



Protecting the Arab Family from Poverty: Employment, Social Integration and Intergenerational Solidarity

**Expert Group Meeting convened as part of preparations for the
Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014)**

**Doha-Qatar
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Biographies



MS. NOOR AL MALKI AL JEHANI

H.E. Noor Al-Malki Al-Jehani is the Executive Director of the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. Ms. Al-Jehani was a member of the Board of the Governors of DIFI since its establishment in 2006. Ms. Al-Jehani is currently a member of the United Nations Commission on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women (CEDAW). Before joining DIFI, she worked as Secretary General for the Supreme Council for Family Affairs (SCFA), a national higher entity entrusted with preparing strategies, policies and program relating to the family. She was also a member of the National Committee for Human Rights in the State of Qatar since its formation in 2003 until 2011.



RENATA KACZMARSKA

Mrs. Renata Kaczmariska is a Social Affairs Officer and a Focal Point on the Family in the Division for Social Policy and Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. She became the Focal Point on the Family in 2009 and is currently engaged in the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014. She is a spokesperson on family issues for the UN Secretariat.



MASSOUD KARSHENAS

Massoud Karshenas is Professor of Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and Research Fellow, Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey (ERF). He has been senior consultant to the International Labour Organization, International Trade Centre, UNCTAD and URISD, Geneva. His publications include, *Oil, State and Industrialization in Iran*, Cambridge University Press, and *Social Policy in the Middle East: economic, political, and gender dynamics*, Palgrave, (edited with V.M. Moghadam).



FARZANEH ROUDI

Farzaneh Roudi who has been with the Population Reference Bureau since 1987 is a senior policy analyst, serving as Program Director for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Initiated by her in 2001, the MENA Program responds to the region's need for timely and objective information on population, socioeconomic, and reproductive health issues. Ms. Roudi has collaborated with different organizations from the Middle East region and is recognized as an authority on Middle East population matters. She is author of a number of reports and articles on Middle East population and development issues. Her latest publication is *Women's Need for Family Planning in Arab Countries* (coauthor). Ms. Roudi has an MA in demography from Georgetown University in Washington, DC, with additional graduate study in demography at the University of California in Berkeley. She received her BA in sociology from the National University in Iran.



ADIB MTANIOS NEHME

Adib Nehmeh is chief of Governance and State Building section at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) based in Beirut. He worked with UNDP Beirut between 1995 and 2005 as Human Development expert and project manager for poverty reduction policies with Ministry of Social Affairs, then joined the regional UNDP office (SURF-As) as policy advisor for poverty reduction in 2005, before moving to ESCWA in July 2009. He holds a DEA in Sociology, and BA in Philosophy and Law and he is a registered lawyer. He has very diversified working experience: consultancy and research in various social and developmental issues, National Dialogue and transition, MDGs, multidimensional poverty, training CSO activist, journalist.



ZAFIRIS TZANNATOS

Dr. Zafiris Tzannatos is an economist currently living in Abu Dhabi. He has served as Advisor to the Managing Director of the World Bank where he was also Manager for Social Protection in the Middle East and North Africa Region, and Leader of the Global Child Labor Program. More recently, he was Senior Advisor at the ILO Regional Office in Beirut, having previously been Chair and Professor of the Economics Department at the American University of Beirut. His publications include 14 books and monographs, and more than 150 reports and papers in the areas of labor economics, social policy and development strategy. His most recent report is on the post-Arab Spring challenges in the region (see ILO/UNDP (2013): *Rethinking Economic Growth: Towards Productive and Inclusive Arab Societies*).



VALENTINE M. MOGHADAM

Valentine M. Moghadam is Professor of Sociology and Director of the International Affairs Program at Northeastern University, Boston, which she joined in January 2012. Previously she has been a professor of sociology and director of women's studies at Purdue University and Illinois State University; a section chief at UNESCO in Paris; and a senior researcher at the United Nations University's WIDER Institute in Helsinki, Finland. She received her higher education in Canada and the U.S. Her areas of research include globalization, transnational social movements and networks, economic citizenship, and gender and development in the Middle East and North Africa. Among her many publications, she is author of *Modernizing Women: Gender and Social Change in the Middle East (1993, 2003, 2013)*; *Women, Work and Economic Reform in the Middle East and North Africa (1998)*; *Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks (2005)*, which won the American Political Science Association's Victoria Schuck award for best book on women and politics for 2005.

KALTHAM AL GHANEM

Dr. Kaltham Al Ghanim is associate professor of sociology at Qatar University. She has carried field research related to urbanization, culture and human development, political participation. She is Author of three specialized academic books and numerous papers in areas of interest such as domestic violence, marriage, and gender. Her interests cover a wide range of issues including folklore studies, local culture, and sustainable development. Currently, she leads several research projects funded by various national and international institutions.

NARJES MEHDIZADEH

Dr. Narjes Mehdizadeh is a British Academy research fellow. Her area of research interest involves an exploration of the significance of welfare for women's experience of citizenship; the relationship between welfare, economic change and values; women's work and family balance; Recent publications include: Mehdizadeh N. (2013) Beyond Cultural Stereotypes: Educated Mothers' Experiences of Work and Welfare in Iran, *Critical Social Policy*, 33(2); Mehdizadeh N. and Scott G. (2011) Educated Women in the Labour Market of Iran: changing worlds and new solutions. In: Jackson, S. Malcolm, I. and Thomas, K. (eds.) *Gendered Choices: Learning, Work, Identities in Lifelong Learning*, Springer Academic Press, pp: 145-161; Mehdizadeh, N. (2011) Gender and Reconciliation of Work and Family in Iran, *International Labour Review*, 150 (3-4):405-417. Mehdizadeh is currently undertaking a programme of research entitled "A Comparative Study of Women's Work and Childcare Experience in the Middle East and North Africa" in which she extends the theme of mothers' combinations of paid work and childcare to the under-researched context of the Middle East and North Africa.



DJAVAD SALEHI ISFAHANI

Djavad Salehi-Isfahani received his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University. He is currently Professor of Economics at Virginia Tech, Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and Research Fellow at the Economic Research Forum in Cairo. He has served on the Board of Trustees of the Economic Research Forum and on the Board of the Middle East Economic Association. He currently serves as the Associate Editor of the *Middle East Development Journal*. His research has been in demographic economics, energy economics, and the economics of the Middle East. He has co-authored two books, *Models of the Oil Market* and *After the Spring: Economic Transitions in the Arab World*, and edited two volumes, *Labor and Human Capital in the Middle East* and *The Production and Diffusion of Public Choice*.



URSULA KULKE

Ms. Ursula Kulke is the Senior Regional Social Security Specialist at the ILO Regional Office in Beirut, where she leads the ILO’s technical assistance efforts for the development, promotion and implementation of social security policies in the Arab States.

Prior to this, Ms Kulke served as ILO Coordinator for Standards and Legislation at the Social Security Department in Geneva, tasked with developing the legal basis for the Social Protection Floor and the development of the ILO Recommendation for the Social Protection Floor.

Ms Kulke has extensive international experience in reforming national legal frameworks and social security regimes according to international standards. This has included the promotion of ratification of ILO social security standards, and assistance to member States to develop social security policies and legislation.



KAMAL HAMDAN

Kamal Hamdan is a Managing Director at the private Lebanese consulting firm - the “Consultation and Research Institute” (CRI) - established in Beirut in 1977. He contributed as senior consultant to many research studies conducted by international institutions, including the World Bank, EU institutions, UNDP, ILO, UNICEF, UNESCWA, UNRISD, UNFPA, UNESCO and UNURWA. Backed with a highly diversified carrier path, he served as senior consultant to the Prime Minister Office and several Lebanese ministerial committees for economic evaluation and reform purposes, His major areas of interest lie in macroeconomics, employment and labor economics, social insurance schemes, and social development. He has published several books and articles in well-known Lebanese, Arab and international economic reviews and periodicals.



HANIA SHOLKAMY

Hania Sholkamy is an Egyptian anthropologist with a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences, The University of London. She obtained her BA and MA from the American University in Cairo (AUC). She is currently associate research professor at the Social Research Center of the AUC and is also affiliated with the Forced Migration and Refugee Studies Program of the university. She has co-edited two volumes, one titled *Categories and Contexts: Anthropological and Historical Studies in Critical Demography* (OUP) with S. Szreter and A. Dharmalingam and another titled *Health and Identity in Egypt* (AUC press) with F. Ghanam. She is currently regional coordinator of the “Pathways to Women’s Empowerment Research Consortium” in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex, UK.



MAHMOUD MESSKOUB

Mahmoud Messkoub is senior lecturer at the International Institute of Social Studies (Erasmus University of Rotterdam, the N.L.), teaching and researching in areas of social policy and population studies. As an economist he taught for many years in the UK (at the universities of Leeds and London). His current research interests are in the area of economics of social policy and population ageing, migration and universal approach to social provisioning. His recent publications on MENA are related to social policy, the impact of recent financial crisis on the region, poverty and employment policies. He has acted as a consultant to ESCWA, ILO, UNFPA and the World Bank.



SARA BITTAR

Sara Bittar joined the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut in 2011 and has been working as Coordinator for the Youth in the Arab World Program and the AUB Youth Research Working Group. She earned her MPA (2011) as a Fulbright Scholar from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University as well as a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Conflict Studies.

With a multidisciplinary foundation of AUB faculty members and regional affiliates, the Program on Youth in the Arab World acts as a meeting point, catalyst and central repository for Arab-international research and policy on Arab youth.



NAJAT EL MEKKAOUI

Najat El Mekkaoui is professor of economics at the University of Paris Dauphine (France). She is distinguished visiting fellow at Oxford University and research fellow at the Economic Research Forum and NETSPAR.

Her research is about demography, ageing and social protection systems. She coordinates projects for national and international institutions about saving, economic development, employment and social security reforms. In 2011 she was nominated at the National Council of Human Rights in Morocco. She is in charge of ageing and social protection for older people in Morocco and she is involved with the working group on the “Development on International Relations, Partnerships and Cooperation”.