

***Dr. Guita Hourani Delivered Keynote Speech at Doshisha University,
Kyoto, Japan***

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Dr. Guita Hourani gave the keynote speech at the International Conference entitled: Reconstructing State Security and National Integration in the Middle East on January 27, 2017 in Kyoto, Japan, at the invitation of the Graduate School of Global Studies and the Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Monotheistic Religions at Doshisha University,



Dr. Hourani during her keynote speech (Doshisha University Jan. 2017)

After an introduction speech by the organizer of the conference, Dr. Hisae Nakanishi, Professor at the Graduate School of Global Studies at Doshisha University, Dr. Hourani gave her keynote on: State Security and Refugees: The Use of the “Ladder of Options” in the Case of Lebanon.

Her keynote centered on the debate in the study of refugee crises and their security implications, involving “refugee militants/terrorists.” She situated the debate in the context of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon who have voluntarily or involuntarily joined the Islamic State or Al-Nusra Front groups and the consequent security manifestations in Lebanon, as a host country.

She identified the various measures employed by the Government of Lebanon (GoL) and the Lebanese Armed Forces through the operationalization of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) “Ladder of Options” in dealing with security-related issues, involving Syrian refugees turned terrorists.

She highlighted the ‘soft’, ‘intermediate’, and ‘hard’ measures that the Government of Lebanon adopted while tackling the increase of militancy among the Syrian refugees.

Hourani concluded saying that “In light of the experiences of the host communities in the Levant and the operationalization of the ‘Ladder of Options’ in Lebanon, we suggest that the UNHCR and other UN-related organizations re-examine the ‘Ladder of Options’ to elaborate a ladder of options framework for combatting terrorism in post-emergency refugee settlements to preserve refugee protection and to safeguard state sovereignty and maintain international security and peace.”

Dr. Hourani also served as a discussant to in the the conference which addressed the challenges of the compatibility between state security and territorial integrity in the middle east, as well as neighboring states, threat perception, and contested transnationality.

Speakers at the conference hailed from Japan, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Iran, Azerbaijan, and New Zealand.



Dr. Hourani (center) with speakers from the two sessions and conference organizers and attendees, (Doshisha University Jan. 2017)

The conference was concluded by a Q&A and general discussion which included the overall evaluation of the conference.