مكتب راعويّة المرأة
الدائرة البطريركيّة المارونيّة

**Open Letter**

**Beirut – October 17, 2024**

## Stop the Madness of War, Lebanon deserves to live

The Women's Pastoral Office in the Maronite Patriarchal Department, to which all the diocesan committees of the Maronite dioceses throughout Lebanon are affiliated, addresses you in light of what Lebanon is experiencing as a result of the repercussions of the ongoing military operations on its territory, and the violation of laws, international agreements, and humanitarian ethics.

With the displacement of nearly one and a half million people from Southern Lebanon, Bekaa, and Beirut and its suburbs, we convey this letter through which we raise our voice and even cry at the extent of the pain that our people are suffering.

We cry out in rejection and condemnation of all the killings, displacements, demolition of homes, and violation of properties.

We cry out in pain at the targeting of innocent people, especially children, women, older adults, and medical and rescue teams.

This war has disrupted also the start of the school and university year, and placed our children and youth in a state of utter shock and deep anxiety regarding their fate.

Thus, we cry out: Enough! Stop this madness that is getting increasingly criminal and destructive, this madness that has violated all human values and has overthrown various local, regional and international petitions.

In the name of humanity, we who seek peace, the ladies of the Women's Pastoral Office in the Maronite Patriarchal Department appeal to decision-makers, international authorities, and people of good will, to stand by Lebanon and its people through bold and rapid initiatives to stop this warfare, to request an immediate ceasefire, and to show support for the afflicted and socially and economically exhausted country of Lebanon.

Lebanon needs initiatives at the level of its tragedy, to stop the blatant violations of international laws and treaties. The people of Lebanon chose life and they have the right to live in dignity and peace.

**Lebanon needs your support;**

**Lebanon deserves to live!**

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**Directed to the following references:**

- United Nations
- OHCHR United Nations Human Rights
- UN Women – Arab States
- UNESCO
- UNICEF
- Vatican
- League of Arab States
- Arab Women Organization
- WCC – World Council of Churches
- MECC – Middle East Council of Churches
- UMOFC - WUCWO
- Women for Women International
- Arab Business Women Council