

## **One out of two women in Lebanon considers that women's protection should be a priority!**

**One out of two women in Lebanon** considers that women's protection should be a priority during the ongoing crisis that the country is witnessing, whereas **96% of young girls and women residing in Lebanon** who have experienced domestic violence in 2021 stated that they had never reported it.

A national survey conducted by ABAAD has highlighted the priorities of young women and girls and the challenges they face in light of the current reality in Lebanon. **3 out of 5 women reported** that economic challenges are the most prominent struggle they are facing at the present time, while **2 out of 5** women who took the survey affirmed that they refrained from reporting violence out of fear of the perpetrator's reaction.

**Ghida Anani, Director of ABAAD** stated, "While we fully understand that the current reality in Lebanon is difficult for everyone, and that the multiple crises afflicting the country are a burden on all citizens without exception, this does not mean that the protection of women can become a lesser priority, at a time when all statistics, studies and surveys that we are conducting with women, girls and right-holders indicate a dramatic increase in the rates of violence in all its forms."

This study falls within the context of a national campaign launched by ABAAD under the banner "Deyman Waata" on the occasion of the global 16 Days of Activism campaign to end violence against women and girls.

"This year, we have received **approximately 314 calls a month on the safe-line** for emergency assistance and to report gender based violence especially the domestic one, at a time when many women and young girls in Lebanon remain reluctant to report the violence they face due to the prioritization of family considerations, which gravely jeopardizes their lives. Protecting women and young girls is a right to them and a duty to all of us, and what is needed today is complete earnestness and due diligence in the state's response to this issue, both in terms of prevention and service provision", Anani adds.

**// End of Statement //**

## Notes to editors

The reality of young women and girls in Lebanon in numbers<sup>1</sup>:

- **1 woman out of 2** in Lebanon, considers that the protection of women should be a priority
- **94.7%** of them confirmed that they need protection outside their homes
- **3 out of 5 women are in Lebanon** consider economic challenges to be the most important issues they face as women and girls at the present time
- **96.0%** of girls and women in Lebanon who experienced domestic violence did not report such violence during 2021
- **9 out of 10 women** who experienced any form of violence did not report such act of violence
- Out of 10 women who reported violence, **only one** has resorted to security and judicial authorities
- **62.4%** of women and girls consider economic challenges to be among the struggles that they face.
- Only **11.1%** of the girls and women surveyed stated that they would call the hotline if they were a victim of violence
- **2 out of 5 women** refrain from reporting abuse out of fear of the perpetrator's reaction

**Internal Security Forces statistics on the number of domestic violence complaints calls registered on the hotline 1745<sup>2</sup>:**

- The amount of domestic violence complaints until November 2021 is of 1184
- 677 complaints out of 1184 were made to report intimate partner/spousal abuse (58%)
- 1056 out of 1184 complaints reported physical abuse (90%)
- 57% of domestic violence reports were made personally by the women who experience violence, compared to 40% of reports made by family members and/or neighbors.

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<sup>1</sup> National study conducted by ABAAD to understand the priorities of young girls and women in Lebanon.

<sup>2</sup>These statistics are from 1/1/2021 to 9/11/2021



### **Testimonials from women and girls:**

"One of my top priorities today as a Lebanese woman is for my family to have food and to be able to secure my medicine, which has become very expensive"

"We have forgotten ourselves in these situations, and we neglect our priorities as women because we are psychologically devastated and suffer from the current instability. Women carry a lot of responsibilities in these times."

"We must report violence and defend ourselves. The problem is that some official and judicial authorities do not take our suffering seriously and do not address our cases with the required urgency and speed."

"The dire economic conditions reflect negatively on the situation within my family and have exacerbated the violence I and my children face."

"We are seriously suffering from the difficulty to secure the basic needs of our children, such as milk and clothing. This causes us permanent mental stress and tension, which sometimes leads to ongoing violence"

### **About ABAAD:**

ABAAD is a civil, non-sectarian and non-profit organization established in 2011 with the aim of promoting sustainable economic and social development in the Middle East and North Africa by devoting the principles of equality and gender justice, providing direct services, protection and empowerment. ABAAD seeks to promote equality and enable women's active participation through policy development, legal reform, gender mainstreaming, eliminating discrimination, empowering women, and building their capabilities to participate effectively in their communities.

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