

August 17, 2021

Dear AUB Community,

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Lina Abou-Habib as Director of the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship at AUB, effective September 1, 2021. Lina was selected for the position following an international search led by a campus-wide committee co-chaired by Trustee Marwan Muasher and Deputy Provost Lina Choueiri.

A graduate of AUB, Lina returned to her alma mater in September 2019 as a Senior Policy Fellow at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI). She is currently a Gender and Women's Economic Empowerment Fellow at the Center for Inclusive Business and Leadership for Women (CIBL) at the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business and the Gender Director for the AUB Tomorrow's Leaders Gender Scholars Program (MEPI-TLS) at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. She has been serving as Interim Director of the Asfari Institute since January 2021, overseeing the institute's grant-funded projects, strengthening its core team, and energizing its public engagement activities.

Prior to joining AUB, Lina was Executive Director of the Women's Learning Partnership in Washington DC. She co-founded and led the Collective for Research and Training for Development-Action. She held different positions at Oxfam, including as Lebanon Program Coordinator, consulted extensively with the Royal Tropical Institute in Holland, and served as chair of the board of the International Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID). Lina brings a considerable experience working with international and regional organizations and foundations, public institutions, universities, community organizations, and media outlets in the MENA region, with particular focus on furthering the understanding of gender and feminist theory and mainstreaming gender in development programs and policies. She teaches and writes about feminist movements, gender and citizenship in the MENA region, gender and economic rights, and care work. She is a member of the editorial board of the journal Gender and Development, and a strategic advisor for the Global Fund for Women and for the newly established Doria Feminist Fund, the first feminist fund for the MENA region.

Lina Abou-Habib takes on the position of Director of the Asfari Institute at a critical moment in the Institute's trajectory, to intensify its engagement and amplify its impact within AUB, in Lebanon, the region, and the Global South. Her leadership and wide network will surely expand the Institute's footprint and advance its mission.

Please join me in congratulating Lina on her appointment and wishing her every success in leading the Asfari Institute onward.

Sincerely,

Zaher Dawy, PhD
Provost