

# #DistantlyTogether



## 2019 - 2020



# Two years in Numbers

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45

Opinion piece  
writers

13

publications

66

short films

135

experts and policy  
makers

35

projects in  
6 countries

41

Lecturers

8

courses

We reached

63,153,453

users through our social media platforms

20

team members

202

trainers and teachers  
from 13 countries

740

school students

126

international participations in  
25 countries

2,034

trainees from  
13 countries

219

Members in  
Adyan's networks

201

students participated in 9 community  
service projects

130

participants in awareness activities

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## Adyan: Foundation for Diversity, Solidarity, and Human Dignity

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Adyan promotes the values of diversity, solidarity, and human dignity. It also works locally, regionally and internationally for pluralism, inclusive citizenship, and spiritual solidarity, through home grown solutions in Education, Media, Policy-Making, and Intercultural and Interreligious relations.

Adyan is registered in Lebanon as a non-profit and non-governmental organization (NGO), under registration number 1103 by a ministerial decree dated 18 September 2008.

# The World post- Covid



We all want to take the first step towards a post-Covid world. I do not mean by that going back to the way things were prior to the pandemic. Going back in time is impossible, no matter how much we long for it. We need to regain a sense of security; however, the meaning of security and its mechanisms have changed, and we have also changed with them.

First, the pandemic taught us not to look for safety and security inwards – in our rigidity, pride, possessions and beliefs, but rather through humility in the face of various life paths and endless surprises. Humility is a school that helps us let go of our ego; an ego that leaves no place for the other. Rigidity does not make room for surprises nor wonders. Others have always been the best of these surprises, and the beauty we are looking for – not in the mirror, but in the vast spaces of the universe and its people – is the most astounding.

In addition, the pandemic has taught us to find safety in our solidarity with others. We discovered that we are all in danger if we are not all safe. It is imperative to be aware that this principle also applies to the scourges of poverty, ignorance, extremism, and violence. Just as medical professionals are dedicated to serving those infected with the virus, the world is

looking forward to more solidarity between its two poles, the North and South, the rich and poor, and between its peoples, religions, and cultures.

Last but not least, the pandemic has taught us that the way out of tragedies is not in denial, but in facing them through progress and creativity. For instance, scientists around the world produced vaccines in record time to limit the spread of the virus. The new circumstances also prompted many organisations to discover the ability to develop their businesses through virtual techniques, to better structure ways of cooperation, and to enhance constructive communication. Throughout this report, you will always come across the following terms “modesty”, “solidarity”, and “progress”; as Adyan did not only withstand the pandemic and its repercussions, but it also contributed to strengthening resilience within several societies, from Yemen and Iraq to the Gulf, Lebanon, and beyond. Adyan also endured the Beirut port explosion and continues to support creative initiatives in solidarity with those affected by the disaster.

Adyan, born in Lebanon from the womb of the war in 2006, has become today a global title for success. The Foundation won the [ELEVATE award](#) for the year 2020, in recognition of its role in building unity and peace, based on its respect for the right to be different as well as the promotion of inclusive citizenship and human fraternity. By the end of 2020, Adyan achieved a major step in enhancing its sustainability and developing its institutional structure, through forming a Board of Trustees, and transferring its executive management to Dr. Elie El-Hindy and its presidency to its co-founder, Dr. Nayla Tabbara.

Today, we continue with you all – members, friends, and partners – our journey towards continued success with determination, joy, and hope.

**Professor F. Fadi Daou,**  
Adyan President (2008-2020)

# Adyan President Father Fadi Daou Wins the 2020 "Elevate" Prize

During 2020, a challenging year for Lebanon and the World, Adyan remained a sign for hope and resilience, especially for young people across the region when it received the "Elevate" prize for that year.

Former Adyan president, F. Fadi Daou, was one of the 10 global champions who won the award. In recognition of the foundation's outstanding work in empowering individuals – throughout the MENA region and beyond - to lead change and contribute to more just and inclusive societies, F. Daou was celebrated as an innovative leader who can take action, mobilize people, as well as catalyze positive and revolutionary change.

The "Elevate" prize is awarded by the "Elevate Prize Foundation" and is supported by "MIT Solve", which provides a platform for innovation in social impact to uplift humanity on a global scale. This prize brings together the largest possible network from around the world to identify and highlight champions who motivate and foster change with the aim of inspiring others to move forward and to take initiative.

Out of approximately 1297 short-listed candidates, from around 119 countries, F. Fadi Daou was selected as the sole winner from the MENA region. He was chosen by a 21-member jury, including significant leaders, innovators, and influencers

in today's philanthropic scene, such as world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and Yang Lan more famously known as "China's Oprah Winfrey." The panel also included some of the brightest minds in the fields of business, academia, arts, sciences, technology, health, and humanitarian work.

Winning the "Elevate" prize provides Adyan's mission with a global platform and unlocks its ambition to transform individuals, groups, and societies around the world. Through our partnership with the "Elevate Prize Foundation", we aspire to elevate the organisation to the level of becoming a broader space for critical and cross-cultural exchange between leaders and change-makers. We also aim to build their capacities so that they grow into pioneers of local and global change, sustainable peace, and "living together".

Due to the pandemic and its consequent restrictions, the "Elevate" prize was presented on October 28th, 2020 in a virtual ceremony that brought together the winners, judges, foundation staff, and partners.

Highlighting the value of this prestigious award, F. Daou says, "When I look around today, I see strong divisive forces around the world; but I also see people protesting, demonstrating, and striving for societies that embrace diversity. I believe that together we have the power to lead change".





# Adyan's Strategic Goals

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1

## Building an Inclusive Governance

Building an Inclusive Governance: Pushing for responsible, fair, and equal governance between citizens in order to achieve inclusive sustainable development.

2

## Citizenship and Peacebuilding

Supporting the commitment of citizens to building peace and working to achieve societal resilience, memory-healing, and transitional justice.

3

## Pluralism and Justice

Combatting all forms of discrimination, extremism, and hate speech, as well as working to spread pluralistic critical thinking.

4

## Religious Social Responsibility

Advocating the principles of religious social responsibility, freedom of religion and belief, as well as spiritual solidarity.

5

## Integrated Human Development

Preserving human dignity, a prosperous environment, as well as social solidarity in addition to helping the most underserved and marginalized groups.



# Selected Quotes

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## Education on Living Together

I appreciate the pioneering nature of “education on living together” because this type of education enables young men and women to become productive global citizens; ready to participate and succeed in our increasingly religiously and ethnically diverse world.



**Knox Thames**  
Senior Fellow, Institute for Global Engagement



## Religious Social Responsibility

The term religious social responsibility might be repetitive for the mere reason that social responsibility is, in fact, faith. Therefore, the oldest known social services known to mankind were carried out by religious institutions and other active faith figures.



**Professor Azza Karam**  
Secretary General of  
Religions for Peace



## Freedom of Religion and Belief

Freedom of Religion and Belief is the cornerstone of a peaceful and diverse society, where people of different faiths and beliefs, including the non-religious, work and interact side by side without any fear. Freedom of Religion and Belief allows people to bring out the best in themselves in order to contribute to the development and progress of their society. Adyan's work is invaluable in helping build stable, diverse, and peaceful societies.



**Ed Brown**  
Secretary General of Stefanus  
Alliance International, Norway



## Inclusive Citizenship

Inclusive Citizenship is a concept that lies at the core of Arab societies. It is a model of cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity. However, it suffers from the absence of established rights and principles of individual freedom and social justice, which weakens one's sense of belonging and consequently impedes building a collective identity. Adyan foundation provided an idiomatic version of this concept, and most importantly, worked on promoting and incorporating it at the center of programs dealing with cultural diversity in Arab countries.



**Dr. Hassan Nadhem**  
Iraqi Minister of Culture,  
Tourism, and Antiquities



1.

# Adyan Foundation Copes with the COVID-19 Pandemic





Following the appearance of the first cases of COVID-19 in Lebanon in February 2020, and with the world starting to confront this pandemic that later reaped millions of victims and completely overturned the general way of life, Adyan Foundation had to adapt to this new reality. In order to continue its mission and achieve its goals, the organisation adopted modern technologies for remote work and communication.

Hence, Adyan had to continue – even from a distance – the implementation of its various programs and activities, while applying the highest levels of prevention and required health measures. It was able, by that, to enact the slogan it adopted that year “Distantly Together” through reducing staff attendance at the office and transferring meetings, lectures, and roundtable discussions from closed rooms to programs such as Teams and Zoom.

Fortunately, previous preparations allowed Adyan to move smoothly from one stage to another, given that the organisation prides itself for its experience in distance learning since 2010.

## Alwan

### Education on Living Together in the Framework of Active and Inclusive Citizenship

Donor/Partner: American Embassy in Beirut

Department: Education Unit – Institute for  
Citizenship and Diversity Management

Project Manager/Coordinator: Mayssam Imad

Duration: 30/09/2018 – 30/09/2020

Beneficiaries' Nationalities: 

Alwan is a program that aims to consolidate the principle of “living together” through the practice of active and inclusive citizenship in secondary school clubs. Students who are members of the Alwan club undergo about 120 hours of training, including targeted community service work, based on a non-formal educational methodology and other related activities. Such clubs are usually established through a partnership program between Adyan Foundation and interested public and private schools.

Adyan works in cooperation with its partner schools to implement the programme of “Education on Living Together within the Framework of Active and Religiously Inclusive Citizenship”, based on three main axes: religious diversity, partnership, and community service. It does so through the establishment of Alwan clubs for first and second secondary students and the application of this training programme with the support of teachers who assume the role of facilitators. They usually receive adequate training to build their required capacities as well as continuous support from Adyan throughout implementation.

