

# Engaging Young Women in Policy, Politics and Decision-Making: Experiences from FE-MALE Lebanon



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# Welcome!

As we wait for people to join, we invite you to introduce yourself in the chat.

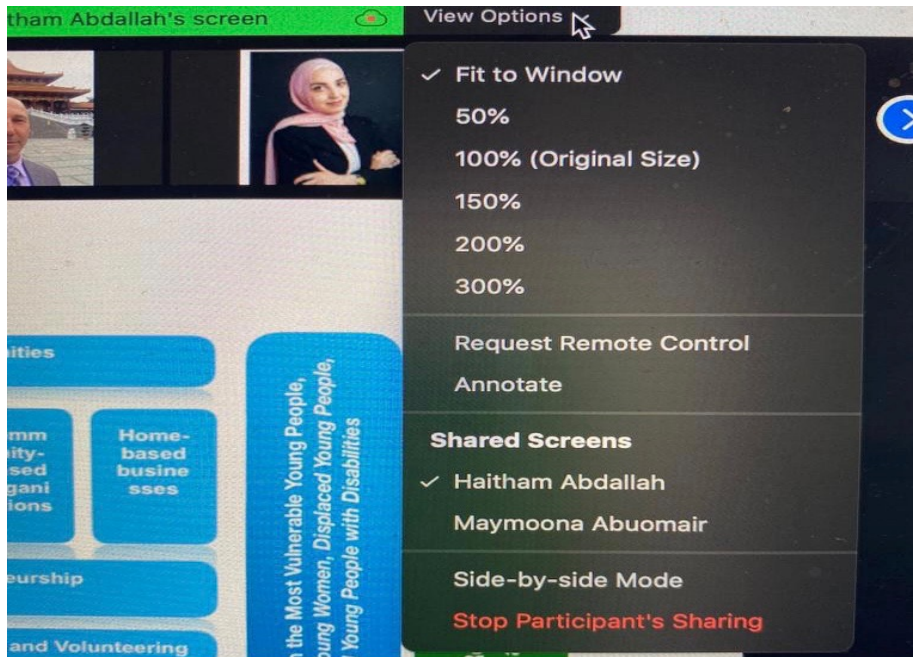
Please share your:

1. Name
2. Occupation
3. Country of origin
4. Why you joined today's meeting

# For Arabic Presentation

## للعرض التقديمي باللغة العربية

- Click on View Options
- Choose "Haitham's Screen"



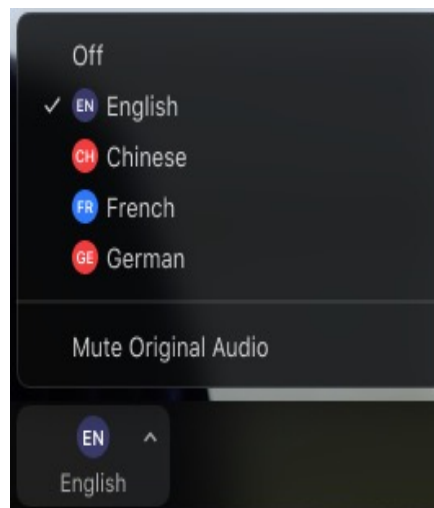
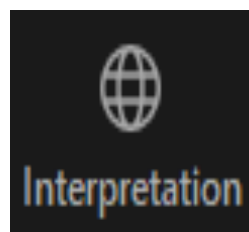
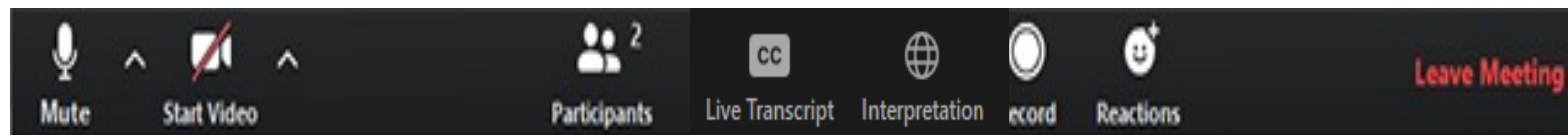
- الضغط على View Options
- اختيار Haitham's Screen



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# Instructions for Zoom Use!



