanie_ge... · 29 Nov 21

#مش_قبل_١٨ال



12.7K views

21 44 249

Marilyne Slaiby @MarilyneSlaiby

#مش_قبل_١٨ال



1,236 views

7:21 PM · 29 Nov 21 · Twitter for iPhone

2 Retweets 3 Quote Tweets 27 Likes

سوسن مهنا @SawsanaMehanna

الدول المتخلفة تعرف من معاملتها للمرأة في مجتمعاتها. ليس غريبا أن القوانين اللبنانية لا زالت تسمح بتزويج الطفلات بسبب تدخل الدين والعادات والتقاليد، مع غياب قانون يردع جريمة تزويجهن التي يجب ان تصنف كجريمة اغتصاب واتجار بالبشر

#مش_وقتها #مش_قبل_١٨ال

Translate Tweet

9:32 AM · 30 Nov 21 from Lebanon · Twitter for iPhone

THE CAMPAIGN INCLUDED

6

Posters

4

Videos

3

Teasers

6

Stories

CAMPAIGN SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

The following insights are an overview from 25/11/2021 till 12/12/2021

Facebook Reach



1, 151,312

Instagram Reach



283,022

Twitter Engagement Rate



2.2%

36.8K impressions

Not only a campaign was launched, RDFL believed in the power of partnership thus reactivating the Coalition's activism by calling them for several meetings to decide on how the advocacy plan will be shaped after the 2022 Parliamentary Elections.

YOUR SAFETY AND PROTECTION IS A PRIORITY CAMPAIGN #أمينك_وحمائتك_أولوية

During March 2021, RDFL launched #أمينك_وحمائتك_أولوية campaign to invite and encourage women on reporting any type of violence they are exposed to during lockdown from COVID-19 Pandemic. The campaign was an electronic march where it was shared with a large number of influencers in Lebanon to call for strengthening protection mechanisms and promoting safe reporting on GBV/SGBV.

RDFL
الجمعية اللبنانية لحقوق الإنسان

يوم المرأة العالمي

مش قادرين نشارك بمسيرة بالشارع

مسيرتنا رح تكون إلكترونية

موعدنا بكرنا لنقول

#أمينك_وحمائتك_أولوية





RDFL التجمع النسائي الديمقراطي اللبناني
-RDFL
Mar 8, 2021 · 🌐

رسالة من رئيسة لجنة المرأة والطفل النائية عناية عز الدين
بمناسبة #يوم_المرأة_العالمي

#أمئك_وحمايتك_أولوية 🤝💜

Inaya Ezzeddine



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-RDFL
Mar 8, 2021 · 🌐

رسالة من الدكتورة حليلة الفعقور بمناسبة
#يوم_المرأة_العالمي

#أمئك_وحمايتك_أولوية 🤝💜

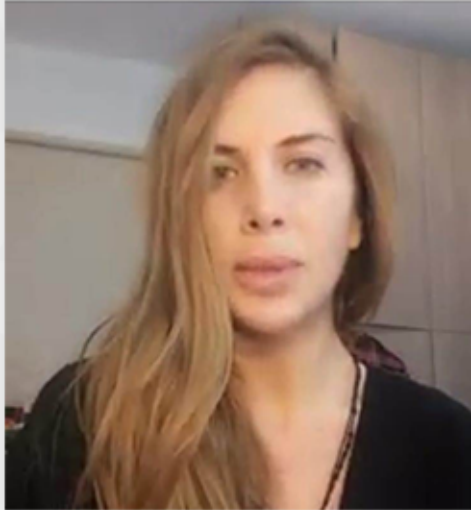
Halimé El kaakour حليلة الفعقور



RDFL التجمع النسائي الديمقراطي اللبناني
-RDFL
مسيرة إلكترونية
#أمئك_وحمايتك_أولوية
Mar 8, 2021 · 🌐

رسالة من الفنانة ألين لخود بمناسبة #يوم_المرأة_العالمي

#أمئك_وحمايتك_أولوية 🤝💜



RDFL التجمع النسائي الديمقراطي اللبناني
-RDFL
Mar 8, 2021 · 🌐

رسالة من المخرجة والمنتجة هبة فاعور بمناسبة
#يوم_المرأة_العالمي

#أمئك_وحمايتك_أولوية 🤝💜



RDFL التجمع النسائي الديمقراطي اللبناني
-RDFL
Mar 8, 2021 · 🌐

رسالة من الشريكة والمؤسسة والمديرة التنفيذية لمطاعم
سينكو وسابا وسوفيتا ياسمينه يارد بمناسبة
#يوم_المرأة_العالمي

#أمئك_وحمايتك_أولوية 🤝💜



RDFL التجمع النسائي الديمقراطي اللبناني
-RDFL
Mar 8, 2021 · 🌐

رسالة من الصحافية محاسن مرسل بمناسبة
#يوم_المرأة_العالمي

#أمئك_وحمايتك_أولوية 🤝💜



COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS

In 2021, RDFL have formed groups of capacitated women in Baalbeck and Jeb Janine areas who planned and executed two community campaigns as follows:



REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH

In Jeb Janine, 18 awareness sessions about reproductive and sexual health were conducted in the center. The main objective of the given sessions was to raise awareness about reproductive and sexual health regarding how to maintain menstrual hygiene taking into consideration the economic crises and the difficulty in getting a good quality of the sanitary pads and introducing the alternatives. The target group was 270 persons divided into teenagers, adolescents and adult women who were the same target of the surveys filling process.

