

## Webinar: Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination in the Middle-East

Monday 25 November at 3:30 pm CET at <https://fuze.me/85228476>

The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) of the World Council of Churches (WCC) is presenting a webinar on ***Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination in the European Context***.

The webinar is part of the WCC Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (PJP) 2019 thematic focus on Racism. **Ms SETA MARGOSSIAN-HADESHIAN**, Executive Assistant to the General Secretary of the Middle-East Council of Churches, will be moderating the webinar.

**SPEAKERS** (alphabetical order):



Joyce Michel Geha is an attorney at law and is registered before the Beirut bar association since 2000. She works with Caritas Lebanon since 2004 till date in the legal department for both migrants and refugees. She has been nominated as focal point for legal refugees department from 2006 till date. She participated in and organized many conferences on trafficking in persons, the *Kafala* system, and works both in Lebanon as well as in neighbouring countries. She also participates in drafting the unified work contract for migrant domestic workers.

Rifat Kassis has long been active in the Palestinian struggle on a number of non-violent fronts and has over 30 years of experience working in Middle East, Northern Caucasus, Central Asia and Europe. He was the Executive Director of YMCA Palestine and founder of YMCA/YWCA Joint Advocacy Initiative and the Olive Tree Campaign. He also worked as the Manager of WCC/EAPPI. He founded the national section of the global child rights movement, Defense for Children International (DCI) and was elected International President for two terms. He co-founded the Alternative Tourism Group (ATG), focused on justice tourism to Palestine, and was a co-author of Kairos Palestine and its Coordinator since its inception in 2009. He published two books “Palestine: A Bleeding Wound in the World’s Conscience” and “Kairos for Palestine”, and had contributed to 16 different books in different languages.



Hrayr Jebejian (Dr) is the General Secretary of the Bible Society in the Gulf. He holds a BBA degree in Business Administration from Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon. Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from the American University of Beirut and Doctor of Ministry degree in Bible Engagement from the New York Theological Seminary. Jebejian is the author of *The Armenian’s Path for Struggle and Existence* (2010), *Armenian Diaspora Lives: As I saw them* (2018) and *Bible Engagement: The Discovery of Faith, hope and Self* (2019). He has also contributed a number of Biblical and theological articles to Christian Encyclopedias and magazines. He is a recipient of the Ambassador of the Motherland medal from the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia.



Dr Bernard Sabella earned his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Virginia. He currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). A former professor of sociology at Bethlehem University with research focused on the presence of Palestinian Christians and interreligious relations in the Middle East. He served as a Member of the Palestinian Parliament between 2006 and 2019 during which time he headed the Palestine Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Mena Shawky works as a Program Coordinator at the Egyptian Association for Educational Resources. He is also a Deacon within the Coptic Orthodox Church. He was an intern at the Commission of Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in 2013. He has a Legal background, and worked as a lawyer in Egypt. He currently serves as Vice-Moderator of ECHOS, the WCC Commission on youth engagement in the ecumenical movement.



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