

## **DIFI HOSTS OPEN FORUM ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND ARAB WOMEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE**

*QF Member to Open Discussion on Women's Leadership and Participation in Decision-making*

**Doha, Qatar, March 07, 2018** – The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), is to hold an open forum titled 'Political Participation and Arab Women as Agents of Change' on 11 March, in celebration of International Women's Day in Qatar.

The event, organized in collaboration with Hamad Bin Khalifa University's College of Humanities & Social Sciences, will include a panel discussion on the rationale, challenges, and opportunities of women in parliament in the Arab region and will explore the social barriers to women's political participation. In addition, the forum, to be held at the Qatar National Convention Centre, will open the floor to topics such as Qatari women in parliament and the impact of their representation in influencing policy-making.

Ms. Noor Al Malki Al-Jehani, Executive Director, DIFI, said: "This event seeks to analyze the current situation of women in parliament, with particular emphasis on women's leadership and participation in decision-making in the Arab region and at international level. The event aims to examine the links between women's presence in decision-making and their impact on improving living conditions for families, communities, and societies as a whole."

This discussion forum will also shed light on the recent steps taken by Qatar to nominate four female members to the Shura Council, which represents an important historic milestone in the process of empowering Qatari women," added Ms. Al-Jehani.

Panel speakers will include female members of the Qatari Shura Council, Dr. Hend Al Muftah and Ms. Reem Mohammed al Mansouri; Hon. Eng. Nashia Al Kharoosi, Member of State Council & Council Bureau in Oman; and Dr. Ghadeer Al-Assiri, a researcher and political activist from Kuwait. The event will also gather representatives from civil society and academia.

DIFI is a global policy and advocacy institute working to advance knowledge on Arab families through research and promote evidence-based policies at a national, regional, and international level. The institute has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

**END**



## **Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)**

The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), was established in 2006. The Institute works to strengthen the family through the development and dissemination of high quality research on Arab families, encouraging knowledge exchange on issues relevant to the family and making the family a priority to policy makers through advocacy and outreach at the national, regional and international levels. Among the Institute's most important initiatives are the Annual Conference on the Family; and the OSRA Research Grant in collaboration with the Qatar National Research Fund, an annual research grant which encourages research related to the Arab family and family policy. The Institute has special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

For more information on Doha International Family Institute, please visit [www. Difi.org.qa](http://www.Difi.org.qa)

## **Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, science and research, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>