One of the main advantages of this program is that it offers students the opportunity to complete the 60 hours of community service required by the Ministry of Education in a comprehensive national context that transcends regions and sects. In fact, two or more clubs from schools located in different Lebanese regions, cooperate and work together in order to implement a common joint initiative. Consequently, students learn how to engage with society in an effective manner, through partnerships that rise above regional and sectarian affiliations and that address societal and national challenges.

Raising awareness among the younger generations on the importance of living together, of accepting, understanding, and valuing diversity, and of working together towards the common good, contributes to strengthening collective national culture and increases consciousness of a common national identity. This transforms young people into building blocks of unity, understanding, and peace instead of them



being labeled as victims or used as tools to ignite ideological, religious, and sectarian tensions.

What distinguished Alwan program during 2019 - 2020 is the students' perseverance and their ability to adapt to the



conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the tragic Beirut port explosion on August 4th. They re-designed their community service projects and insisted on graduating.

The joint community service project was created as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its simultaneous repercussions on two generations: the students of Alwan program and their inability to implement their pre-designed projects that required moving around, which was prohibited at the time, and the elderly who are the most vulnerable and live in exacerbated isolation as a result of limited mobility and quarantine restrictions. In light of this crisis, the older

generation's need for support increased to ensure stable mental and physical health. Furthermore, adolescent students also needed hope that the elderly can provide to support them in adapting to pressure resulting from intensive online learning and growing anxiety.

As a result, students between the ages of 15 and 17, who have currently witnessed a revolution and a pandemic, and older people between the ages of 60 and 90, who had faced many challenges throughout history and gained immunity in the face of crises, were able to build a strong bridge of communication among themselves. This was done through the recording of the elders' stories, also known as oral history. ([www.alwanlubnan.com](http://www.alwanlubnan.com))





# Alwan Junior

Donor/Partner: Kindermissionswerk

Department: Education Unit – Institute for  
Citizenship and Diversity Management

Project Manager/Coordinator: Mayssam Imad

Duration: 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2020

Beneficiaries' Nationalities:   

Alwan Junior was designed to become the precursor for the Alwan program implemented in secondary schools. This project was launched following the results of focus groups conducted with students, teachers, and school principals who clearly stated the need for a similar program.

Relevant educational materials were designed in cooperation with experts and were based on educational objectives pertinent to the project's target age group. These objectives are found in the supplementary curriculum issued by the Ministry of Education in 2014. The general objectives of the program can be summarized as follows:

- Developing skills to deal positively with difference between religions and beliefs. This is done through creating intellectual spaces to learn about different religions and to objectively understand sectarian and cultural differences within the same group.
- Acquiring skills that enhance social cohesion by discovering sources of convergence between religions through highlighting common values, especially public life values.
- Creating a common safe space for students, especially in religiously-mixed schools, to discuss religious matters. This helps in overcoming sectarianism, avoiding stereotypes, and dismissing feelings of fear or contempt towards the other.

The program uses simple kid-friendly tools such as pictures, coloring books, puzzles, and videos, which are simultaneously useful and entertaining. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, program administrators used both Zoom and WhatsApp and successfully maintained its implementation.

At the end of the school year, students are expected to be able to deal positively with religious diversity, while reconciling between their individual commitments or beliefs and their openness to others.

## The program's special competencies:

- He/she respects various religious symbols and beliefs and compares them together.
- He/she takes a positive attitude towards difference and empathizes with those who are different.
- He/she comfortably expresses his/her religious affiliation, practices, and beliefs and is able to communicate with others about their own beliefs and practices in a constructive manner.

## Excerpts from some participants:

"Alwan has opened the door for me to meet new people from different regions, cultures, and sects. Year after year, it has also helped me become more open-minded."

**Nabila Ghemrawi**

Tripoli Evangelical School

"Coming from a distant region to meet new colleagues and get trained on various topics that I will, in turn pass on to my students, made me feel closer to everyone."

**Mohammad Sukkarieh**

Al-Ain Public School

"I learned a lot from my colleagues, and I also had the chance to get to know more about different beliefs, cultures, and religions. This is something I never came across in other meetings and workshops."

**Enaam Ghaddar**

National Evangelical Institute for Girls and Boys in Sidon



# Media Literacy against Hate Speech in Lebanon

Donor/Partner: ACT – Church of Sweden

Department: Media Department

Project Manager/Coordinator: Christina Boutros/

Mayssam Imad

Duration: 01/04/2020 – 31/12/2021

Beneficiaries' Nationalities:  

The MLP project aims to promote sustainable peace in Lebanon through a discourse of solidarity and human dignity adopted by students and shared by them on social media. It also contributes to increasing positive discourse related to pluralism and the notion of “living together” in Lebanon.

Furthermore, participating students gained more resilience in facing sectarian and divisive narratives and were encouraged to use discourse that promotes positive attitudes towards diversity, gender equality, Freedom of Religion and Belief, and Human Rights.

Through continuous training and support, teachers were also able to acquire advanced skills in teaching media literacy to students, which increased the latter's ability to identify hate speech, fake news, as well as sectarian and divisive discourse, in addition to better understanding the importance of protecting Human Rights. This project – in all its phases – was successfully implemented online.

# Religious Social Responsibility for Citizenship and Coexistence

Donor/Partner: Danmission

Department: Research & Courses' Unit – Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management

Project Manager/Coordinator: Ahmad Naji

Duration: 01/07/2017 – 31/12/2020

Beneficiaries' Nationalities: Arabic-Speaking Communities

During the past few years, the Religious Social Responsibility for Citizenship and Coexistence project, implemented within the Research and Courses' Unit at the Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management, brought together a group of 18 Muslim researchers, experts, and personalities from Europe and the Arab World. This group carried out a series of meetings in which they worked on establishing a network between them and discussed the production of a companion on Islamic Social Responsibility for Citizenship and Coexistence.

In addition, these meetings gave way to the creation of an international network of Muslim experts who come



from Muslim-majority countries and who are active in the humanitarian field.

In 2019, the publication of this book benefited university students specializing in Islamic religious affairs as well as young people involved in civil society organisations working on or interested in religious topics.

Experts in this project also published summaries of their research and ideas on Adyan's Taadudiya website – via digital, visual and written content.

Last but not least, the project team also implemented a series of awareness seminars entitled “Faith without Walls”, reaching by that more than 350 researchers from around the world.

# Training of Trainers in Arabic on Freedom of Religion and Belief

Donor/Partner: Stefanus Alliance

Department: Research & Courses' Unit – Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management

Project Manager/Coordinator: Ahmad Naji

Duration: 01/02/2020 – 30/06/2021

Beneficiaries' Nationalities: Arabic-Speaking Communities

Given the importance of the role played by individuals active in the fields of training, media, and education, and in order to enable these groups to deal with issues related to Freedom of Religion and Belief and to increase awareness in Arabic-speaking communities, the Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management, in partnership with Stefanus Alliance, implemented a project to train trainers and media professionals on issues related to Freedom of Religion and Belief. The project also contributed to promoting the concepts of religion and belief in the Arab region through a bundle of awareness activities, including seminars, short films, and interactive sessions.

Project activities were designed with the aim of enabling beneficiaries to acquire adequate training skills and to raise awareness on issues related to Freedom of Religion and Belief, through pinpointing it as one of the main pillars of the Human Rights system. The training program also highlighted a number of practical case studies related to these rights and presented how societies and governments interacted with each of the given situations. Due to the practical nature of the program, experts designed a set of tools that

helped target groups interact with the presented content in a continuous manner, while also providing them with the skills to disseminate acquired knowledge, skills, values, and behaviours in their surrounding communities. Such methods aim to enable participants to better understand the concept of religious social responsibility which aims at raising awareness on the rights of religiously and culturally diverse communities.



# “Religions and Public Affairs in Lebanon” Program

Project Manager/Coordinator: Father Agapios Kfoury

Beneficiaries' Nationalities: 

Between the years 2018 and 2020, Adyan Foundation implemented the eighth and ninth consecutive cycles of the “Religions and Public Affairs in Lebanon” program. The latter provides focused lessons that extend over an entire academic year, starting in September and ending in June.

Usually, the RPA program attracts university students and other interested adults who attend lectures and participate in practical workshops with a number of specialized professors. The program is divided into three courses: World Religions, Pluralism and Dialogue, as well as Religion, Sectarianism, and Public Life in Lebanon.

These courses are generally presented in an academic format, and they usually adopt a participatory and interactive approach between professors and students, as well as between participants themselves; which further enriches content with personal and contextual experiences. Because this program was implemented online during the past two years, it was able to attract participants from all over the Arab world.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, 19 beneficiaries participated in the program. The number of registrants significantly increased to 26 in the 2019-2020 academic year and to 40 in the 2020-2021 academic year.





# Spiritual Solidarity

On the occasion of the Annunciation Day on March 25th, 2019, Adyan Foundation participated, alongside other organisations, in a celebration organized by Taize at the Biel complex in Beirut. Young people from around the world partook in this event in the framework of the International Ecumenical Meeting of Young Adults in Lebanon. Adyan did not only play a role in drafting and delivering the common prayer, but its networks also held a workshop on the role of young men and women in inter-religious dialogue in Lebanon and the challenges they face. Around 50 people attended this discussion.

Furthermore, the Forum for Religious Social Responsibility at Adyan Foundation held its annual Iftar at the Carmel Saint Joseph Monastery in May 2019. More than 120 religious leaders and partners attended this celebration which included an exchange of fasting experiences in both Christian and Muslim traditions, in addition to religious and spiritual chants.

