



## Salam Kanaan

CARE Country Director in Palestine West Bank and Gaza

Is a development and humanitarian professional with over 30 - years of experience with international organizations, the UN, academic and research institutions in the Middle East. With academic background in Health and Education from the American University in Beirut, Ms. Kanaan has worked in several organizations including UNRWA, and the British Council in Amman, the World Bank, CARE and Save the Children in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

She joined CARE International as the Country Director in Jordan mid-through end October 2018, where she then transitioned to lead CARE in Palestine.

Ms. Kanaan has extensive knowledge of strategizing, implementing, coordinating and leading development and emergency programs. Expertise includes leading and managing change, excellent understanding of key trends in international development, and the ability to create solutions for working in complex environments.



## Ms. Hibaaq Osman

Founder and CEO, Karama.

Hibaaq Osman is the founder of Karama, a movement to end violence against women, and deliver sustainable, inclusive peace and democracy in Africa and the Middle East.

Hibaaq's work has seen her lead reconciliation and peacebuilding in her homeland of Somalia, campaign for justice and recognition for Korea's 'comfort women', and supporting grassroots women activists to build constituencies and secure their rights in the wake of the Arab revolutions.

Named one of the world's 500 Most Influential Muslims, Hibaaq is a member of the UNAOC's Women's Alliance for Peace, and has previously served on a number of advisory groups and boards, including UN Women's Civil Society Advisory Group, and the board of Donor Direct Action.

Hibaaq is a senior fellow at the James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership at Churchill College, University of Cambridge, and a member of the Yale African Women's Leadership Network.



## Dr. Dinesha Samararatne

Postdoctoral Fellow in the ARC Laureate Program in Comparative Constitutional Law

Prior to joining UN Women Palestine Country Office as the UN Women Special Representative in August 2018, Ms. Guimond was the SDG Advisor for UN Women Arab States.

During her Postdoctoral Fellowship Dinesha will focus on constitution-making in post-war contexts. For the period of the Fellowship, Dinesha is on sabbatical leave from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka where she has been serving as a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Public & International Law at the Faculty of Law.

At the University of Colombo, Dinesha has been teaching Administrative Law, Constitutional Law and Human Rights Law. Dinesha is a LLB graduate from the University of Colombo and an Attorney-at-Law. She read for her Master's degree as a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard Law School, MA, USA and she completed her doctoral studies at the University of Colombo.

Dinesha has previously been affiliated with the Centre on Comparative Constitutional Law as a Kathleen Fitzpatrick Visiting Fellow (April – May 2018).



## Ms. Maryse Guimond

Special Representative, UN Women Palestine Office.

Prior to joining UN Women Palestine Country Office as the UN Women Special Representative in August 2018, Ms. Guimond was the SDG Advisor for UN Women Arab States.

From January to August 2018, she also served as UN Women Arab States Deputy Regional Director a.i. From 2013 and 2016, Ms Guimond was the Regional Programme Manager of the joint EU-UN Women Spring Forward for Women in the Arab States. Ms. Guimond has over 25 years of experience in development; she has managed regional/country portfolios and programmes.

She has held postings in the Middle East and North Africa, the Caribbean and in West Africa.

Before joining the UN system, she worked for various international development agencies, including Oxfam, Save the Children and Plan International.

Her work has focused on gender equality and women's empowerment (political and economic), governance, human rights (women and children rights), and the provision of basic social services (education, protection, and health).





## Dr Mona Nabil Demaidi

IEEE senior member, co-managing director for Girls in Tech,  
and Board member in ArabWIC.

Is an entrepreneur and women's rights advocate. She obtained her PhD in Advanced Software Engineering and Machine Learning, MSc with distinction in Software Engineering and Data Management from the University of Manchester, UK.

Dr Mona joined An-Najah National University in 2016, to become the youngest female with a PhD certificate at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology. Her research focuses on building personalized learning environments using machine learning. Besides her academic work, Dr Mona is an active member of several societies which globally support women in the technology sector. She has been a board member with Women in Engineering and Arab Women in computing since 2014.

In 2017 she became the first female supervisor and senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) at An-Najah National University student branch.

Dr Mona's ambition to help Palestinian women was not limited to Palestine or the MENA region, she was keen to find opportunities to improve the network for Palestinian women and help them connect with the rest of the world. Therefore, in 2019, Dr Mona became the Co-Managing Director for Girls in Tech in Palestine which is the first chapter in the MENA region.



