

Commission on the Status of Women In Lebanon

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Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium

November 5th, 2016

When reviewing the culture and norms of the citizens in Lebanon, the unfortunate themes of a dominant patriarchy and the use of misogyny are introduced a number of times. These demeaning themes towards women evidently reflect poorly on women and sustainability, gender-based violence, and woman in education and employment. Meanwhile, protests fighting for women's equality are being ridiculed by men which brings up the question: what will the government of Lebanon do in order to start a discussion or make a change?

Michel Aoun, current president of Lebanon, supports total equality between men and women because he believes in the charter of the Free Patriotic Movement which stipulates and encourages such equality.¹ Thus the delegate of Lebanon will be delighted to support all changes resulting in equality for women.

In terms of women and the sustainability, women are often known to guarantee a positive change in the environment but the usage of disposable sanitary napkins are clogging sewers due to the absorbent layer in napkins. Considering the majority of the population in Lebanon are females², this issue is one we are dedicated to solve. Lebanon would like to invest in a factory run by women to produced sanitary napkins made out of the biodegradable materials like cotton and water hyacinth. This will ultimately give more job opportunities for women and solve part of the issue of involving women more activity in environmental decision making. Lebanon would also like to promote the usage of menstrual cups or reusable pads by implementing no tax on them. We believe this ten percent saving for these goods will draw a demand for them and essentially get women to utilize menstrual cups, reusable pads, and biodegradable sanitary napkins.³

¹ Women in Lebanese Elections: Second-Class Citizens.

² Lebanon Demographics Profile 2016.

³ Lebanon Personal Income Tax Rate | 2004-2016 | Data | Chart | Calendar.

Gender-based violence is one of the most proactive and focused areas of discussion reviewed by feminists. Fifty five percent of citizens in Lebanon practice the religion islam.⁴ Typically the religion islam promotes a patriarchal household where men are the dominant providers and women stay at home and do very stereotypical tasks. Lebanon supports individuals in its citizens so we would not like to tell our citizens they can not follow their religious ways but we can show women are capable of much more than they are assumed to. We also feel this would minimize forced marriages because women would finally be able to support themselves and not rely on a man to assist them. According to the Department of Justice, another reason why children are forced to marry is because parents feel this method would protect their children and the act of marriage would be in their best interest.⁵ Lebanon would like to approach this issue by implementing more jobs for females so that parents see them as capable of making their own decisions. We would also like to provide women shelters and support groups for women.

Education is very important in terms of helping young girls find a job in a field they desire. Lebanon provides its citizens with free elementary school education for basic learning.⁶ We encourage all genders to participate in school efficiently and to pass successfully. Although, for most, poverty is a road block that takes the desire to learn out of a child because they have no way to pay for higher education. Lebanon will face this problem by paying 40% of tuition for all students whose household income is less than \$40,000 annually.

All in all, when asked the question “what will the government of Lebanon do in order to start a discussion or make a change?”, Lebanon will respond by instating no taxes on sanitary

⁴ Religion in Lebanon.

⁵ Report on the Practice of Forced Marriage in Canada

⁶ http://www.cas.gov.lb/images/PDFs/SIF/CAS_Education_In_Lebanon_SIF3.pdf

napkins, providing shelters and support groups for women, and deducting some of the cost of education.

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