



### 3- DEVELOPMENT

Promoting gender equality and empowering women by engaging in national and regional development projects:

- Basic Living Skills Program - empowering Arab women through skills training.
- Building capacity of the security sector to protect women.
- Supporting women in detention facilities.
- Promoting women's political participation.
- Engaging young women in leadership.

### 4- OUTREACH

Enhancing outreach and strengthening partnerships to promote the work of the Institute at national, regional, and international levels.

Working with civil society organizations, academic and research institutes, NGOs, UN agencies, governments, donors, the private sector and other partners-engaging in global dialogue, connecting through social media

- **In Lebanon**, the *Who is She in Lebanon?* online database charts the work of leading Lebanese women to promote and celebrate their achievements.
- **In the Arab World**, IWSAW joins forces with other educational institutions to collaborate on gender studies programs and shared learning.

- **Internationally**, the Institute serves as a resource center and knowledge hub on gender issues in the Arab world, organizing conferences and learning events.

### 5- LAU ENGAGEMENT

Engaging LAU students, faculty, and staff and integrating the LAU community in the work of the Institute.

IWSAW engages with the LAU community across all of its campuses - Beirut, Byblos, and the LAU New York Academic Center. Events include:

- **Food 4 Thought** - an informal monthly speaking series to address current topics in gender issues and stimulate debate.
- **The Mary Turner Lane Award** - a competition in honor of the late founder of the Women's Studies Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for the best research paper on women's issues.
- Supporting student clubs to reflect on gender issues through workshops, lectures, and films, and integrating gender issues across the LAU curriculum.

### GET INVOLVED

Get in touch to research, teach, write, volunteer - and make change!

## IWSAW A BRIEF INTRODUCTION



Twitter @IWSAW

Facebook IWSAW

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Website <http://iwsaw.lau.edu.lb/>



## IWSAW TIMELINE

**1835** American Presbyterian missionary Sarah L. Smith establishes the first school for girls in the Ottoman Empire. This early effort sets the stage for further development of girls' education, leading to the establishment of the American School for Girls in 1904.



**1924**

The American Junior College for Women (AJCW) is founded with an initial class of eight students.



**1948**

The name of the college is changed to Beirut College for Women (BCW).



**1973**

The college becomes coeducational, and changes its name to Beirut University College (BUC).



The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) was established in 1973, building upon LAU's rich history as a school for women. Today, IWSAW is a leading institution in women's empowerment and gender equality in - and for - the Arab world.

## OUR MISSION

- Advance women's empowerment and gender equality nationally, regionally and globally, through research, education, development programs and outreach.
- Integrate gender issues across all programs of study at LAU to build a knowledge base that promotes gender equality and human rights in the Arab world.
- Conduct pioneering research on women in the Arab world to amplify Arab voices in global discourses on gender, and turn theory into practice by engaging in development projects to promote women's rights in the region.

## IWSAW focuses on 5 pillars

Education

Research

Development

Outreach

LAU Engagement

## 1- EDUCATION



Establishing high-quality programs of study on gender issues at the undergraduate, graduate, and mid-career levels.

- The **Masters' in Interdisciplinary Gender Studies** at LAU is the first of its kind in Lebanon. Through academic research, intellectual rigor, and social activism this program equips students with the practical and theoretical knowledge needed to challenge gender inequality.
- The **Minor in Gender Studies** enables undergraduate students to begin to integrate gender issues into understanding of human rights, equality, and social change.
- The mid-career **Certification in Gender in Development and Humanitarian Assistance**, in partnership with LAU's Continuing Education Program, aims to establish a pool of professionals with skills in integrating gender in development and humanitarian programming, including preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

These three interventions are connected and mutually-reinforcing, fostering interest and building capacity in gender issues.

## 2- RESEARCH



Strengthening research on and by women in the Arab world at national, regional, and international levels.

**1976**

### *Al-Raida* journal

The Institute's bi-annual journal, *Al Raida*, The Pioneer, published since 1976, is a space for researchers, policy-makers, practitioners, and students to address gender equality and women's issues in the Arab world.



### *Al-Raida's* mission

- Amplifying the voices and experiences of Arab women by promoting scholarship on and by Arab women.
- Promoting research on gender issues in the Arab world.
- Strengthening connections between Arab women's movements and global movements.
- Serving as a platform for young voices and activists in the region.

### Building a body of research

Contributing to a growing body of quality research on a variety of topics relevant to Arab women, and gathering momentum on changes for gender equality in society and policy. IWSAW research creates space for Arab voices in global discourses on Arab women and gender equality in the region.