At the end of the sessions, hygiene kits with printed campaign logo were distributed to the participants containing sanitary pads, soap, towel and awareness brochure with full information about menstrual hygiene, wrong and right practices and health requirements.

The Sexual and Reproductive health campaign in Jeb Janine was attached by a

social media animation awareness video that explained the definition of sexual and reproductive health rights phrase with examples using a simple voice over language for all audience to understand the content, as it also showed the assessment survey results that was held by the groups of women in Jeb Janine regarding these rights in order to spot the high lack in receiving these rights in the area, especially during the current economic crisis. In addition to a message that was planned to be written and sent to the Ministry of Health, however the security and societal situation in the country did not allow this.

CYBER VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN

In Baalbek and based on the increase in the Cyber bullying cases, especially during the quarantine period and the corona virus pandemic, the women groups chose the campaign to be on Cyber violence which was briefly defined as an online behaviors that can always lead to assault of a person physically, psychologically or emotionally. Initially, 300 cups of coffee were distributed at Express Abu Khalil to passers-by and to the women of the center who invited us and found them waiting for us at the Express. 10,000 cups of coffee and 20,000 cups of Nescafe in addition to protection and cup coasters with the campaign logo and written key awareness messages were distributed on a number of expresses, beauty salons and clubs in Baalbek area.

In parallel, the women groups worked hard on the campaign to reduce this kind of violence by providing awareness sessions at several schools as below:

The sessions started by presenting a video for a woman that was subjected to cyber violence as a survivor story, followed by asking students what they know about cyber violence then they gave a presentation on the ways of protection used against this kind of violence in order to let students find out what are the ways that every person should know to protect him/herself from cyber violence.

Also as part of the 16 days of activism campaign, the team carried out 4 awareness sessions on digital violence in both centers targeting 15 Lebanese teenage girls, 18 Syrian teenage girls in Jeb Janine and 37 participants in the International Girl's Day. The sessions ended with a celebration that included individual photography of the girls and distribution of gifts.

Through the discussion, it was found that many girls have knowledge and experience regarding this subject, as they spoke with boldness and courage about some of the practices that they faced. Then the discussions were followed by a quick presentation on the different types of cyber violence same for the difference between bullying and electronic bullying.

The Cyber violence campaign in Baalbek was attached by a social media awareness video that presented the story of a woman who was subjected to cyber violence as a survivor, and an animation awareness video showed the definition of this kind of violence and its types in addition to the steps of protection in case subjected to it.

CAMPAIGNS VIDEO SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ANIMATION VIDEO

PEOPLE REACHED:

33,832

ENGAGEMENTS:

5.2 K

CYBER VIOLENCE SURVIVOR VIDEO

PEOPLE REACHED:

30,574

ENGAGEMENTS:

5.9 K

CYBER VIOLENCE ANIMATION VIDEO

PEOPLE REACHED:

39,127

ENGAGEMENTS:

1.6 K

MEDIA PROMINENCE

RDFL's Media prominence included:

9

Media interviews

8

Press releases

20

Links for news Coverage

The following insights are an overview from 1/1/2021 till 31/12/2021



1M

REACH



ADDITIONAL FOLLOWERS

+1695



ADDITIONAL LIKES

+962



Total Page Likes: 33,305
Increased from 32343 to 33,305

Total Page followers: 34,563
Increased from 32868 to 34,563



Followers: 7,459
Accounts reached: 953



Followers: 2,868



ADDITIONAL FOLLOWERS

+ 121

Engagement Rate 1.2%



www.rdfwomen.org

The total views in 2021 was 39,611 and the published posts reached **43 post** of RDFL activities and updates and the general views.

EVENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

RDFL reached new audience through its planned events on Facebook, especially that these events hosted celebrities and activists in addition to cross posting with other pages.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

4 posters were publicized on social media platforms using real phrases of child marriage survivors to spot the light on the tragedy of child marriage and its dangers and putting pressure to pass the setting age of marriage law.



5. BELIEF IN THE WORK AND CAUSE: OUR SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

RDFL expresses its full gratitude to all its donors and partners enlisted below for making it possible to enhance the socio-economic status of women and girls in Lebanon through funding the aforementioned accomplishments of the organization and their likes. With and through you, we progress and accomplish!

