



# ELITE



*The Pride of FEPS*

MEETING OUR NEW DIPLOMATS !

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# ELITE

FEPS, WHERE ELITES ARE MADE

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## Special coverage of the joint conference between FEPS and UNICEF

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ليلى عمرو جلال

## Meeting our graduate and newest diplomat: Layla Amr Galal

Adham Nasr El Din, Reem Omran

FEPS has always been honored by all its graduates, who are well known for immediately starting their success journey upon their graduation, and has always shown pride in its students reaching the highest of positions. However, this time, it's a one of kind type of situation, as today we celebrate the large number of our graduates who excelled enough to be a part of the diplomatic corps. Out of the 40 chosen graduates by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 14 of them were FEPS students, which is an achievement in a league of its own. Therefore, Elite happily celebrates this occasion, by interviewing one of our thriving graduates, who happens to be a former ELITE editor, and now a member of the Diplomatic Corps: Layla Amr Galal.

Layla Galal is a 26-year-old FEPS graduate, who was part of the graduating class of 2018. She majored in Political Science, and studied Economics as a minor, whilst enrolling in the English section of the faculty. Layla excelled in her academic years, as she ended up graduating with a grade of very good with honors.

Despite her superiority in the academic sector, Layla never abandoned her hobbies, including playing the piano and her undying passion for the theatre. She also expressed herself through writing, which just made her a perfect fit for ELITE's family at the time. As soon as she graduated, Layla worked in the Egyptian Parliament, within the coalition of supporting Egypt, where she was responsible for political communication; It was an important step in her career journey, as she greatly benefited from such an experience on so many levels. She then moved to work in the office of the Former Minister of Media, Osama Haikal, until she resigned from her job in 2020, following the resignation of Minister Osama himself. Layla then discovered her true love for the media and the field of public relations in her following position, which was the director of public relations and communications in a private sector company; ; And that was her last stop, before becoming part of the prestigious Ministry of Foreign Affairs last October, through securing a golden spot in the diplomatic corps.



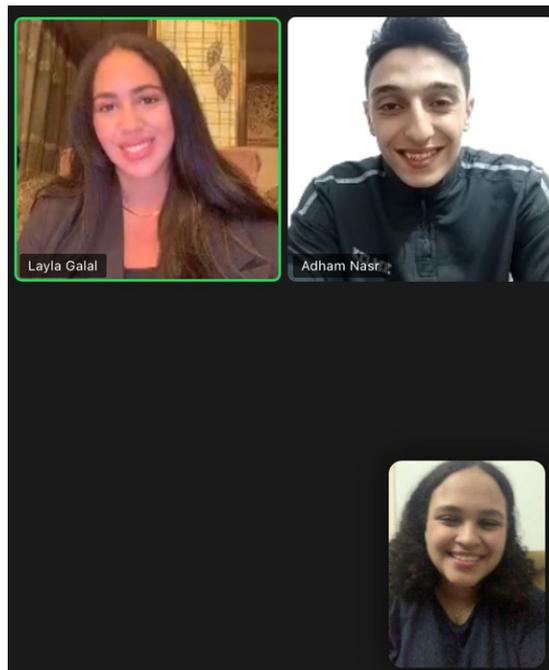
The interview started off with the question: **"In your opinion, did studying at FEPS benefit you in any way during your journey of joining the diplomatic corps?"**

Layla emphasized the great role of our esteemed faculty in shaping her personality and preparing her for such a job, as it made her a person who possesses a greed for knowledge and insight as she put it, as well as emphasizing on the role of our professors in shaping awareness and perception, by not only focusing on the scientific material, but also by urging students to expand their general knowledge and readings skills. Layla also described FEPS as a center of science and knowledge, that allowed her to always stay in touch with the outer world and gain awareness of the latest global events. Moreover, the huge variety of courses she studied over the 4 years in FEPS, covering economics, political science, statistics and public administration, have contributed greatly in driving Layla towards the importance of diversity, inclusivity, curiosity, and greed for more knowledge. FEPS was also the biggest reason behind the development of Layla's soft skills, as she got the practice of a lifetime during studying. In other words, Layla couldn't express enough how she owes FEPS, for shaping her into the extraordinary person she is now.

We then proceeded to deeply dive into her experience of being accepted into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through asking about the different stages of getting such a job, from start to end.

First off, Layla described the whole experience as interesting and enjoyable, and according to her, it wasn't as difficult as everyone claims it to be. Immediately after graduating, Layla applied to take the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' exams to join the diplomatic corps, but she failed. Instead of setting her back, this only pushed her forward, as it helped her discover her shortcomings and overcome them, before re-applying after strongly developing herself. Specifically, she worked on improving her language skills in both English and French, alongside focusing on enriching her political, economic and geographical information.

She also refreshed her memory in the fields of international law and international organizations, which are ones that she had previously extensively studied back in FEPS.



Adding up, she made it clear that she hasn't taken any kind of courses or trainings to help her during her second attempt. Layla then entered the next round of exams in 2021, and following soothingly passing her first exam in the second attempt, she was in the next stage of the application process, which mainly focused on the personality of the applicant, self-development and mastery of languages. And finally, she found herself one step away, in a stressful oral exam, that was graced with the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs himself; Layla was the only candidate that had her interview supervised by the Minister himself, and that only raised the stakes much higher for her. Despite that, her determination was greater than anything, which drove her towards her greatest milestone yet: Passing the final stage and getting that position in the diplomatic corps!

Moving on, we were eager to know **what will her future goals be after joining the diplomatic corps and working for the Foreign Ministry?**

Layla stated that she always strives for the best, but at this moment, she cannot reveal any of her future plans and aspirations, as she has not yet mixed with the atmosphere of the diplomatic corps.



Following up, we asked Layla about **what she can highlight as mistakes she made and through her journey, which she advises students not to repeat, whether during college or during the application process for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?**

She first stressed on the importance of self-development during the 4 years of college, rather than just focusing on the academic aspect. That's because the career world focuses on traits beyond great knowledge, and that includes strong language and communication skills, besides teamwork. And as for the students dreaming of joining the diplomatic corps, Layla strongly advises them to start prepping themselves by expanding their knowledge through reading, enhancing their analytical skills, always staying up-to-date with the local and global news all around them, and last but not least, perfecting their second, and even third, languages.

Even more, not only does she highlight the significance of ambition, but she also emphasizes on the importance of following your passion despite all the difficulties you may face or fear. She also advises to never to give up, or to fall in the trap of "I need a connection to reach my dream position in the diplomatic corps". She assures everyone that if you are ambitious and qualified enough, the job can easily be yours!

Finally, our last question was **What is it that you would like to address to ELITE, as we celebrate its fourth-year anniversary this month?**

Layla wholeheartedly thanked ELITE for everything it provided her during her time as an editor in the magazine, and she always remembers the first article she wrote, since it was mainly inspired by her late grandfather, who was a former member of the Egyptian Parliament. She also added that ELITE has always been her safe space for expressing herself, and that she wishes it continues to be a symbol for advancement and distinction, as is the case with our esteemed faculty.



رنا أشرف محمد

## Meeting our graduate and newest diplomat: Rana Achraf

Malak Ashraf ,Farah El Melegy,Mostafa Maher

Elite Magazine is proud to host one of the honorable models of our Faculty, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, and she was one of the fifteen graduates of the Faculty who were appointed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the end of last month out of forty diplomatic attachés who were chosen from among more than one thousand and five hundred applicants. Rana Achraf, a graduate of the Faculty from the French Division of the Department of Political Science for the class of 2018, shares the elite's unique experience of applying and joining the diplomatic service and its aspirations for the next steps

**First, how was your application and admission journey, and what are the different phases you went through?**

In the beginning, the competition for diplomatic and consular attaches was announced in February 2021, and at that time I had already been familiar with the nature of the Ministries' work owing to my work in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in the Central Department of International Relations of the Ministry,

so I had the chance to see the Ministry of Foreign Affairs work from outside. And of course, like many other students, I was often asked why I hadn't applied for the exams of the diplomatic corps, as this is the typical stereotype for all students of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, although in fact, it is one of the many options available for the faculty's graduates. But this field was indeed very close to the nature of my studies; being a Political Science student, and having French as my first language besides Arabic and English, were huge advantages on my side, as being proficient in at least three languages is one of the exam's admission requirements. Moreover, applicants shouldn't exceed the age of twenty-seven, so it was my last chance to apply, as I couldn't apply in the previous years due to my traveling to Lebanon on a scholarship program to obtain my master's degree.

The exam consists of several tests, including language, where applicants must choose a third language with Arabic and English- in which I chose French-



in addition to the International Law exams, Political economy, and International Political Relations, which are all topics that we have covered in our several college courses.