In 2019, Adyan network members also organized their annual Iftar at the Saint Elijah's Cathedral in Downtown, Beirut. 100 members from Adyan networks and the diocese attended this spiritual event.

As always, Adyan network members and partners implemented a number of initiatives during the Holy months of Ramadan and Christmas. These initiatives included, but

were not limited to clothes, food, and toy distribution for marginalized groups.

During 2020, the pandemic imposed social distancing and preventive measures, which transformed yearly celebrations into remote events. For instance, Adyan, in partnership with Dialogue for Life and Reconciliation and Darb Maryam, celebrated the Annunciation Feast through a call for a virtual joint prayer that was broadcast on all of the organisation's social media platforms.

In addition, members of the Forum for Religious Social Responsibility participated in a virtual campaign during the Holy month of Ramadan, where they shared how they are living their religious values while implementing safe social distancing measures (#distantly\_together).

During difficult times, prayer remains a message of hope. Therefore, Adyan also organized its annual spiritual solidarity day on October 31st, 2020. Around 50 attendees participated in this virtual event which highlighted the stories of Adyan's network and forum members who implemented initiatives within the "We Stand with Beirut" project.

Similar to what happened during Ramadan and Christmas in 2019, Adyan members distributed clothes, food and toys to those who were most in need.



# A Call for Love and Unity to Help the Refugee and Displaced Communities

With the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, Adyan Foundation, the Middle East Council of Churches, the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees decided to launch a joint call for communal solidarity.

The statement, issued on April 27th, 2020, included the following:

"Since we are all – nationals and non-nationals including refugees – in this together, we share a collective responsibility to combat the Coronavirus pandemic in the interest of our common public health, and our solidarity is crucial.

For the past four months, the world has been facing an invisible threat that has transcended geographic, ethnic or religious borders and boundaries. Hundreds of thousands of people are in pain, and the world has lost more than two hundred thousand lives, many of whom are elderly or people with chronic illnesses and thus belong to the most vulnerable segments of our society. Health, economic and social immunity fell as this "common public threat" – as labelled by the World Health Organization – invaded our human life across all its sectors.

Since then, the world, the whole world, has been living in fear of the continued uncontrollable spread of this pandemic, which we have tried to control through the strict measures that we as individuals, governments, civil society, faith-based organizations, and the private sector have taken in cooperation. The impact of the sacrifices we have all made, in the interest of our common good, was not limited to the health sphere but rather infiltrated our social life, specifically in relation to increasing poverty, the lack of resources and our uncertainty regarding the challenges that lie ahead.

The deep fear that took over the hearts of a large number of the world population confined to their homes, and limited our interactions with their families, loved ones, and friends, unified our response to this pandemic; added to it, are the deeper anxieties faced by the most vulnerable who are economically unable to stay home, or by those who have no home at all. And with the same commitment that is uniting us in our fight, we have to ensure that the same deep fear is not exploited to cultivate the phobia of "others" – any "other", either close to or far from us, including those who are living as forcibly displaced in our community; such exploitation and "negative narrative" would undermine our mutually reinforcing unity and could trigger other types of inequalities and stigma and increase the risks of social exclusion.



The virus does not discriminate between the rich and the poor, between political leaders, royalty or a grandmother, an essential service worker or a doctor and we need to work together, in solidarity, to empower and enable each other to take the precautionary measures, and detect symptoms at an early stage of infection to ensure access to care and prevent further transmissions and safeguard all communities.

Thus, based on our religious, social and humanitarian duty, and as part of our belief that we are all in this together, it is necessary to reiterate the following constants:

1. Equal human dignity for all should be the moral compass guiding our work as based on religious texts as well as UN instruments.
2. The philosophy of social solidarity is driven by the need to deepen unity and avert scapegoating in the good management of any crisis, including the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, based on the principle of the common good and the respect for all the rights of the individual, namely his right to life.

3. Refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants living in & contributing to our society were forced, due to harsh conditions, to leave their homes and families, and they deserve our support and access to the same treatment, and most importantly, our respect as fellow human beings.
4. Social action, aid and cooperation initiatives are most needed at this stage, as well as an awakening of our world moral conscience towards embracing good relations and strengthening communication among all actors within our communities- hosts, migrants & refugees.

Building hope is a blessing in times of hardship; our religious and social responsibility calls on us all, each from his/her position, to fight fear, intimidation and always stand together, even if remotely at this stage, to rebuild the bridges which were temporarily destructed. The human fraternity bond that brings us together is stronger than any pandemic and barriers.



2.

## **Solidarity in Action**



**The August 4th port explosion turned Beirut into a disaster capital city of a country that suffers from failed governance and the deficit of its state on various levels. The explosion resulted in hundreds of casualties, more than five thousand wounded, and hundreds of thousands of people who became homeless. About a quarter of the houses in Beirut were damaged and a number of hospitals became unfit for medical service, while the country experienced a rapid growth of the spread of COVID-19.**

In the midst of this reality, Adyan Foundation committed itself to mobilizing all its energies to stand in solidarity with the devastated people, through opening up new areas of intervention:

1. The organisation joined, through its youth, volunteers', ambassadors', and families' networks, as well as through the members of the Forum of Religious Social Responsibility and other community members, volunteering campaigns that aimed to secure urgent needs for those affected and to help in removing the rubble and preparing for the restoration phase.
2. It transferred entire funds that were previously dedicated to community service projects towards this disaster-stricken area, starting immediately with the implementation of two projects worth 40,000 USD.
3. It received 5% donations out of its employees' salaries for a period of three months to help those who were affected by the disaster.
4. It launched the "We Stand with Beirut" project and dedicated to helping the afflicted. Adyan covered all the cost of Human Resources and administrative expenses related to this project, to ensure that all aid reaches those who are in need.



Adyan called upon all of its members, friends, partners, governments and donor organisations, in Lebanon and the World, to donate to the "We Stand with Beirut" project, in order to be able to secure the equivalent of one Million dollars, as a first phase, which was used to fund its relief work.

An independent committee of experts set priorities on a weekly basis and directed aid in an appropriate and transparent manner. In addition, the organisation published a weekly report on the work that was being carried out and on how donations were used, under the supervision of K&K Financial Auditing (a member of the GMNI Global Network) that provided its services free of charge.



# An Overview of Initiatives Implemented within the “We Stand with Beirut” Project in 2020:

**Support for Volunteers:** The British Council in Lebanon provided support for “Dialogue for Life and Reconciliation” and “Offre Joie” volunteers, in addition to the organisation’s support for “Have a Dream” volunteers.

**Support to Food Security and Essential Supplies:** through initiatives implemented by members of the Forum of Religious Social Responsibility, medicine distribution, and the support of the free soup kitchen initiative.

**Psychosocial support:** through the educational day organized for kids affected by the blast and the subsequent toys’ distribution, support for the suicide prevention hotline operated by “Embrace” and general funding for their clinics, as well as the support of psychological assessments, treatments, and required follow-up with “Idraac” organisation.

**Support to Shelter and House Repairs:** through the initiative of “Beb w Shebbek” in collaboration with Adyan networks, the partnership between the Forum for Religious Social Responsibility and the Muslim Scours, in addition to Dialogue for Life and Reconciliation’s “Operation Hope” initiative for house restoration in Beirut.

**Small Business Rehabilitation:** through the restoration of “Agonist” Café and the Christian Art Workshop by Dialogue for Life and Reconciliation as well as the renovation of small and medium-sized enterprises. The organisation also provided them with relevant training and consultancy.

**Support for Education and Social Structure:** through the restoration of “Blessed School”, the support of the after-school online support program, in addition to the refurbishment of the Melkite Roman Catholic Cathedral of Saint Elijah in Downtown, Beirut.

## New Partnerships:

Dialogue for Life and Reconciliation, Bebb w Shebbek, Jinan University, the Muslim Scouts, Liqaa Center, Foi et Lumière, Chreek, Blessed School, Sheshl Initiative, Rise Up Lebanon, Make Sense, Fondation des Cèdres, Idraac, and Embrace.





# Forum for Religious Social Responsibility

Donor/Partner: British Embassy in Lebanon

Department: Community Engagement

Project Manager/Coordinator: Ana Maria Daou

Duration: 01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020 &

01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021

Beneficiaries' Nationalities:



Aiming to enhance the role of religious activists, to increase their influence in counter-acting extremist rhetoric and hate speech, as well as to promote “living together” within the framework of inclusive citizenship, the Community Engagement department launched the Forum for Religious Social Responsibility with religious actors who had previously cooperated with Adyan.

The forum held several religious, political, and social discussions for 80 participants from various sectarian and religious backgrounds. In addition, it trained 50 new activists on dialogue and public speaking techniques. Last but not least, the forum financially supported 4 media initiatives implemented by some of its members and launched the Forum for Religious Social Responsibility Charter in a national conference in Tripoli in March 2020. This charter dictated the forum’s mission and main principles.

Due to growing needs that may create tensions and exacerbate hate speech in various regions in Lebanon, the forum established regional committees in order to respond to the needs of every region, while considering its proper context.

The “Tayfe” platform was one of the media initiatives that succeeded in conveying Adyan’s values and principles to a new audience, reaching by that one million people and garnering 26,500 followers.



### 3. Religious Diversity and Interfaith Engagement

Based on research work that was initiated by some Forum members in 2019, Adyan Foundation launched “The Guide to Addressing Religious Issues in Traditional and Social Media Away from Hate Speech”, a first-of-its-kind reference in Arabic on how religious issues should be portrayed in the media. This guide can be used by anyone interested in this field.

While preparing to implement their regional initiatives, participants were faced with the tragic after-math of the Beirut



Following the success of the first phase of the Forum, and the positive feedback received from its participants, the Community Engagement Department at Adyan Foundation developed the second phase of the project to increase the impact of regional committees through training its members and supporting their initiatives while preserving a common space for sharing experiences.

