

# WORKSHOP

## Strengthening Capacities of Women Organisations

AMMAN, JORDAN  
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Biographies

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النهضة العربية للديمقراطية و التنمية  
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development - ARDD

Institutional Support



اللجنة الوطنية الأردنية لشؤون المرأة  
The Jordanian National Commission for Women

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H.E. Mr Bakr Abbadi



Mr Al Abbadi assumed the position of Secretary General of the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs (MoPPA) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in August 2016. In addition, he also serves as the Chairperson of the Political Parties Affairs Committee at the Ministry, which is in charge of reviewing applications to establish parties and following up on their issues. Prior to his current roles at MoPPA, Mr Al Abbadi held several positions at the Greater Amman Municipality, most notably including; Advisor to the Mayor of Amman (2012-2015); Head of Planning and Budgeting (2009-2012); Head of a Directorate at Amman Municipality (2012-1995); Head of a directorate at the Royal Palaces (1992-1995), and Deputy of the City Manager of Amman, among other portfolios that he handled throughout his time at the Municipality.

Mr Al Abbadi has a wide and diverse experience in networking and participatory work; communication and negotiation skills; working mechanisms of civil society organizations and women's organizations in addition to project management. Moreover, he sits on the Board of the Jordanian Olympic Committee. In his capacity as a Board Member, Al Abbadi works on the local and international levels to increase and encourage youth engagement in sports and awareness campaigns.

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Ms Nadia Ait-Zai



Ms Nadia Ait-Zai is a lawyer specialised in family law, women and children's rights and lecturer at Ben Aknoun Law Faculty in Algiers. Ms Ait-Zai is a committed campaigner for women's rights in the Maghreb and founder of the "Information and Documentation Centre on Children and Women's rights" "(CIDDEF) in Algiers, which was set up to document the history of the women's movements - in Algeria, the Maghreb, in Europe and worldwide. She is a founding member of the Maghreb Equality Collective and co-author of "100 Proposals for an Alternative Islamic Family Code in the Maghreb" and "Dalil for equality in the Family in the Maghreb" in 2003. She is also a co-author of Algeria's first official survey on violence against women, published in 2005 by the National Institute for Public Health. Since its creation, her organisation promotes children and women's rights in Algeria and the region through capacity-building, awareness-raising, policy development and research activities.

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Ms Hana Al Araj



Ms. Hana Al-Araj has a background in training, development, management and mass media. Hana has vast experience working for many television stations such Jordan Today and al-Hanaa International as a host and presenter with over 2000 hours on air. Hana's expertise in development and training stems from her work at several institutions such as the Business Development Centre (BDC) and Train Edge Company. Hana has over fifteen years of experience in management and the improvement of training, learning, and communications functions for development.

Ms. Al Araj holds a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Jordan.

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Mr Nasser Al Nsour



Ms. Nasser Al Nsour currently holds the position of Director of Legal Affairs at the Ministry of the Interior. Previously, he held several positions, including the head of the legislative axis of decentralization in Jordan, in addition to being an expert in international conventions and preparation. Mr. Al-Nsour is also a member of the Royal Commission for Human Rights and the Jordanian National Committee for International Humanitarian Cooperation. He is also a lecturer in several fields including decentralization and local administration.

Al Nsour holds a Master's Degree in Public Law.

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H.E. Mr Basel Al-Tarawneh



H.E. Basel Al-Tarawneh currently is Government Coordinator for Human Rights. Previously, he was Director General of the Jordan Media Center, Assistant to the President of Mutah University, Human Rights Director in the Prime Ministry, Radio and Television Advisor and Rapporteur of the Ministerial Committee on Human Rights Recommendations.

Al-Tarawneh also served as the director of several press, media and human rights organizations, as well as a consultant to a number of bodies. He is president of the Jordanian Association for the Rights of the Electorate.

Al-Tarawneh holds a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Jordan.

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Ms Wafa Bani Mustafa



Ms Wafa Bani Mustafa serves as an elected Member of Jordanian Parliament for three subsequent terms (2010-2017). She was the first woman to head a bloc in the Jordanian Parliament. Regionally, Ms Bani Mustafa is a founding member of the Arab Parliamentary Forum for Development and Population and was recently elected as a member of the Standing Committee for Sustainable Development of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as a representative of the Arab Group. She is the Chairperson of the Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries to Combat Violence Against Women. Ms Bani Mustafa has worked on a number of legislative amendments for the benefit of women. Also, she has lobbied to include a new article in the Penal Code criminalizing acts of sexual harassment, and advocated for the elimination of Article 308 which waives charges against a rapist if he marries his victim. Ms Mustafa is currently working as a member in the Public Freedom and Human Rights Committee and Women and Family Affairs Committee.

