

## NEWSLETTER 2



# Young Female Activists for Intercultural Dialogue!

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Young Female Activists for Intercultural Dialogue** is a Creative Force project funded by the Swedish Institute, and implemented by Swideas AB in Sweden and East and West Centre for Sustainable Development in Jordan (WEE Centre).

The **Swedish Institute's Creative Force** programme emphasizes the importance of culture and creativity for a country's development, for strengthening democracy and for the right to express oneself freely. The aim is to help build respect for human rights, with particular focus on freedom of expression and women's rights.



## STUDY VISITS IN JORDAN

From the 6th until the 10th of October 2023, the Swideas team, along with Swedish-based female activists Lora Grigorova (Music producer, DJ) and Dina Hamida (activist/bellydancer) participated in study visits in Amman, Jordan, where the East & West Center **مركز الشرق والغرب** hosted us for 5 days and organized visits, discussion sessions with Jordanian female activists, whom we had the pleasure to meet in Amman:

- Byan Abo Awud - Jordanian activist, antropologist and theater performer.
- Suhad Khatib - community-based studio for the art and design in Amman.
- Lina Haddad - activist in civil society and rural areas devleopment for women rights
- Lina Naseredeen - activist and coordinator of gender dialogue club.
- Takatoat feminist organization/collective.
- Sawsan Abu Doush - musician and guitarrist, teacher.
- Tahani Ruhi Helmy - Journalist and activist in human rights and minority issues

A warm thank you to all the female activists that welcomed us in Amman!



# REFLECTIONS - MEET THE ACTIVISTS!

In Jordan, we met with inspirational young women and gender activists, who use arts, culture, music, and media to express freedom of speech, advocate for women's rights in society and promote their identities. Coming from different background but living in the same city, Amman, the activists shared their stories and perspectives on gender-based narratives in Jordan and how they percieve feminism!

Suhad Khatib is a Jordanian-Palestinian artist and activist, with multiple experiences of using art, media and design as tools for women to emerge in the workplace and in private spaces.



Study visit to Takatoat feminist association born out of local activists who wanted to create a COLLECTIVE for women in Jordan to feel safe and learn, share their stories.

Byan Abo Awud - Jordanian activist, antropologist and theater performer. She uses theatre performance to break gender stereotypes and express her identity



Sawsan Abu Doush - musician and guitarrist, teacher. She uses music to break gender barriers and stereotypes about female musicians in Jordan.



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# REFLECTIONS - MEET THE ACTIVISTS!

We shared stories of oppression, but also methods and tools to fight discrimination against women and all genders. The participants engaged in performances of music, storytelling, bellydancing, and intercultural discussions. We agreed to disagree about the meaning of feminism, perceived differently by each depending on past experiences. We hope these meetings to have brought fruitful connections for further collaboration on the topic!

Meeting with Tahani Ruhi Helmy - Journalist and activist in human rights, gender, and minority issues in Jordan. She uses journalism and media as a tool to create change, disseminate and share information, facts.



Meeting with Lina Naseredeem - activist and coordinator of gender dialogue club. Her work consists of gathering young men and women to create videos on social media aimed at challenging and questioning gender roles.

Swedish-based female activists & participants - Lora Grigorova (DJ, music producer, artist), and Dina Hamida (activist/bellydancer) shared their inputs from their personal experiences with art, media and activism in Sweden!



Lina Haddad - activist in civil society and rural areas development for women rights . She advocates for women's rights in Jordan, with a particular focus on rural development and opportunities for women in society.



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