



Empowered Aid Lebanon Technical Advisory Group Member Biographies

Supported by:

Rita Chemaly, National Commission for Lebanese Women



Rita Chemaly holds a postgraduate degree in administrative and political sciences from the Institute of Political Sciences of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at Saint Joseph University and is a recipient of the Samir Kassir Award for the Freedom of the Press category of young researchers. Blogger on human rights and gender related issues, she volunteers in several NGOs, related to Human rights, gender, women rights, good governance and the rule of law. Since 2011, she works at the National Commission of Lebanese Women (NCLW) as a consultant for the development of projects. Additionally, since 2014 she teaches political sciences, sociology, public policies, citizenship, social media and advocacy and a Course on lobbying and pressure groups at the Political Science Institute and the Arab Master

for Human Rights of USJ. She can be contacted at ritachemaly@hotmail.com, Twitter @ritachemaly, <https://en.gravatar.com/ritachemaly>

Marie Noelle El Esta, National Commission for Lebanese Women



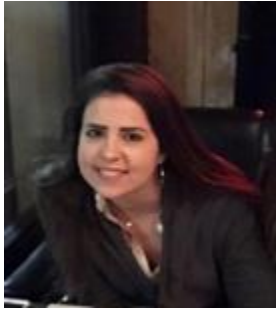
Marie Noelle El Esta is a Project Coordinator at the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW). She holds a Bachelor Degree in Political Sciences & Public Administration from Saint-Joseph University in Beirut. She is fluent in Arabic, English and French, and possesses a fair knowledge of Chinese and Italian.

Hayat Mirshad, RDFL



Hayat Mirshad is a Lebanese feminist activist, journalist, trainer and communications and advocacy expert. Hayat's educational background included Gender in Development and Humanitarian Assistance (GDHA) Diploma from the Lebanese American University- Beirut and BA in English literature from the Lebanese University. Her passion towards journalism led her to practice it at young age precisely since year 2006, where she worked and contributed as a writer, reporter, content producer and guest producer for a number of media outlets. In May 2012, Hayat initiated and was the anchor and producer of the first feminist radio program in Lebanon "Sharika wa Laken" (A Partner Not Yet Equal), which was broadcast on Sawt El Chaab Lebanese radio station and in 2015 transferred into an online platform where she remains the co-web and content manager of it. Hayat is an advocate for women and girls' rights since 2007, where she coordinated and led various projects and campaigns about gender equality and women's rights in Lebanon. She is a co-founder and co-director at FE-MALE, a non-profit feminist collective, and Head of communications and campaigning at the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering- RDFL, a women's rights organization established since more than 40 years and working for gender equality in Lebanon. Hayat is a gender, communications and campaigning trainer since 2009, where she managed and conducted more than 50 trainings targeting more than 1200 person with various reputable organizations, including BBC media action, Internews, UNFPA, Women's Learning Partnership- WLP, Euromed Feminist Initiative and YWCA. A loud proud feminist and experienced communicator, Hayat has spoken at a number of national, regional and international platforms, conferences and events about women's rights and media, and was chosen as a member in a number of board and consultative committees for different national and international organizations including UN Women and Action Aid. Her feminist production included producing and contributing to a number of documentaries, articles, studies, researches and toolkits including a Code of Conduct between Media institutions/personnel and Women NGOs in Lebanon on gender-sensitive media coverage in conflict/post conflict situation and a training toolkit on gender-sensitive media coverage.

Bann Tabbara, International Rescue Committee Lebanon



Bann Tabbara is the Women’s Protection and Empowerment (WPE) Senior Manager and currently Acting Coordinator at the IRC (International Rescue committee) Lebanon. The aim of the WPE sector is to ensure that women and girls are protected from and treated for the consequences of gender-based violence (GBV) and supported to recover and thrive. This is done through the service provision of several activities (including GBV case management and focused Psycho-Social Support Services) in static and mobile safe spaces. Previously, Bann was the Monitoring and evaluation Manager also with WPE. She has a Master’s Degree in International Affairs from the Lebanese American University.

Mona Tahera, URDA



Mona Tahera is a mother of 2 and a graduate of Clinical Psychology & trained in Psychotherapy. She has worked consecutively for 9 years in the contracting and construction field as a project coordinator on site for large projects such as Kempinski Summerland Hotel in Jnah, ABC mall in Verdun and residential projects in Solidere. Wanting to make a switch from the harsh corporate environment to be involved career wise in a more humanitarian line of work I choose working with NGO's would be of more benefit to me on a mental and psychological level where she can utilize as well my psychology background and implement it in upgrading the programs to appeal to aid of both body and mind. In 2019, Mona joined URDA as the Shelter & Relief Sector Coordinator.