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# AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
2:00-2:10	Introduction to webinar and speaker	Haitham Abdallah
2:10-2:25	Engaging Young Women in Policy, Politics and Decision-Making: Experiences from FE-MALE Lebanon	Hayat Mirshad
2:25-2:55	Q&A	Hanan Muharram
2:55-3:00	Closing	Hanan Muharram Haitham Abdallah



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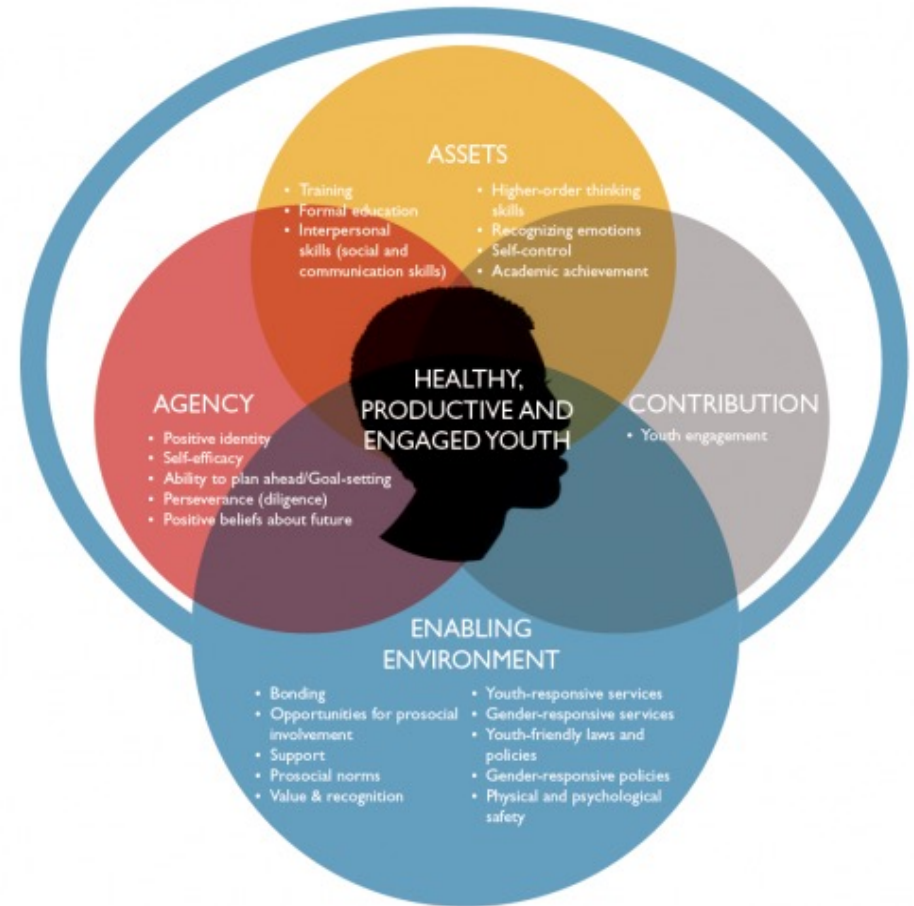
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# What are our objectives for today?

- Learn about approaches to engage young women in policies, politics and decision making
- Learn about best practices, challenges and lessons learned in working with young women in policies and political movements

# Positive Youth Development

- PYD programs recognize youth's inherent rights and result in youth who have **assets**, the ability to leverage those assets (**agency**), and the ability to **contribute** to positive change for themselves and their communities, surrounded by an **enabling environment** that supports them
- <http://www.youthpower.org/positive-youth-development>



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# Today's Speaker



**Hayat Mirshad**  
Executive Director  
FE-MALE  
Lebanon



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# Introduction

In her words:

“We need safe spaces where we can speak our mind and make decisions that benefit our communities” said a young girl from a conservative region in a peripheral city in Lebanon.

# Why Young Women's engagement is crucial?

- Women and youth are usually the most left behind
- The patriarchal political and social system excludes them and practice discrimination and violence against them
- Shrinking spaces
- Access to information, knowledge and tools

# Why Young Women's engagement is crucial?

- They are the experts on their issues and priorities that need to be included in policies
- They can lead the transformative change in their countries

# Tools used by Fe-Male

- Membership, volunteering and engagement (safe spaces)
- Capacity and skills development
- Engagement in planning and decision making
- Feminist clubs (expanding to remote areas); creating platforms that connect different ideas and give the young members a chance to link these ideas to one another and to translate them into actions

# Tools used by Fe-Male

- Promoting active citizenship, solidarity and human rights
- Promoting political engagement (October 17 revolution, Elections 2022)
- Planning rallies and marches, writing articles (producing knowledge), strategizing and generating messaging through artwork
- Advocacy and campaigning

# Lessons Learned

- Meaningful engagement of young women helps foster ownership, a sense of responsibility and accountability among them towards the cause (Use a participatory approach when you are planning, implementing and evaluating your program/intervention)
- Importance of exposing young women to positive examples of female participation and leadership through networking and mentorship

# Lessons Learned

- Trusting the young women in your group, and encouraging them to trust themselves and each other serves as crucial motivation



# Q&A



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# THANK YOU!

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