



Activity Report

Human Rights 75

A Participatory Dialogue on Integrating and Institutionalizing Human Rights into The Work of Justice Law Enforcement Institutions And The Role Of Women In Peace And Security.

Submitted to: Friedrich Nouman Foundation – Lebanon

By: LOUDER



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Introduction

This report, prepared by LOUDER and submitted to the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, highlights our recent efforts in blending human rights with law enforcement practices. The world of law enforcement is always changing, and there's a growing need to respect human rights while keeping public order. We've been working on this through the "Rights Keepers Training Manual," created with the help of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) and funded by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. This manual is a key tool for ISF officers, teaching them how to include human rights in their everyday work. It covers everything from basic human rights concepts to specific issues like using force, rights of detainees, and preventing torture.

However, as laws, public expectations, and the way law enforcement works keep evolving, we need to regularly update this manual to keep it useful and relevant.

On Human Rights Day 2023, and on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, LOUDER and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation took another step forward. We organized the Human Rights Initiative 75 to bring back the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to promote values like freedom, equality, and justice for everyone.

The event took place on December 9th and included discussions for sharing ideas and experiences about human rights, peace, and security. There were two main parts of the event: the first part was about women's roles in peace and security, and the second part focused on how to make human rights a standard part of law enforcement work.

Objectives

1. **Promoting Human Rights in Law Enforcement:** To emphasize the importance of integrating human rights principles within law enforcement practices, aligning with the global shift towards more rights-respecting security operations.
2. **Reinforcing the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda:** To underscore the significance of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and advance the agenda of women's active participation in peace and security roles, recognizing their crucial contributions and the need for greater inclusion.
3. **Fostering Dialogue and Shared Learning:** To create a platform for open dialogue, exchange of ideas, and shared experiences among participants from various backgrounds. This aims to broaden perspectives, enhance understanding, and encourage collaborative approaches to human rights and gender equality in peace and security.
4. **Identifying Challenges and Opportunities:** To collectively identify and address the challenges faced in implementing human rights in law enforcement and in promoting women's roles in peace and security, while also exploring opportunities for progress and innovation in these areas.
5. **Developing Actionable Recommendations:** To formulate actionable strategies and recommendations for better integration of human rights in law enforcement and for

enhancing women's participation in peace and security, informed by the discussions and insights gained during the event.

6. **Building Networks and Partnerships:** To strengthen networks and foster partnerships among stakeholders for continued collaboration and support in these critical areas.
7. **Enhancing Public Awareness and Support:** To raise public awareness about the importance of human rights in law enforcement and the critical role of women in peace and security, thereby garnering broader support for these initiatives.

Participants

The dialogue event brought together a diverse and distinguished group of individuals from various sectors. This assemblage of participants played a pivotal role in enriching the dialogue and contributing to the depth and breadth of the discussions held during the event. The composition of the participants was as follows:

Justice and Law Enforcement Representatives

- **Judges and Prosecutors:** A significant contingent of judges and prosecutors from the Public Prosecution and the State Shura Council attended the event. Their presence and contributions were vital in providing a legal perspective on the integration of human rights within law enforcement and judicial proceedings.
- **Ministry of Justice Representatives:** Delegates from the Ministry of Justice were present, offering insights into governmental policies and approaches towards human rights in the legal and security framework.
- **Lebanese Army and Security Forces Officers:** Officers from various branches of the Lebanese security apparatus, including the Lebanese Army, Internal Security, General Security, and State Security, participated in the discussions. Their involvement was crucial in understanding the challenges and opportunities in implementing human rights practices within these institutions.

Legal and Academic Professionals

- **Lawyers:** The event saw participation from lawyers, providing a balanced perspective on the legal aspects of human rights and the specific challenges faced in advocating for these rights within the legal system.
- **Women's Rights Committee at the Bar Association:** the head of the Women's Rights Committee at the Bar Association brought a focused view on gender-related issues, particularly in the context of the women, peace, and security agenda.
- **Professors from The Lebanese University:** Academic experts from The Lebanese University contributed their scholarly insights, particularly in relation to human rights education and the role of academia in fostering a culture of human rights.

Civil Society Representatives

- **Civil Society Organizations:** Representatives from civil society organizations and bodies attended the event. Their participation was essential in providing a grassroots perspective on human rights issues and in highlighting the role of civil society in advocating for and supporting human rights initiatives.

