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Arab Reform Initiative

## Supporting Arab Women at the Table (SAWT) Fellowship Program

### *Local Networks, Regional Alliances and International Reach for Gender-Inclusive Peace and Security*

#### Fellowship Program Overview

The fellowship program is part of the regional SAWT project aimed at supporting Arab women's participation and representation in peace and security policies.

The SAWT project is funded by the European Union (EU) with the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI) as the lead partner and implemented through a consortium of partners consisting of the Center for Inclusive Business and Leadership for Women (CIBLW) in Lebanon with a regional scope, Together We Build It in Libya, the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies in Yemen, ARI in Syria, the Culture and Free Thought Association in Palestine, and the Iraqi Al-Amal Association in Iraq.

It aims at quantitatively and qualitatively increasing women's meaningful inclusion in peace processes in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region - improving their ability to influence outcomes and establish post-conflict gender-egalitarian frameworks. It focuses on the emergence of a new generation of women activists with enhanced capacity, skills and confidence. It will create new venues and mechanisms for cross-regional, intergenerational, cross-sectorial exchange and coalition-building for shared learning and collective action planning. It will also generate key forums for South-to-North exchanges that provide unique opportunities for knowledge production and sharing, advocacy and policy influencing.

The fellowship program aims at increasing the meaningful participation of women in peace and security policy-making across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. It will support leading roles that women activists and advocates are playing for more gender-inclusive peace and security policies. Moreover, it will provide platforms for activists and leaders from different sectors to share experiences and contribute to collective mobilizing for a more inclusive peace and security agenda in Libya, Yemen, Palestine and Iraq.

#### Background

States continue to fall short of negotiating an inclusive vision for peace and security. Existing platforms tackling peace and security have increased since the Beijing declaration in 1995 and the United Nations Security Council 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) that address the impact of war on women and the importance of women's full and equal participation in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict resolution. The Resolution 1325 "required political transitions to be inclusive, gender sensitive and transformative".

There is power in collective organizing and collective voice. The latter is needed more than ever in Libya, Yemen, Syria, Palestine and Iraq, where protracted conflicts continue to sideline women and women's rights.

At the same time, women across the MENA region in civil society, academia, business, law and journalism are challenging oppressive structures and working on an inclusive version of peace and security platforms and agendas. It is their individual stories, voices, and priorities that need to shape peace and security platforms and agendas. It is not just about women deserving a seat at the table, it is also about changing what gets discussed at the table and also recognizing that women have also started tables of their own. They need to be positioned as leaders who can influence peace and security through their personal narratives and experiences. They will also form part of multi-sector national and transnational coalitions of other women's groups and allies



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and be connected among each other, as well as with institutions and actors in the European Union (EU) and internationally to advance inclusive policies for peace and security.

## Why SAWT?

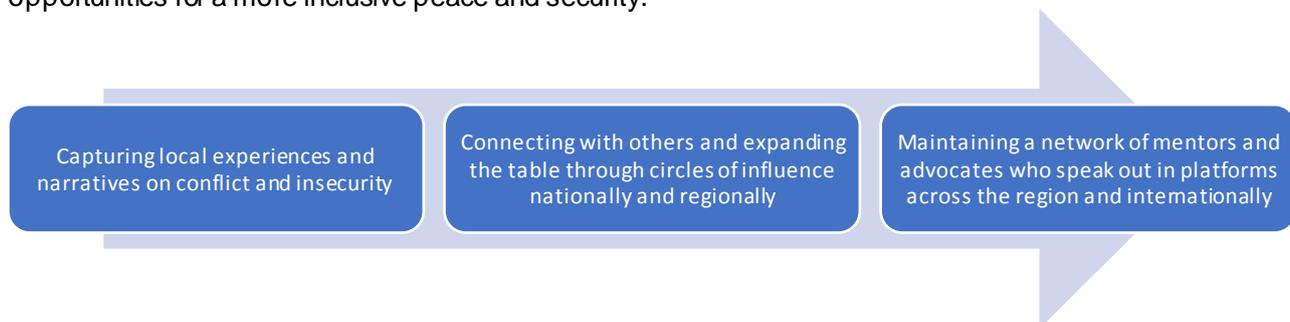
Our aim is to facilitate an inclusive women-owned indigenous approach for what inclusive peace and security looks like and capitalize on women and women's associations efforts to achieve that. We recognize that they are already challenging the state's hegemony over decision-making circles and a collective effort is needed to mobilize more stakeholders in support of inclusive peace and security. The SAWT fellowship is an opportunity for learning, networking, and growing the tables for dialogue to be more inclusive of women and women's rights.

