

Call for Papers

The Role of Arab Universities in the Education, Practice and Promotion of Human Rights

The Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration and Diplomacy (FPSPAD) at Notre Dame University – Louaize, Lebanon (NDU), reflecting on the University's mission statement and building on the pioneering experience of Lebanon in the field of human rights, is planning to organize an international conference on the role of Arab universities in spreading the culture of human rights and peace building for 20 to 22 May 2010. As a Faculty we believe that Arab universities play a key role in their respective societies and in the development of their surrounding communities. This cannot be separated from their genuine commitment to the issue of human rights in three core areas, i.e. education, research, and the practical promotion of human rights.

Thus, aiming at initiating a long-overdue dialogue among various Arab universities in cooperation with international experts, the conference will highlight the following in its call for papers:

Academic Track:

FPSPAD welcomes *academic studies and scholarly articles* that revolve around the issue in question and are related to one of the following topics:

- The status, realities and importance of Human Rights in the Arab world and the role of Arab universities in changing existing Arab views of human rights.
- Introducing human rights in the curriculum of formal education in Arab Universities, using a practical/hands-on approaches
- Training human rights educators and coordinating/linking curriculum synergetically
- The importance of human rights practices in the internal life of Arab universities, i.e. between administration – students – faculty and within each.
- Interaction between the Arab universities and the community/civil society in promoting human rights

Practitioner Track:

FPSPAD also welcomes *practical case studies of good practices* that deal with one of the three parallel dimensions of the universities' role in spreading the culture of human rights through:

- 1) Introducing human rights in the curriculum of formal education while using a practical/hands-on approaches.
- 2) Practicing human rights within the university, highlighting the relationship between the administration, the faculty, and the students and within each body itself.
- 3) Promoting human rights in the larger community through the interaction of the university with its immediate surrounding and related civil society associations.

Individuals interested in presenting case studies should be affiliated with university bodies, whether in the administration, as graduate students, or the teaching staff, and have had a prior experience regarding one of the three dimensions that the conference is covering.

All abstracts for both tracks should be submitted together with a CV by March 19th and be c. 500 words in length. Abstracts will be accepted in English, French, or Arabic. Selected authors and practitioners will be notified by March 31st.

**Abstracts for both tracks and/or enquiries can be submitted electronically to:
Dr. Elie Al Hindy (Assistant Professor): eelhindy@ndu.edu.lb**