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Culturei - News - Society

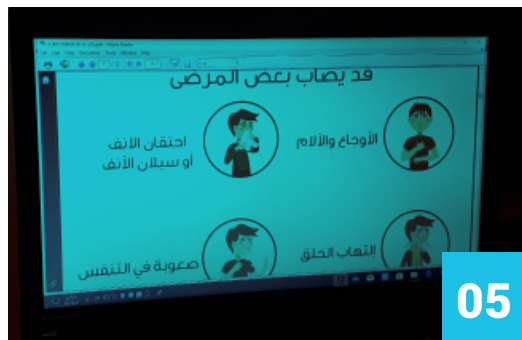
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A monthly bulletin issued by the Women Support Unit which is specialized in the public affairs of women in the liberated area in North of Syria.



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Introductory Paragraph

While the world is preoccupied with how to deal with the repercussions of the complex crises caused by the new Coronavirus (COVID_19) everyone in society had to have a primary role and a way to cope with it.

Diseases and epidemics do not distinguish between male and female, just as nature has never differentiated between them except from an anatomical point of view. Both the woman and the man have a role for which she/he was created and has mission/message that she/he must fulfil. The role of women was not limited to the task of procreation and raising up children, but rather, she is Adam's partner, complementing him, cooperating with him to overcome all difficulties.

The woman is the basic block in society, half of society and raising the other half, the mother who gives birth and raises, the sister who helps and gives, the wife who participates and supports.

In this context, she had a distinctive role in facing the spread of coronavirus, and she had to make an additional effort to educate the community to prevent it. So whether she is at home as a mother who is

raising her children or outside the home as a teacher who teaches her students or a doctor takes care of her patients - she is the mentor and has the primary role in influencing society through prevention and food, which are the two main keys to avoid the possibility of infection.

So she had to follow the preventive instructions; washing and sterilizing hands, sterilizing the house (floors, doors, and walls) constantly and educating her family members about that, following a diet rich with foods that raise immunity and increase the body's resistance to diseases and her commitment with her family to quarantine instructions - reducing large gatherings and providing them (her family) with amenities because it has an essential role in protecting them from this epidemic.

Greetings and esteem for those candles (women) who have never been stingy and will not hold back from her dedication to defending her family and promoting the society and its development.



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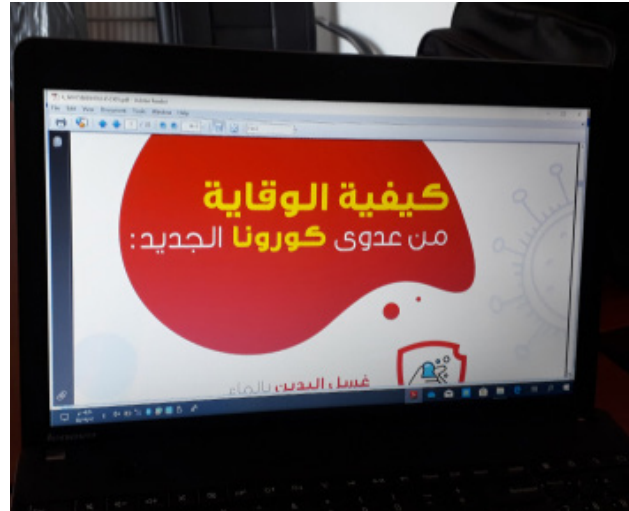


Women's sub-committee Al-Bab

Owing to COVID-19 pandemic and its widespread prevalence all over the world, and the losing control over the spread of this virus, the Women's Sub-Committee of the Women Empowerment and Support Unit in Al-Bab City and the Stability Support Unit in coordination with the Local Council of Al-Bab City have organized an awareness initiative against Coronavirus. The initiative has included painting murals, and writing expressions on city buildings walls explaining ideas regarding the epidemic and encouraging basic protective measures and general precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19.

Women's sub-committee Jarablus

The Women's Subcommittee in Jarablus has organized an awareness session for women about the new Coronavirus through Zoom program. During that session, a brief description has been provided about Coronavirus, symptoms of infection, routes of disease transmission, and methods of prevention. In addition, general advices and tips have been provided to women and pregnant women. Dr. Saleh Al-Khader, a specialist in internal medicine at Jarablus Hospital, who answered some questions, also presented the session.

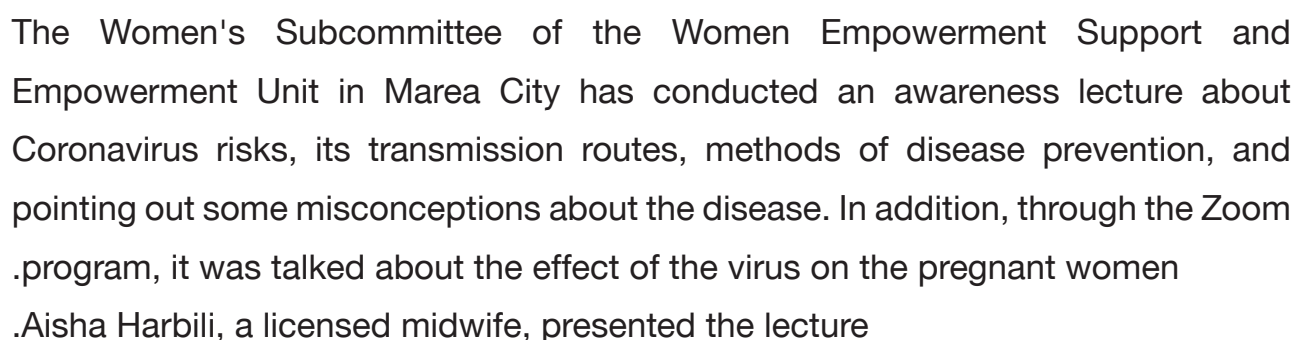


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Women's sub-committee Qabassin

The Women's Subcommittee of the Women's Support and Empowerment Unit in Qabassin, in cooperation with the SRD organization, has conducted a session on Coronavirus. This session highlighted how the virus spreads, the routes of its transmission from person to person, and symptoms of infection. Women's questions on how to prevent this disease were answered, also. The session included practical activities carried out by the trainer to ensure proper hand washing





The liberated Northern Syria with COVID-19

After nine years of war in which the Syrians people suffered all forms of bombing, capture, siege, hunger, and displacement in various Syrian regions by the regime forces and its allies, the northern Syria has become now the second-to-last station. Syrians at this station are waiting for their fate.

Here, it must be noted that this last station, which has become a small homeland for hundreds of thousands of people forcibly displaced and internally displaced, in addition to the indigenous population, is almost without services and most of the infrastructures are devastating and does not match the large number of people and their needs.

After today's issue, «the Corona pandemic» or what is known as «COVID^{١٩}», which is considered one of the priorities of the world in general, and the Syrian street in particular, the northern Syria is divided into two categories: The first category takes prevention as a way of life, works hard to prevent any infection from reaching the interior, and takes the necessary preventive measures of sterilization, cleansing, social isolation, and closure to crowded places such as schools and universities by government bodies and institutions.

The second category does not pay attention to these preventive actions and does not adhere to the domestic quarantine or the instructions for social separation. Unfortunately, this category constitutes the overwhelming majority of people.

However, at the same time, we cannot simply blame this group for several reasons: first, is the absence of any proved cases of Coronavirus infection in northern Syria; secondly, Coronavirus risks are almost negligible, rather it is a merciful death compared to the calamities and pains that Syrian people have suffered from regime forces and its allies.

To me, the most important thing is the lack of adequate awareness about the seriousness of COVID^{١٩}, about ways to prevent and avoid it and the symptoms when infection occurs, especially in areas such as camps, which are overpopulated. If an outbreak occurs in these areas, it leads to a major catastrophe at the level of the Syrian interior.

On the other hand, some civil society organizations are conducting field awareness actions inside the camps about the Coronavirus risks. This awareness is not in the form or the framework required, it is a way that does not exceed its being, as is said in our common language, «to remove the blame».

We do not deny the role of some authorities, and the role and contribution of some bodies, such as the Faculty of Medicine, in raising awareness about the virus and training students in dealing with cases of illness if they occur, God forbid. However, we must speak realistically that the amount of awareness and the nature of the response that we carry out are never commensurate with our needs, but rather we need greater effort and work. We need more preventive measures, because they are the only means in light of the inability of the health system in northern Syria to carry out isolation measures due unavailability or insufficiency of the necessary health centers.

Here, I see that the response and interaction of the people must be more cooperative with organizations when they carry out more awareness-raising campaigns. All institutions must strive to provide the necessary supplies of sterilizers, disinfectants, and masks to distribute them to the people who need those most and in the most crowded areas.

In conclusion, I say that despite the presence of a large number of international studies related to the Coronavirus vaccine, it is our duty to join hands and work together in the Syrian interior to confront it, even if there are no cases yet. An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of treatment.