## Dr. Samah Saleh

Assistant professor in the social work department and coordinator of Master program in Women Studies, an-Najah university/Board member of the Palestinian money Authority.

Holds a PhD in Sociology - Women's Studies - from Goldsmiths, University of London. Samah Saleh also holds master's degree in Social Work from McGill University in Canada and master's degree in Gender and Development from Birzeit University and bachelor's degree in Psychology from An-Najah National University.

She works at An-Najah National University as a professor assistant and coordinator of the Master's Program of Women's Studies. She was head of Social work department for three years. She is interested in women's issues and her various interests include women's entrepreneurial projects and has many research participations in this context, in addition to her research focus on the politics of everyday life for Palestinian women former prisoners.

In addition to many experiences in providing consultancy to develop the status of women entrepreneurs in the Palestinian society.

She is a board member in the Palestinian Money Authority.



## Somoud Damiri

First-ever woman Chief Prosecutor of Personal Status for the Upper Council of Sharia Courts in the State of Palestine. She is a former legal adviser to the Palestinian ministries of interior and justice.

She has been appointed in different positions that included:

- Supervisor of Judicial Planning in Shari'a courts .
- Supervisor the preparation and implementation of judicial training programs.
- Member of the central committee of foundling and abandoned children since 2012- present, Participated in the preparation of the first manual work procedures central committee of foundling and abandoned children.
- Co-chair of the National Committee for Legal Aid 2017-present, participated in the preparation of the first strategic plan for legal assistance in Palestine.
- Member of the national team of the Referral system 2014-present, Participated in the preparation of the manual of the procedures of the Referral system.
- Member of the CEDAW Committee, participated in the official Palestinian delegation of the CEDAW Committee between 10-11 July 2018.
- Member of the National Monitoring Group for Women Victims of Violence, co-author of the working manual for the Observatory at the beginning of 2019.

Her academic work includes an article entitled: "A female Shari a Judge in Palestine Between Sharia and Law "which was published in "Uses of the past: Sharia and gender in legal theory" book with the University of Gottingen - Germany- Hera Publications, 2018.

She is the recipient of the integrity and transparency of the public sector in Palestine in 2010 Award.



## Ms.Suhair Farraj

General Director of Women Media and Development (TAM).

Is the General Manager of TAM. She received an award from the Arabic World Institute in Paris for her film "Palestinian Diaries." She has extensive experience in working with organizations as well as in television: she has directed a number of films that have spread worldwide, and she worked as a civilian videographer with ABC News and WTN television channel. Suheir has worked with community groups especially women, using media to enhance her trainings on gender issues.





## Dr.Sanaa Alsarghali

**Is the first female obtaining a PhD in Constitutional Law in Palestine.**

She received her PhD from Lancaster University and an LLM in law from Durham University. In 2016 she became the first female Assistant Professor at an-Najah law school in Palestine. Sanaa's work and publications focus on the Semi-Presidential system's application in Palestine, and constitution making process. She is also working on sectarianism issues and constitutional identity in the Middle East with SEPAD project and Richardson Institute for political studies in UK.

In 2018 Sanaa was elected as the Chairwoman of 'Women, Media and Development' (TAM), an NGO that intends to change the stereotypical image of the Palestinian women in the Media. Previously, she worked with TAM as a TV presenter through Al Fajer TV local station.

Her social and political talk show 'TAM Time' was screened on the Palestinian National TV for two years. In Late 2018 she became the acting director of the Constitutional Studies Centre which she also co-founded at An-Najah University. Sanaa has been appointed as the 9th Member in the Palestinian constitutional Drafting Committee by the Palestinian National Council in 2019.

In December 2018 Sanaa received the Outstanding Alumni Award from Lancaster University. The Alumni Award recognises Lancaster graduates who have made a substantial contribution in their field and have developed an outstanding national or international reputation amongst their peers. Dr.Alsarghali has been awarded with many prestigious fellowships and among them is The Kathleen Fitzpatrick Visiting Fellow in Constitutional Law at Melbourne University in July and August 2019.

In July 2020 UNESCO approved the appointment of Dr.Alsarghali as the new holder of UNESCO Chair on Human Rights, Democracy and Peace hosted by An-Najah University.