

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES IN THE ARAB WORLD

Founded in 1973 to honor LAU's rich legacy as a school for young women, IWSAW is widely recognized as a pioneering center for gender issues and women's rights in the Arab world. The institute continues to pay tribute to its origins through its focus on advancing women's empowerment and gender equality through research, education, development programs, and outreach at the national, regional, and international levels.

IWSAW marks International Women's Day by hosting a discussion titled "Women in Municipal Councils in Support of Local Development," in collaboration with the National Commission for Lebanese Women.



In August 2016, IWSAW hosted a major, three-day international conference "Towards Prioritizing Women, Peace, and Security on the Arab Agenda," featuring discussions by recognized experts on the importance of including women in peace processes globally. The conference was held in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Danish research institute KVININFO.

In 2015-2016, IWSAW continued its work on the intersection of academia and activism, showcasing a new minor in gender studies, a restructured master's in interdisciplinary gender studies, and a continuing education diploma on gender in development and humanitarian assistance (together with LAU's CEP and Human Rights Education Associates, a global leader in online human rights education). The institute's path-breaking journal *al-Raida* — which is currently being fully digitized — celebrated its fortieth anniversary.

In July 2016, IWSAW launched a concise gender profile of Lebanon, the first of 22 planned publications reviewing laws and statistics relevant to gender issues and equality across a variety of sectors in each of the member states of the Arab League.

Throughout the year, IWSAW hosted numerous lectures, workshops and other learning events on topics including — but not limited to — its widely popular monthly informal speaking series Food for Thought. The Institute also carried out other activities with a range of stakeholders, for example offering gender and gender-based violence training to the Lebanese security sector and empowering women and girls through the Basic Living Skills Program.