

THE LANCET



Commission on Syria

— Health in Conflict —

Canada



United Kingdom
Mission to the
United Nations



THE LANCET

**SAFEGUARDING
HEALTH
IN CONFLICT**

PROTECTING HEALTH CARE IN ARMED CONFLICT

Friday, September 22, 2017 | 11:30 am - 1:30 pm | ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters

Spotlight

The Commission Organizes a High-Level Side Event at UN General Assembly

On 22 September 2017, the Commission, in collaboration with the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, organized a High-Level Side Event on 'Protecting Health Care in Armed Conflict' during the High-Level Segment of the 72nd UN General Assembly at UN Headquarters (ECOSOC Chamber). The Event was co-sponsored by Canada, the

Netherlands, Spain and the UK. Canada's Minister of Health, Spain's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Netherland's Vice Minister of International Development, and UK Ambassador/Permanent Representative opened the Event

The Commission Co-Chair Iman Nuwayhid represented the Commission on the panel. In a [2-minute interview on The Lancet TV](#), Commission Co-Chair Samer Jabbour explains the research behind the event and where the event fits in the overall work of the Commission.



The Lancet Editorial on the event "[Accountability is key for protecting Health workers](#)" published 30 September, laments “the disconnect between the international rebukes of the attacks and the lack of appropriate recourse.” It argues that ‘Without accountability in Syria, there is no accountability anywhere.’

Following the UN General Assembly event, the AUB hosted a lunch and roundtable discussion at its New York Office to discuss next steps building on the UNGA event.

Check the [Event webpage](#) for the webcast and transcript of the event.

News

In his bi-monthly letter to the AUB Community, President Fadlo Khuri reflected in his [September 29 Perspective](#) on the Commission and the UN General Assembly event. The President also announced the **reappointment of Commission Co-Chair Iman Nuwayhid as Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB.**



Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced a new Fogarty initiative on 'Conducting Health Research in Humanitarian Crises' **to be co-chaired by Commission Co-Chair Iman Nuwayhid.** Read the [announcement by Fogarty Director Roger Glass](#) in the September/October issue of Global Health Matters and a [description of the initiative](#) on Fogarty website.



Congratulations!

Commission Research and Meeting

The Commission's Thematic Groups and the Research & Documentation Team are making progress in addressing the huge research agenda that the Commission is tackling.



Between **14 and 18 August 2017**, researchers from two RDT core laboratories met to review progress on research work and enhance collaboration on data analysis. Dr. Hala Ghattas, Associate Research Professor at AUB and Associate Director of the [Center for Research on Population and Health](#) at AUB's Faculty of Health Sciences, and Dr. Fatima Ghaddar, Commission's Research Fellow, traveled to Boston to visit with researchers at the Harvard's [FXB Center for Health & Human Rights](#) to review two unique datasets of

health services in Syria and agreed on an analysis approach to get the data to the Commission.

The deadline for developing the first draft of the Commission report is approaching. In preparation, Co-Leads of the six Thematic Groups (TGs), Commission Co-Chairs, and RDT research met in Beirut between **7 and 9 September 2017** to review progress on the work of the Thematic Groups and advance preparations for the report of the Commission. The Commission reviewed TGs reports, discussed data, findings, and key messages, and agreed on a plan forward.



Stakeholder Consultations

On **11 September 2017**, the Commission organized a stakeholder consultation including Syrian experts and practitioners working in various local or international organizations in Syria. The consultation is part of the effort of the Commission to gather evidence and listen to views of experts and practitioners working in various areas and settings in Syria. Syrian experts made presentations about health status, health system, and programs in Syria. They and Commissioners agreed to cooperate on further data and evidence gathering.

Forthcoming Events



As this Newsletter goes out, the Commission is preparing to hold a meeting of the full Commission with the Lancet Editors Richard Horton and Pam Das to review a first draft of the Commission report. The meeting is hosted by the American University of Paris (AUP) thanks to AUP professor and Commissioner Ziad Majed. AUP President Professor [Celeste M. Schenck](#) opens the meeting.

To view all the Commission's e-Newsletters, click [here](#).