Interview with a doctor

The Northwest regions of Syria are considered unsafe for millions of residents, as they are frequently targeted by bombings – vehicle cars and due to lack of services. In recent times, the fear of spread of Coronavirus in the Northwest of Syria has become a heavy nightmare threatening the region. People on daily basis circulate many rumors. So it was necessary to meet with one of the doctors to get answers far from the rumors that are being circulated. In an online meeting with Dr. Jawad Abu Hatab, we directed some question to him and he answered. Below are the questions and the answers

Has any coronavirus case been recorded in the Northwest of Syria?

Till today, there is no confirmed COVID-19 cases, because the area is mainly isolated, and there is no movement through the crossings except for a very small number of people represented by traders, doctors etc., and there are also no airports in it.

What are the preventive measures that were taken regarding Coronavirus?

The preventive measures are mainly the closure of the borders and crossings - this does not mean closing them totally, but rather controlling the entry and exit of the people and isolating the people that are entering the area for a period of 14 days. Regarding the commercial crossings, it is also necessary to control the delivery of goods, take preventive measures and place the vehicles in a dedicated place and away from gatherings.

What is the plan that will be implemented in the event of spread of the virus?

In fact, if the virus outbreaks in Northwest Syria, the human losses will be great due to the general condition of housing and residents. Especially since there are more than a million people are living in the camps and collective shelters were it is difficult to isolate people. Some tents house about 15 people or more, so it is very difficult to apply social distancing.

Here, we see that two schools must be allocated as quarantine centers in each region, the first for the suspected cases and the second for the confirmed positive cases - especially those who are at the risk group (who have heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and those with war injuries).

Most of the people complain about the absence of breathing ventilators and this is a problem even in the developed countries so I recommend using alternative solutions such as oxygen masks, compressor oxygen masks and improving the general condition of people in addition to good ventilation.

One final advice is to keep hospitals for public health and normal diseases and not to occupy them with positive COVID-19 cases and suspected cases.

My story and life with Coronavirus prevention

My name is Fouz Kurdi, a sociology graduate, a mother of three children, and work as a teacher in the liberated North.

I am going to tell you my story, how I started and continued to prevent and protect my family from the Coronavirus. At first, when I heard the news about the spread of this virus, I did not give the issue any attention, as it was a passing piece of news to me. However, after a while, I noticed how dangerous it was and how quickly it spread in countries. Therefore, I started to think about how it would be catastrophic if this virus reached our region: given that major countries who have great health services and advanced medical devices could not face the virus. Out of fear of my family and my loved ones, I began to search and learn about prevention and protection measures.

First, I started with my children, providing them with awareness and guidance, before the decision to suspend school hours. I emphasized washing hands frequently and after touching surfaces. I explained to them the necessity and importance of wearing masks when going to school or leaving the house. This made them bullied and ridiculed by their friends and the surrounding community; some people thought my kids were infected with Coronavirus because they wore masks. The second step of the important measures was to leave the habit of shaking hands, not to touch others or surfaces and maintain social distancing, by maintaining at least 1-meter distance between myself and any one I meet or talk to.

With regard to dealing with students in the school, I had a role in raising their awareness and teaching them some sound habits. In such a way that each student prepares his own water bottle for drinking, directing them to the necessity of having a hand sanitizer (touch) and perfumed tissues in the bag, the need to clean the seat well before sitting, continuously ventilating the row in addition to playing in a sunny place. I also followed the students in the class; when any student shows symptoms or signs of a disease, I communicate with his family and with the administration to prevent him/her from attending school during his illness.

When the decision to suspend school and home quarantine for protection

was made, I began to feel at ease, because my children would not have to contact with their friends or other people. I provided tips and guidance to my children through the doctor's game. We agreed that anyone who takes the role of a doctor must continuously sterilize his hands. In addition, I taught them how to wear sterile gloves, stressed the importance of trimming nails, and canceled family visits during that period.

With regard to my actual and direct role, I have taken protective and preventive measures for everything that could enter my home. I wash vegetables and fruits and sterilize them with natural vinegar. With regard to cans and the like, I clean them from the outside with sterilization materials. I also have stayed away from buying ready-made foods from the market. In addition, I am interested in raising immunity through healthy food, taking more vitamin C, and eating honey on a daily basis, in addition to nutritional supplements.

The idea of cooperation and sharing in preventing the virus and not allowing it to enter our home had been existed among all members of my family. In addition to continuous Warnings and cooperation in cleaning and sterilizing surfaces.

Because the severity of the Coronavirus seemed clear to all of my family members, everyone was ready to protect himself and those around him. Although that stage was tiring at its beginning, we got used to it, and we started using it with useful things while we were at home. Follow up on my children's education had been one of my priorities, and I encouraged them to read because reading has great benefits. We also invested our time by playing and having fun.

