



ARAB INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S FORUM
المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة

ARAB INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM

PROFILE in BRIEF

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ARAB INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM

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ARAB INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM

The subjects of economic competitiveness, sustainable human development and the empowerment of women through partnership, increased connectivity, innovation and collaboration, lie at the very heart of the mission and vision of the Arab International Women's Forum.

The Arab International Women's Forum was founded in 2001, as an independent non – profit organisation, to serve as a voice for Arab women; showcasing their development, promoting cross cultural diversity and creating greater public awareness of women's success and prospects in the Arab world.

AIWF has members and contacts in more than 45 countries and links Arab business and professional women with each other and their counterparts in the international community to exchange knowledge, experience and develop their business potential. It is through 'Building Bridges, Building Business' that AIWF contributes to peace, progress and prosperity in the communities of its members.

Through its work and global initiatives, AIWF has explored timely themes to promote the role of women in the economy and in public life providing a focus on capacity-building, training and information exchange, stressing the need for synergies between governments, corporations and civil society as the only way to achieve educational, economic and political empowerment for women in the Arab world.

As a powerful advocate for the political and economic inclusion of women in the Arab world, AIWF mobilises action at the highest level and on the ground to promote and advance legislative rights for and the political participation of Arab women. Its growing role has been distinguished by many collaborations with, among others, the League of Arab States, the European Commission and European Parliament, United Nations organisations and agencies, the World Bank, the OECD, women's business councils in the Arab States and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office – to which AIWF presented two landmark Reports and Recommendations in 2005 and 2007, on *Women as Engines of Economic Growth in the Arab World*.

AIWF places great strategic importance on the development of its global networks and the establishment of key alliances with multinational corporations across all sectors. AIWF Global Partners are deeply engaged in the Arab region and uphold strong diversity policies that enhance the recruitment, training and development of women as key contributors to the Arab human capital pool.

In raising awareness and strengthening its connections with global media AIWF is proud to have a special partnership with the Financial Times (FT) cooperating from June 2007 through to 2010) on the FT special reports, which recognise the Arab world's emerging women business leaders. AIWF has supported the publication of *Domains of Influence: Arab Women Business Leaders in a New Economy*, the first book of its kind and a unique testament to the impact of Arab women in today's global environment of entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.

The Board of Trustees of the Arab International Women 's Forum consists of women successful in all fields of public life, business, and civil society giving their support and advice voluntarily to AIWF.

Arab International Women's Forum Board of Trustees

(in alphabetical order)

Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani - *Founder and Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum, London, UK.*

Saida Agrebi - **Member of the Tunisian Parliament, Chairman of the Tunisian Mother's Association, Tunisia.**

Assilah Zaher Al Harthy - *Founder-President & Managing Director of the InterLynx L.L.C., Oman and Head of Corporate Affairs at The Oman Oil Company, Oman.*

HH Sheikha Hind Salman Al-Khalifa – *President of the Children and Mothers Welfare Society, Kingdom of Bahrain*

HH Shaikha Lubna Al Qasimi - *Minister for Foreign Trade, Government, United Arab Emirates.*

Khalidah Ahmed Al-Qatami - *Chairman, Al Khunaini Al Qatami General Trading Company, Kuwait.*

HE Maryam Al Roumi - *Minister of Social Affairs, Government, United Arab Emirates.*

Dr Afnan Al Shuaiby - *Secretary General & CEO, The Arab British Chamber of Commerce, UK.*

HH Sheikha Hanadi Nasser Bin Khalid Al Thani - *Founder and Chairman AMWAL, Qatar.*

Engineer Nadia Hassan Bakhurji - *Interior Architect and President of Riwaq of the Kingdom Co. Ltd, Saudi Arabia.*

Debra Davis - *Director, Public Affairs & Communications, Birmingham City Council, UK.*

Bineta Diop - *Director General, Femmes Africa Solidarité, Geneva, Switzerland.*

Raghda Kurdi - *Managing Director & Vice President, Hayat Pharmaceutical Industries, Jordan.*

Peta Payne - *Managing Director, International Women of Excellence. (IWE) London, UK.*

