



SUSTAINABILITY 2023-2024

COMMUNICATION ON
ENGAGEMENT (COE)





16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

RESEARCH TOWARD SDG 16

Over the past two years, research at the University has significantly contributed to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) through various studies. These include establishing ethics guidelines for environmental epidemiologists, exploring COVID-19 herd immunity challenges in Lebanon, and examining stakeholder dynamics in rural women's entrepreneurship. Additionally, research has focused on retaining young employees in the hospitality sector, promoting student agency and community engagement, and understanding psychological resilience among Syrian refugee children. Historical studies on religious and community dynamics in Lebanon further enhance the understanding of peace and justice.

1. Etzel, R.A., Abbas, N.H., Anastario, M.P., Whaibeh, E., & Soskolne, C.L. (2024). **Ethics guidelines for environmental epidemiologists**. Environmental Epidemiology. Open access.
2. Kuran, O., & Khabbaz, L. (2024). **Stakeholder dynamics in rural Lebanese women's entrepreneurship**. Journal of Enterprising Communities.
3. Maatouk, C., Germanos, O., Aad, A.M., Budhathoki, S.S., & Lucero-Prisno, D.E.I. (2024). **COVID-19 herd immunity in Lebanon: Challenges and prospects**. Public Health Challenges. Open access.
4. Popham, C.M., McEwen, F.S., Karam, E.G., Moghames, P., & Pluess, M. (2023). **Predictors of psychological risk and resilience among Syrian refugee children**. Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines. Open access.
5. Serhan, C., Nasr, N., Cheikh, G., & Nachar, G. (2024). **Retaining young employees in the hospitality and tourism sector: the role of workplace context and management practices**. EuroMed Journal of Business.
6. Shehayeb, S., Shaaban, E., & Shayya, J.K. (2023). **Factors Promoting Student Agency and Community Engagement: Case of a Lebanese Public High School**. In Proceedings of International Conference on Research in Education and Science.
7. Slim, S., "The patriarchate of Antioch. The development of the Identity and the quest of Authentic Autocephaly coming of age in communion". In Orientalia Christiana Analecta. Roma 2023, with Samuel Noble.
8. Slim, S. "Les relations islamo-chrétiennes à travers deux manuscrits de généalogie de familles orthodoxes". Parole de l'Orient, octobre 2023.

9. Slim, S., "L'enjeu des waqfs dans la division entre les Catholiques et Orthodoxes 1724. Le cas des monastères St Jean et St Elie dans le Matn". Orientalia Christiana analecta et CEDRAC, novembre 2024.
10. مؤتمر وادي قنوبين تشرين الأول 2023 "مبادرة مسكونية بين الموارنة والأرثوذكس في بداية العهد العثماني" - سليم، س

UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES AID CAMPAIGN FOR DISPLACED FAMILIES AMID 2024 LEBANON WAR

In the midst of the ongoing 2024 war in Lebanon, thousands of Lebanese have become displaced seeking refuge in public schools and other makeshift shelters. In response, the University launched a campaign to extend a helping hand to affected families. This fund is providing essential aid—medical assistance, food supplies, and educational resources—to help them regain a sense of stability and hope through financial donations, in-kind donations, volunteering and raising awareness. The University believes that in times of hardship, our strength is our community. Every contribution counts. Together, we can make a tangible difference.



SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE THOUGHT OF IMAM MOUSSA AL-SADR SYMPOSIUM

The Center for Christian-Islamic Studies at the University of Balamand, in cooperation with the Lebanese Center for Justice, organized a seminar on "Social Justice in the Thought of Imam Moussa Al-Sadr" at the Nahyan Building on the university's main campus. The seminar was attended by notable figures, including the Mufti of Tripoli and the North, Sheikh Muhammad Imam, the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan of Tripoli, Koura and their dependencies, Afram Kyriakos, and deans of university faculties. The event aimed to highlight the role of religions in promoting social justice and advancing the ideas of Imam Moussa Al-Sadr, emphasizing that social justice fosters a strong sense of citizenship. The seminar concluded with the presentation of honorary shields to the speakers in recognition of their contributions.



UNIVERSITY OF BALAMAND DEVELOPS GEO-STATISTICAL DASHBOARDS FOR ENHANCED GOVERNANCE AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The University of Balamand is focusing on governance and crisis management by developing geo-statistical dashboards for census data. This project involves creating these dashboards for the collected census data of both the Jurd Al Qayteh and Dreib Al Awsat in Akkar area. The goal is to install these systems in each municipality to enhance access to information and improve data sharing. This initiative emphasizes outreach and collaboration to ensure effective implementation and utilization of the dashboards. The project is implemented by SALAR International in Lebanon and Türkiye, a part of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) funded by Sweden. SALAR International works globally to strengthen democracy and good governance at the local level.



CLUBS ACTIVITIES

The Communications and Political Science Society, Political Science Society, and Universal Law Students are hosting various events aimed at promoting SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. These include a mock trial titled "Be the Jury" and mock elections, both categorized as workshops, as well as introductory booths by the Political Science Society and Universal Law Students, which are interactive activities. All these events focus on educating participants about their rights and the importance of strong institutions in maintaining peace and justice.



Activity Title	Activity Type	Club Name
Mock Trial "Be the Jury"	Workshops	Communications and Political Science Society
PSS Club IntroductoryBooth	Intercative Activities	Political Science Society
Know your Rights: ClubIntroductory booth	Intercative Activities	Universal Law Students
Mock elections	Workshop	Mock elections