I had thought a lot about whether I should take a training course to prepare for the exams or rely on my academic background. I preferred to join a training course because such courses mainly focus on the most important points included in the exams. As for the places that offer these courses, indeed FEPS always takes the lead as this course takes place immediately after the competition is announced, or sometimes even before it. There is also a well-known center called "Artek Center for Diplomatic Qualification", which I joined. The content in these courses is often very similar. Due to the unexpected announcement timing of the exam, the qualifying sessions were very intense, unlike previous years, where the exam had a specific date or was even held several times during the year, but due to the Covid-19 are what caused some of the changes. It was certainly a tough period for me as I tried to balance preparing for the exams while also wanting to prove myself in my new job.



#### As for the tests:

The first stage of the exams was in April 2021, and its results were announced in December 2021. Only Seventy out of thousand six hundred applicants were selected to advance to the next stage. By the beginning of 2022, we went through some kind of computer assessments which included basic computer skills test. Then, there was the Mental and Psychological abilities assessment last August. Finally, the oral exam was last October, which no doubt is the hardest one. My examination committee was mostly formed from a large number of examiners



including a number of senior Egyptian ambassadors, including Dr. Mostafa El-Feki, one of the most prominent figures of the diplomatic corps. Body Language was constantly monitored throughout the exam, and thankfully we had already been trained about protocols and were well acquainted with them. The duration of the test ranges from fifteen minutes to twenty minutes, and the questions are asked in all languages that the candidate is fluent in. For me, the majority of the questions were in French. I consider it my first language, but it is worth noting that the committee had a high degree of consideration in the case that the candidate was not fluent in the third language. Moreover, applicants should expect to be asked in all fields: politics, economics, international relations, international law, and others. And they may be asked by all or some of the committee members.

Finally came the day of the announcement of the diplomatic attaches who had been chosen, and I remember well that on that day, despite my waiting for the call that would reshape my whole future, I decided that if this didn't happen, it wouldn't be the end of my journey, but I would look for other alternatives to develop my abilities and prove myself. But here we are, already following the necessary procedures for appointment. Something worth mentioning is that the accepted number of diplomatic attaches for this year is large compared to the previous ones. It was pointed out that of course, among the forty diplomatic attachés, fifteen graduates are from FEPS, and the remaining ones come from all sorts of backgrounds and specializations, as applicants do not have to be just political science students.



• **As for the upcoming steps:**

In the coming period, we will start our enrollment in the Diplomatic Institute, which is a period of preparation before official work, in addition to a military training that has been created, as well as a training at the Intelligence School. It is expected that this qualification process will continue for two to three years in Egypt before we are appointed to Egyptian embassies abroad.

• **When asked if working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was her goal before joining the Faculty of Economics and Political Science:**

Certainly, the idea of working in the diplomatic corps was one of my interests at that time, but as I mentioned, I was keen not to make this my only career goal, as in case I did not achieve it, there would be other alternatives and opportunities. And there are actually many colleagues of mine from college who preferred to follow different steps after graduation such as working in international organizations, so it depends on the person's interests. As for me, this is indeed the field that I love, and that is why I specialized in the fields of international cooperation and foreign policy during my master's degree even before I applied to work in the ministry. Of course, some students who enroll in the FEPS are almost always really determined to start their diplomatic career. However, any student who didn't work on the academic aspects related to diplomatic work, such as constant review and follow-up of events at the beginning of his studies, can still develop himself later, it is never too late to start, but it is certain that setting such a goal in advance and taking the appropriate steps to achieve it makes the matter somewhat easier.

• What are the most prominent aspects in which your study at FEPS helped you in the process of joining the diplomatic corps? And how did distinguish you from others in the application process?

Of course, there are many aspects. For example, in several topics, I only relied on my academic background without any need to studying start all over. Furthermore, the simulation models that I participated in during college period helped me a lot to gain experience in speaking and negotiation. I remember very well that in negotiations, we were always trained to expect the response of the other person, and even to prepare to answer it (contre argument). For example, it is customary in the tests of the diplomatic corps, in the case of not having enough knowledge in a specific topic, false information can never be initiated. The diplomatic attaché is prepared to represent his country, and it is not possible to follow such methods in case of inability to answer. But what we can do is to talk within the framework and context of what we know well and understand but is still relevant the subject of the question, and this is what we are accustomed to in such activities.

I also remember that when I applied to work in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology at the beginning, I was surprised by the requirements set for applying to work in the Office of International Relations in the Ministry that specified that applicants must be a graduate of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, but later I understood the reason behind it; dealing with a lot of foreign delegations, for instance, in addition to collecting information and preparing research on countries and international organizations that Egypt cooperates with, and the need to apply the research methodology that we learned in the college, all of which are points that the FEPS really focuses on compared to other faculties.



• **What are the mistakes that you advise college students not to make, whether with regard to study or joining the diplomatic corps?**

As I mentioned, keeping up with national and international news and events is very important. Moreover, trying to apply for the diplomatic corps exams at an early age, because applicants may not pass the exams from the first time and may need to develop themselves more before reapplying. And with no doubt, I advise they learn and master more than two languages.

• **What is the goal or dream that you hope to achieve through diplomatic work?**

Now that I've been selected, I feel like I've finally reached the goal I've been striving for for so long. But for the coming period, of course, I aspire to advance in diplomatic work until I reach the rank of ambassador and work to achieve the goals and vision of Egypt, I really want to contribute to the implementation of its foreign policy, as well as continue to develop myself and make a great influence, because it is certain that the field of diplomatic work, like others, is not without competition and constant need for development.

• **Would you like to share any other ideas or tips for college students or newspaper readers?**

I would like to advise students that you should all believe in yourselves and have self-confidence, as FEPS students and graduates really are special and have enough abilities and capabilities that qualify them to join the diplomatic corps. At first, you may feel discouraged from the difficulty and length of the application process, and this is based on my experience, I hesitated to take the exam more than once, but I assure you that if you put that goal right in front of you, with God's will, you will be more deserving of it, and I want to remind you of our faculty's motto "Commitments, Excellence, Distinction"



I would also like to thank the faculty and all my honorable professors, who played an important role in developing my personality and broadening my horizon. I had a good relationship with my professors and I was able to benefit a lot from them.

• **On the occasion of Al Nokhba newspaper's celebration of its four-year anniversary, would you like to address the newspaper?**

First, I would like to express my happiness with this interview and my absolute admiration for the role Elite plays in general, and especially providing such a great opportunity for students. This initiative had not yet been established during my time at the FEPS, but I encourage students to join Elite Magazine and practice analyzing and writing about contemporary issues. This will be of great importance, especially if you want to continue in the academic field and write research and scientific articles.



السفيرة  
"دينا إيهاب"



## Meeting our graduate, former ELITE editor and newest diplomat: Dina Ehab

Mariam Hefny, Assile Mostafa, Nermine Nasser

From the literary Section in Thanaweya Amma to a student in the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, then an editor at "ELITE", while also being a multi-talented and successful student. And an ideal student at the university and college in 2018 This helped her to complete her Bachelor's degree in political science in only three and a half years. Now, our interviewee is one of the fourteen graduates of her colleagues to be chosen from among the forty applicants for the position of diplomatic Attaché. As you have always been accustomed to us sharing happy news and highlighting important events, "ELITE" interviewed one of its former editors, not only in an attempt for us to know the details of her story, passing the exams organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to join the diplomatic corps, and finally joining this great entity. Based on this, this interview has been done as an appreciation and celebration of our former editor and one of the founders of our magazine, which celebrates this issue on its fourth anniversary.

Dina Ehab, a graduate of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science in 2020 - Department of Political Science

In the beginning, and in our desire to clarify and convey information to students, especially newcomers, **we began by asking our graduate "Dina" about the meaning of the job title "Diplomatic Attaché" and the nature of his duties.**

Hence, Dina replied that a "diplomatic attaché" is the representative of the State abroad and his functions usually include deepening relations, working to bring views closer, and solving problems, with the need to achieve the State's interest. Just as we have embassies for many countries, the diplomatic attaché also travels abroad to represent our country, and deepen relations with other countries. Thus, we can also clarify the meaning of the job title "diplomatic attaché" as the beginning of a diplomatic journey and also as a rank of State representation. It usually strives to take care of the State's interests and improve relations.

And in our desire to know if our college helped her in this step, **we asked her: "How did the college help you to join the diplomatic corps?"**



The diplomatic corps was my dream from the very beginning, even before I joined FEPS. I was a student in the literary section and my family always wanted me to join the Faculty of Medicine, but I chose the literary section and I joined the Faculty of Economics and Political Science to fulfill my dream of reaching the diplomatic corps. Indeed, FEPS was the fruit of the formation of my personality and one of the best things that happened to me because it contributed to changing my way of thinking as well as my personality. I was a very energetic, multi-talented student. I was also a poet and I entered our faculty's magazine (FEPS), and participated in many college ceremonies by giving the keynote speech. Therefore, the college really helped me and was a gate that helped me join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Then the dialogue moved to the question that, of course, is on the minds of many: **"How was the experience of applying and being accepted to join the diplomatic corps? Can you tell us about the different stages of the experience?"**

The experience was very difficult. I graduated in January 2020 and traveled for "Al Maktoum" scholarship and came back in March then I was going to be honored in Dubai, but my travel was canceled on the night of travel due to Corona. After that, I worked as a political researcher in a non-governmental organization and even in a bank

Then, when I saw the announcement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and when I learned that there was an opportunity to apply to join the diplomatic corps, I resigned immediately, even though I had only one month left to prepare for the exam. At that time, no one but my family believed that I actually had a chance to succeed. The results of the written exam appeared after 10 months, and then the preparation period for the oral exam began. Throughout this period, we did not know when it would be held. The date of the oral exam was a psychological factor affecting me and my colleagues. Until my father (may God have mercy on him) passed away three days before the exam date, despite that, he kept pushing me to continue because of his "Ambassador Dina" nickname. Therefore, my persistence was the least I could offer him.

Of course, there was awe of the exam and of the examinees, which we have always heard about as giant professors in their fields and in the diplomatic and foreign affairs corps. But then I realized that joining the Foreign Ministry does not depend on anything other than knowing information about our biography and what has to do with it and being as educated about what is happening around us as possible. The most important thing of all is self-confidence and the person's skills that distinguish him from others. With regard to the method of studying: each subject is studied in a specific way and the basic condition is to have the largest amount of knowledge and information in general, political, economic, geographical, grammatical, law, sports, and etiquette-related topics.

As for me in the future, my training period will start in December, which will initially revolve around a training and preparation area in a diplomatic institute, followed by periods of training in different places.





With regard to Dina's advice to our students, we asked her: **"What mistakes do you advise students not to repeat, whether in college or in exams for the diplomatic corps?"**



I advise students to enjoy college as much as possible without stressing themselves because after my graduation I realized that the pressure I was putting myself under was not a good thing and of course, self-confidence and realizing that the standards for our judgment of ourselves differ from those by which you measure the external, so students should not give up. What should also be considered is to benefit from the scientific content of the lectures as much as possible, which is considered more important than obtaining the highest grades. What helps us in life after graduation is the study itself and what each subject contains, especially since our scientific subject prepares us and qualifies us to prepare for the. We must not forget the second language. Finally, submitting to God's will in choosing what is best for us, I have been rejected in many places but God willed that this happens so that my time and effort will not be wasted on what I do not like and to do everything in my power towards achieving what has always been my dream.

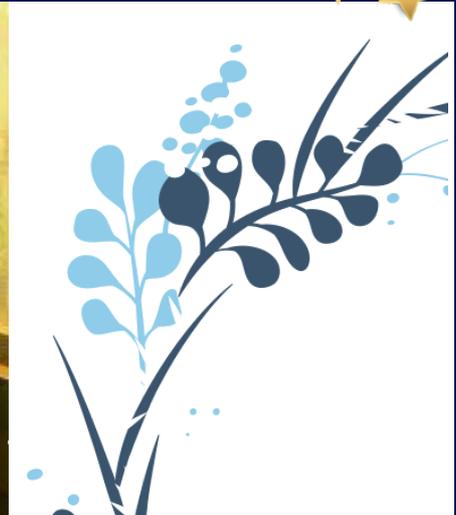
Finally, in a question for "Dina", who was one of the editors and even founders of ELITE, we asked her: **"What do you wish for ELITE on the occasion of the four-year anniversary since its establishment?"**

ELITE is one of the best things about our faculty and what I loved most about it. It is always working to help us develop our capabilities and help us achieve lasting excellence and achieve our dreams.

Of course, I must not forget to mention Dr. Rami Magdy, who has a special role in being the one I always consulted with on many issues. I will not forget the day we were in an interview with one of the ambassadors, when he said to me, "I wish the same for you," wishing me one day to join the diplomatic corps. I am always happy that the magazine is in constant progress and I hope that one day it will become a magazine in the whole university and not only in our college. I also hope that we, as graduates, will have a new opportunity to join the magazine and work in it again.

In conclusion, she told us what she wants to achieve in the future after her success in joining the first level of state representation, which is her desire to be a role model and to be mentioned in the books. In favor of environmental issues, she would once like to be Minister for the Environment or because no woman has ever served as Egypt's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dina aspires to be Egypt's initial Minister for Foreign Affairs. From the elite team, we would like to thank Ambassador Dina Ihab for that fruitful and inspiring interview for us and for our readers, because of the difficulties that Dina went through. We hope this dialogue will benefit everyone who reads it, as it has informed us and changed our views on many things. Hence, we, the former newspaper editor and the current diplomatic attaché, "Dina Ihab", would like to emphasize not to give in to despair and persevere in the face of difficulties and pressures because God's measures are always better than ours.





## Sons & Strangers

**Prof. Hanan Mohamed Aly, FEPS Vice Dean for Education and Students' Affairs.**

**Translated by Nour Ahmed**

I quickly went to the operating room, following a call that sounded throughout the hospital...and I found a seventy-year-old woman unconscious, with blood pouring from her head profusely.

What a deep wound... It seems that she fell... While she was going down the stairs, or when she was walking in the street... Or maybe she was hit by a car, or she was hit with a sharp object...

However, the x-ray showed a concussion in the brain, which suggests that she hit her head on something hard. Her clothes are dirty, which indicates that she fell in the street.

The tests indicate the presence of diabetes, which confirms that she was in a temporary coma that led to her fall.

Here we stopped the blood, cleansed the wound, and sutured it.

The surgery ended successfully, and the patient was discharged to the recovery room.

after making sure that she had begun to regain consciousness, the chief surgeon decided to place her under observation in intensive care, and I was responsible for observing her, revealing her mental powers, and making sure of her ability to move the limbs and use the senses efficiently, lest one of the brain centers be affected. I looked at her for a long time.

She has a beautiful face that time has left its mark on. Long hair, colored with the time

An emaciated body, worn out by time with its illnesses. From time to time, she muttered incomprehensible words.

I wondered: what is she thinking? what is she dreaming

about? what does she see?

Then I found out that she was calling names that I could not identify.

- After a long time, she slowly opened her eyes, I smiled at her, introduced myself, and asked her some questions, and she replied:

- Zainab Irfan

- 73 years old

- I suffer from anemia, high blood pressure and diabetes

- a widow

- I worked as an engineer, and so does my husband

- I have 3 children, two sons and a daughter. they are all married

- I live alone. I go out every once in a while, to do my errands.

She said sadly, her heart pounding hard, and her eyes welled up with tears.

She couldn't resist her tears .

The tear aroused my curiosity, so I said, "I'm sorry, it seems that I poked your wound..."

She stuttered a bit, as if she was remembering something.

I spoke to her again: I was saying... I think you are in pain from a wound...

She picked up the word wound, and said: Yes... a wound that affects my heart... it hurts my soul... it disturbs my sleep...

I said, joking with her, so that she would go on talking to complete the examinations: May I know if it is a wound



as long as the one on your head? And I added: is it 7 centimeters?

She smiled and said: but much bigger

I said, laughing: So, tell me the story of this wound so that we can stitch it up for you.

She said: The children's severeness... a deep wound that couldn't be healed

I did not fail in their upbringing, I did not stop putting effort, giving them time and money

And she added, her voice hoarse with many groans, her chest rising with mountains of exhalations, and her eyes exploding with a waterfall of tears: They turned away from me...they were cruel to me...and they left me alone...

Do your children visit you?

- Only on special occasions. I steal words from them. and they answer in brief phrases.

Do you visit them?

- When I feel that I miss them so much , and I am overcome with longing for my eldest son, the son of my life, the twin of my soul, I go to him to take him in my arms, to fill my eyes with his face, to comfort my ears with his voice.

So, I ran into a list of prohibitions that he and his wife prepared for me: it is forbidden to express an opinion. it is forbidden to give advice.

In my memories , there is my daughter who took my face, endowed with my qualities, and inherited my dreams...I go to her to see her laughter, listen to her stories, and be happy with her successes...and then I collide with her husband's bad attitude, his rude treatment, and his harsh words...

So, I go back to where I came from. I review what I sacrificed, and wonder what I gained.

But if I long for the most beautiful look and the kindest look... it is my youngest son... the fruit of the family...

When the house was empty after the marriage of his two brothers and the death of his father, he was the one who console me , and we were so close .

I go to him when I need a kind word, a kind look, or a gentle gesture.

So, I got shocked with three verses: not to pamper the children. not to bring gifts. not to give money.

So, I go back, and the world turned black in my face, I tasted the lump in my throat, and I felt the pain in my chest.

She said: those are my children ... And she went on: These are my sons. Cruelty is their treatment and their meeting, and harshness is their words.

I wondered: are they calling you?

My eyesight is weak, and when my phone rings, I can't tell who's calling.

In general, children, friends, and neighbors call me, and when someone asks me about my condition, I answer with one word: I am fine, praise be to God.

And here a nurse entered and said: There is a woman asking about Ms. Zainab.

I said, "Get her in right away."

A woman in her forties... As soon as she laid eyes on her, she exclaimed: "Thank God, you are fine. I searched for you everywhere", and rushed towards her, kissing her hand.

I went out of the room to leave the mother with her daughter.

Mountains of sadness may collapse in an instant, rivers of joy flow in a second, and the clouds of the sky clear after a flash.

And why not, the passion of motherhood is a constant and uninterrupted love, the ember of sacrifice that does not fade, and the flame of containment that does not go out.

I looked at the latest analyzes and the last x-ray, and after confirming that the concussion did not affect the brain's functioning, and that her condition had become stable... I decided to tell her to be discharged from the hospital, especially since she will go out with her daughter, who will surely take care of her.

So, I wrote the treatment and instructions, entered the room, and found them talking together and laughing loudly. I looked at them for a long time and said: But I did not notice the similarity between you and your daughter that you told me about, Haja Zainab.

She said, "I forgot to introduce her, she is "Madame Samah, my neighbor."

And here it faded. and it fell into my hand. and I looked at the papers in confusion and said: but I wrote to you on an exit. you need care. no movement. no anxiety. no fatty food.

And she added: I also wrote many treatments for you. They must be taken accurately at different times, and in specific doses.

- Madame Samah approached me and said: Do not worry, Doctor. "Haja Zainab is ten years older than me; she is like my mother."

She looked at the prescription, and added, "I will take care of her and give her medicine on time."





## Coverage of 2nd FEPS-UNICEF Conference on Child and Adolescent Well-Being in Egypt

**Adham Nasr-eldin , Mariam Ahmed , Mohamed Elsaywy , Jomana Khaled , Clarinda Cherif , Mariam Ismael , Ahmed Taha , Maram Mofreh , Nermine Nasser**

With fruitful participation between the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, and UNICEF, the Second Conference on Childhood and Adolescent Well-being was held on the third of last November, in the presence of a group of specialists, researchers, and decision-makers with a great deal of experience in this file. The conference was filled with the presentation of several solid research papers that reveal hard work and strenuous effort, within the framework of the organization's agenda, which harnesses its efforts to contribute to providing a suitable humane environment for young people and their proper involvement in safe circumstances far from their exploitation and employment, not to mention the crimes and extremist practices that they fall victim to.



Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Al-Saeed, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, inaugurated the conference, expressing his sincere thanks to all the attendees, including professors, students and the organizing team. His Excellency indicated that such a conference is actively seeking to come up with an agenda that includes wide-ranging aspects in terms of community work concerned with issues. Childhood and adolescence, and this came on the sidelines of announcing the acceptance of research papers on several topics: such as the emerging corona virus, youth engagement and training, gender issues, child labor, and others. The academic committee concerned with evaluating research has received many submissions and has won wide admiration and good evaluations that are worthy of great serious work, and that would come out with a set of recommendations that put the decision-maker on the right path.

Then Mr. Dr. Fazlul Al-Haque, UNICEF Egypt's deputy representative, came forward to deliver his speech, and after welcoming the honorable gathering, His Excellency thanked the Faculty of Economics and Political Science for its tireless and



constructive effort in social research as the rest of the body and the topics of childhood and adolescence as a centered heart! And that his organization appreciates and crowns those efforts and enlightens the way for them, and also pays special attention and care to the researchers and all participants in the word and opinion, and that his organization does not close its door without any contribution that would move us forward towards resolving a dilemma that afflicts society or an innovation that raises the level of well-being and enhances synergy as well as societal integration.

Then Prof. Dr. Tarek Tawfik, Deputy Minister of Health and Population and Supervisor of the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood, added, thanking the attendees, and thanking Prof. Mahmoud Al-Saeed and Dr. Fazlul Al-Haque and their two ancient institutions, expressing his happiness with these efforts, which resulted in the nucleus of integrated cooperation between them in a field in which work has been glorious recently where a long road of hard work has been perused, all of this is what preserves the two institutions' high statuses.

The opening session ended with a speech by Dr. Asma Ezzat, Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at our college, quickly passed the conference agenda, which included four sessions. Firstly, the first session is entitled: "Children's Welfare and Malnutrition in Egypt", chaired by Dr. Heba Nassar, Professor at the Department of Economics, in which a paper entitled: "Climate Changes and Child Malnutrition in Egypt" is presented, prepared by: Amira Al-Ayouti, Hala Abu Ali, and Ronia Hawash, followed by another titled

: "The Relationship between Social and Demographic Factors and the Prevalence of Childhood Obesity in Egypt" prepared by: Pakinam Fikry and Noha Magdy, and the discussion and commentary is carried out by: Dr. Amira Al-Shall, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, and Dr. Naglaa Arafa, Nutrition Officer, Child Survival and Early Development, UNICEF Egypt. Dr. Heba Nassar commends the first paper and its authors. The first author is Dr. Amira Al-Ayouti, Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. Dr. Amira holds a PhD in Statistics from the Faculty of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom, and she is currently an Honorary Professional Research Fellow in the same faculty. The second author is Hala Abu Ali, a professor of economics at the Faculty of Cairo University, who specializes in environmental and development economics, with a focus on economic value and environmental resource modeling in developing countries. She holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. The third author is Ronia Hawash, Assistant Professor of Economics at the Lacey School of Business. Hawash holds a BA in Economics from Cairo University. She holds a master's degree in economics from the American University in Cairo and a doctorate in economics from Indiana University, USA. Their paper titled Climate Change and Child Malnutrition in Egypt. This study investigates the effect of climate change on the geographic variation in the prevalence of stunting and wasting among children under five years of age in Egypt using the most recent



available Demographic and Health Survey. The result of this paper highlights the fact that social policies and public health interventions directed to reduce the burden of child stunting must take into account geographic variation and adaptive risk factors. As for the second research paper, it was co-written by Dr. Pakinam Fikry, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. She obtained a master's degree and a doctorate in health economics from the same faculty, and she co-wrote the research paper with Dr. Noha Magdy, Assistant Lecturer, Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. In 2016, Dr. Noha graduated with a BA in Economics from the same faculty. After that, she obtained a master's degree in economics from the American University in Cairo, and the research paper was titled "The Relationship between Social and Demographic Factors and the Prevalence of Childhood Obesity in Egypt", and they chose this title due to the critical situation of childhood obesity in Egypt. This paper aims to examine the relationship between social and demographic factors and obesity among children aged (0-18) years in Egypt. On the other hand, wealth scores, mother's education, wealth-area interaction, and wealth-mother's education interaction had no significant effect. Based on these findings, it is recommended to work on influencing the food choices of Egyptian families in order to be healthier, by spreading awareness among the different economic classes, whether rich or poor, and especially among women.

Then it will be followed by the second session under the title "The Role of Relationships in the Well-Being of Children and Adolescents", chaired by Dr. Alia Hafez, Head of the Nutrition Department at the United Nations World Food Program in Egypt, in which she presented a paper entitled: "Domestic Violence and Child Care: Partial Evidence in Selected Arab Countries" prepared by: Marina Hisham and Rasha Ramadan, then followed by another titled: "The quality of connection and its impact on perceptions of the well-being of children between the ages of eight to thirteen years in the Sharabiyya neighborhood in Cairo - Egypt" Prepared by: Gehan El-Sharkawy, and the discussion and comments are conducted by: Dr. Dina Mandour, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, and Dr. Imane Helmy who is a senior economist in the Poverty and Equity Program in the Middle East and North Africa at the World Bank. Ms. Marina Hisham is an Assistant Lecturer of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. She holds a BA in Economics from the Faculty and a Masters in Economics from the University of Paris-1 Pantheon-Sorbonne. Her research, Domestic Violence and Child Care: Micro-Level Evidence in Selected Arab Countries, examines the impact of domestic violence on child care in Arab countries. The literature has shown that intimate partner violence is expected to have a negative impact on various measures of child care through a direct or indirect mechanism. She studied the effects of different forms of domestic violence and found that all forms



increase the likelihood of health problems as well as the possibility of abuse.

Then the second paper entitled "The quality of bonding and its impact on perceptions of well-being among children aged 8-13 years in Al-Sharabiyya" by Dr. Jehan El Sharkawy, where she dedicated her career to children's rights. It started in 1999 with the help of local committees to provide services for children with disabilities. Dr. Jehan holds a PhD in Social Sciences from Royal Roads University with a focus in Child Welfare, and a BA in Anthropology with a minor in Art, Islamic Architecture, and Egyptology from the American University in Cairo. Her paper talks about the negative impact of poverty on children's survival and development, yet little is known about the well-being of poor Egyptian children. Al- Sharabiyya Quarter was taken as a case study, and the results indicated that children's kinship quality and their perceptions of well-being are affected by kindness, trust, joking, generosity, support, hitting, and talking.

Then it is followed by a roundtable discussion on the topic: "Statistics and Evidence for Children: From Research to Policy" managed by Dr. Luigi Peter Rango, Director of Social Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation at UNICEF Egypt. Ms. Sarah Eid, Director of the Transparency and Citizen Engagement Unit at the Ministry of Finance, and Dr. Reham Rizk, Director of the Social Planning and Development Unit at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, and Ms. Alison Fahey is Executive Director of the Jameel Poverty Lab in the Middle East and North Africa. Dr. Luigi began by asking how we could factor research into any budget decision. Dr. Sarah answered by referring to the citizen's budget, which is how each of us has the

right to know the many ways in which the budget affects his life. By presenting budget information in a more accessible format than most standard budget documents, Citizens' Budgets promotes a greater understanding of how public funds are managed. And it is not new, as it was issued in Egypt after the revolution, when they discovered that everyone has the right to know what is going on, in addition to participating in making such a decision. It is a form of transparency between the government and the citizen. She added that there are many sources of information including, academic research, and research conducted by international organizations such as reviewing public spending, as well as how we need to rearrange spending in the budget. Then Dr. Luigi started talking about multidimensional poverty, the new indicator under construction in Egypt. How can this indicator help in addressing poverty in Egypt? It was answered that we are building a national one as economists, because Egypt, in fact, has narrowed the measures of poverty. We have set a narrow definition to define poverty in income expenditures only, which is considered a multidimensional phenomenon. When we look at multidimensional poverty, Egypt has succeeded in reducing it but when we look at income poverty, it is not. Henceforth, we need to build a National Multidimensional Poverty Framework in Egypt in order to better visualize poverty in Egypt.

Then it was followed by the third session entitled: "The Impact of Social-Economic Factors on Children's Well-Being," chaired by Prof. Sherine Al-Shawarby, in which a paper entitled: "Make the Right Real: Edutainment for Expanding the Capabilities of People with Invisible Disabilities"



was discussed, prepared by Ahmed Ayoub, and then followed by another titled: "Assessing the socioeconomic and Proximate Determinants for the Loss of Children among Urban and Rural Mothers in Egypt" prepared by Mona Abdel-Hady, and the discussion and comments are carried out by: Dr. Marwa Biltagy, professor of economics, and Ms. Dalia Bayoumi, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF Egypt. Dr. Sherine stressed that in light of the state's interest in sustainable development issues, the concern for children's issues and their well-being is a very important issue in light of the interest in the future. She also confirmed that when she saw the level of research presented, she was sure that the future of research in Egypt is fine. Dr. Shireen started the construction with Professor Ahmed Ayoub's paper. Professor Ahmed Ayoub is a lawyer who graduated from the Faculty of Law, Mansoura University and holds two diplomas on public and international investment law from Cairo University and Mansoura University. But he is also passionate about economics, as he seeks to obtain a master's degree in law and economics at the University of Hamburg, and a master's degree in economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University. Mr. Ahmed started presenting his paper, where he said that the idea for the paper came to him from watching the Egyptian series "Khaly Balak Min Zizi". His paper simply discusses the fact that in 2018 an Egyptian disability law was passed, and this law contained for the first-time types of special needs that were previously

neglected, so they must demand their rights. However, despite the issuance of this law, these rights were ignored by informal institutions, as there were restrictions and barriers that prevented responding to these rights and applying the law. Professor Ahmed took the Egyptian series "Keep in Mind from Zizi" as a case study, as it presented the problem of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, ADHD. Therefore, he studied how this series affected people's awareness and the integration of people with the disorder into society, and the behavior of people in Egypt about the disorder. The results were that there was no direct and positive effect on taking their rights in the institutions, so people were made aware of this disorder, but they did not sympathize with their inclusion in the institutions. Then the second paper is entitled "Assessing the socioeconomic and proximate determinants of child loss among urban and rural mothers in Egypt" by Mona Abdel Hady, a scientific researcher at the Thunen Institute for Market Analysis and also obtained a joint master's degree from the University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne in quantitative economic models and methods. This paper explores the socioeconomic and proximate determinants of under-five maternal mortality in urban and rural areas. Results indicate that breastfeeding, birth space, maternal age and child size are essential for the health of children under five years of age in urban and rural areas. It also indicates that a mother in rural areas suffers a greater mortality under the age of five if she does not have improved toilet services and health insurance.



The conference concluded with a word of thanks from both Luigi Peter and Dr. Asmaa Ezzat to all those who participated in presenting this conference and participating to make it appear in this way. Dr. Asmaa also expressed her happiness to take charge of this version of the conference and her enjoyment of all the research topics that were discussed. After the words of thanks, Dr. Asmaa Ezzat, before distributing the prizes for the winning researches, clarified the classification of the research papers, which are researches for master's students and researches for faculty members and doctoral students, and that about fifty research abstracts were received and carefully selected among them to be presented at the conference. Among these research papers, the winners will be selected. Dr. Asmaa Ezzat gave way to Dr. Nisreen Selim to announce the winners who came as follows in each category: First: The Ph.D. students category won a cash prize of \$2,500. The research "Climate Change and Child Malnutrition in Egypt" was won by Dr. Amira Al-Ayouti and Dr. Hala Abu Ali and Dr. Ronia Hawash. The other research is "Evaluating the social, economic and approximate determinants of child loss among mothers in urban and rural areas in Egypt" by Dr. Mona Abdelhady. The second category of master's students received a \$500 cash prize for the research of Professor Marina Hisham for her paper "Domestic Violence and Child Care: Partial Evidence in Selected Arab Countries" and the other research by Professor Ahmed Ayoub for his research "Make the Right Real: Entertaining Education to Expand the Capabilities of Persons with Invisible Disabilities."

Finally, extending thanks and greetings to all the participants, professors, researchers, and students, hoping that this conference will come out with a general work agenda, and inspire the participants to set a special work agenda for each of them, in an unremitting effort towards a flourishing environment for childhood and adolescence in Egypt.





## A report on a panel discussion on "Egyptian policy in the field of combating human trafficking".

Youssef Grant Younan - Second Year - Political Science - [youssef.grant2021@feps.edu.eg](mailto:youssef.grant2021@feps.edu.eg)

The Center for Research and Political Studies conducted an open panel discussion on: "Egyptian policy in the field of combating human trafficking: Defining the national strategy and related legislative efforts" on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 AD, at Abdel-Malik Odeh Hall - Faculty of Economics and Political Science - Cairo University,

Participating in the dialogue platform: Ambassador Naela Jabr - Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Immigration and Human Trafficking, Counselor Ahmed Abu Al-Enein, Vice President of the Court of Cassation, and Dr. Hala Ahmed Al-Rashidi runs the dialogue platform as director of the center.

Ambassador Naela Jabr started the conversation by defining the meaning of the term human trafficking. Her Excellency added, next to the definition, different forms that we may not think of as a form of human trafficking. She also talked about the new forms of human trafficking in those days, such as electronic extortion and others.

The ambassador moved on to talk about Egypt's vision on issues of human trafficking and the history of combating it in Egypt. She also talked about the state's modern mechanisms in that field.

The ambassador went over these points by talking about the third national strategy to combat and prevent human trafficking 2022-2026, which she heads herself.

That the strategy was based on 4 main foundations called the "4 p's" principles, which are partnership, protection, preservation and prevention, and explained how the strategy achieves these principles in reality.



Her Excellency has declared the firm belief for the success of any strategy, which begins with awareness: educating the community and educating those in charge of its implementation (training them), development, then development, then development to demonstrate its importance. She also stated in her meeting with the Minister of Justice, speaking about the role of inspectors in combating human trafficking: Increase the number of inspectors and I will by training them. Which confirms the importance of training, and she also stressed her focus on the role of technical education, pointing to her continuous support and encouragement for technical education because it shows real development!



The Ambassador was asked the following: What did the committee reach regarding the issue of begging, given that part of it is formulated under the item of human trafficking?

She noted, "We argued with Dr. Azza El-Ashmawy, Secretary General of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, about imposing a penalty on the head of the family who contributes to child trafficking through begging, and opinions are still being exchanged."

Some students also discussed some modern types of human trafficking, the first of which is electronic extortion,

followed by the exploitation of patients in advertisements for donations to some care homes. She also stressed that it is necessary to ensure that these advertisements are approved by the patient and his family.



Her Excellency also spoke about the extent to which President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Republic, supports the fight against human trafficking, and the material and moral support provided by him. For example, his Excellency acknowledged the following: School and university students are made aware of the various types of human trafficking and methods of prevention and control - Strengthening the role of the media by broadcasting advertisements The Egyptian channels should increase the awareness of the citizen about this issue - a currency note under the slogan Together Against Trafficking, along with postage stamps discussing the same issue, with the President and the Committee not forgetting to increase studies in this regard.

What is the mechanism by which the state deals with receiving cases of human trafficking?

The Ambassador explained the existence of the national referral mechanism concerned with this regard, which deals with these issues, as it consists of a group of specialists in various fields and levels that are in the interest of the service, which is combating human trafficking, so that this mechanism serves as a helping hand to the victim in the event that they are informed of it.

The Ambassador concluded her dialogue by mentioning the importance of civil organizations as one of the important partners, stressing the strength of their role, especially in educating villagers about the dangers of human trafficking and ways to combat and solve them when there are victims.

The conversation was directed to the advisor, Dr. Ahmed Abu Al-Enein, who expressed his great happiness for being in one of the closest places to his heart, pointing to the importance of the university's role in general and the role of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science in particular in graduating and preparing promising cadres, whose students hoped that their students would remain ahead and pioneer at the local and international levels.

