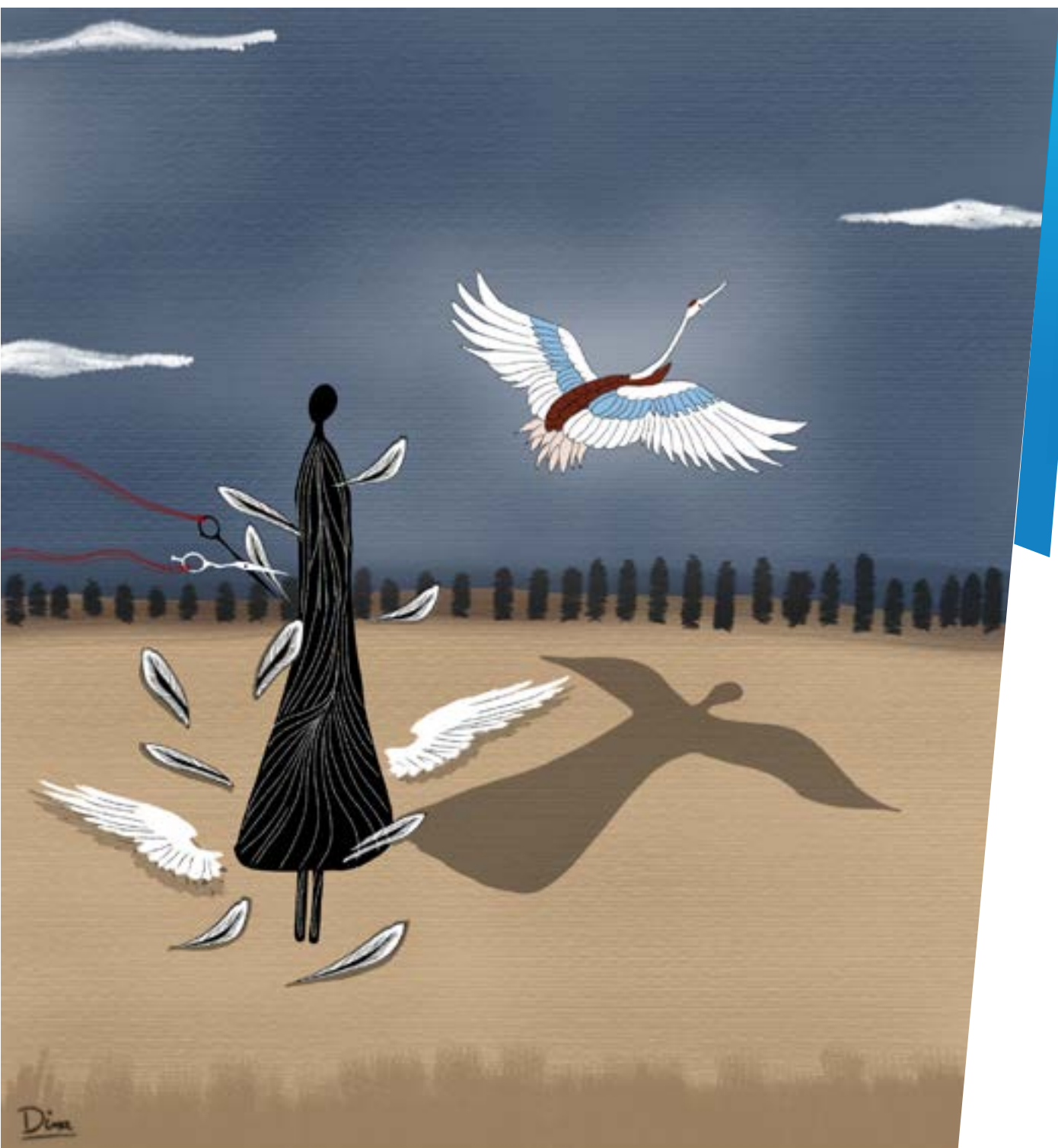


أخبارنا

ثقافية - إخبارية - متنوعة

facebook.com/WSU.SYRIA



She refused to have an abortion, so her husband divorced her

«The thing that broke my heart the most was that he deprived me from my children and expelled me from the house where I've made a lot of effort to establish for nine years.»

She can never forget her husband's mistreatment and harshness, nor does she forget how he tried to force her to have an abortion when was 2 months pregnant. She didn't listen to him because she wanted to keep her baby, so he threatened to divorce her. He expelled her to her family's home, deprived her from seeing her two sons, Ahmad and Mustafa, and got married to another woman.

Asmaa (an alias), a Syrian woman in her thirties, still remembers the details of her divorce experience after she made up her mind to protect herself from the physical and verbal abuse practiced by her husband against her.

«He left scars all over my body. Yelling at me, slapping me, and beating me, those were the only ways he knew when dealing with me as a wife». She told us her story, and said that she tolerated all his mistreatment only for the sake of her children.

Asmaa used to work in a beauty salon before she got married and even after marriage. She said: «At first, I took responsibility of providing all requirements for our house because my husband was jobless. Then, I found myself forced to pay every penny I owned for the things we needed or I would be beaten black and blue.»

She spent the rest of her pregnancy months in her family's home, mourning the loss of her two sons and determining to keep her unborn baby. The hard times she had, never made her give up, and she finally gave birth to a beautiful Babyboy, Omar.

Asmaa's husband agreed on divorcing her only after she waived all her dowry rights as well as the furniture and home appliances she bought for the house with the money she earned from her job.

She had to give up
h o w

everything in order to gain custody of her three children. This was she put an end to her physical and psychological sufferings, to start a new journey of struggle to make a living and support her family. Some charities helped her rent a small humble house, where she started working again as a hairdresser.

