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Founders Day Essay Contest – 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize  
December 6, 2021

When the dawn breaks, she wakes up, announcing the hymns of a new day, during which she paves her way in all walks of life. And when dangers and obstacles hinder her progress in reaching better milestones, she strives to rise above these obstacles and embellishes them with flowers of optimism. She is always a dreamer, turning the darkness of her nights and the storms of her days into opportunities, so that she explores the depths of life and finds the keys to its dilemmas that confront her from all sides. This is the example of the ambitious woman that AUB nourishes, one that sets out on the path of life and excels in her activism in the face of life's challenges that seem as abundant as the foam of the sea.

This is the image of a Lebanese ambitious and optimistic woman who has always tried to bridge the gap between her and man in various aspects of life, and although she has progressed in her path towards achieving gender equality, she still faces seemingly intractable obstacles. One of these significant challenges that she encounters in Lebanon and the Global South is that she is still absent from the most important decision tables especially at the governmental and judicial levels. Nevertheless, she is the one who, by her acumen, activity, and tireless quest to reach important positions in society, can surely prove her ability to represent her people, deserve their trust, and demonstrate her ability to undertake projects that serve the people of her society.

What is also still hindering her progress, in the Global South, is the continuation of physical violence and sexual harassment and the persistence of the patriarchal, materialistic view of woman vis-à-vis her body. How can, thus, an ambitious woman continue in her quest to reach glory, and dedicate her efforts to science, work, and practical progress, when she is still oppressed in homes, in the streets, and in the workplace? How can she complete her studies, work, and research with perseverance, when, despite the noble image that she builds, this materialistic view continuously returns to demolish all the intellectual, scientific, and cultural successes and achievements she has built?

Throughout its long history, our university has planted in us the seeds of respect and acceptance of the other and allowed us to cooperate with one another in projects and to share ideas and visions of a hopeful future, regardless of gender, ethnic, cultural or age differences. Today, it celebrates its hundredth anniversary of its opening doors of classes to women, to reap the fruits of knowledge so that she can build societies and sustain generations. Today, too, AUB is still cultivating efforts on a long journey it has started 100 years ago, to continue to make the Lebanese society more inclusive and help women overcome the obstacles they in society. Because it represents a deep-rooted academic edifice that adorns the Mediterranean, AUB must take bold steps, as always promised, in providing more Lebanese women with better opportunities. Our university ought to increase the access of Lebanese women to high-quality education by bestowing need-based and merit scholarships to deprived women who are unable to afford quality education especially in rural areas. AUB shall also encourage women of

the Lebanese society to engage in research and projects that its various faculties and institutes may embark on.

AUB can also broaden the scope of its Equity/Title IX office's work to the wider society, whereby it hosts workshops and conferences accessible to the community to raise awareness about sexual assault and the manifestations of gender inequality in the Middle Eastern society. This will ultimately give women a space to willingly voice their experiences and alleviate the taboo aspect of sexual discussions. Very fruitful has the work of the office been over the past years in making AUB's campus safer and more inclusive, and very fruitful will it assuredly be in the wider community that requires such awareness about the potential Lebanese women possess.

In her confirmation as the President of Harvard University, Drew G. Faust asserted that she is not the woman president of Harvard, rather she IS the president of Harvard. And AUB, through its spirit of inclusiveness that it has long ingrained in us, will surely continue to render all women in its community feel the same pride that the president of Harvard had embraced, and deservedly so. By enabling more women of the Lebanese society to engage in fecund discussions and access remarkable educational opportunities, AUB will prove its long-held and embraced purpose of nourishing the leadership potentials of women in the Levant, and so it will be successful in letting them have life and have it much, much more abundantly.

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