In fact, we cannot be in the presence of Dr. Counselor. Ahmed Abu Al-Enein, without telling us about the legislative efforts in that field, which he started by mentioning Law 64 of 2010 AD, which consisted of 6 chapters, as he affirmed that it is an integrated legislation to combat human trafficking.



His Excellency was asked: What about pre-law crimes?

His Excellency confirmed the existence of some laws that were issued at the time, but they were not related to human trafficking directly, but were related to the reasons that devolved to them. He mentioned, for example, Law 10 of 1960 AD, which is concerned with prostitution. He did not mention human trafficking,



but he mentioned prostitution, which is one of the causes or places for the emergence of human traffickers. And victims of human trafficking, but there was no explicit text and clear punishment for the perpetrators of that crime, which sometimes ended with a fine!

Accordingly, Law 64 of 2010 AD is a combination in its greatness between accuracy in legislation and ingenuity in implementation, and that crime, which results in dozens of victims daily, has turned into a felony punishable by law with the material punishment of “paying a huge amount of money” and the punishment of freedom “imprisonment.”

And because talking about issues of public opinion is something he never gets tired of hearing, his master was asked about the issue of blood, and he replied the following:

For those who do not know the issue of blood, it is that a man bought blood from a group of men and gave them a small amount of money and sold it, so he was sentenced to be a criminal of human trafficking, and he was sentenced to that charge for the following reasons:

Exploiting the need for weakness and need is a form of human trafficking.

Despite the fact that blood is not considered part of the body’s organs according to the testimony of specialists, it is not permissible to sell it and obtain a consideration, as it contradicts the law regulating blood transfusion, which permits donation without charge.

It is not permissible even if the victim is satisfied according to the fact that the victim’s consent is not considered.

And we mentioned those reasons in the example, which is only to clarify the strength of the legislation of that law, in addition to mentioning its supremacy for some of the distinctive characteristics of this law being punitive, criminal, and international until he mentioned Law 175 of 2018 AD, which exposed the new types of human trafficking, and also talked about Article 89 in the constitution, which is mentioned in the wording Human Trafficking, stressing that the state pays great attention to this issue,

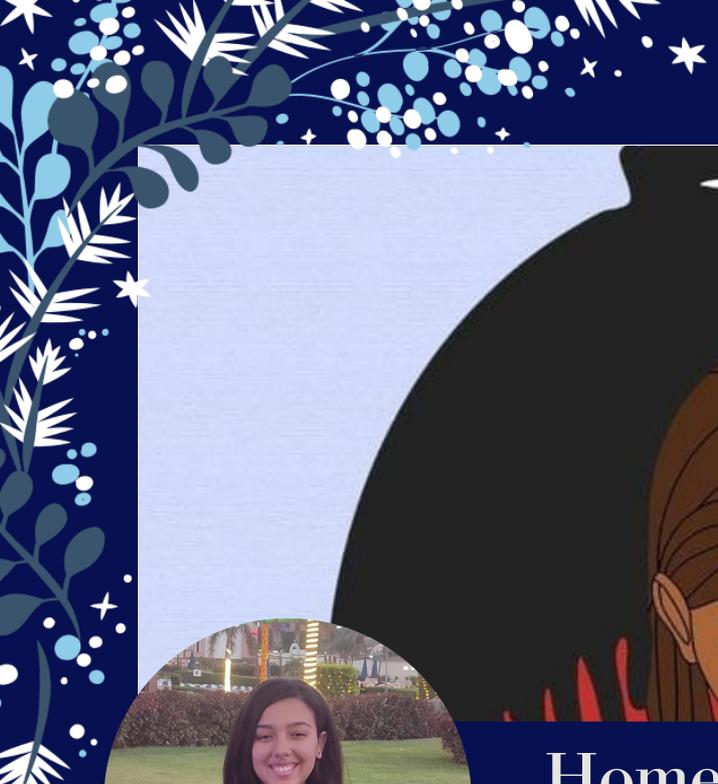
His Excellency talked about some legislative texts that some people use to circumvent the Human Trafficking Law and how to respond to them, and His Excellency discussed the legislator’s use of a new term to emphasize the state’s observance of this issue, which is the word “victim” in Their talk about the victims,

especially in cases such as human trafficking, as a whole chapter was set for them in Law No. 64 of 2010 AD, which is Chapter Five: Protection of the Victims.

His Excellency concluded his speech by talking about the scope of work of that law and its application, in which he explained to us that it is international, including the occurrence of this crime on Egyptian land and the perpetrator is Egyptian, or its occurrence on Egyptian land and the perpetrator is non-Egyptian, or an Egyptian on non-Egyptian land, or even if he is non-Egyptian on non-Egyptian land, but it harmed In favor of Egypt as a result.

The panel discussion concluded with some questions and the exchange of souvenir photos. As usual, we hope to repeat such effective episodes with the presence of guests like our distinguished guests in our esteemed college, the College of Commitment, Excellence and Advancement: Economics and Political Science.





## Home As a Dangerous Place

**Basmala Nasser Ibrahim - Second year - Economics**  
[basmalah.nasser2021@feps.edu.eg](mailto:basmalah.nasser2021@feps.edu.eg)

For most of us, home is the place where we feel safe and belonged. unfortunately, we do not feel the same. according to recent statistics, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience physical violence; on a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls reporting domestic violence nationwide. Abusers mostly use violence to gain power and control, and it is completely a choice for the abuser, but that will not change the fact that there are reasons for domestic violence that make the abuser act violently.

1. Childhood traumas play an important role in how this person will act in the future.
2. Some beliefs about domination and hierarchy.
3. The abusers themselves being victims of domestic violence.



These reasons are not the only ones, as we might find some abusers who did not experience any of these reasons or maybe went through another different experience. Some of the victims may even lose their life, as it increases the risk of homicide



Victims should not be blamed and seeking help from professionals will help them move on from the traumatizing experience. Reporting domestic violence whenever we witness it will help the victim and other future victims and decrease the rates in the long run. All victims have to speak up, talk about their experiences, and take action to get their rights that were taken forcefully back. Raising awareness is an important role that will give education to citizens and tell them how to fight back against any kind of abuse, not just the physical ones, as the methods may differ.





## How Dystopian Fiction Affects Young People's Perception of Politics?

Menna Ayman-second year-political science  
[menatallah.ayman2021@feps.edu.eg](mailto:menatallah.ayman2021@feps.edu.eg)

With the expected release of the new hunger games movie "The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" next year, people all around the world are anticipating it which raises the question of How dystopian fiction affects young people's perception of politics. Most of this genre also falls into young adult fiction which means their main target audience is 12 to 18-year-olds and a big chunk of the popular dystopian media has teens as the main protagonist, showcasing corruption in politics and that the effective way to end it being weaponizing children basically Child soldiers taking it upon themselves to end a war. targeting young audiences by putting romantic undertones/romanticizing the circumstances even if it is not the aim softens the reality of how vile the work is and conditions young people to accept it even rooting for it sometimes.



This makes you think of the effect of the normalization of political violence on real politics and how quickly people are ready to jump to the defense of a beloved fictional character that would be considered a war criminal in the real world, going as far as even justifying their actions because it all works out in the end and the work has a somewhat happy ending and one of the prime examples to this is Painting Dumbledore as one of the heroes of the story when he was explicitly shown as raising a child with the sole purpose of sacrificing him for the greater good. and while it is all just entertainment for the people, historically it should cause concern. Tom Clancy's best-selling books had a significant impact on the formulation of foreign policy under the administrations of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, according to research by Daniel Furman III and Paul Musgrave. So, as much as it is entertaining to young people, we should pay attention to the message it sends.





## Mahgoub AbdelDayem: The Rise to the Bottom

### Ashrakat Elemam - Second year - Economics

[Ashrakat.Mohammed2021@feps.edu.eg](mailto:Ashrakat.Mohammed2021@feps.edu.eg)

As usual (Naguib Mahfouz) gives out the best description to the reality of Egyptian society, presenting us with somehow complex yet very realistic characters. Seventy-seven years ago, he brought out (Mahgoub AbdelDayem) to light, the poor rural man who came to Cairo carrying the pain of poverty on his shoulders, which later made him adopt what Egyptians call it the "Toz" principle.

And among his colleagues (Ali Taha), the ambitious socialist, (Mamoun Radwan), who believes in his faith and Arabism, and (Ahmed Badeir), the impartial journalist, who in order to preserve his valued sources, prefers to hold a middle ground,



Why would he fight for a cause and spend his life for a "change" or turn down a promotion so as not to contradict what is called "morals", when he can pursue what brings him a higher monthly salary that would not leave his stomach starving from hunger, even if this comes at the cost of selling his honor and integrity, and hating on his family who had nothing more than what they gave him, arguing that "if he won't inherit from them anything that will make him happy, then he shouldn't take on what would make him miserable!" (Mahgoub) is a utilitarian nihilist, he faced hardships that challenged even his own "Toz", and struggles that breached honor and dignity, but in Mahgoub's nihilistic view, he saw that "two horns in the head do not harm, and as for hunger... I will be anything, but I will never be a fool.



