

LERC Attends the Launching of Two Reports on Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon

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Reported by Suzanne Menhem, LERC Research Affiliate

Ms. Suzanne Menhem, Research Affiliate with the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU, represented the Center on the 30th March, 2011 at the launching of two reports on the situation of domestic workers in Lebanon: *Trafficking of Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon: A Legal Analysis* by Kathleen Hamill and *An Exploratory Study of Psychoanalytic and Social Factors in the Abuse of Migrant Domestic Workers by Female Employers in Lebanon* by Dr. Ray Jureidini.

The launching of these two studies was organized by the KAFA (Enough) Violence and Exploitation organization in cooperation with the Institute of Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) and of the Lebanese American University.

The event opened with welcoming remarks by Dr. Dima Dabbous-Sensening, Director of IWSAW, who was followed by Ms. Cecile Abadie, Head of Section at the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon. Ms. Abadie stressed the invaluable contributions of both reports in the development of rights-based government policies concerning immigration in Lebanon. In her turn, the head of the Trafficking and Exploitation Unit at KAFA, Ms. Ghada Jabbour highlighted the importance of the two reports in identifying social and structural causes of the plight of migrant domestic workers in Lebanon.

Ms. Kathleen Hamill presented the findings of the first report which “analyzed the international legal definition of human trafficking and several types of exploitation.” Ms. Hamill urged for the reform of the sponsorship system.

The results of the second report were presented by Dr. Jureidini, whose study aimed at providing “some preliminary answers to why some female employers abuse domestic workers while others do not.” He recommended that “more targeted awareness-raising campaigns should be launched to limit cases of abuse and to reduce migrant domestic workers vulnerability in Lebanon.”

The two reports are now available as part of LERC's collection.