My message to every woman in potential crises that we may live as Syrians; do not let anything discourage you. Let us make every ordeal or plight we live as a grant for change and progress in our thoughts and ourselves. Corona is a frightening epidemic; advanced medical devices and methods have failed to combat it. On the other hand, one thing was more influential: it was awareness. Let us make our awareness a shield to protect our lives.

Organizations

Azaz

Your mask is your safety

Under this title, the Volunteer Ain Shams Team, in cooperation with the Azaz Media Center in the city of Azaz, presented an awareness theater performance (show). This show aimed at highlighting the seriousness of infection with the new Coronavirus, and the humanitarian disaster that might occur if preventive measures have not been taken, in light of the spread of the virus in neighboring countries.

In view of the current circumstances, and fearing that COVID -19 may reach northern Syrian regions, Basmat Amal team has launched a public awareness campaign aimed at disseminating adequate information on the nature of the virus, how it is spread, in addition to make clear the importance of home quarantine and adherence to preventive measures in accordance with stated instructions, in order to avoid infection.

The campaign included the distribution of brochures in the camps of the town of Kufra, to inform people in the camps of risks of the virus, the importance of taking all the necessary precautions and not to overlook or underestimate the seriousness of the virus outbreak.

In light of the continuing great concerns faced by citizens and the dramatic widespread of the virus in all over the



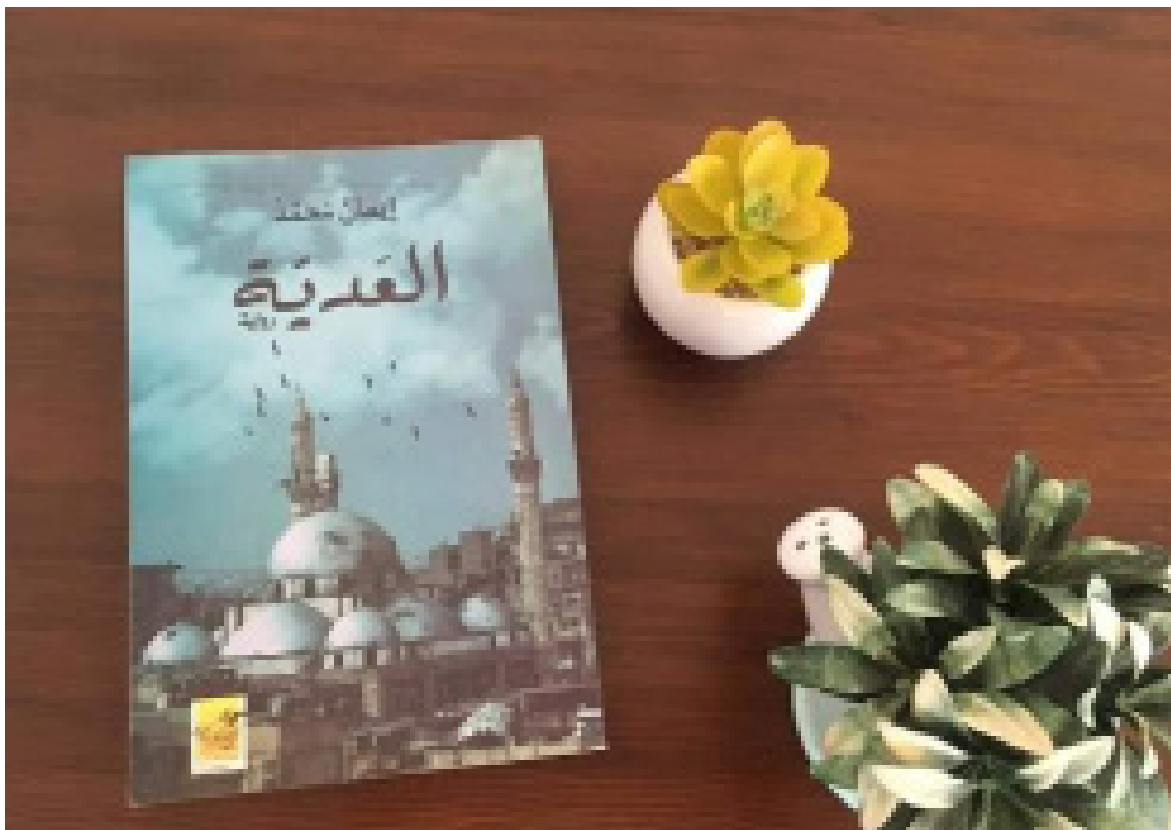
world in general, and neighboring countries in particular, the Volunteer Cooperation Team has carried out awareness-raising campaigns aimed to stop the spread of the new virus. The purpose of these campaigns is to urge all groups in society to take precautionary and preventive measures to avoid the spread of the virus in liberated northern Syria.

