



GAWBL-Summit 2018

German-Arab Women Business Leaders

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H.E. Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani

Founder Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum
Fellow, Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative 2017

Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani is the Founder Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum, and is well known in international government and business circles as a high-impact change agent focusing on leadership in cultural and gender issues. A development economist and graduate of the American University of Beirut and Oxford University, she brings a wide range of skills and experience to her personal mission of encouraging greater cultural understanding between Arab and international communities, supporting a strong role for women in that process.

Mrs Al Kaylani holds senior roles in several cultural, commercial and educational UK and international organisations. These include: Board Member, The Women's Leadership Board at Harvard Kennedy School; Advisory Board Member, The Middle East Institute, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; Board Director, EastWest Institute; Board Member, The Arab British Chamber of Commerce in London. In August 2017, Haifa was invited to join the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work, as the only Commissioner from the Arab world to contribute to this timely and valuable Centenary Initiative to realise the vision of a future working world that empowers young people to progress and prosper, which is – in her view – vital to global security. Mrs Al Kaylani also served on The Commission on Global Security, Justice & Governance, became the first Honorary Member of the Euro Mediterranean Association for Cooperation and Development (2012) and serves as a Freeman of the City of London.

In January 2017, Haifa Al Kaylani was invited to become a Fellow of the Advanced Leadership Initiative at Harvard University to join 45 global leaders selected for an intensive, multidisciplinary program and yearlong Fellowship to research and address significant social problems. While at Harvard, Haifa was able to pursue her keen interest as a development economist in Food, Water, Energy and Security challenges which are of great concern to many developing regions in the world and in particular to the Arab world, and in 2018 is launching a groundbreaking project in Amman, Jordan that provides an innovative model for sustainable development through agriculture in the MENA.

Haifa Al Kaylani has received numerous awards in the UK, the Arab world and internationally. In July 2017, she was featured in Forbes Middle East's LeaderBoard: Standing Out list of High Achievers and commended for her leadership of AIWF. In February 2018, Haifa Al Kaylani was included in the Muslim 100 Parliamentary Review and in March, she was honoured by the American University of Beirut and named amongst the leading women alumni recognised and featured in the book For All Conditions of Men: Stories of Women at AUB.