

Dr. Ogarit Younan



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AUNOHR (Academic University for Non-violence and Human Rights) Founder and President of the Board of Trustees, Lebanon

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A leading intellectual, human rights advocate and pioneer of the non-violent education in Lebanon and the Arab world. Founder of the "Academic University for Non-violence and Human Rights -AUNOHR", the first of its kind in Lebanon and in the Arab region, and a unique experience at the international level.

She is a researcher and writer. International expert trainer and innovator of her 'own' methodology in training, developing tens of methods with some of which translated to English and French. Studying and specializing in Sociology and Education Sciences (The Lebanese University, and The Sorbonne - Paris).

She started her civil activity, soon at school. From the very beginning, in her prime days, she understood that the struggle by 'words' must be the path. In 1976, at the outset of the Lebanese war, she published her first article against violence and sectarianism, published in one of the major local newspapers, which made a prominent personality visit her and invited her to be one of the founders of a large peace and secular current. She was the youngest member...

In 1982, she met Walid Slaybi (nonviolent thinker and civil strategist), in the wake of the Lebanese war, and embarked on a joint journey of life and struggle, as partners seeking to build their dream day by day under exceptional circumstances. They decided to begin 'against the grain' and insisted on moving around across the country facing the dangers of death on several occasions...

Their initiative was called: "A new and avant-garde vision." And they came to be known as pioneers in the renewal of civil society in Lebanon for the past three decades (since the mid-eighties).

On 2005, they were awarded (Younan & Slaybi), by the French Republic Human Rights Prix, for their pioneering struggle to the abolition of the death penalty.

Younan is known to be the first to have integrated the culture of non-violence and the conflict resolution in the official curricula in Lebanon.

She has more than 20 titles of researches and publications, in education, political socialization, the teachers' rights, the history schoolbooks, the personal status, the death penalty, the sectarian laws, the women' empowerment, the culture of non-violence... In addition to pioneer manuals and training guides, articles, lectures, and poems.



Her first book "How can be raised on sectarianism", and its complementary book on "How can avoid being raised on sectarianism", both translated to English, were unique in kind and had a deep impact on more than generation with academic implementation.

On 2005-2006, she wrote 61 short stories for women, especially semi-illiterate women in Lebanon and for the Arab countries, attached to a manual training aiming to empower them on courageous issues such as love, self-confidence, equal citizenship, and the 're-thinking' of traditional concepts. Ogarit Younan sees herself in a permanent activity, teaching, struggling and learning at the same time, to love and work day by day...