In Corona time, young people had the responsibility to protect their societies. Many young women and men from all groups and multiple places of northern Syria have launched multifaceted outreach campaigns, such as painting on the walls and field visits. Protective instructions have been followed in these activities. In addition, they have organized several online medical seminars targeting multiple segments of the population. In addition, many young women and men have joined volunteer teams. For example, the “Sama Volunteer Team” - “I am here” Team - Basmat Amal Team - the Voluntary Cooperation Team —Bodies with one -heart ”Team and many other teams with a common vision and goal .These are represented in urging society on the importance and necessity of following preventive measures. Because we are able to take the initiative to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and because of our belief in the principle of” an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure”:

Organizations

Al-Bab

In light of Corona's invasion of the world, many institutions have been forced to suspend their work or transform their activities into virtual activities and training for fear of continuing quarantine or its length. One of these institutions is the “Cultural Values” Foundation, which was previously known for its various activities. The Foundation had to convert its activities into virtual activities, starting in the beginning of April. The Foundation started its activities at the Model AL Kalam School, through various mental sports lessons and activities to continue education through the Watts- App application due to the lack of other applications for students. The Foundation has implemented a series of book discussions, where on Wednesday each week a book is dedicated to be discussed through Zoom application. The Foundation also receives university students during certain hours to lend them books so that they can benefit from them in their studies and research



Organizations

Bza'a

Several initiatives and campaigns have been launched to combat the COVID-19 in several ways, for fear of the possibility of the infection reaching northern Syrian regions.

The civil defense teams have announced that they are quite ready, as a precautionary measure to confront the pandemic, by launching several sterilization, cleansing and preventive campaigns in public places such as, schools, mosques, parks, health centers and local councils.

The women's civil defense team in Bazaa city has played a prominent role in raising awareness and warning regarding the virus risks, through awareness campaigns in the camps of Bazaa city.

The women's civil defense volunteers have distributed informational brochures about the new Coronavirus, methods of prevention, and major and minor symptoms of the disease.



Syrian Sawaena Organization in Bazaa city conducted a training on the puppet theater. During this training, a play on the Coronavirus was prepared. The sub-committee of the Women Empowerment and Support Unit in Bazaa City participated in the training and played one of the roles of the play.

The play aimed to shed light on the reasons for neglecting disease prevention methods, in light of the war circumstances in Syria. It demonstrate how we can avoid infection by preventive measures and hand washing.

Organizations

Jarabulus

The Ihsan Volunteer Team in Jarabulus city has carried an awareness-raising initiative on the Coronavirus. The campaign was called “Stay home.” The campaign targeted several places in the city to cover the largest number of segments of society.

The initiative included a variety of activities, such as drawing expressive pictures and writing some informational expressions about the virus.

The team, also has organized awareness sessions designed to warn people about the risks of COVID-19, how to prevent it, and the methods that should be followed to avoid infection.

The team also has stressed the need for quarantine when the virus spread in the liberated northern regions.



Qabasin

The SRD Organization prepared and presented a medical lecture, entitled COVID-19 and how it spreads.

The lecture included several thematic areas, such as how to deal with suspected cases that warrant home quarantine, and dealing with cases requiring quarantine. In addition, quarantine areas were defined, and importance of monitoring and examining those who come from those areas and how to deal with contacts of patients were explained.

The lecture targeted about twenty women from different groups of society, during which some women talked about the measures that they take in their homes in order to ensure the safety of their families and society.

Organizations

Marea

A youth campaign, entitled "The solution with our hands," was launched in Marea city.

The campaign aimed to shed light on the expected catastrophe if COVID- 19 reaches the northern Syrian regions.

The campaign team -in Marea City- painted awareness-raising murals in Marea's markets and streets. The team also published and distributed posters containing transmission routes, prevention instructions, and the importance of quarantine in light of the spread of the virus in the neighboring regions and countries.





”Who we are:

Women Support Unit is a civil society organization, concerned with the women related issues (affairs) and seeks to empower them politically, economically, socially and culturally alongside to meet their needs.

Vision:

To create a healthy community in which women are empowered and able to contribute to building the community and facing the challenges in partnership with the men.

Mission:

Women Support Unit targets the women who are facing difficulties regarding playing their optimal role in the society and seeks to empower the women in the Northern and Eastern countryside of Aleppo politically, socially, economically and culturally.



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