Hence, a group of experts developed a three-phase online training programme to adapt to the conditions and restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. 56 of the Forum members registered in this programme which was sub-divided into the following main titles:

1. Inclusive Citizenship and Human Rights
2. Dialogue and Communication to Prevent Extremist Narratives and Hate Speech

Port Explosion. Members of the Forum showed solidarity through re-directing initiatives to respond to emerging needs. For instance, one of the members established a social kitchen in the Karantina area to provide basic meals for those in need from different cities such as Ashrafieh, Gobeiry, and others. The Forum also supported the restoration of the Benevolent Lebanese Evangelical School for Special Education and Development (Blessed).

Within the framework of the Forum, Adyan also organized a virtual regional conference on Religious Social Responsibility, which brought together speakers from all over the world. Discussions mainly focused on the different practical applications of Religious Social Responsibility.

# Adyan Networks for Inclusive Citizenship and Spiritual Solidarity in Lebanon and Iraq

As an extension to the work that has been done by Adyan networks since 2017, the Community Engagement Department launched this project to support the participation of young men and women in promoting inclusive citizenship and human rights as well as in valuing diversity in their societies.

Activities included training sessions on various topics, particularly the Ambassador's Academy, which aimed at developing communication, leadership, and initiative skills among members of Adyan's Ambassadors' Network.

Furthermore, planned cultural trips in Lebanon and Iraq contributed to strengthening relationships between network members and deepened their knowledge of religious and cultural heritage in each of the two countries.

On the practical level and in light of the training they received throughout the project, participants implemented contextually relevant social and educational initiatives in Lebanon and Iraq. For instance, one of the participants implemented a project in 3 schools in Basra, Iraq and targeted 300 students who participated in awareness sessions on inclusive citizenship based on an informative brochure that was previously distributed to them.

One of the main success stories of this project is the fact that the Community Engagement Department was able to build 9 partnerships with various educational, religious, and social institutions in both Lebanon and Iraq. It was also able to reach more than 750 beneficiaries through community initiatives implemented by network members themselves.

Last but not least, the exchange trip that brought together members of the Lebanese Ambassadors' Network with their Iraqi counter-parts remains a major milestone of this project as well. It did not only deepen communication between members of the two networks, but it also provided them with a space to exchange experiences and develop their knowledge of the local context of each country.

2019



Donor/Partner: Secours Catholique/Caritas France (SCCF) & Danmission

Department: Community Engagement

Project Manager/Coordinator: Ana Maria Daou

Duration: 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019 & 01/04/2020 to 31/12/2021

Beneficiaries' Nationalities: 

In 2019, youth movements gained substantial significance in Lebanon and Iraq. This fact highlighted the importance of involving young people in leading and pushing for change and the need to develop their knowledge and skills to improve and support their role in diverse societies.

Adyan network members also benefited from the online training programme that was developed within the framework of the Forum for Religious Social Responsibility and which included the following main titles:

1. Inclusive Citizenship and Human Rights
2. Dialogue and Communication to Prevent Extremist Narratives and Hate Speech
3. Religious Diversity and Interfaith Engagement

One of the project's main objectives was to increase recruitment of young men and women who adopt Adyan's values and who are willing to spread the concept of inclusive citizenship in their communities. Therefore, network members launched a media campaign aiming at introducing the work that they do and the values that they actively disseminate.

In addition, members of Adyan networks formed an essential part of the "We Stand with Beirut" initiative that was launched by Adyan following the Beirut Port Explosion. They contributed to alleviating the suffering of those affected and attempted to obliterate the effects of the explosion that destroyed large areas surrounding the port. They did so through cleaning streets, removing rubble, renovating houses, and providing psycho-social support for children in collaboration with Jinan University and the Muslim Scouts.

Adyan Foundation also responded to the needs expressed by participants and held a number of virtual sessions on various religious educational topics and soft skills training which raised the level of knowledge among participants and developed their practical skills.

With 70 new participants joining in the year 2020, the overall number of beneficiaries reached 350.

2020



# Strengthening Resilience – MENA II (Shabab Act)

Donor/Partner: The British Council

Department: Community Engagement

Project Manager/Coordinator: Ana Maria Daou

Duration: 01/03/2020 – 31/03/2021

Beneficiaries' Nationalities:   

As part of a consortium of local organisations working on the implementation of this project in Lebanon, Adyan Foundation trained 18 young men and women on active citizenship as well as on individual, collective, and social resilience.

At the outset of the project, the British Council provided training for facilitators from different participating organisations based on the Active Citizenship Module and its related tools, which was previously developed by them.

Adyan was keen on selecting beneficiaries that would greatly benefit from the training, in terms of change and impact. Project participants did not only undergo online and face-to-face training on active citizenship, but they also participated in virtual psychosocial support sessions with Embrace.

They were also trained on the role of young people in countering violent extremism as well as on social action planning and implementation.

As a result, participants who were later divided into two groups, were able to implement two initiatives in the region

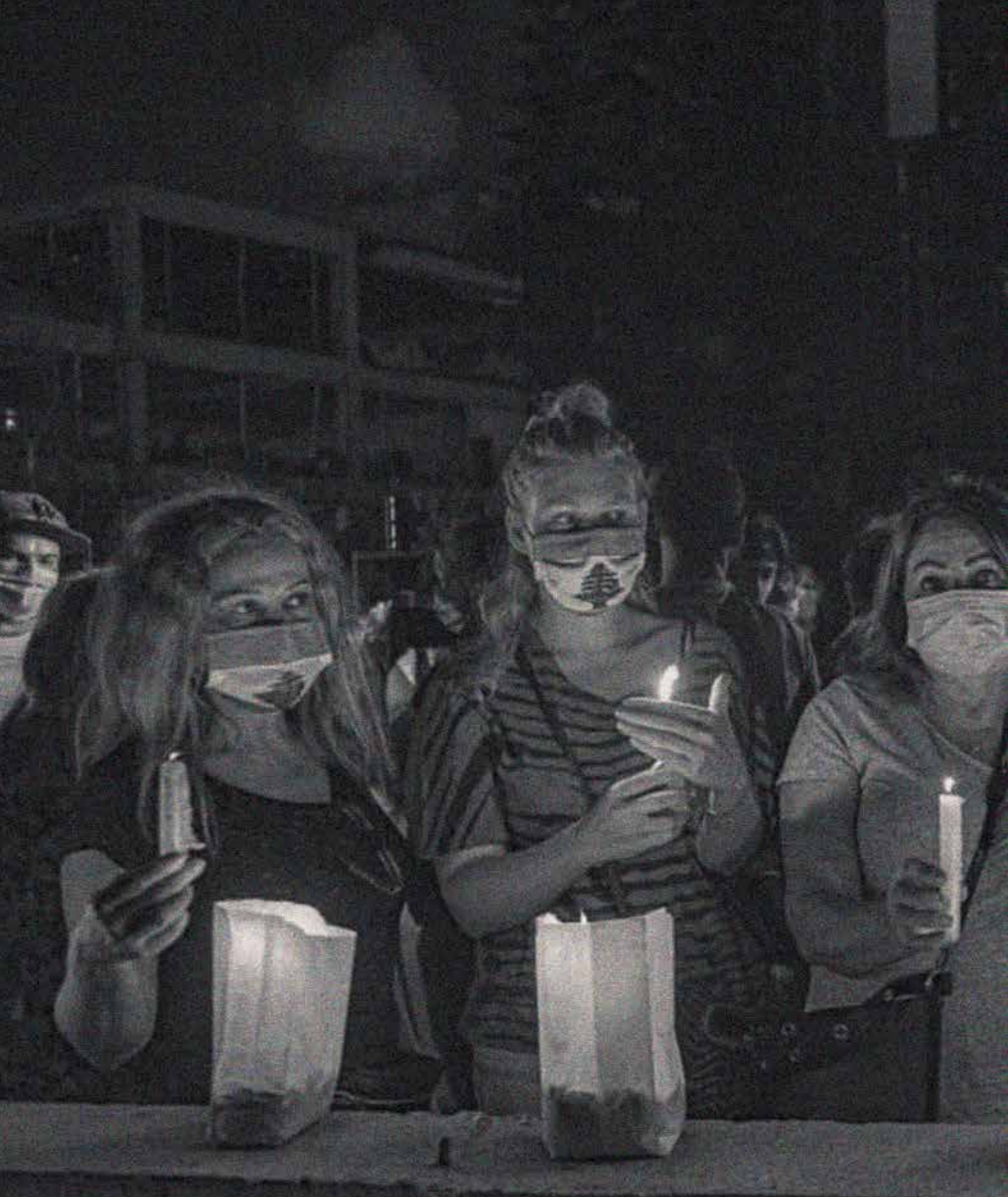
of Mount Lebanon. While the first group provided 200 women with free medical examinations through the local hospital, the second group distributed 70 food parcels to families in need. In addition, they participated in the "We Stand with Beirut" initiative through volunteering with Offre Joie in house reconstruction and with Dialogue for Life and Reconciliation (DLR) in after-school educational support.

Three participants were also delegated by Adyan to produce 30 media materials for the "Shababik Loubnan" platform, which was developed by the British Council in collaboration with participating organisations.

After this project ended, a number of beneficiaries joined Adyan Networks to continue their journey of change.







August 4th



**Follow up . Truth . Accountability**







3.

# Contributions to Public Policy-Making

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**Adyan Foundation constantly seeks to promote a culture of dialogue and participation in public policy-making that leads to the actual implementation of inclusive citizenship and the promotion of the role of youth through its projects in Lebanon and other Arab countries. This was particularly significant during 2019 and 2020 through both the National Dialogue for Citizenship and Coexistence in Iraq and Youth Mock Parliament projects.**

## **National Dialogue for Citizenship and Coexistence in Iraq**

Donor/Partner: ACT – Church of Sweden

Department: Rashad Center for Cultural  
Governance

Project Manager/Coordinator: Abdo Saad

Duration: 01/01/2018 – 31/05/2021

Beneficiaries' Nationalities: 

Being one of the first projects implemented by the Rashad Center for Cultural Governance, the NDCCI aimed at promoting a culture of dialogue between various segments of the Iraqi society. It also intended to find ways and mechanisms for people to work together through discussing and proposing practical plans that push for and promote inclusive citizenship in Iraq.

According to the participants, this project succeeded in achieving an important step, as it was able to bring together 33 elite Iraqi personalities, from different backgrounds and affiliations, concerned with matters of public affairs (academic, politicians, religious leaders, and representatives of civil society).

The basic component of the project was the Iraqi Dialogue for Nation and Citizenship-Building. It had two rounds in Beirut and Baghdad respectively, in the year 2018, and a third round in Erbil in 2019. Despite unrest recorded in Iraq in 2020 and the political polarization resulting from it, the project succeeded in holding a fourth virtual round as planned.

The aforementioned dialogues identified challenges to building inclusive citizenship in Iraq and divided them into four main axes:

1. National identity and the culture of pluralism
2. Active and inclusive citizenship
3. Reconciliation and transitional justice
4. Comprehensive and sustainable development

Participants also suggested policy recommendations for each of these themes.

During the years 2019 and 2020, participants and experts started working on a report entitled "Roadmap to Building Citizenship and Good Governance in Iraq", which includes a summary of the dialogue rounds, a section on the October revolutionary movement, and a part on the role of youth in bringing about desired change. The report is expected to be completed and released to the Iraqi public and relevant stakeholders by the year 2021.

### **Excerpts from some of the participants:**

"The report suggests the importance of having an alternative model to the "one-component" state, which is the model of inclusive citizenship."

"The most important achievement of this stage is the formation of a group of Iraqis who were able to establish a productive dialogue without resorting to complacency."

"Our mission is not easy and joint action is necessary. The document itself is in line with the proposals for building a state of citizenship, equality, and social justice in order to avoid failures that Iraq had suffered from in the past."



# Youth Leaders for Non-Sectarian Politics in Lebanon: The Youth Mock Parliament

Donor/Partner: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Lebanon

Department: Rashad Center for Cultural Governance

Project Manager/Coordinator: Abdo Saad

Duration: 01/08/2019 – 31/07/2022

Beneficiaries' Nationalities: 

Based on Adyan's previous projects and its vast experience in the field, the Rashad Center for Cultural Governance launched the Youth Mock Parliament project out of belief in the pioneering role of youth in adopting non-sectarian politics and promoting inclusive citizenship.

Aiming at countering the negative role of sectarianism in politics and the decline in youth participation in political life, this project empowers young activists and motivates them to contribute to politics on a non-sectarian basis. It also encourages them to actively participate in political life as well as to raise awareness and popular support for an inclusive citizenship-based state.

The project first started by polling 1800 young men and women from all over Lebanon on their opinions regarding political sectarianism. The team then launched several national dialogue fora on politics, sectarianism, and public affairs, targeting 900 young beneficiaries, out of which 60% were women.

After the conclusion of the public survey and the fora, experts started working on a report entitled "Youth Public Opinion for Non-Sectarian Politics in Lebanon", which included a summary of what was expressed by the youth in previous activities. It also highlighted the youth's concerns regarding the overall economic and social situations in Lebanon, their loss of hope, and their recurrent thoughts of immigration. What is also interesting is the fact that the report showed that religion still affects how young people think and how they understand their identities, without negating the fact that many of them expressed their desire to move towards a secular state.

The report also concluded that there is palpable confusion among the Lebanese youth regarding some main concepts such as: secularization, de-centralization, liberalism, and the different types of electoral systems. It also presented a

number of suggestions inspired by what was expressed by the youth in previous steps.

In the coming phase of the project, experts will adopt the aforementioned report to develop a non-sectarian electoral law that will, in return, enable the process of electing a non-sectarian youth parliament.

## Excerpts from some of the participants:

"Sectarianism in Lebanon is represented by the principle of eliminating the other. Therefore, I stress the need to establish a system that manages diversity in a way that is reassuring to all components of the Lebanese society."

"It is not the sectarian system that is causing mayhem today, but sectarian intolerance. There is a big difference between the representation of sects in governance and the adherence to a system of sectarian fanaticism. The lack of distinction between these terms led us to the economic, social, and political crises that we are experiencing today. It has also stricken the principle of coexistence between different communities."





# Women, Religion, and Human Rights in Lebanon

Donor/Partner: Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with DanMission

Department: Rashad Center for Cultural Governance

Project Manager/Coordinator: Adriana Bou Diwan

Duration: 01/07/2019 – 31/12/2022

Beneficiaries' Nationalities: 

In Lebanon, there are 15 personal status laws that generally discriminate against women. Therefore, civil society organisations are continuously asking for the establishment of a civil personal status law, in parallel to the positions of religious authorities, legislators, as well as other actors in the field, and for the provision of a civil alternative.

Hence, there is a need for dialogue between the three aforementioned parties to improve women's rights in laws, based on a universal value approach and on the social responsibility of the various parties involved.

The project aims at improving women's rights in the current 15 personal status laws through organizing dialogues between different religious, political, legal, and civil society activists. The main objective of these dialogues is to avoid the polarization that exists within the different positions of these parties, to find common ground, and to encourage cooperation between them for the benefit of all. Therefore, this track seeks to develop recommendations that contribute to ending discrimination against women as well as to protect and promote their rights.



Foundation for Diversity, Solidarity And Human Dignity

adyan

مؤسسة للتنوع والتضامن والكرامة الإجتماعية

4.

## Adyan and Institutional Development

**During the past two years, Adyan Foundation remained steadfast in its mission, strategy, programs and plans, alongside its active role in civil society at the national, regional, and global levels.**

**This included upholding its core values of diversity, solidarity, and human dignity, especially in the midst of turmoil in Lebanon, the region, and the world.**

Furthermore, Adyan effectively transitioned to applying the slogan #distantly\_together all throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It also used its accounts on social media to raise awareness on the importance of implementing preventive measures, social distancing, and communal solidarity during these difficult times.

Between 2019 and 2020, Adyan Foundation worked with external experts to review and enhance its governance, management, and other related policies. The results of these consultations were later published in the organisation's employee handbook.

Another noteworthy change that took place in 2019 is when Adyan moved to its new headquarters in Sin El Fil. The new space secured a step towards growing professionalism, development, and influence, as more spaces became available to hold training sessions and to house the organisation's substantial library. Through moving into bigger offices, Adyan was also able to host its partner organisations, in the framework of services that the organisation provides for other CSOs.

On another hand, Adyan also updated its accounting system during the year 2020 to increase both transparency and professionalism in its communication with beneficiaries, donors, partners, and governmental institutions.

Moreover, the Monitoring & Evaluation Unit as well as the Public Relations Unit were merged into a new, independent department, known as the "Department for Development and International Relations". This was developed out of the organisation's conviction of the importance of monitoring and evaluation, which should be the basis for the development of any new project. This effort is also based on continuous project evaluations aiming at improving the quality of work and at better targeting projects that tackle the most pressing issues and reach beneficiaries that are most in need.

Thus, Adyan succeeded in attracting funding from ACT-Church of Sweden to develop its overall monitoring and evaluation system, empower its employees in this field, and establish a culture of MEAL as part of all programs and projects implemented by the foundation.

This high level of professionalism allowed Adyan to increase its credibility, professionalism, as well as regional and international presence at the level of public policy-making and intellectual and scientific discussions that were reflected in the high-level of publications that attracted significant influence and support.

### **Adyan Trainings: Ongoing Partnerships**

During 2019 and 2020, the Training Unit at the Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management at Adyan Foundation, in partnership with different organisations, continued the implementation of its programs that targeted different segments of the Lebanese and Arab communities.





# Trainers on Active and Inclusive Citizenship

Donor/Partner: Catholic Canadian Organisation for Development and Peace

Department: Training Unit – Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management

Project Manager/Coordinator: Adriana Bou Diwan

Duration: 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2020

Beneficiaries' Nationalities:



The project of Trainers on Active and Inclusive Citizenship is a follow-up to the Training of Trainers course previously implemented by Adyan. This second phase aims at developing the trainers' knowledge and skills as well as enhancing their training capacities on inclusive citizenship, Freedom of Religion and Belief, and all other related topics. The project also contributed to the finalization of accreditation details as all those who fully completed the training were given an accredited certificate from the Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management.

The ToT also enhanced the knowledge and skills of 78 trainers from 12 Arab countries in training on active and inclusive citizenship and Freedom of Religion and Belief to become change-makers in their own communities. It also contributed to the creation of a network of accredited trainers on the aforementioned topics in Arab countries and Arabic-speaking communities.

The project included a full training week in Lebanon, which focused on sessions related to Freedom of Religion and

Belief, transitional justice, and political change.

Quotes from some of the participants:

"Libya is a culturally-diverse country, and this is our strength. However, this strength sometimes becomes weakness. Trainings, such as the one provided by Adyan Foundation, are positive, and they contribute to breaking stereotypes while preserving individuality and enriching diversity."

"Jordan's diversity is evident. Through nurturing and developing training on inclusive citizenship, we were able to reach peripheral geographical areas and promote the notion of "living together" between different communities residing there.



