

Press release

Beirut, December 3, 2020

In these uncertain and turbulent times, with successive economic, sanitary and social crisis, women and girls are seen at the forefront. From our homes, our hospitals, our workplaces to our streets, they are playing an essential role in creating an atmosphere of security.

On the occasion of the international 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women and girls, Abaad is launching its campaign #SafetyForSafekeepers. Gender-based violence, especially in the form of sexual harassment and abuse, is a major issue for every woman in Lebanon. Women create safe spaces, build a safe country, yet don't feel safe in their own country. They face this threat every day in both public and private arenas: in the workplace, on the streets, and even sometimes in their own home.

Women have the right to feel safe while walking down the street, staying home alone, driving their cars at night. This country should be a safe space for them, because safe women build a safe country.

Through a virtual photography exhibition, Abaad celebrates 16 remarkable women from different backgrounds and social status, who mirror every woman in Lebanon, determined, resilient, and demanding the right of safety. A short video was also released depicting situations where women were at the forefront during the past year, playing a protective role and contributing towards achieving positive changes in the society, while, in contrast, facing threat on their safety.

Abaad is launching this campaign with support from UN Women, Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP), CARE International, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

Abaad works tirelessly since 2010 to achieve gender equality as an essential condition to sustainable social and economic development in the MENA region.

Visit www.abaadmena.org for more information. #SafetyForSafekeepers