

**LERC Attends ILO and Caritas Workshop on
“Access to Justice for Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon”**

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June 13, 2014

Representatives of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) attended on Friday, June 13, 2014, a workshop organized by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center, to share their findings of a report on the legal, procedural, and institutional challenges facing migrant domestic workers seeking justice in Lebanon.

Titled, “*Access to Justice for Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon*,” the study is a part of an ILO project titled, “*Decent Work for Domestic Workers: Advocating Institutional Reform in the Middle East*,” which aims to provide options to reform national policies and institutions to protect the rights of migrant domestic workers.



*(from left) Ms. Kafrouni, Ms. Diab, and Dr. Menhem at the Padova Hotel,
Sin el-Fil (June 13, 2014)*

The study was the result of a cooperative effort between the ILO and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center. The purpose of the study was to carry out research into why migrant domestic workers in the country are so unlikely to seek, and receive, justice. The study came as a response to various reports of the maltreatment of migrant domestic workers, which are all too common in Lebanon, yet only a few cases against exploitative employers and private employment agencies are brought and resolved in court each year.

The workshop was attended by representative of the Minister of Justice Judge Samer Younes; President of Caritas Lebanon; Father Paul Karam; the General Director of the Ministry of Labor

Mr. Youssef Naous; Representative of the EU delegation in Lebanon Mrs. Maria Sanchez, the Director of the Decent Work Team of the ILO Mr. Frank Hagemann, Mr. Andrea Salvini Chief Technical Advisor at ILO, among others.

Mrs. Alix Nasri (Researcher at ILO) and Mr. Wissam Tannous (Researcher at Caritas Lebanon) presented the key findings of the report and answered the audience's questions. This was followed by a panel discussion on the challenges to access justice where participants included lawyers, ILO officers, judges, and owners of recruiting offices of domestic workers.

LERC's Associate Researcher Dr. Suzanne Melhem, LERC's Research Assistant Ms. Jasmin Lilian Diab, and LERC's International Intern Ms. Rajwane Kafrouni represented the LERC.