

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

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Sex: Female  
Date of birth 01/02/1960  
Nationality: Lebanese

**WORK EXPERIENCE AND OCCUPATIONS**

**2012 - Present:** President

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) Copenhagen, Denmark

**2011 –Present:** Vice president

United Nations Subcommittee on prevention of torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) – Geneva  
*International expert in Monitoring Places of detention worldwide and the promotion of the   
UNOPCAT*

* *Conducted numerous monitoring visits to state parties to the OPCAT with the UNSPT, including Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, MENA since 2010.*

*The visits include unrestricted access to all places where persons may be deprived of their liberty, their installations and facilities and to all relevant information.*

* *Advised and provided assistance to states Parties on the establishment of the National Preventive Mechanisms.*

**2010 –Present:** Member

United Nations Subcommittee on prevention of torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT)

**2007 – Present:** Project Manager

Projects funded by National and International donors such as the European Union, the UNHCR and the UNVFVT. The projects cover many areas including the Rehabilitation for Torture Survivors, psychosocial intervention for prisoners and family members in Tripoli- Lebanon Prison, capacity building for law enforcement personnel and the protection of children affected by armed conflict in Lebanon.

**2005 – Present:** Executive Director

Restart center for rehabilitation of victims of violence and Torture – Lebanon

**1992 – Present:** Director

FISTA Association for Special Education, North Lebanon since 1992

**1989 – Present:** Clinical Psychologist

Provides clinical psychological assessments and develops individual treatment plans for Victims of Torture, children affected by armed conflicts, children with special needs, children victims of war-trauma as well as refugee children.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**1985 – 1987:** Master’s degree in Psychology

Lebanese University Faculty of education and human sciences Beirut – Lebanon

**1981 – 1985:** Clinical Psychology

Lebanese University Faculty of education and human sciences Beirut – Lebanon

**PERSONAL SKILLS**

Mother tongue: Arabic

Other language(s): Understanding Reading Writing

English Proficient Proficient proficient

French Proficient Proficient proficient

Communication skills:

Elaborate aptitude of engaged listening, assertive communication, recognition and understating of the person’s differences and attitudes.

* An articulate communicator with an exceptional ability to convey messages, sometimes the most complex ones, and generate trust and confidence among a variety of audiences;
* A thoughtful and purposeful speaker with instinctive and spontaneous communication skills;
* A genuine conversationalist who has proficiently deepened connections to others including state and non-state actors, her own team of professionals and above all, persons deprived of their liberty during worldwide detention monitoring missions;

Organizational /Managerial skills:

* An innovative and adaptive self-starter with a relentless passion and dedication for the defense of human rights and preventing and fighting against torture with international and national governmental and Non Governmental Organizations
* Intrinsically motivated to set and work toward goals, reflect on progress and act upon next steps
* A dynamic Professional Collaborator consistently striving to build strong working relationships with all stakeholders
* Proficient depth of organizational missions, governance and administrative systems
* Respectfully gives and receives feedback, actively develops trust, follow-through on commitments, and accept responsibility for the challenges of the journey
* Resilient competence in conflict management and dispute resolution
* An absolute knowledge of the usage of decision making to support missions and acquire needed resources
* Values organizational culture sensitive to diversity and multiculturalism
* Adept in coalition building and the establishment of collaborative relationships and projects
* Genuine ability to work independently and as a team member
* Exceptionally skilled in managing stress and working in difficult environment with high security concern
* Highly responsive to tide deadlines

