



Suliman S. Olayan School of Business



## **KIP Documentation Project**

### **Fighting sexual harassment in Lebanon: Where are we now, and how far have we come?**

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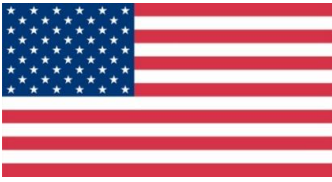
*Submitted to*

Knowledge is Power (KIP) Project

Olayan School of Business

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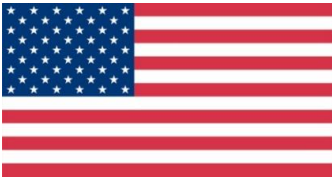


## Executive Summary

The Knowledge Is Power (KIP) project centers on the understanding that producing and accessing knowledge on issues of Gender and Sexuality is an essential tool to inform, support, and advance activism for gender justice. Thus, through its integration of various stakeholders, from civil society actors to academics to the private sector, KIP seeks to narrow the knowledge gap and provide linkages where they are most needed. Within this framework, this paper comes in support of KIP's focus on sexual harassment, by situating it within a historical lineage of initiatives, activism, and programs fighting sexual harassment in Lebanon. In addition, this paper is a first attempt at documenting and rendering visible some pioneering efforts having previously focused on the issue of sexual harassment in Lebanon, thus allowing for an acknowledgment of the work and a chance of building on it.

The following paper takes the form of a comprehensive archival and desk review in an effort to document key initiatives, campaigns, and other forms of activism fighting sexual harassment in Lebanon, as well as the evolution of this movement over the past 15 years. In line with KIP's mission to support and sustain such initiatives, the present mapping seeks to explore enablers and challenges to such progress, both contextual and internal to the movement. The research time frame was set from the year 2000 until 2017 and highlighted legal cases, media stories, and other relevant events that have shaped the fight against sexual harassment. The study is supplemented with interviews with key actors who have worked on the mentioned initiatives.

The overall mapping analysis is geared towards contextualizing the historical findings within the national and regional socio-political climate. In turn, the outcomes of the study are a first in situating relevant campaigning, action, research, and discussions within the broader perspective of a decade of visible work. Finally, this paper draws on the existing work and on



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lessons learned by civil society actors and other movement catalysts in order to push forward policy recommendations as well as key caveats in building and sustaining efforts towards fighting sexual harassment.