



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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Session 3: Everyday realities in times of crisis



Maha Yahya

Maha Yahya is director of the Carnegie Middle East Center, where her work focuses broadly on political violence, identity politics, inequality, citizenship, and the refugee crisis. She has two PhDs in the social sciences and humanities from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Architectural Association (AA) in London. She serves on a number of advisory boards and has consulted with international organizations including the United Nations organizations and the World Bank as well the private sector on a broad range of issues in various countries. Yahya is the author of numerous publications, including most recently *Unheard Voices: What Syrian refugees need to return home* (April 2018); editor of *Contentious Politics in the Syrian Conflict: Opposition, Representation, and Resistance*, co editor of *Visualizing Secularism and Religion, Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, India* and was the director and principal author of *The National Human Development Report 2008–2009: Toward a Citizen's State in Lebanon*.



Nivine El-Kabbag

Nivine El-Kabbag is the current Minister of Social Solidarity in Egypt. She has more than 25 years of experience in the field of international cooperation, strategic management, and institutional development. She also has considerable experience in social policies and evaluation. She broadened her policy scope in the ministry through working on issues related to social protection, women's affairs, economic empowerment as well as disability. She is currently managing the secretariat of the Ministerial Committee for Social Justice led by the Prime Minister. She also worked for UNICEF, America's Development Foundation in Egypt, and in National Council for Negro Women. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Cairo University, and a master's degree in political science from Carleton University, Canada, in 1992, and her thesis was about "Civil Society Problems in Modern Social Formations".



Hector Hajar

Hector Hajar is the Minister of Social Affairs in Lebanon since 12 September 2021. He has overseen a number of intensive trainings on social development in France and has worked in the field of social service in Lebanon for several years through a group of associations he founded that are interested in accompanying people with special mental needs and integrating them into the labour market by establishing several protection workshops for them. He contributed to the implementation of several projects within the framework of the reconstruction of southern Lebanon after 2006 and the emergency humanitarian response to those affected by the blast of Beirut port in 2020. He also co-organized several international conferences to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue in Paris, Rome-Vatican, Portugal and others. He played a key role in endorsing Lebanon's first national social protection strategy and launched a set of empowering programmes aimed at ensuring social protection for the most vulnerable groups, in line with this strategy. He holds a doctorate in dental surgery from the Lebanese University, and a degree in social revitalization from the Saint Joseph University.



Laila bint Ahmed Al Najjar

Laila bint Ahmed Al Najjar is the Minister of Social Development of Oman. Prior to that, she was an Adviser to the Minister of Education for educational programmes and was assigned as Director General of the General Directorate for Scouts and Guides. She is the first Omani woman to serve as Director General of an educational governorate in Oman and the first Omani woman to participate in the leadership training course of the National Defense College. She holds a doctorate in educational management from the University of Tunis.



Brahim Ben Driss

Brahim Ben Driss is the Head of the General Authority for Social Development in the Ministry of Social Affairs in Tunisia.

