

DOHA INTERNATIONAL FAMILY INSTITUTE HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY RESEARCH AND POLICY

Conference Aims to Identify Policies Needed to Respond to Challenges Faced by Arab Families in the Region

Doha, Qatar, 16 October 2016: Doha International Family Institute's (DIFI) second annual conference on Family Research and Policy starts tomorrow at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) in Doha.

The two-day conference, entitled 'The Impact of Wars and Conflicts on Arab Families', brings together researchers and policymakers from around the world to discuss the role of research and public policies in promoting the well-being and protection of Arab families.

The first day of the conference will provide participants with a unique platform to address the impact of conflicts on family formation and breakdown and social and economic development, as well as a country's demographic structure in terms of fertility, mortality and migration.

Noor Al Malki Al-Jehani, DIFI's Executive Director, emphasised the crucial role of the conference in informing future policies. "Families in the Arab world are under tremendous threat due to the ongoing conflicts in many parts of the region. By hosting this conference, we would like to shed light on the short-term and long-term impacts of wars and conflicts on the family unit and on men, women and children. We hope to identify the policies that are needed to respond to the new challenges," Al-Jehani said.

DIFI's commitment to further research on Arab families, and to promote policies that enhance the protection and wellbeing families and their members, prompted the institute to join efforts with Al Jazeera Media Network (AJMN), the conference's official media partner.

As part of the DIFI-AJMN partnership, the first day of the conference will see three Al Jazeera correspondents share their on-the-ground experiences in war and conflict zones in the Arab region, providing policymakers with unparalleled insight and tangible evidence of the human tragedies and challenges facing affected families.

Hamdi Al-Bokari, Senior Producer at Al Jazeera Channel, will speak about the conflict in Yemen while Mohammad AlNajjar, Head of Social Media at AJMN, will elaborate on the ongoing war in Aleppo. Amer Lafi, a correspondent at Al Jazeera, will give a firsthand account of the refugee crisis on the Syrian – Turkish border, as well as the humanitarian crisis in Libya.

The second day of the conference will feature a session on the role of non-governmental organisations in providing humanitarian relief and support for people and communities affected by wars and conflicts.

Participants will look at how the changing nature of both conflict and humanitarian relief has altered the role of NGOs, from the traditional role of mitigating the effects of conflict, to performing new roles including conflict prevention and peace building.

DIFI is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), and aims to support research programmes, policies and social outreach to promote the development of Arab families.

For details of speakers and sessions, please visit: <http://www.difi.org.qa/annual-conference/2016-annual-conference/agenda>

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Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)

DIFI is a pioneer international organization in the State of Qatar that supports research programs, policies and social outreach to promote the development of Arab families. Focusing primarily on research, DIFI supports a wide range of national, regional and international evidence based studies pertaining to marriage, family building, women, fertility, demographics, children, family safety, child safety, fatherhood and motherhood. DIFI comprises of two divisions: family research division and family policy division. DIFI is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development and has a special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC).

Qatar Foundation- Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organization that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world.

Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.



QF's strategic mission focuses on education, research, science and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing solutions through key sciences. QF also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, please visit: <http://qf.org.qa>

Al Jazeera Media Network (AJMN)

Al Jazeera strives to deliver content that captivates, informs, inspires and entertains. Launched in 1996, Al Jazeera was the first independent news channel in the Arab world dedicated to providing comprehensive news and live debate. It challenged established narratives and gave a global audience an alternative voice—one that put the human being back at the centre of the news agenda—quickly making it one of the world's most influential news networks. Since then, it has added new channels and services, with more than 70 bureaus around the world, while maintaining the independent and pioneering spirit that defined its character. Each subsidiary follows the same principles—values that inspire it to be challenging and bold, and provide a 'voice for the voiceless' in some of the most underreported places on the planet.

