

## Dr. Guita Hourani Lectures at the World Maronite Youth Forum 2015

By LERC Staff  
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Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) of Notre Dame University-Louaize lectured on Maronite Youth and Transnationalism at the World Maronite Youth Forum on July 4, 2015 at Beit Anya Harissa.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Maronite Patriarchal Synod to organize the World Maronite Youth Days, in furtherance of the relationship between the resident Lebanese Maronite youth and those of the diaspora. The Youth Pastoral Ministry in the Maronite Patriarchal Departments decided, in coordination with the Maronite Patriarchal Expansion Office, to organize the World Maronite Youth Forum from June 28 to July 7, 2015 whereby five youth of each of the Maronite Dioceses will participate in this Forum. A total of One Hundred Fifty young men and women partook in the 2015 event from all the local, regional and international dioceses.



The Maronite Youth Forum (Lebanon 2015)

In her presentation, Dr. Hourani indicated that “The Maronite Church has become transnational with the presence of the Maronites in countries outside the traditional geographic areas of its birth. With migration of the Maronites to other Middle Eastern countries, to Europe, North and South America, Australia, and now Eastern Europe and China, the Maronite Church moved from being a nationalistic church to a transnational universal church embracing all Maronites regardless of their ethnic, racial, geographic, or cultural background.”



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Dr. Hourani emphasized that “the lives and identities of migrants’ children are shaped by complex relationships that are constructed within and across more than one country and one culture; as such their lives and identities need to be understood as being a composite of different ethnic and national identities—as transnational being.”

The objectives of the Forum were to consolidate the sense of belonging to the Maronite Church; to strengthen a strong communication network between the youth of all Maronite Dioceses around the world; to exchange spiritual, cultural and social experiences; and to prepare for the World Maronite Youth Days scheduled for 2017.