The gathering of such a diverse group of participants not only facilitated a comprehensive and multifaceted dialogue but also underscored the collective commitment of various sectors in Lebanon towards advancing human rights in law enforcement and supporting the women, peace, and security agenda. This rich diversity of perspectives and expertise significantly contributed to the depth and effectiveness of the discussions, helping to chart a course for future actions and collaborations in these critical areas.



Dialogue event details

The Human Rights Initiative 75, a significant event hosted by LOUDER in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, was marked by insightful discussions and meaningful exchanges. The event was structured into two main sessions, each addressing a critical aspect of human rights in the context of law enforcement and the role of women in peace and security.

Welcoming and Opening Speeches

The event commenced with welcoming speeches delivered by Ms. May Al Masri from the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) Project and Ms. Heba Itani, the President of LOUDER. Their speeches set the tone for the event, highlighting the importance of collaboration in promoting human rights.

Dr. Khoulood Al Khatib, LOUDER's Executive Director, delivered the opening speech. She introduced the participants, outlined the objectives of the event, and presented an overview of LOUDER's work and strategic approach in the field of human rights and justice.

First Session: Women, Peace, and Security

The session was facilitated by Dr. Khoulood Al Khatib, who guided the discussion on the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda and the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. Key points of discussion included the need to increase women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and an in-depth look at the four pillars of the UNSCR 1325: participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery. The dialogue also focused on how to effectively activate the WPS agenda within the Lebanese context, exploring strategies and approaches suitable for the local environment.



Second Session: Integrating Human Rights in Justice and Law Enforcement

Mr. Mohammad Moghabat, LOUDER's Legal Consultant and director of the regional office of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Observatory, led this session. The session delved into constitutional guarantees and international obligations concerning human rights, examining how these are understood and applied by justice and law enforcement institutions. A significant part of the discussion was dedicated to identifying challenges that hinder the full application of constitutional guarantees and international obligations related to human rights. The session concluded with proposed recommendations aimed at enhancing the understanding and application

of these constitutional guarantees and international obligations, with a focus on practical and actionable strategies.



Outcomes

The event culminated in several significant outcomes that underscore the event's impact and the forward momentum it has generated in the fields of human rights, peace, and security. These outcomes are as follows:

- **New Initiative Announcement:** LOUDER announced the launch of a new initiative on human rights, peace, and security, aligning with its strategic vision. This initiative is designed to focus on three primary areas: the integration of human rights into justice and law enforcement institutions, the women and peace agenda based on Security Council Resolution 1325, and the Youth, Security, and Peace agenda emanating from Security Council Resolution 2250. The initiative will consist of three working groups, each specializing in one of the aforementioned axes. These groups are tasked with enhancing collaborative work on human rights, peace, and security issues in Lebanon. The initiative will encompass a range of specialized activities, including research, training, capacity building, empowerment, and advocacy efforts. It aims to be a comprehensive incubator for national efforts dedicated to strengthening the human rights, peace, and security system in Lebanon.

- **Establishment of Coordination Mechanism:** One of the key recommendations was the need to establish an effective coordination mechanism among the judiciary, security services, and civil society. This mechanism should focus on prevention and protection for women, enhancing their participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and adopting a sustainable approach to the women, security, and peace agenda.
- **Capacity Building:** There was an emphasis on the urgent necessity to build the capabilities of individuals and institutions in these fields.
- **Strengthening Law Enforcement Practices:** Participants stressed the need to enhance practices supporting human rights in law enforcement and other relevant institutions. Suggested steps include developing codes of conduct, training programs, and creating effective complaint mechanisms.
- **Institutional Transparency and Data Management:** Enhancing institutional transparency and developing a digital database to support this trend were also highlighted.
- **Harmonizing Legislation with International Standards:** There was a consensus on the importance of aligning national legislation with international human rights declarations and conventions and periodically evaluating this legislation to ensure compliance with evolving international standards.
- **Acknowledgment of the Event's Significance:** The participants recognized that the event was an important initial step towards achieving best practices in integrating human rights into law enforcement and advancing the women's peace and security agenda.
- **Call for Continued Efforts and Coordination:** It was concluded that ongoing steps and coordination between various relevant parties are necessary to sustain and build upon the progress made during the event.

Annexes

- List of attendees