

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title: Second Preparatory Meeting for the “Reality of Child Rights in Times of Crisis” Conference

Date: 25/11/2024

Time: 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Location: Zoom

Attendees:

- Dr. Ali Nash’at Al-Sha’ar
- Dr. Rehab Sandouqa
- Dr. Nabila Espanioly
- Ms. Razan Ata
- Mrs. Farah Darwazeh
- Ms. Rania Abu Aita
- Dr. Hana Al-Rabadi
- Ms. Dina Moghrabi
- Mrs. Khawla Diab
- Mr. Emad Khalili
- Mrs. Doa’a Hamdan
- Ms. Razan Jum’a
- Mrs. Majda Al-Bitar

Apologies (with excuse):

- Ms. Bashaer Abu Khadija
- Dr. Ghassan Issa

Meeting Highlights

1. Conference Date Adjustment

- Based on the previous meeting held on 18/11/2024, attendees agreed to the proposal of rescheduling the conference to 11th, 12th, and 13th February 2025.
- Reason: December and January include numerous holidays and university breaks, making February a more suitable time.
- Decision: Proposal unanimously approved.

2. Concept Note Adjustments

- Dr. Ali to revise the concept note in discussion with colleagues to make sure the new concept note incorporates their ideas (Dr. Nabila suggested incorporating a comprehensive, approach to early childhood, including the concept of "Unchilding," aligned with war realities).

3. Guest Speaker Confirmation

- Dr. Ali announced that Attorney Isleem, who co-presented South Africa’s case in the Hague Court, agreed to participate virtually due to travel restrictions.

4. New Protection Tools Proposal

- Dr. Nabila proposed creating specific tools for child rights protection to be presented to the UN as a concrete demand at the conference's conclusion.
- Formation of a specialized committee to draft these tools, comprising legal experts, rights activists, and representatives from the International Coalition for Childhood.

5. Conference Program

- Drafts of the conference program prepared by Ms. Majda and Dr. Ali will be merged and presented in the next meeting.
- Invitations sent to speakers from Yemen, Sudan, Ukraine, and the Balkans; responses awaited.

6. Virtual Participation Preparations

- Dr. Nabila and other attendees emphasized preparing for virtual participation, especially for international attendees.
- An-Najah University has the premises and facilities to ensure wide participation online, translation services as needed and safeguarding the conference against hackers.

7. Collaboration with Key Entities

- Suggestions included inviting speakers from Lebanon and collaborating with UNICEF to discuss intervention methodologies.

8. Topics for Discussion

- Ms. Hana proposed including a comparative evaluation of current interventions vs. ideal practices.
- Dr. Rehab highlighted that we need to be careful as not to duplicate themes from the Amman Juzoor-led conference, emphasizing the need to bring the global focus into this upcoming conference.

9. Conference Logistics

- Media and public relations coverage to be handled by the university's media center.
- Advanced filtering systems to ensure cybersecurity.
- Translation services to be provided for Arabic-English sessions.

10. Exhibition Space

- Adjacent to the conference venue, an exhibition showcasing local and international initiatives will be organized.

11. Conference Secretariat

- A two-member secretariat team was proposed:
 - Ms. Majda Al-Bitar (An-Najah University representative).
 - Ms. Dina Maghrebi (Palestinian Childhood Network representative).

12. Logo and Financial Arrangements

- Logo designs will be shared in the next meeting for selection.
- A dedicated conference account in USD has been set up for financial transactions.
- Budget draft to be prepared by Dr. Ali and discussed at the next meeting.

13. Law Faculty Involvement

- The Faculty of Law confirmed their participation and were integrated into the preparatory committee.

14. Meeting Schedule Adjustment

- Future preparatory committee meetings will be held every Monday, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Action Items:

1. Dr. Ali to revise the concept note and draft the budget.
2. Small group of five to work on a draft legal framework to become an ask out of the conference (composition to be agreed later)
3. Committee to finalize the conference program.
4. Invitations to be extended to additional speakers and organizations.
5. Logo proposals to be presented in the next meeting.
6. Mrs. Farah to begin communicating with potential funders and financial supporters for the conference.

Next Meeting: will be on Monday 2.12.2024 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM