



WIT Lebanon Women Engage in Local Politics



Men have long dominated the political arena in Lebanon. However, over the last few years a growing number of women are taking up the call to engage in politics. The desire to help shape Lebanon's future, coupled with an eagerness to bring women's voices to political platforms, has led to an increasing number of female candidates in nation-wide elections. Throughout Lebanon, WIT participants are engaging in local politics and assuming local leadership roles.

Ms. Dunia Khoury, a WIT alumna and well known leader in her village of Deir El Amar, ran for town council. Ms. Khoury actively supports women's participation in politics and encourages them to take key leadership roles in their communities through WIT's partner, the Women's Association of Deir El Ahmar.

At 62, WIT graduate Ms. Najla Abu Hamze, and political change maker was the sole female representative on the local governing body. She was up for reelection this year, opting to run as an independent rather than side with a political party. She campaigned to advance women's rights and improve environmental efforts. Najla's campaign was spearheaded by WIT's local partner, the Abadie Scout Center.

Prior to election season, Ms. Khoury and Abu Hamze attended the "Women and Municipalities" training, organized by WIT's partner YWCA and funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), to gain the skills necessary for campaigning. Ms. Khoury and Abu Hamze motivate more and more women in Lebanon to step up and make their voices heard.

[View YouTube video on "Women and Municipalities" event](#)

[View photos of "Women and Municipalities" event](#)

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Women in Technology (WIT) for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) of the U.S. Department of State, managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) West Coast Center, and implemented in six countries: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen in collaboration with local partners and Microsoft.

For more information on the WIT program, please visit www.witmena.org or contact witmena@iie.org