The Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World at the Lebanese American University

The Lebanese American University founded the Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) in 1973. The history of the Institute is closely linked to that of the first women’s college in the Middle East, the American Junior College for Women, which was established in 1924 by the Presbyterian Mission. The College, which educated Middle Eastern women for half a century, became co-educal in 1973. In order to honor the college’s unique heritage as the first educational institution for women in the region, the Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World was established that same year.

**Mission**
- Engage in academic research on women in the Arab world.
- Develop and integrate women’s studies in the Lebanese American University curriculum.
- Empower women in the Arab world through development programs and education.
- Serve as a catalyst for policy changes regarding the rights of women in the Arab world.
- Facilitate networking and communication among individuals, groups, and institutions concerned with women in the Arab world.
- Extend ties with international organizations and universities working on gender issues.

**IWSAW**

IWSAW issues a quarterly journal, *Al-Raida*, whose mission is to promote research and the dissemination of updated information regarding the condition of women in the Arab world. Each issue of *Al-Raida* features a file which focuses on a particular theme, in addition to articles, conference reports, interviews, book reviews, and art news.

All submitted articles are reviewed by IWSAW. IWSAW reserves the right to accept or reject the articles submitted. Those articles that are accepted will be edited according to journal standards.

For more details about our submission guidelines kindly visit our website at: http://iwsaw.lau.edu.lb

**Cover Painting:** “Midnight Prayers” by Helen Zughaib, gouache and ink on board, 2006. President Obama presented this painting to the Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri al-Maliki, as the official gift at the White House.