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H.E. Mr Nicolae **Comănescu**



H.E. Mr Nicolae Comănescu presented on September 4, 2016 his credentials as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He is a career diplomat and he has been working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2002. During his diplomatic service he has completed several responsibilities within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and overseas: in the Permanent Mission of Romania to the UN, in South Sudan, in Washington DC at the Department of State/Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, etc. Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he has completed various assignments as adviser in Political Affairs and he had responsibilities on Romania Foreign policy (wish include issues of development, stabilization and reconstruction, legal and political issues, international sanctions, non-proliferation, arms control and export.)

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Ms Jamila Debbech Ksiksi



Ms Debbech Ksiksi is a member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People in Tunisia. She served as Rapporteur of good governance, against corruption and control of public finance committee. She is currently the assessor in charge of civil society and relations with citizens for the Tunisian Assembly of the Representatives of the People. She is the Chairperson of the steering committee for the elaboration of a charter for cooperation between the Parliament and the civil society. Since 2015, she is also a member of the Pan-African Parliament, first serving for the Gender and Equality and Handicapped People Commission, then Health and Social Affairs Commission. She was the first Tunisian political figure to speak up against racial discrimination in Tunisia. With her engagement, she targets to establish constitutional institutions in Tunisia and to strengthen the position of women in decision-making positions.

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H.E. Mr Andrea Matteo Fontana



After a career in international finance, M. Fontana joined the European Union in 1996, where he has been working in different positions in external relations, dealing with the political, cultural, economic, trade and development aspects of bilateral relations (including Head of the Economic Reforms Section in the EU Delegation to Russia, Head of the Economic Cooperation Section in the EU Delegation to Syria, responsible for bilateral relations with the Palestinian Authority, Head of Unit in the European Commission department dealing with the Eastern Neighbourhood). After working for twenty years in both areas of the EU neighbourhood, Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, M. Fontana developed his understanding of the challenges of transition to democracy and the market.

In 2015, M. Fontana was appointed EU Ambassador / Head of Delegation to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He presented his credentials to H.M. King Abdallah II on 6 December 2015.

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Ms Simona Granata Menghini



Ms. Menghini graduated in 1992 from the Milan State University, Law Faculty. Further diplomas in comparative law from the Faculté de Droit Comparé of Strasbourg. From 1992 to 1994 she practiced as a lawyer at a law-firm specialised in international law in Milan. Admitted to the Bar in 1995, she worked as a case-lawyer at the European Commission on Human Rights before being Deputy Human Rights Ombudsperson in Bosnia and Herzegovina. From 1999 to 2000 she was a case-lawyer at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights. Currently Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission, where she was Head of the Constitutional Cooperation Division at the Venice Commission. She is the author of several articles on human rights law and on the Venice Commission; from 2000 to 2010, she published a yearly review of case-law of the European Court of Human Rights in the Legal Review "Italian Yearbook of International Law". She contributed to two volumes on the European Convention on Human Rights in Italian.

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Dr Jean-Marie Heydt



Mr. Jean-Marie Heydt, Doctor in Compared Education Sciences and Professor in several European Universities, is the permanent representative of the "European association of training centres for socio-educational care work", a federation which gathers High Schools and Universities preparing students to work in the field of education and social care. In January 2009, he was elected President of the Confederation of the International Non-Governmental Organizations (IONGs) of the Council of Europe. In June 2012, he was appointed vice-president of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and, starting from June 2013, he took up the position of Chair. He is leading the general Association of families of Bas-Rhin at Strasbourg. After studying Law and Human Sciences, he worked for more than 10 years as social worker at the Juvenile Court. Before, from 2000 to 2007, he was Director of a department of vocational training in the field of education and social care.

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H.E. Ms Nafsika Krousti



Ms Krousti is Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the non-Resident Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Iraq. Ms Krousti began her diplomatic career in 1984, joining the Cyprus Foreign Service. In the following years she served in a variety of posts both at the Headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in Diplomatic Missions abroad (respectively in Economic and Cultural Affairs Division, Cyprus High Commission in London, Service for Overseas Cypriot, Political Affairs Division, Multilateral Affairs and Cyprus Embassy in The Hague, and as the Deputy Director of the Political Affairs Division-Bilateral Relations, Head of the Asia and Oceania Department-Political Division and High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus to India.

Ms Krousti was appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus in the Republic of Poland, in the Republic of Lithuania, non-resident Ambassador/High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Thailand, in Serbia and in Montenegro.

