

89% of voters in Lebanon will likely vote for a woman in the parliamentarian's election

And 96% of them supported to increase the penalties on sexual assault crimes

|| Press Release ||

84% of voters in Lebanon stated that a candidate's gender does not affect their electoral choices, while 54% confirmed that they had never voted for a woman before.

A national survey conducted by ABAAD highlighted the choices of voters and candidates

in Lebanon and their attitudes towards the political participation of women in the elections scheduled for 15 May 2022, where 90.5% of the "male" candidates surveyed considered that a candidate's gender does influence voters' choices.

"The upcoming parliamentary elections are a focal point for Lebanon, in the development of plans and programs that contribute to rebuilding a fair system in the country", says Gida Anani, founder and director of ABAAD. Thus, the presence of women in legislative power is a fundamental right and a pressing necessity. "The participation of women in politics reflects an integrated vision of the concept of citizenship that is needed in Lebanon, and we stress the importance of electing women based on their qualifications as well as granting them preferential votes", adds Anani.

Furthermore, 89.2% of voters considered that they were likely to vote for a woman in the upcoming elections, while 87% confirmed their support to the women's quota. Anani also stated, "We believe in absolute equality, free of compromise and above all considerations. As such, we consider the women's quota to be an initial step that ensures women's access to the legislative branch, and we regret that the relevant bill has not been implemented or discussed by Parliament."

She adds, "There is no doubt that the presence of capable women within legislative power will contribute to the elaboration of legislation that promotes equality and that remains free of discrimination against women, girls, and the most marginalized groups".

In this context, 96% of voters supported the amendment of Chapter 7 of the Penal Code to increase the penalties on sexual assault crimes, while 92% of candidates pledged to uphold these issues if elected.

It is also worth mentioning that there are 118 women candidates on the electoral lists, marking a 37% increase since the 2018 parliamentary elections

(86 women)

//End of Statement //

Notes to editors

Survey results among voters:

- 84% of voters who had previously belonged to political parties believe that their parties promoted equality between men and women during parliamentary elections.
- Although 84% consider that a candidate's gender does not influence their electoral choices, 54% stated they had never voted for a woman in the past for the following reason: 68% said there were no female candidates.
- 89% of voters will likely vote for a woman in the upcoming elections
- 40% of voters believe that a small percentage of women want to participate in political life.
- 43% of female respondents believe that they are represented in Parliament.
- 87% of voters support the women's quota.
- 59% consider that the representation of women in the Lebanese political scene is unequal to that of men, and according to 27.4% of these voters, the reason for this is that women are not elected.
- The three main obstacles are: Lack of support from the community (29%), the sectarian / political system (19.6%), and the dominance of men in this field (17%).
- (41%) believe that women are judged by their communities when they participate in politics.
- 68% of voters believe that women are likely to succeed in the political sphere.
- According to voters, the most important attribute that women must possess in order to enter politics is academic qualifications (45%). Whereas the least important characteristic is sectarian denomination (42%).
- 41% of voters do not believe that gender equality can be achieved in Lebanon.
- 96% of voters support the amendment of Chapter 7 of the Penal Code to increase penalties on sexual assault crimes.

Survey results among candidates

- 95 % of candidates belonging to political parties or those supported by political parties believe that their party upholds gender equality during parliamentary elections
- 23% of those who stated that their political parties support gender equality during elections are women.
- 58% of candidates believe that a candidate's gender influences people's electoral choices, 34.5% of these are women.
- 90% of those who do not believe it has influence are male candidates.
- 64% of the candidates surveyed support the women's quota
- 34% said it is not necessary to hold women's right to representation as a condition
- 12% of these candidates were previously elected, all male. 33% of them proposed law amendments related to gender equality.
- 96% believe that Chapter 7 of the Penal Code should be amended to increase penalties on sexual assault crimes. And 92% vowed to uphold these issues if they are elected.

About ABAAD:

ABAAD is a civil, non-sectarian and non-profit organization established in 2011 with the aim of promoting sustainable economic and social development in the Middle East and North Africa by supporting the principles of equality and gender justice, providing direct services, protection and empowerment. ABAAD seeks to promote equality and enable women's active participation through policy development, legal reform, gender mainstreaming, eliminating discrimination, empowering women and building their capabilities to participate effectively and fully in their communities.

For inquiries, please contact ABAAD's Media team on the following phone number:

0096181666172