Mahgoub chooses to follow the "Toz" principle in which he described in an "honest" equation religion + science + philosophy + morals = Toz.



A fool who refuses a job out of anger for what they call dignity. A fool who kills himself for the sake of what they call a homeland. A fool is he who wastes himself the pleasure of any of the delusions created by humanity.”

This poses a question, are the struggles and "delusions created by humanity" worth it? Does the existence of principles or approaches behind which you go and fight for have meaning, or are they heresy that we entertain ourselves with while we are alive?

Principles are the decisive factors in matters, they may differ from one person to another. Having principles that you follow is what makes you human. We all have a “Mahgoub” inside of us; for who does not want to get promoted and live an easy life, but at what cost? Your principles will prevent you from losing yourself in front of such pleasures.



But what if the cold and hunger kill you, and you stay up at night thinking about how tomorrow will pass, you may think about the boss’s offer a little ... why not? At least you'll sleep warm with a full tummy.

And here we reach the dilemma that society has always questioned: Should I be poor and principled, or rich and unprincipled because it is inevitable to have both money and principles?

Poverty makes you miserable, so with what logic might you leave an opportunity for a better life for principles? Principles do not fill stomachs or educate your children, so society had a share in “Mahgoub’s” wrongdoings, for he deserves to have been born with his rights as a human being, to enjoy justice in terms of opportunities and privileges within that would prevent him from being bad or spreading corruption in his society.

But he had some choices, his colleagues represented various principles that they lived by, but “Mahgoub” was filled with so much hatred and resentment over everything... He started out deprived of basic life needs, then turned into a glutton who sold his dignity, family and friends for the pleasures of life. But due to not having any principles, “Mahgoub” was not "free" in the sense he believed, but rather turned into a slave to his lusts and to anyone who wanted to use him, such as "the Bey" and other manipulators. If we were to be liberated from principles and values, isn't “one’s self” a value in itself that could be abandoned, contradicting to his principle in the first place?



Throughout your life, you will find yourself in front of many options for the quickest best success, but in return, you will give up one principle after another, until you completely give “yourself” up to reach success, and you will keep on running to reach the top, but on the way up, something inside you will still wonder, is this really worth fighting for? Or are there other choices?

“Mahgoub” kept being haunted by questions, but this did not change his path. Rather, his feet continued to precede him until he climbed into the abyss, and he ended up being deported to “Aswan” alone after he was stripped of the promotion in the Cabinet of Ministers, which he received with mumblings of “Toz” that showed what’s inside him from despair and surrender, but I wonder did "Mahgoub" start a new life in Aswan, or did he keep on spinning in the same vicious circle?





## Women of the Ancient Egyptian Religion

**Mai Mamdouh - Junior Year - Statistics**

**[mai.mamdouh2020@gmail.com](mailto:mai.mamdouh2020@gmail.com)**

Have you ever heard of “Hera”? “Aphrodite”? What about “Athens”? These are names the three most famous female deities in ancient civilizations. While reading about religions and ancients, we will often find the names of gods or idols of women frequently mentioned here and there from the Romans to the Greeks and many more, on the other hand we usually forget the ancient Egyptians and their reverence for women. For the ancients the Egyptian woman has a high position in the civilization as she’s the only partner for man in his religious and worldly life according the theory of creation and the origin of the universe found in the Pharaonic religious principles, so the female deities appeared alongside the male deities, thus, today, let me take with me on a short trip to get to know a handful of the female deities in the religion Pharaonic and ancient Egyptian civilization.

Let’s start with the deity “Nut”, Nut is the sky goddess and one of the oldest Egyptian deities under whose body the world rests, and the wife of the god “Geb” the god of earth. Heaven and earth bore four children, making up the fourth generation, and they are respectively, “Osiris,” “Isis,” “Set,” and “Neftis.”

Nut was often depicted in human form, and sometimes in the form of a cow or a tree. Among Nut’s titles: “She who covers the heavens”, “She who protects”, “She who bore all the gods”, and “She who bears a thousand souls”.



*deity Nut*

Nut was often depicted in human form, and sometimes in the form of a cow or a tree. Among Nut’s titles: “She who covers the heavens”, “She who protects”, “She who bore all the gods”, and “She who bears a thousand souls”. Nut also enjoyed a funerary ideological role on the idea of rebirth and immortality to the ancient Egyptian, as the texts refer to the desire of the deceased to become a star on the body of nut; and according to the Ain Shams doctrine of creation, Nut united with Geb to give birth to Osiris,



which was associated with resurrection and the cycle of rebirth. Nut played an important role in reviving the deceased king in the Pyramid Texts, as it is mentioned in several passages. It also played the same role in the coffin texts.

Moving to "Isis"- and her name means the throne-, she was the goddess of fertility, magic and health among the ancient Egyptians, and she was usually depicted in the form of a woman with a throne on her head with two steps, which is the symbol that embodies the name of the deity itself. Isis is one of the members of the sacred "Eye of the Sun" ninth, as she is the daughter of "Geb", the god of the earth, and "Nut", the goddess of the sky. For the Egyptians, she was the sacred mother and wife of "Osiris", the owner of the throne. She shared with him the rule of Egypt. She was scattered all over Egypt and brought back to life with her magical powers. Isis gave birth to her son, Horus, and helped him retrieve the throne from the evil Set. That is why the ancient Egyptians revered Isis and considered her the protective goddess. Throughout ancient Egypt, Isis was portrayed as the giver, and the source of life.



*deity Isis*

And "Amunet", which was the goddess of the West. The ancient Egyptian believed that Amunet lived inside a tree located on the edge of the desert overlooking the gateway to the other world, and like her in the form of a beautiful woman carrying the sign of the West surmounted by a falcon. She met the spirits directly after the soul moved to the other world, gave bread and water that represent the energy so that these souls can pass the trial that

qualifies them to be born again in the realm of eternity. She was depicted on coffins with two spread wings embracing the body of the dead, and she was shown with her sister "Ayabit", who is the Lady of the Eastern Horizon in the Book of the Earth.



*deity Amunet*

And of course "Bastet", she was the goddess of joy, happiness, and comfort. She was depicted as a woman with a cat's head, holding in one hand the scepter of the goddess Hathor, and in the other hand carrying a basket. Sometimes she was depicted in the form of a whole cat. Bastet appears as a powerful mother and nurturer of the king in the Pyramid Texts, and is associated with providing the deceased with protection in the Coffin Texts. She was the protector of the young pharaohs and was the daughter of Ra, the chief god.



*deity Bastet*



As for the other face of Bastet in the New Kingdom, she is "Sekhmet", the goddess of torment and revenge. Sekhmet was depicted in the form of a woman with the head of a lioness sitting on the throne, and she is one of the members of the Memphis triad; her name means the most powerful, and she was worshiped at the entrances to the valleys, especially in Upper Egypt. Sekhmet was considered one of the different forms of the eye of the Sun God and thus combined its qualities as both a destroyer and a benefactor. Sekhmet was a goddess who protected the kings in their wars, and she bore some military titles.



deity Sekhmet

Perhaps her association with that role is based on her blowing fire in the faces of her enemies. In light of this, the hot desert winds were also called "Sekhmet's Breath". She wears a red weave robe, which reflects her nature, as she was called the Lady of the Red Stripes, which may symbolize her nature as a goddess of Lower Egypt, or perhaps as a warrior goddess. She was strongly associated with the goddess "Hathor" through this role, and was also associated with the goddess "death", a good goddess, and the goddess Bastir, the goddess Bubasita, and other goddesses who assumed the form of a lioness or a cat.

And last but certainly not least the deity "Hathor", she was one of the most important and famous Egyptian deities, and even one of the most widespread of all. Some suggest the emergence of her worship since prehistoric times. The goddess "Hathor" appeared in different images and characteristics, and was worshiped in many places throughout Egypt. She was known as the goddess of music, love, giving, and motherhood, and merged with the goddess Isis. It was compared in the countries of Greece and the Romans with the goddess "Aphrodite". The goddess "Hathor" enjoyed one of the widest and richest ancient Egyptian cults, and her religious and ritual tools and symbols were distinguished by their plurality and wide fame, as they were the most important religious symbols ever. These tools and symbols took different forms and attributes, each of which was associated with a certain idea and origin, or ritual roles of religious significance. Some of these symbols took the image of the goddess "Bat", the oldest deity of "Hathor", who was worshiped in the form of a buffalo with dented horns in Almost complete inward rotation.



deity Hathor



## The World Cup & Western Double Standards

**Shimaa Adel, 4th Year, Political Science**

It is recognized that the State of Qatar is one of the most important Gulf countries in the Arab world due to its highly qualified human resources and the third largest oil reserves in the world and its possession of a diversified investment network in America, Asia and Europe, in addition to its possession of the largest media channel in the world. The Middle East, which is Al-Jazeera, in addition to its reliance on open-door diplomacy, which made it an important player in the region by playing a mediating role in political crises, and this is what we have seen recently of the signing of an agreement with it and between Washington and the Taliban to withdraw the remaining American soldiers from Afghanistan, and despite the small size of the State of Qatar, it is considered the first Arab country and even in the Middle East to receive the honor of hosting the 2022 World Cup, and despite the exertion of more effort in developing the infrastructure, which amounted to about 200 billion US dollars and the establishment of Lusail Stadium at the highest level by cooling the stadium using solar energy, due to considerations of climatic changes, but it was not spared from the West's criticism of it through the Western media, and the most important of them were political and moral violations such as its violation of human rights. Expatriate workers, who took upon themselves the responsibility of building the World Cup stadiums as slaves, disregarding women's rights and criminalizing homosexuality. Germany also criticized Qatar's organization of the World Cup because of what Western

countries alleged about Qatar's violations of human rights.

