



مؤسسة المفكرة القانونية

International Alert.

PRESS RELEASE

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International Alert, FRAME and Legal Agenda launch innovative programme to establish a citizen consultation mechanism in Lebanon.

International Alert, in partnership with FRAME and Legal Agenda, has launched a twenty-two month programme in Lebanon titled 'A Citizen Consultation Mechanism'.

Funded by the European Union, this initiative encourages the participation of Lebanese citizens in their country's policy-making process.

"Consulting citizens for policy-making is crucial for developing representative and sound public policies", commented International Alert's Lebanon Country Manager Victoria Stamadianou. "Our programme", continued Stamadianou, "seeks to do exactly that: asking Lebanese citizens across the country about the issues they face in their communities, and which need to be prioritised at the national level and dealt with to ensure better living conditions for the people of Lebanon".

The programme provides a unique platform for a diverse group of individuals across Lebanon allowing them to come together, engage in discussions and voice their views on what the priority issues that need to be dealt with by policy-makers are. This ultimately aims at improving the daily lives of millions of Lebanese people.

"Citizen engagement fosters a much needed two-way dialogue between citizens and governments. When more citizens are brought into the decision-making process, governments are made more responsive and accountable", Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon, stressed.

The programme will focus on gathering and presenting Lebanese citizens' priorities, through qualitative research, legal briefings, and public discussions at the local, regional and national level. Twenty-four district-level discussions, involving about 500 people across the country, will be held to identify common regional and national priorities. The findings will be validated through six provincial-level discussions, involving participants from each district meeting. The identified citizens' priorities will then be presented to national policy-makers, media, civil society and experts during a series of discussions held in Parliament, with the support of the Lebanese Parliamentary Administration and the Arab Institute for Parliamentary Training and Legislative Studies.

The entire process will be documented with voice recordings, photos, and video footage to ensure full transparency.

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Details of spokespeople available for interviews on request.

EDITOR'S NOTES

The project started in July 2014 and will run until January 2016. The project is implemented by International Alert (www.international-alert.org), FRAME (www.facebook.com/FrameBeirut) and Legal Agenda (www.legal-agenda.com), and is funded by the European Union.

About International Alert

International Alert is one of the world's leading peacebuilding organisations. We help people find peaceful solutions to conflict and have nearly 30 years of experience working in over 25 countries around the world to build peace.

We have been working in/on dialogue among political youth, security sector reform, conflict sensitisation of aid provision and state–citizen relations in Lebanon since 2009. Find out more at www.international-alert.org

About FRAME

FRAME is a Beirut based non-governmental organizations with two streams:

- Citizen mobilisation in collective documentation projects that use creative mediums to engage with their neighbourhoods and the city at large. The first project under this stream is the Beirut Photo Marathon (ongoing).
- Social research and analysis focusing on governance, citizen participation, power dynamics, and security and peace issues. Developing training and dialogue programmes to ensure citizen and civil society voices reach decision-makers.

About Legal Agenda

The Legal Agenda is a Beirut-based non-governmental organisation that addresses issues of legal activism, reform, and transformation in the context of social and political change in the Arab world

By monitoring legal developments and public policy in Lebanon and the rest of the Arab world, we aim to eliminate this ideological barrier between law and society. We hope to turn legal activism from an abusive tool of authority into an emancipatory one for disadvantaged groups including women, labourers, refugees, and LGBT.

For more information, find out more at: www.legal-agenda.com, info@legal-agenda.com or 00961 (0)1383606.