

Statement
Richard Farah
The 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
Parallel Event
“An Inclusive Student-Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain Women and Girls”
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Good Morning, My name is Richard Farah and I am from Lebanon. I am a Student pursuing a degree in Political Science with an Emphasis on Global Politics. Today, I will speak on the issues that the women of Lebanon's mountain communities face.

While I do not live in a mountain community, I come from a family that came from a mountain community from Aatchane in Lebanon. While Lebanon has been modernizing and could be considered the best women's movement in Arab nations I am here to talk about the issues that are affecting not just the women but the mountain communities in general.

These issues that are affecting many include; limited access to medicine, clean water, electricity, and economic issues. For those who aren't aware, Lebanon has been in an economic crisis since 2019. The issues regarding clean water, mean that many homes have a scarce amount of water and access to them. Often, many citizens would have to wait for trucks containing clean water to come. This creates a problem as the timing of the trucks delivering to the mountain communities is sporadic and sometimes unreliable. Moreover, the issues regarding electricity are just as concerning, as some homes will not have electricity for hours in a day. This can be dangerous as it can lead to the spoiling and loss of food. The economic issues lead to many not being able to acquire basic medicine or being able to receive medical attention.

Despite all the negatives and issues they face daily, they still persevere with their strengths in day-to-day life, and this should be acknowledged. They have found ways to ensure these issues will not become dire, and with Lebanon's government undergoing new changes, this can potentially solve these issues.

I would like to thank the UIMF for allowing me to speak about these issues using the Student Engage Learning method. I hope this has helped you learn more about the Mountain communities in Lebanon.

Thank You.