Sylvia G. Perry - *Finance Director, AIWF, Past President and Trustee, BPW International, UK.*

Inge Relph - *Managing Director, Buy To Benefit, UK*

Dr Deisi Noeli Weber Kusztra - *President of the World Family Organisation, Brazil*

AIWF MAIN ACTIVITIES: 2002-2009

October 2009

Seminar on Directorship, Development and Diversity: Challenges for Women in Governance – Amman, Jordan

- The Arab International Women's Forum in collaboration with the Mudara Institute of Directors (IOD) and Hawkamah, the Institute for Corporate Governance

July 2009

Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation and Understanding between AIWF and Arab British Chamber of Commerce – London UK

- **Host:** Dr Afnan Al Shuaiby, Secretary General and CEO, The Arab British Chamber of Commerce

March 2009

AIWF Paris Conference: From Partnership to Prosperity: Women in the Arab World, France and the International Community – Paris, France

- **Patron:** The French Government, represented by HE Madame Christine Lagarde, Minister for Economy, Industry and Employment
- **Host:** The Greater Paris Investment Agency at the Paris Chamber of Commerce

December 2008

AIWF Book Launch Domains of Influence at the Arab British Chamber Commerce, London, UK

- **Host:** Dr Afnan Al Shuaiby, Secretary General and CEO, The Arab British Chamber of Commerce

June 2008

Partners for Change: Realizing the Potential of Arab Women in the Private and Public Sectors Conference at The World Bank, Washington DC, USA

- **Patron:** Mr Robert Zoellick, President World Bank

February 2008

10 Downing Street Special Reception to Honour AIWF Work – London, UK

- **Official Host:** Mrs. Sarah Brown, wife of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown

December 2007

Powering the Future – Arab Business Women in a Modern Economy at The Dubai International Financial Centre, Dubai UAE

- **Hosted by:** Dr Omar Bin Sulaiman, Governor DIFC
- **Patron:** HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, Wife of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE, Ruler of Dubai

March 2007

Globalisation, Trade and Entrepreneurship Enhancing Business Opportunities Between the City of London, the Arab World and the International Community at The Mansion House, London UK

- **Patron:** The Lord Mayor of The City of London, Alderman John Studdard

January 2007

Women as Engines of Economic Growth - Moving Forward at The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London UK

- **Hosted at and by:** The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London UK

April 2006

Building Bridges, Building Business Between the City of London, the Arab World and the International Community - 5th Anniversary Dinner at The Mansion House, London, UK

- **Patrons:** HM Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and
- The Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman David Brewer CMG

September 2005

Report & Recommendations – Women as Engines of Economic Growth in the Arab World at The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London UK

- **Hosted by:** The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London UK

June 2005

Ten Years after Barcelona: Women and Integrated Rural Development at the League of Arab States Cairo

- **Patron:** His Excellency Mr Amre Moussa, Secretary General. He League of Arab States
- **Special Patron and Guest of Honour:** HE Suzanne Mubarak, first lady of Egypt

April 2005

Ten Years after Barcelona: Empowering Women as Catalysts for Economic Development at the European Parliament in Brussels

- **Patrons:** Mr. Jose Borrell, President of the European Parliament and
- European Commissioner for External Affairs Benita Ferrero-Waldner

June 2004

Women in the Arab World, Partners in the Community and on the World Stage at The League of Arab States Cairo,

- **Patrons:** His Excellency Mr Amre Moussa, Secretary General, The League of Arab States and
- HE, Mrs Suzanne Mubarak, First Lady of The Arab Republic of Egypt

October 2003

Women in the Arab World: Windows of Opportunity Opening Wider in Business and Public Life, London, UK

- **Special Guests of Honour:** Her Excellency Mrs Suzanne Mubarak, First Lady of the Arab Republic of Egypt and
- HH Sheikha Sabeeka Wife of HM King of Bahrain

July 2003

Arab Women in the XX1 Century: AIWF Conference, Madrid, Spain

- **Host:** The Spanish Government, through the Spanish Foreign Minister, Ms Anna Palacio.

April 2002

Women in the New Economic Order: The Increasing Role of Arab Women in Business and Society, London UK

- **Patron:** HM Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan