

## **BBC Solicits LERC for Documentary on Christians in the Middle East**

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January 23, 2015

Ms. Jane Corbin, broadcaster, journalist, and writer for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), visited on Friday January 23, 2015, the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU). There, she met with Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC, regarding her new project: A documentary on the plight of Christians in the Middle East, mainly in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq.



*Ms. Khalil, Ms. Corbin, Ms. Haddad and Dr. Hourani at the LERC Offices at NDU (Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015)*

The BBC senior reporter, accompanied by Producer Ms. Tima Khalil, interviewed Dr. Hourani, who is knowledgeable about both the Maronite history and the topic, particularly in the Lebanese context. The meeting, which Ms. Liliane Haddad, LERC Chief Indexer and Archivist, also attended, centered around the history of Christians in Lebanon, the current concerns of the Maronites, the nature of their interaction with other religious groups in the country, and the

impact of insecurity on the migration of Christians. Dr. Hourani was also asked about the threat posed by radical movements and fundamentalist organizations in the region as well as the possible repercussions on the presence of Christians in the Middle East given the rise in terrorism.

The documentary highlights not only by the current threats in the region but also the memory of the Armenian Genocide, which marks its centennial this year. The documentary will be broadcast on BBC Two's *This World*, a program that reports on international current affairs by producing documentaries on important subjects. It will be directed by Robin Barnwell, produced by Tima Khalil, and written by Jane Corbin.

The BBC, a UK-based international public-service broadcaster, is “the world's oldest national broadcasting organization and the largest broadcaster in the world by number of employees. It was founded in 1922, and it currently broadcasts worldwide.”

The BBC is established under a Royal Charter and operates under its Agreement with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport. It is publicly owned, for its work is funded principally by an annual television license fee which is charged to all British households, companies, and organizations.