## Adyan Hosts Students from Trinity College – Dublin

In partnership with the Irish Ecumenical School at Trinity College Dublin, the Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management at Adyan Foundation organized a two-week summer program during the first week of August 2019 for students of the Intercultural Theology and Interfaith Studies program. Training sessions included a glimpse of Lebanon's history, its diversity management system, the situation of refugees, as well as discussions on interfaith dialogue, the theology of diversity, and attempts at post-war reconciliation. Participants also met with key figures involved in the dialogue scene in Lebanon.



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## Adyan's International Presence and External Participations

During the past two years, Adyan had a prominent presence in 121 public policy meetings organized by the Vatican, United Nations official bodies, the European Union, the Muslim World League, the Arab Thought Forum, and many more.

Through these participations, the foundation continues to find itself on the map of some of the well-established networks and programs concerned with Freedom of Religion and Belief, inclusive citizenship, and education on living together.

## Adyan's Participation in the Roundtable on Religious Freedom - Washington

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Adyan participated in the roundtable discussion, organized by the U.S. Department of State, between July 16th and 18th, 2019. This meeting joined around 1000 personalities from around the world, including but not limited to political activists, civil society actors, international organisations, as well as religious and spiritual leaders. Participants raised the challenge of religious freedoms and examined different ways to secure the best means for all groups to practice their beliefs freely. In addition, Dr. Nayla Tabbara also spoke about women and religious freedom, while stressing on the need to develop personal status laws that are more in line with the values of justice and human dignity, advocated by both religious teachings and the charter for Human Rights.



## Adyan, the European Union, and the Symposium on Religion and Human Dignity



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In partnership with the Foundation of Religious Sciences in Bologna, the European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief, Jan Figel, Adyan Foundation organized a two-day symposium on June 15th at 16th, 2019 in Brussels. This meeting, which joined more than 50 academics, politicians, and religious leaders from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Northern Asia focused on the historical relationship between human dignity, religion, and other related topics.

In addition, the organisation had 31 academic participations in form of discussions, lectures, and meetings in different fora, universities, institutes and colleges in Lebanon, Jordan, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the United States. Such contributions mainly focused on issues related to diversity, pluralism, human dignity, Freedom of Religion and Belief, inclusive citizenship, and education on living together. Adyan also published a number of articles following such participations.

# Wilton Park Dialogues on Inclusive Citizenship

Duration: September 2018 – July 2021

Participating Countries: 

The partnership between Adyan's Rashad Center for Cultural Governance, Wilton Park (UK), and the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies (UAE) has resulted in the launch of a series of policy dialogues on Inclusive Citizenship.

Major local and international religious organisations, as well as leading experts from different religious and cultural backgrounds joined the dialogues in order to develop a vision of inclusive citizenship. They described it as a new paradigm, rooted in different religious traditions, aimed at promoting peace and living together in Arab countries and the world.

Over the course of six policy dialogue conferences, the 40 participants developed a common discourse in the form of a report, on the concept of inclusive citizenship and its most prominent elements. They also brought about a set of recommendations addressed to various stakeholders including political leaders, policy makers, as well as social and religious authorities across the region and the world.

## List of organisations involved in the dialogues:

The Anglican Commission for Interfaith Relations, the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue of the Holy See (Vatican), the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies (RIIFS), the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, the UNESCO Chair for interreligious dialogue studies in the Islamic world (Kufa University), Adyan Foundation for Diversity, Solidarity, and Human Dignity, Al-Irfan Organization for the Monotheistic Druze community, Kalam Research and Media, the Muslim Council of Elders, the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAIICID), Al Khoei Institute (Najaf), Muslim World League, KAIICID

Interreligious Platform and Co-operation in the Arab World.

In addition to representatives from partner institutions, the dialogues also included a number of experts:

Mr. André Azoulay, Senior Adviser to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco; Sheikh Usama Al-Sayyid Al-Azhari, Advisor to the President of Egypt on religious affairs; Lecturer at Al-Azhar University, Cairo; Archbishop Angelos, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London; Monsignor Khaled Akasheh, Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue of the Holy See (Vatican); MP Saeb Khidr, representative of the Yazidi community in the Iraqi Parliament; Dr Ali Rashid Al-Nuaimi, Chairman of Hedayah International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, Chairman of The World Council of Muslim Communities, United Arab Emirates; Dr. Fabio Petito, Director of Freedom of Religion or Belief and Foreign Policy Initiative, University of Sussex; H.E. Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis, Archbishop of the Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria Diocesan Bishop of Egypt.





### Impact and Outcomes:

The explicit and joint adoption of the concept of inclusive citizenship as a framework for promoting peace, living together, and the positive governance of diversity, by the most prominent religious institutions in the Middle East and the world and the establishment of a conceptual base and a common platform to continue the consolidation of this approach in practice.

### Outputs:

Wilton Park Dialogues' Report on Diversity Inclusive Citizenship

### Beneficiaries:

**Direct beneficiaries:** constituents reached by partner institutions

**Indirect beneficiaries:** All residents in the Middle East and the world who are targeted by the policy recommendations mentioned in the charter and their relevant implementation processes.

### Quotes

Shaykh Abdullah bin Bayyah president of the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies and Chair of the Fatwa Council of the United Arab Emirates considered that "this should be construed as a continuation of the Marrakesh Declaration, which will present a positive contribution to the promotion of peaceful coexistence in the world."

Dr Souraya Bechealany former Secretary General of the Middle East Council of Churches also commented on these dialogues and said, "This might help us overcome current challenges and past problems. It might also help us contribute to deepening Christian presence in the Arab World. Engaging in this dialogue process received the blessing of Pope Francis, with the hope that it will build on the Human Fraternity document that was signed in 2019."

Last but not least, Shaykh Muhammad bin Abdul al-Karim Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League stated, "This is a pivotal moment. We reiterate our support to the idea of the Charter of Inclusive Citizenship."

## Spiritual Solidarity Award 2019

Adyan Foundation presented the Spiritual Solidarity Award for the year 2019 to Mr. Mariwan Naqshbandi, researcher in coexistence and religious freedom and Director of Quality Assurance at the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs in Kurdistan's regional government. He received the award remotely due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this context, Mr. Naqshbandi said, "Solidarity and cooperation between different religious and national beliefs will be one of the most important reasons for the stability of our societies. Through my research on diversity, religious freedom, and social peace in Kurdistan and the Middle East in general, I have reached a conviction that spiritual solidarity is a source of strength for both individuals and societies alike. It will also be an encouraging motive to control many environmental disasters as well as economic and political conflicts."

He also pointed out that "peacefully coexisting societies that live the value of spiritual and humanitarian solidarity deal with cosmic and mundane changes more smoothly than spiritually-fractured societies do" adding that "proper planning, dialogue, and collaboration in Kurdistan allowed us to legislate laws related to human rights and active citizenship while transferring our experience of living together to other Iraqi regions and positively influencing our citizens."

It is important to note that the Spiritual Solidarity Award is presented annually and that it aims to encourage and honor those who dedicate themselves to developing and strengthening solidarity and unity between religiously-diverse people, especially in conflict areas.

### Activities:

#### Policy Dialogues:

November 2018 (United Arab Emirates)

March 2019 (United Kingdom)

November 2019 (United Arab Emirates)

June 2020 (online)

October 2020 (online)

June 2021 (online)



# Taadudiya Website

Donor/Partner: British Embassy in Lebanon

Department: Media

Project Manager/Coordinator: Roger Asfar

Taadudiya was still considered as one of the media department's main projects during 2019 and 2020. This website works to promote a culture of accepting the other and valuing diversity through a discourse that stimulates critical thinking, respect for freedoms, including Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion and Belief, as well as the dissemination of sound knowledge related to diverse cultural and spiritual heritage.

Opinion articles, published several times a week on the website, have constituted a constant since the launch of Taadudiya in February 2017. Writers from all over the Arab world and beyond include experts, specialists, academics, and activists. Within the multiplicity of topics presented, two main themes emerged during the past two years: women's rights and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dozens of articles tackling the aforementioned subjects have been published, in addition to others dealing with a plethora of different thematic areas.

Moreover, 11 new episodes of the "We Can Talk about Religion" web-series were produced during the past two years. The program's format and content were updated in order to achieve its desired goals and to respond to the opinion and comments shared by viewers in previous episodes. In the new seasons, experts tackled topics related to the environment, science, doubt, hate speech, fake news, feminism, art – and their relationship with religion.

In addition to written and audio-visual content, Taadudiya's calendar was also modified and published in a different version on a yearly basis. This calendar presents both the Gregorian and Hijri years and includes all holidays, feasts, and religious occasions. Last but not least, Adyan's team also planned to enrich the site's content through various projects in the coming period.



[www.taadudiya.com](http://www.taadudiya.com)

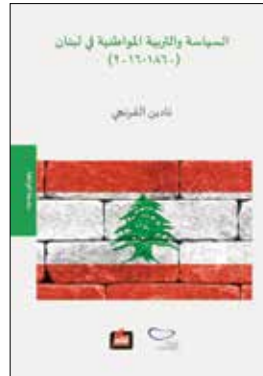


# Adyan's Publications

## Politics and Citizenship Education in Lebanon (1860-2016)

Nadine El-Franji

This book attempts to show how internal and external political events are reflected in educational trends, schools, curricula and books – all of which are considered as steppingstones in shaping the Lebanese citizen. It also presents regional and international conflicts, which, in turn contributed to influencing educational decisions.



Language: Arabic

Publisher: Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management at Adyan Foundation & Dar Al-Farabi

## Islamic Social Responsibility for Citizenship and Coexistence

A Companion

As part of the “citizenship” book series, this companion was issued within the framework of the “Religious Social Responsibility for Citizenship and Coexistence” project, in partnership with Danmission, with the support of the Danish-Arab partnership, and under the supervision of Dr. Nayla Tabbara.

This book aims to harmonize religious discourse with contemporary public life values, as such principles transcend the private or communitarian sphere and affect humanity as a whole. We hope that it will be a useful tool not only for thinkers and researchers in religious affairs, but also for those involved in Islamic higher education.



Language: Arabic

Publisher: Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management at Adyan Foundation & Dar Al-Farabi

## Figures of Engaged Faith

This booklet seeks to introduce a group of 12 influential Christian and Muslim role models through presenting their biographies, highlighting their experiences and contributions to the common good, and presenting how they played a prominent role in the development of their societies. Their missions and projects covered a variety of fields from economic development, to raising awareness, achieving equality and social justice, in addition to helping people in need. Despite the fact that these human symbols are religiously diverse, they all worked for the human first as a way to express their faith.



Language: Arabic

Publisher: Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management at Adyan Foundation in partnership with Danmission

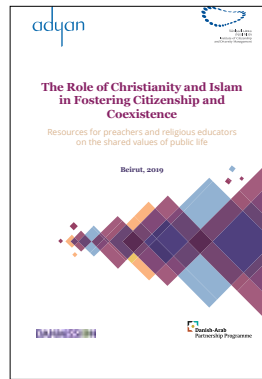


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## The Role of Christianity and Islam in Fostering Citizenship and Coexistence

Following the Arabic version, the guidebook on the role of Christianity and Islam in Fostering Citizenship and Coexistence was published in English. It provides a comprehensive background that guides the preparation of sermons and religious courses for kids and young people based on eight public life values: acceptance of the other, justice, respect of laws and covenants, human dignity, common good, solidarity, honesty and trustworthiness, as well as forgiveness.

This guide was drafted in cooperation with the main religious institutions in Lebanon: Dar Al-Fatwa Al-Islamiya, the Supreme Islamic Shia Council, the Druze Council, the Middle East Council of Churches, which bring together all of the Christian denominations in Lebanon, in partnership with DanMission, and with the support of the Danish-Arab partnership.



Language: English  
Publisher: Adyan Foundation

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## Lebanon, the Living History (1920 – 2020)

The publication of this booklet accompanied the centenary of the declaration of Greater Lebanon. It celebrated 100 years of people living together; people who chose Lebanon as their final home, as stated in the National Accord Document (Taif Agreement).

This booklet, in the form of a photo album, contains a selection of events that took place between 1920 and 2020. They represent what Lebanese men and women have passed through – both achievements and tragedies as well as lessons learnt from them.

These diverse political, social, economic, literary, artistic, and sports-related occasions form the common memory of the Lebanese and present an incentive for them to work together for a better future.

This booklet can also be used as a teaching tool in schools.

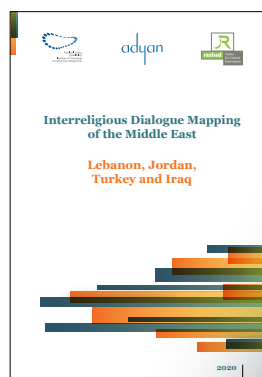


Language: Arabic, English, and French  
Publisher: Adyan Foundation

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## Interreligious Dialogue Mapping of the Middle East Report (Lebanon – Jordan – Turkey – Iraq)

This report evaluates contemporary interreligious dialogue activities in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. In order to do so, it introduces a theoretical framework for analyzing interreligious dialogue activities in the Middle East and presents a cross-national analysis of contemporary dialogue trends and challenges. The report profiles the major dialogue initiatives active in each country and provides resources to learn more about them.



Language: Arabic and English  
Publisher: Research study carried out by the Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management & Rashad Center for Cultural Governance at Adyan Foundation

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## Report on the Situation of Christian Minorities in Iraq

This study aims to depict a clear picture of the situation of Christians in Iraq today, their view of themselves and their situation, and their vision and future outlook. The study was based on a multi-faceted methodology with the aim of including precise conclusions and the most comprehensive picture of the reality, in order to extract priorities and appropriate practical suggestions based on an accurate reading of this reality.



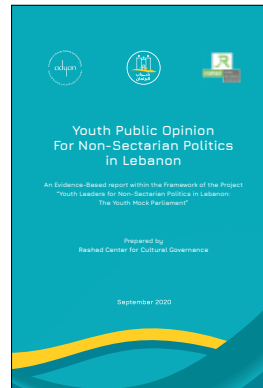
Language: Arabic and English

Publisher: Rashad Center for Cultural Governance at Adyan Foundation

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## Report on Youth Public Opinion for Non-Sectarian Politics in Lebanon

This field report is a result of two studies that were completed during the first year of the project “Youth Leaders for Non-Sectarian Politics in Lebanon: Youth Mock Parliament.” Following that, the foundation, in partnership with Peace Labs, held a number of national dialogue fora between March and July 2020. These fora included young men and women from different Lebanese regions and communities and provided them with the opportunity to express freely their views on sectarianism, politics, and a number of other issues that they deemed controversial and important. As a result, a report summarizing the youths’ most prominent contributions during their participation was also produced.



Language: Arabic and English

Publisher: Rashad Center for Cultural Governance at Adyan Foundation

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## Education on Religious Diversity for Third and Fourth-Graders – A Guidebook

The department of Education on Citizenship and Living Together at the Institute of Citizenship and Diversity Management at Adyan Foundation developed a guide on religious diversity for third and fourth grade teachers.

The content is divided into 24 lessons focusing on three main themes: world religions, solidarity, and the value of diversity so that students would be able to deal with religious diversity in a positive manner, while reconciling between their individual beliefs and their openness to others in addition to rejecting any kind of discrimination based on differences.



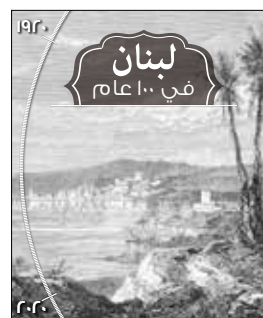
Language: Arabic

Publisher: Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management at Adyan Foundation

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## Lebanon in 100 years – A Guidebook

The Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management at Adyan Foundation prepared this guide on the occasion of the first centenary of the declaration of Greater Lebanon in September 2020. Its aim was to enhance awareness among the younger generation about the common national path that the Lebanese experienced during this stage and to shed light on the most prominent national events and touristic places, which constitute common spaces in people’s collective memories.



Language: Arabic

Publisher: Institute for Citizenship and Diversity Management at Adyan Foundation

## A Guide to Addressing Religious Issues in Traditional and Social Media Away from Hate Speech

This guide was developed within the framework of the initiatives launched by members of the Forum for Religious Social Responsibility at Adyan Foundation. The Forum offers a platform that allows activists in the religious field to meet and develop meaningful initiatives that serve society and promote living together under the umbrella of inclusive citizenship.

This guide aims to promote addressing religious issues in traditional and social media away from hate speech, by defining this speech based on international instruments and agreements and local policies, discussing the problematics associated with religious discourse in the Lebanese media, and presenting the moral and legal frameworks to confront hate speech. In addition to media figures working in the religious field, this guide can benefit all activists in media, the religious public spheres, and even all citizens, since everyone today shares this responsibility because of their presence on social media.



Language: Arabic

Publisher: Adyan in partnership with Maharat

## A Report Analyzing Issues of Violence and Gender in 7th, 8th, and 9th Grade Curricula and Books in Lebanon

A team of researchers studied Civic Education curricula and books for grades 7, 8 and 9, which were issued in 1997, to explore how these sources approached two locally and internationally important topics: gender (including equality between men and women) and violence in all its forms. Since the Center for Educational Research and Development has developed a new curriculum for the subject at hand – with no relevant books so far – experts found it beneficial to conduct this comparison, in an attempt to determine the extent to which it adopts topics related to gender and violence in relation to the one developed in 1997.



Language: Arabic

Publisher: Adyan Foundation in partnership with the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO

## Polling the Lebanese Youth on Politics and Sectarianism

This survey aims to deepen the understanding of the youth about pluralism in Lebanon, religious and national identities, concerns and visions related about Lebanon, and their role in building it, in the perspective of the 2022 Parliamentarian elections.

The poll was conducted by Information International between November 29- December 14, 2019, with a sample of 1,800 Lebanese aged 18-35 years, distributed proportionally over the Lebanese districts based on the number of registered voters.



Language: Arabic

Publisher: Rashad Center for Cultural Governance at Adyan Foundation



# International Women's day

As usual, Adyan took part in global campaigns during the International Women's Day on social media to reaffirm its support for justice and gender equality. Adyan's team participated by taking pictures that embody the chosen slogan of the year (#EachforEqual). The photographs were then published on the organisation's official accounts on social media.