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Projects:**

* Designed a strategic program aiming at restructuring the forensic unit at the Lebanese Ministry of Justice. 2015-2017;
* Drafting expert of a medical unified protocol for medical centers in Lebanese prisons, to be used as major reference for health practitioners, including availability, accuracy and monitoring of services, in 2016;
* Developed a briefing note regarding the human rights situation in Lebanon, on the occasion of the second *Universal Periodic Review (UPR)* visit, in view of lobbying efforts for the recommendations on Torture before the *Human Rights Council* in March 2016;
* Initiated a coalition of Lebanese Civil Society Organizations for the development of a joint report submitted to the Human Rights Council on the second *UPR* visit to Lebanon in March 2016;
* Developed *Guidelines on* *Monitoring Without Access*, based on interview Cards, in 2015;
* Created an innovative torture preventive mechanism at the level of Judicial Police Offices in North Lebanon in 2015, based on the pilot creation of an *Independent Forensic & Psychological Examination Unit* in Tripoli Justice Palace, in order to guarantee the opportunity of a comprehensive medical screening to each person under investigation;

Future actions include the adoption of the same system in all Judicial Police Offices located in the other departments of the Lebanese national territory;

* Developed and lead lobbying strategies to ensure the adoption of the psychosocial emergency preparedness and response plan as well as the registration and referral systems by the *Lebanese* *Ministry of Social Affairs*; through the *Higher Council for Childhood* in Lebanon;
* Initiated a dialogue between two human rights mechanisms, the *Arab Human Rights Committee* and the *UNSPT* in 2015;
* Consulting expert, along with civil society actors and the *Parliamentary Human Rights Committee*, in the drafting of the *Bill on Criminalization of Torture* in Lebanon;
* Provided the final revision of the *bill on Criminalization of Torture*, which was approved and adopted by the *Lebanese Parliament;*
* Provided a revision of the *Lebanese Mental Health Law;*
* Assisted in the establishment of a national mental health program, in close collaboration with the ministry of public health, aiming at strengthening the capacities of health practitioners in primary health care centers and hospitals on the management of post-war epileptic and psychiatric emergencies, starting in 2015;
* Facilitated the establishment of a *National Steering Committee* in 2011 (composed of experts from all concerned Ministries, UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations, Universities, Embassies, specialized NGOs and IOs), towards developing a national psycho-social emergency management plan *for children affected and/or involved i*n armed conflicts, including the establishment of a national psycho-social registration and referral system;
* Consultant for *Dignity Danish Institute against Torture* on Detention Monitoring in the MENA region, starting in 2011;
* Head of the investigation mission to Syria as a consultant nominated by the *Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture victims (RCT)* with the collaboration of the *Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders*. The mission aimed at assessing the rehabilitation needs of human rights defenders/former prisoners of conscience 2008;
* *World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF)* landmines awareness program (2002-2003);
* Consultant for national, regional and international NGOs

**Training and Capacity Building:**

* Key expert in the MENA region in lobbying and training on the *UNCAT, OPCAT and the Istanbul Protocol as well as the Bangkok rules*, starting in 2010;
* Trainer of tailored programs for law enforcement personnel, such as the Lebanese Internal Security Forces and General Security Forces, on*Prisons Management, Human Rights Instruments and the Bangkok Rules;*
* Trainer on the Istanbul protocol, Code of Ethics and Dual loyalty for forensic doctors, affiliated to the Lebanese Ministry of Justice;
* Trainer on thematic focused programs for the Judicial Police in Lebanon aiming at the creation of the *Specialized Investigation Unit*;
* Incorporated the innovative training programs for law enforcement personnel and police, into the curriculum of the *Human Rights Institute* at the *Lebanese Internal Security Forces*, in 2014;
* Trainer on *Children Affected by Armed Conflicts* in Lebanon, for School counselors and teachers;
* Trainer on *Conflict Resolution*;
* Trainer on *Learning Disabilities* and *Children with Special Needs*;