## Fellowship Objectives

- Equip women with the tools and leadership skills needed to advance an inclusive peace and security agenda.
- Establish a network of advocates from different areas of expertise who can lobby for more inclusive peace and security platforms.
- Create tables for dialogue and circles of influence that cut across generations, geographical boundaries, and disciplines focused on an inclusive peace and security agenda.
- Challenge existing peace and security platforms that exclude women's voices and that are not representative of the lived experiences of women.
- Position women as leaders who can influence peace and security through their personal narratives and experiences.
- Mobilize multi-sector national and transnational coalitions of women's groups and allies to promote an inclusive vision for peace and security.
- Connect women from the region with institutions and actors in the EU and internationally to advance inclusive policies for peace and security.

## Fellowship Design

The modules are designed as a journey of learning, networking, and taking collective actions. They are aimed at influencing existing tables and dialogues on peace and security, as well as creating new tables and dialogue opportunities for a more inclusive peace and security.



## Who is SAWT for?

Women from Libya, Yemen, Syria, Palestine and Iraq with experience working on or leading efforts for gender-inclusive peace and security policies. We invite women operating in civil society or community-based associations, media, academia, legal advocacy, business or other relevant work fields.

## Application Requirements for Women Fellows

\*\*\* This program is fully funded and covers all expenses.

Participants will be asked to submit (in Arabic)

- A two-page resume



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- A motivation letter explaining eligibility to participate
- A letter of recommendation or any relevant documentation to showcase experience (for example: media clippings, project reports, or audio-visual content)
- A personal development plan

## Deadlines

The deadline for submission of applications is **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021** and notifications of acceptance will be sent in the second half of December. Applications can be submitted online here: [SAWT طلب إنتساب إلى برنامج الزمالة](#).

## What is expected from SAWT fellows?

Selected fellows will have to commit to the nine-month program and sign a contract upon agreeing to join it. The entities leading the fellowship will adhere to standards of confidentiality and only publish content, stories, or images with the approval of the individual fellows participating and organizers. The goal is to create a safe and reflective space for learning and connecting with others.

Schedule	Module title	Format	Pre-requisite activity
January 20th, 2022	My experience and story of conflict and insecurity	Online, experiential with an expert on leadership	Write an entry in your diary, "a day in the life of..."
February 20th, 2022	Envisioning inclusive peace and security policies	Online, interactive identifying actors and timelines	Read international statuses, draw a timeline of national events
April 20th, 2022	Building alliances and inclusive tables	Online, interactive, Selecting issue-based alliances and overcoming challenges collectively	Prepare a policy-brief on an inclusive policy you are working on
June 5th to 11th, 2022	Summer fellowship	In-person week-long sessions on multi-stakeholder mobilizing, designing key messages, and challenging the status quo	Identify at least 5 women in your discipline or area that you want to engage in the network
September 20th, 2022	Coalitions for regional and international influence	Online, working session with an expert on network building to identify key dates and platforms	Consult with your organization and key actors in your policy issue

The language of the modules and the summer fellowship will be in Arabic.

At the end of the program, fellows are expected to:

- Gain a fresh outlook on key concepts of inclusive peace and security.
- Form working groups as tables or circles of influence in their own countries
- Strategize on how to challenge the state's narratives and agenda of peace and security.
- Strategize how collectively to work towards more inclusive policies.
- Commit to joining a coalition and network of advocates for inclusive peace and security.

For questions or inquiries please contact Sandy Haddad: [s.haddad@arab-reform.net](mailto:s.haddad@arab-reform.net)



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## Supporting Arab Women at the Table (SAWT) Fellowship Program Application Package

Please enclose in your application:

- A two-page resume
- A motivation letter (300 words on why you are applying, what you hope to gain and how you can contribute to the SAWT discussion and network)
- Recommendation letters OR evidence of work on inclusive policies such as media clippings, feedback from stakeholders, published reports/documents, etc.
- A personal development plan (below template)

My personal vision for inclusive peace and security	My big personal or career goals	What I need to achieve my goals	Envisioned challenges	What kind of support I need	How I can support others



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