# Adyan's Family



**Caroline Thomas**  
Director of Development  
and International Relations



**Dr. Nayla Tabbara**  
Director of The Institute of Citizenship  
and Diversity Management



**Professor Fadi Daou**  
Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer



**Rita Moukarzel**  
Accountant



**Bernard Merheb**  
Administrative Manager



**Dalia Mokdad**  
Communications Manager



**Zainab Chamoun**  
Development and International  
Relations Coordinator



**Christina Boutros**  
Digital Media Coordinator



**Chafik Mneimneh**  
Financial Manager



**Anna Maria Daou**  
Community Engagement Coordinator



**Elizabeth Karam**  
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**Abdo Saad**  
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**Mayssam Imad**  
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**Talal Zeidan**  
Program Manager



**Adriana Bou Diwan**  
Training Manager



**Ahmed Nagi**  
Project Coordinator



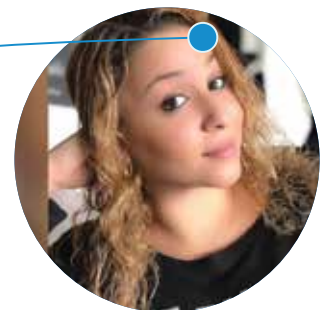
**Zainab Mansour**  
Office Services



**Amin Saroufim**  
Driver and Administrative Assistant



**Roger Asfar**  
Researcher and Editor



**Zeina Abou Cham**  
Protocol Coordinator



# Adyan Welcomes its New Executive Director

At the end of the year 2020, Dr. Elie El-Hindy was appointed as the new Executive Director of Adyan Foundation. Dr. El-Hindy is a lecturer in political science and international relations, specialized in human rights, pluralistic governance, and citizenship. He has also been an activist and trainer in Lebanon and the Arab World for more than 20 years.

## I am all Yours

With great pleasure, I assumed my duties as Executive Director at Adyan Foundation for the next three years. I am also honored that the founders considered me worthy enough to entrust me with this role, knowing how dear this organisation is to them all.

For me, Adyan is an example of what civil society should look like as it answers my constant aspiration to harmonize my spiritual beliefs with public affairs.

After more than twenty years of activism, I am confident that my responsibility at Adyan will be an opportunity to put all what I have learnt into practice.

I also look forward to learning from people who work for Adyan – both internally and externally. In addition, I am confident that Adyan's founders, Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, and staff will work together to continue achieving the organisation's goals and changing the lives of many.

In these difficult times that Lebanon and the region are passing through, I see it as a beautiful challenge to highlight the role that religions can play in influencing – even if partially – the future of individuals and communities, in Lebanon and other neighboring countries.

In this report, we will share some of what has been achieved during 2019 and 2020, which were exceptional in terms of challenges, uncertainties, as well as opportunities to celebrate diversity, solidarity, and human dignity.



“I am all yours”. I reiterate this phrase that was first shared by His Holiness the late Pope John Paul II (referring to his dedication to the Virgin Mary) as we march in our mission to sanctify the world, one good deed after the other, while praying that God's will is fulfilled within our institution and our lives.

**Dr. Elie El-Hindy**  
Executive Director – Adyan Foundation

# Adyan Elects its New Board of Directors and Expands its Field of Work

In 2019, due to the deteriorating economic situation in Lebanon, Adyan management amended its mission and objectives. In addition to the organisation's work on:

- Valuing cultural and religious diversity in both its theoretical and practical dimensions;
- Promoting citizenship and living together as well as managing pluralism among individuals and groups on the social, political, educational, media, and spiritual levels,

It added a third goal:

- Providing support for marginalized groups and relief for the afflicted in addition to working on achieving social and transitional justice as well as human and environmental development in a comprehensive and sustainable manner.

In early 2021, Adyan's General Assembly held a virtual meeting, during which the new Board of Directors was elected. We mention the newly elected members below:



- Dr. Nayla Tabbara; president
- Mr. Wissam Nahhas, vice-president
- Ms. Tanya Awad Ghorra; secretary & accountability officer
- Father Agapios Kfoury; treasurer
- Dr. Bader El-Seif; board member

## Fadi Daou

Following the new board elections, former president Father Fadi Daou said:

**It is a moment full of joy and confidence to hand over Adyan's leadership to Dr. Nayla Tabbara, my companion since Adyan's inception more than 14 years ago. I extend wishes of success and happiness to her and to all new board members.**

He added:

**Adyan was founded in the midst of war to remain an instrument of reviving hope, building peace, and fostering solidarity. Through Dr. Tabbara's leadership, and the collaboration between Adyan's board, team, and partners the organisation will continue facing these challenges in the most creative and constructive ways. I will also have the privilege of serving this Foundation as a senior expert and advisor, as well as through my role in the Board of Trustees.**

Last but not least, he also mentioned that Dr. Nayla Tabbara is a founding member at Adyan Foundation and co-president of Religions for Peace, in addition to being a professor in Religious and Islamic Sciences. She holds a PhD in Religious Sciences from Sorbonne's Graduate School in Paris and Saint Joseph University in Lebanon. Moreover, she is an expert, author, lecturer, and trainer, specialized in Islamic theology of diversity, education on religious pluralism, interreligious and intercultural relations, Sufism, and Islamic feminism. She has won several international awards and accolades.

The new board:

**thanks all of its friends, partners, and donors for their support and collaboration over the years and assures them of its commitment to continue the journey of change with them.**

# Let's Make an Effort, Together!

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Since its inception, Adyan has been working on what it considers as three fundamental values: diversity, solidarity, and human dignity. During the first years, our focus was on mutual understanding and on changing mentalities, to realize later that we need to complement this with an effort to change policies into ones that promote and foster inclusive citizenship and freedom of religion and belief. Recently, and with the growing need for social solidarity, we have decided to add this dimension to our ongoing work.

It is my honor to serve, with the new elected board, our ever-growing mission of facing new challenges and dealing with emerging needs on an inclusive foundation of human rights and the belief that all effort done in good faith does make a difference in our world, especially if we share this effort together.

**Dr. Nayla Tabbara**  
Adyan President



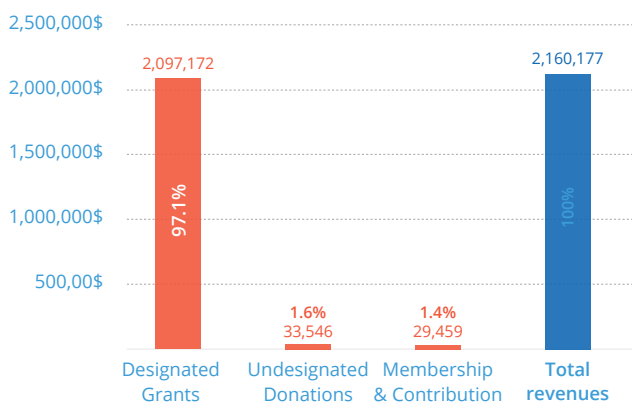


# Financial Report

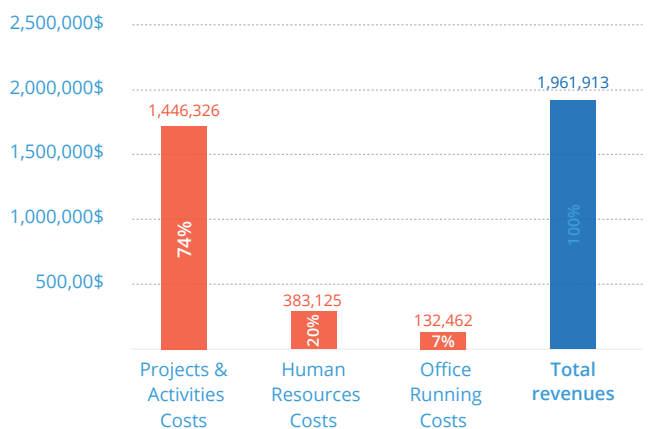
## 2019 - 2020

Both efficiency and transparency guide our work at Adyan Foundation. We are also fully aware of the importance of every donation; this is why we always strive to make the best use of it. Therefore, we would like to thank every individual, governmental institutions and non-governmental organisations who contributed to securing the necessary resources to achieve our mission during 2019 - 2020. You can find some detailed numbers below:

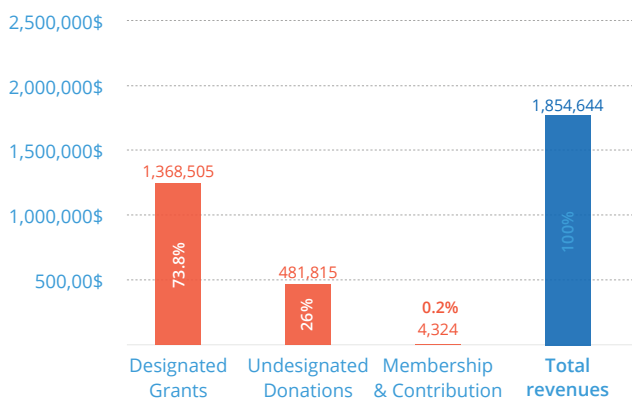
Revenues 2019 in USD



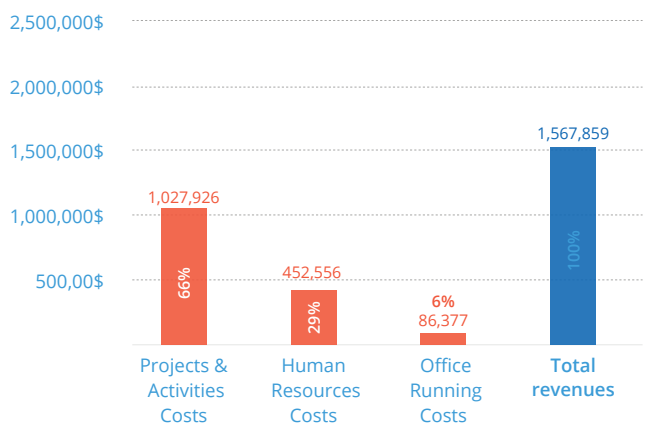
Expenses 2019 in USD



Revenues 2020 in USD



Expenses 2020 in USD



# International Donors

Thank you to all the donors who contributed in financing our programs during these 2 years



British Embassy  
Beirut



Wilton Park



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



Church of Sweden







# #مع\_بعض\_عن\_بعد

Adyan: Foundation for Diversity, Solidarity, and Human Dignity

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