The question comes here: - Are the allegations made by the countries The West of Qatar is correct, or is it represented in Western double standards because they are not satisfied with the choice to organize the World Cup by an Arab country?

And from the aforementioned, we find the failure of Western allegations in making false accusations against the State of Qatar because they found it to have a high degree of well-being, but Germany praised the good laws enacted by Doha to protect human rights, despite that and to put pressure on Qatar to withdraw its organization from the World Cup through It allowed the presence of homosexuals - except that it came to the point of threatening Denmark to withdraw its team from the World Cup if Qatar did not agree with the idea of supporting homosexuality - and allowing things that are forbidden in Islam such as alcohol, but Qatar was able to change the West's view of Islam, which they have always viewed as Islamophobia in particular. After a French website published a caricature insulting the State of Qatar and its elect as a state that supports terrorism. This image depicts the players with a frightening look, their arms and a long beard. And its breaking of Ibn Khaldun's saying in "The defeated is fond of imitating the victor", as Qatar proved that it is an Islamic country based on the principles of the Islamic religion and was able to unite the Arab world through football and restored the concept of Arab unity and cooperation that has always been separated by politics



and the eyes of haters. Qatar played an important role in introducing a good number of people to Islam by bringing in the most famous Islamic preacher of Indian origin, "Zakir Naik", and opening the World Cup with the most beautiful voices of sheikhs in the Qur'an. Al-Karim, in addition to the participation of Ghanim Al-Muftah in the opening of the World Cup, who suffers from caudal retraction syndrome, and who is considered the goodwill ambassador of the State of Qatar for ensuring its respect for human rights in order to curb the allegations of the West. In conclusion, we find the double standards that have become clear to the peoples of the whole world from Western countries towards the Arab-Islamic world and their strong rejection of the idea that an Islamic country organizes a World Cup, which shows us the moral decadence of the West.



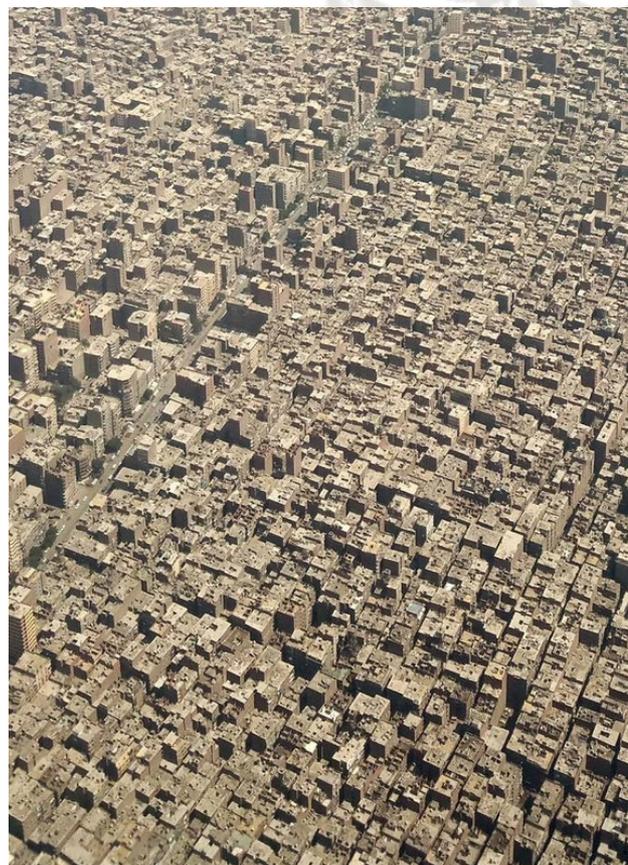


## From Green to Grey

### Touka Samy - Fourth level- Economics

Egypt hosted the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference, as known as COP27, this year. not too long after the conference ended, the Egyptian government proceeded to cut ancient trees in beautiful Egyptian neighborhoods. At the very beginning of December, Zamalek district residents organized a protest against the government's decision to remove historical parks and trees in Saray Al-Jazira Street in order to replace them with car parking. Amr Mousa, the former minister of foreign affairs has participated in this protest with the former minister of foreign affairs, Nabil Fahmy, and Munir Fakhri Abdel-Nour, the former minister of tourism, and Ziad Bahaa-Eldin, former Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and former Minister of International Cooperation. According to the residents of this area Drilling started in October and stopped with COP27, then resumed again in November.

Although Dr. Ashraf Hatem, Chairman of the Health Committee in the House of Representatives, had previously criticized the government in response to what the Zamalek district has been witnessing in some parks and the work of projects such as parking lots, stressing the need to stop these projects. He pointed out that Zamalek Island is one of the lungs of Cairo, inhabited by about 50,000 people, and that the gardens it has are historical gardens.



However, the people were surprised that the government has proceeded to cut more trees, which contradicts the president's initiative to plant 100 million trees, as well as Egypt's vision of Confronting the phenomenon of climate change.



This was not the first time and it will not be the last unless we stand up and confront this distortion. They started with Merryland park, whose alleged development began in 2015, which resulted in the massacre committed by the company entrusted with implementing the project at the expense of the environment, by cutting down ancient perennial trees, violating laws, and building without a permit as the process began with the expansion of the interior buildings in the garden. Where the company began implementing the project until the people, especially the members of the "Revive the Heritage of Heliopolis" initiative, noticed a strange movement in the garden at night, to find out that the company was cutting down the perennial trees and replacing it with concrete surrounded by an iron fence to block the sight on both sides of the road, they began to cut down and destroy the tall trees which are about 100 years old or more, to change the identity of the garden, which is more than 70 years old, as it was established in 1949.

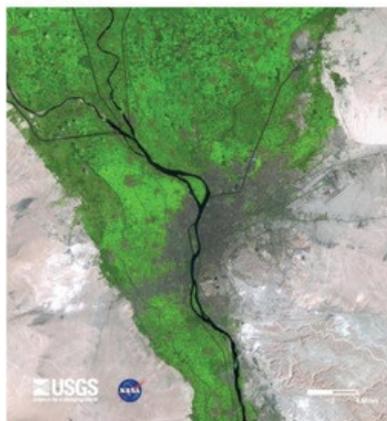
In 2019, A large number of rare and ancient trees that have been planted since the inception of the Montazah gardens in Alexandria were cut down, but the government justified that by claiming this was for the purpose of development because the cut trees threaten the rest of the trees and the lives of visitors because they were infected. And that was not the last garden to be "developed", but the hands of the development reached the International Garden at Nasr City, where it was bulldozed and some trees were removed, but the Deputy Governor of Cairo for the Eastern Region responded to the citizens' fears at the time that a small part of it would be removed to reforest it and renew its walls again as means of development.



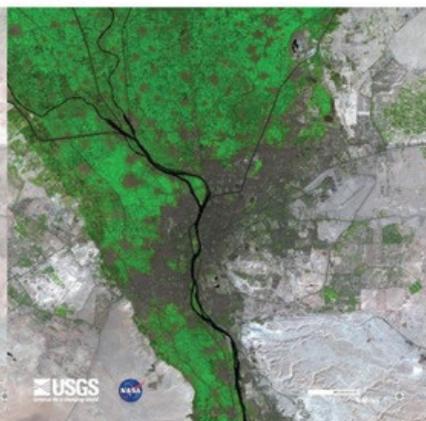
Al-Mansoura city wasn't spared from the development too, as the governorate decided to demolish the "Al-Sikka Al-Hadid" club and removed the historic perennial trees and palms in the "Happy Land" garden, which is the last remaining park in Khedive Ismail's palace in Mansoura continuing the series of demolition of the gardens overlooking the Nile River.

As well as the destruction of the gardens of the Maadi neighborhood and the fish garden in Al-Zamalek, and many other development projects including widening roads and constructing bridges to transform Egypt from green to gray. Development in itself is not the problem, nor are investment projects, because the Egyptian economy needs investment projects, but neither government nor the private sector needs to destroy these gardens to build investment projects in a country as large as Egypt, even if the projects aim to solve the traffic congestion crisis, does it make any sense to destroy an ancient garden and replace a hundred-year-old landscape with a garage, everything around us explains the how the government prefers cement and building blocks over green areas even after hosting COP27.

1984



2012



2017