**Conferences and seminars:**

* A guest speaker in The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, UK to *“mark the 10th Anniversary of the OPCAT*,” July 2016
* Discussant on “*Radicalization in prisons, the Lebanese context”*during the CT MORSE Informal Consultation meeting on *“Strategies and Programmes to Reduce the Risk of Radicalization in Prisons”*, in Brussels, July 2015;
* Key note speaker during the event on the occasion of the *UN Human Rights Day*, December 10, 2015 in Washington DC. The Intervention Tackled “*Trauma Healing: Promoting Human Rights and Rebuilding Societies and speech”;*
* Discussant on “*Introduction to the OPCAT and the role of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)”,* during the Expert roundtable titled “*Implementing the Convention against Torture (CAT)”*, sharing best practices and experience in preventing torture in police custody in the Middle East and North Africa in December 2015, Marrakesh. The regional workshop was organized by the Convention against Torture Initiative in Geneva, held in partnership with Wilton Park;
* Discussant on *“Providing assistance to victims of torture in emergency context*” during the expert workshop held on the occasion of the 41st session of the board of trustees of the UN voluntary fund for victims of torture in 2015;
* Discussant on “*Condition of the death row prisoners & the death row phenomenon in the MENA region*” at the Expert seminar on “*Moving Away from the Death Penalty”* in the Middle East and North Africa region in Algeria, organized by the OHCHR, in cooperation the Algerian Consultation Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (CNCPPDN) in December 2014;
* Moderated the session entitled “*Interactive dialogue with the UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders”* during the *International Conference on the challenges to Security and Human Rights in the Arab Region*organized by the National Human Rights Committee in Qatar, the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, the General secretariat of the League of Arab States, the OHCHR and the Arab network of National Human Rights Institution, in November 2014;
* Discussant on *“Syrian refugees in Lebanon role of the civil society in assigning the needs and providing assistance”* at the Arab Institute, Paris;
* Trainer at the *Capacity building program of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces Officials* with the Lebanese American University (LAU) and the Institute for Women Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW);
* Speaker on *'Forensic Documentation in the fight against Torture',* during the Global Conference in Washington D.C. February *2012*;
* Lecturer at theWashington Conference on *Enhancing Visits to Places of Detention*, on *“Promoting Collaboration”,* invited by American University Washington College of law and association for the prevention of torture Geneva;
* Participant to *The Madrid Policy Dialogue* *2015* – Madrid +10, *“Madrid+10 Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism”;*
* Participated to the *“Wilton Park: Strategies for tackling torture and improving prevention in London”*, in 2015;
* Participant to the training for the preparation of support projects to *Prevent Radicalisation and Recruitment (R&R)* and *Strengthening Resilience to Violence and Extremism in Jordan,* organized by the European Union in February 2015;

**Publications:**

* *“Are we doing enough”*, Geneva, Switzerland, spring 2015. Article published in Lebanese local newspapers highlighting children with special needs, social policies, torture and violence and the OPCAT;
* A speaker in a TV program, Kalam el Nass – LBC about *disappeared persons in Syrian prisons*;
* Interview with CNN underlining the *tortured victims* (May 27, 2004);
* Interview with BBC (Britain) concerning *Iraqi refugees;*
* Article published in Times magazine concerning *Iraqi refugees;*
* *Psychological characteristics of prisoners*;
* How *to deal with difficult people in the places of detention*;

**Honors and Awards:**

* ***Awarded the North-South prize from the council of Europe in 2013***
* Received Paul Harris fellow by Rotary Al Maarad –Tripoli- Lebanon 2003
* Received a trophy from the General director of LebaneseInternal Security Forces 2010

**Memberships:**

* 2007: Member in the WGPT (Working Group for Torture Prevention in Lebanon ) to present
* 2003: Member of the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP)
* 2000: Member of the EMACAPAP, Eastern Mediterranean Child and Adolescent Psychiatric to present
* 1999: Founding member of the Mental Health League of Lebanon, and General Coordinator for the League.
* 1997: Founding member of the Handicap-Sport Lebanese Federation Named by National Ministry of Education.
* 1996: Founding member of Restart center for rehabilitation of victims of Violence and Torture- Lebanon
* *1995*: Founding member of the Lebanese Council for the Follow-Up of Learning Difficulties
* *1993*: Founding member of Fista Association Lebanon (First Step Together Association for Special Education).
* *1991*: Founding member of “ L’UNAPIEH” (Union National des Associations des parents et d’Institution d’Enfants Handicapés Mentaux).
* *1989*: Founding member of Friends in Need Association for Deaf