

For Immediate Release



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Fifth AUB Student Civic Engagement Conference

“Refugees and Marginalized Communities in Lebanon and Egypt”

The Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) held its fifth conference, which lasted for three days, under the title: "Refugees and marginalized communities in Lebanon and Egypt".

The conference lasted three days and was held in West Hall Common Room at AUB. It involved intense cooperation with the American University in Cairo (AUC). A large AUC faculty and students delegation came to Beirut and took part in the conference.

The opening ceremony was attended by CCECS Director Rabih Shibli, supervising faculty and about a hundred students from both universities along with concerned individuals.

To begin, Hala Fleihan welcomed the Egyptian delegation and introduced the CCECS and the services that it provides as well as the challenges that it faces. She thanked everyone who contributed to the conference, highlighting the large logistical obstacles and lauding the hard work involved. She said: "The students' participation came as a result of their involvement in educational courses that are focused on the basic ideas of this conference, such as the "Children and War" course provided by the Department of Psychology, "Democracy and Civic Engagement" course provided by the Department of Political Sciences and Public Administration, and many other courses

The first day of the conference featured two panel discussions where students sat at round tables placed in the common room for this purpose. The first panel focused on mental health services for the most vulnerable segment in the communities, the second panel addressed the awareness of public health and ways to get involved in the community.

On the second day, the students gave explanatory presentations about the work and activities carried out in both countries pointing out strengths and opportunities for improvement.

The Conference concluded with a field trip to the Lebanese Bekaa Valley to visit schools created in collaboration between AUB and Kayany Foundation, to meet the educational needs of Syrian refugees.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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