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H.E. Ms Hala Lattouf



Ms Lattouf has over 20 years of experience in the development and public sector; she held several posts with the Jordanian Government starting at the Ministry of Tourism. She was appointed Secretary General for the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the Public Sector Reform Ministry and Senior Advisor for Public Sector Reform at the Prime Minister Office.

Ms Lattouf was recently appointed Minister of Social Development, where she held the post for over three years in the past. In her capacity as Minister of Social Development, Ms. Lattouf chairs the National Aid Fund which is the main Government's mechanism for providing cash payments for the poor. Prior to her job as a Minister, Ms. Lattouf was the Office Director for Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah. She also worked with the United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) as Head of the poverty and gender team and with the World Bank as a Project Director. Ms. Lattouf obtained her experience regionally working as the Executive Director for a Regional NGO; World Links Arab Region (WLAR) which specializes in providing specifically-tailored programs to improve educational outcomes, economic opportunities and global understanding for youth in the Arab region. She has experience working in Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Egypt and Palestine (West Bank and Gaza). Ms. Lattouf started her career working in banking sector at the Jordan Investment Bank and the Arab Bank. Ms. Lattouf currently serves on the Boards of Trustees for the Royal Society of Fine Arts, the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies. She heads a local women empowerment NGO that provides scholarships for Jordanian young women to continue their post graduate education (JEWELS). She is also a founding member of the International Women Forum (IWF) chapter in Jordan. Ms. Lattouf holds a Master's degree in Accounting and Finance from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London (full scholarship).

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Dr Sawsan Majali



Ms Majal is Expert-Consultant with Durrat AlManal for Development and Training (DMDT) and Board Member of National Centre for Human Rights, Dr Majali has published several articles and chapters, and supervised masters and doctoral students in topics related to women rights and gender equality.

Having held different relevant positions such as Secretary General of the Higher Population Council (7/2013-9/2016); Director for The Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development (ZENID), and Deputy Executive Director for Strategic Planning, Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (2010-2013) among other; Ms Majali is currently a member of the Jordanian Senate since September 2016 in the committees Health, Environment and Population; Education; Labor and Development.

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Ms Samar Muhareb



Ms. Samar Muhareb is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) a Jordanian NGO, which she co-founded in 2008, in response to the Iraqi Refugee Crisis. Having worked as a lawyer for many years prior, Samar realized that one of the most urgent needs refugees and marginalized individuals and communities face, is access to justice regardless of status. With over 15 years of experience in working for the international aid community, Samar is an expert in the field of human rights, refugee affairs, humanitarian response and women's empowerment in Jordan and the Middle East. In addition, she actively supports initiatives focusing on environmental justice in the region.

Samar serves on the board of trustees of the UK Start Network, comprised of 42 aid agencies, whose aim is to enable members to deliver aid in crises. She is a board member of Greenpeace Mediterranean, the Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network, a member for the Scientific Committee for the Queen Aliya Award, a member in the special committee of the Royal Court's Human Resources Development initiative. Samar holds a B.A. in Law and a master's degree in Human Rights and Human Development from the University of Jordan.

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Ms Nuha Muhreiz



Ms Muhreiz is active on women's rights issues and has worked for more than 20 years at the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development and Queen Zain Al Sharaf Institute for Development. She managed many programs and projects in the field of civic engagement, women rights, gender equality, reproductive health and gender based violence and conducted many leadership trainings for women and youth throughout Jordan, Yemen and Saudi Arabia in cooperation with International agencies. Currently, she is the president of Women Helping Women Network and a freelance consultant working on women issues human rights coalitions and gender based violence. She was selected as one of the fifty pioneer Arab women by Sayedati Magazine Survey in 2014. Ms Muhreiz holds High Diploma in Equal Status and Human Rights of Women in the Middle East & North Africa, from Lund University through Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Sweden program and BA in Philosophy and Psychology, Arab Beirut University, Lebanon.

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Ms Nuha Zaidah



Ms Zaidah is the Deputy Secretary General and Policy & Programs Manager at the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW). She is responsible for developing strategy and setting up work plans and indicators, and fulfilling targets in conjunction with JNCW Strategy and the National Strategy for Jordanian Women, including managing and developing programs and policies for women empowerment in the political, social and economic areas. Ms Zaidah is experienced in policy and legislation issues as she was the Executive Director of the Arab Women's Legal Network which also tackled high level legislation and court issues in Jordan. She also worked as the Head of the policy component at the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO) and as legal advisor in the Euro-Jordanian Action for the Development of Enterprise (EJADA).