Asmaa today is much happier than she was in the past, and she devotes all her life to her children. She said: «I pray for prejudice and gender-based violence to be eliminated from the world. I also pray for women to be treated properly and gently».

Written by: Ghina Mustafa



Ara.Com

Do you think that the violence directed against women through social networking sites is the best way for change?

This was the question we asked on our Facebook page to learn about views of the society.

Points of views on changing actions and reaction of the society usually vary. Some people believe that direct attack through the internet can weaken and discourage women or act as a deterrent to prevent them from pursuing their activities, but challenges make an integral part of a successful process.

Some women deal with the attacks aimed against them as a positive motif that pushes them forward.

The followings are some of the responses we received:

«Attacking and assaulting women can never be a tool towards positive change. If a change is made, it would definitely be to the worse».

Abeer



«All women are change makers even those who stay at home to raise up their children. When children grow up, they realizes the importance of the role played women, who act as mothers, teachers, and doctors, all simultaneously».

Laila



«People attack all the things that go against their will or belief, which is wrong of course. A big mistake is made when the attack is aimed against innocent and straight women, who seek to achieve their goals, yet a bigger mistake is made when these women give up on their goals, the thing that makes the attackers believe they are right. I believe that if what I do causes harm to nobody or to the society, then I should never stop no matter how many people attack me. Listening to others make us achieve no success or goals».

Abeer



// 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Why?

Violence against women is a global phenomenon, and violence rates and negative impacts on women increase as a result of conflicts, wars and security instability.

The UN General Assembly defines violence against women as «any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary

deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life». Violence against women in masculine societies varies to the extent of discrimination, denial of their role and denial of access to their basic needs such as food and medicine. One of the reasons why some women and girls don't report the violence acts practiced against them once they claim their rights, is due to a greater fear of experiencing more severe violence by their families. Debates about gender equality and violence against women grows with the launch of the 16-day anti-violence activism every year. Some societies consider equality to be an alien Western idea that don't resemble the cultural heritage of conservative societies, and that it's aimed at destroying and dismantling family values.



However, the efforts of local organizations, advocacy campaigns and the participation of many community groups to fight violence of all forms, have contributed to raising community awareness on the potential dangers of violence on the society and the importance of rejecting it, in addition to highlighting the fundamental role of women in social, economic and political development.

Violence against women can't be eliminated unless we believe the stories told by the female survivors from violence, help them have access to basic protection services, and ensure cooperation between law institutions, governments and human rights activists to enact strict laws that prohibit all forms of violence, ensure women's rights, contribute to the construction of just and violence-free societies, and help bring-up an intellectually-advanced generation.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign initiated by the UN in 1991 to challenge all forms of violence against women and girls all around the world. The campaign runs every year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

The color of the campaign is orange, which was chosen by the UN as an expression of hope for a bright future free of violence.

In the opinion column of our paper, we publish articles that reflects views of authors who wrote them and necessarily views of Women Support Unit.

«Participation» Women Empowerment Project



«Participation» is a project launched by al-Bab women sub-committee of Women Support Unit, as a continuation of its previous project «Your Fingerprint Has an Impact».

The idea of the project was inspired by the dare need of having Syrian women in leadership positions, increasing their participation in the society, developing tools and building communication channels between women and male and female actors and community leaders.

With the aim of meeting the previous goals, al-Bab women sub-committee held two dialog sessions with a number of the local and IDP Syrian women living in the city and are members of voluntary teams. Online participants from outside Syria were Syrian activists from the «Political Platform», which works on women empowerment and development.

The sessions also hosted some women from Musawa/Women studies center, which is an organization concerned with raising awareness on women issues,

rights, empowerment and increasing women's participation in all aspects of life. 37 women participated in both of the sessions, including 5 online participants. Talks took place about different topics, the most prominent of which were: the challenges and obstructers that stand against women in the region and the guaranteeing actions that can be taken to ensure women's political participation in the decision making process.

The participants shared their experiences in terms of the challenges they faced at both social and political levels, and they discussed the barriers between the Syrian women inside Syria and those outside Syria. They stressed the idea that all women are distinguished and that each woman has a unique role to play in the society.

The participants also discussed the necessary mechanisms for promoting the importance of women's participation and activating their role as peacemakers, and they raised some relevant recommendations after watching a video on women advocacy.



Women Sub-committees News

Al-Bab

Al-Bab women sub-committee held many sessions and trainings, the most important of which were:

A meeting with the Media Union in the region.

A meeting with al-Bab Local Council.

A meeting with the Directorate of Social Affairs and Services.

A session on developing women advocacy tools.

A training on social dialog.

72

beneficiary

Qabbasin

Qabbasin women sub-committee held many dialog sessions, the most important of which were:

Communication Skills.

Time Management.

Dialog Skills.

Sympathy Skills.

Self-assertion.

The sessions targeted 120 women.

120

beneficiary



WSU has access to 12 cities in rural northern and eastern Aleppo

Empowerment, training, participation, networking.

A local, non-profit civil society organization for women's affairs, launched in 2018 through a conference attended by more than 150 women in rural northern and eastern Aleppo from Afrin to reaching to Jarablus.

Empower and support women to participate effectively in public life.

A healthy society with empowered women who contribute to building society and meeting challenges in partnership with men.

The Unit targets women who have difficulty playing their role optimally in society. It also seeks to empower women politically, economically, culturally and socially in the northern and eastern countryside of Aleppo.



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The geographical zone of the WSU's work: northern and eastern countryside of Aleppo