



FONDATION
USJ



Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth
Saint Joseph University of Beirut
جامعة القديس يوسف في بيروت



Faculty of Religious
Studies

Call for Support
Training in Democratic Citizenship

More

SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY



USJ
TOUJOURS
plus

USJ
ASPIRE
For more

FUNDRAISING
CAMPAIGN
150 YEARS OF
USJ



One of the pillars of our new fundraising campaign “USJ, Aspire for More”, launched as part of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut’s (USJ) 150th anniversary celebration in 2025, is to achieve “More Social Responsibility”. This campaign aims to address the social, societal, and environmental challenges facing our community.

We prioritize civic and social activities and aim to actively contribute to societal transformation.

1. PROJECT TITLE

Training in Democratic Citizenship

2. APPLICANT

Faculty of Religious Studies at the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) and *Fondation USJ*.

3. LOCATION

This training is taking place at the Saint Joseph University of Beirut, Humanities Campus, Building A, Room 808.

4. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Citizenship in Lebanon

The pervasive influence of sectarianism in the Lebanese society introduces ambiguity regarding national identity and the development of a collective welfare. Historical and sometimes ethnically religious communities function as “supra-functional” groups, often assuming responsibilities beyond ritual practices and overlapping with governmental functions. Individuals naturally identify with a religious sect, fostering a deep sense of belonging and embracing traditional societal and state perspectives that may not align with modern citizenship principles.

However, Lebanon’s longstanding cultural exchange with the West has established a constitutional framework embracing both democratic principles and confessional arrangements. This unique blend underscores the foundational democratic values deeply rooted in the education of Lebanese citizens. This complex interplay between sectarianism and democracy, fosters a consciousness of Lebanese citizenship that reconciles these divergent concepts. This analysis underscores the importance, even urgency, of introducing **democratic citizenship education** programs, particularly focusing on teachers. They can play a pivotal role in nurturing democratic principles among their students, guiding them to understand the appropriate role of religion within their social and civic lives.

Training Axes: Exploring Citizenship in Lebanon

Axes	Les objectifs attendus
The democratic culture in the civil, political, social, economic, and legal domains within society	- Identify democratic culture principles across civil, political, social, economic, and legal domains
The inherent connection between democracy and human rights	- Deepen the relationship between democracy and human rights - Serve as a safeguard against extremism
The limits of human rights in a confessional society	- Define respect for freedoms and fundamental human rights - Assess the individual’s status in a confessional society
The significance and influence of religion in the lives of citizens and society	- Analyze the intersection of confessional and religious identities - Analyze the intersection of citizenship and confessional affiliation (extremism)

Formulas for the separation of State and religion (the concept of a neutral State is expressed in laws through the protection of freedom of conscience and of religious practices)	- Identify the role of religion as an inspiration for individuals in their duties as citizens - Evaluate religion's societal role
The challenges of common good (spiritual and material) and national interest in a confessional framework	- Identify the concepts of common good and public interest - Identify their implementation in the Lebanese society
The concept and principles of "public debate" conducted democratically	- Identify the principles of public debate - Recognize hate speech indicators
The family, cradle of democratic culture	- Implement methods to uphold fairness, equality, democracy, and solidarity within families
Actions for sustainable development, particularly focusing on contributing to the construction of peaceful, effective, and inclusive societies, and ensuring access to justice for all	- Identify the 17 Sustainable Development Goals - Raise awareness of responsibility to foster peaceful, effective, and inclusive societies and ensure access to justice for all
The transmission of civic culture to students	- Identify and develop teaching methods and initiatives (delegate election, mediation training, etc.) to enhance the acquisition of civic skills in schools
The promotion of learning and team cohesion	- Develop interpersonal skills and enhance group dynamics
Interreligious dialogue and non-violent communication	- Develop skills in non-violent communication and foster interreligious dialogue

5. OBJECTIVE AND DURATION

This training aims to equip teachers from various disciplines with a comprehensive understanding of democratic citizenship principles to foster the development of their students' civic skills.

The training will span 5 days, after which teachers are expected to develop projects with their students, aligned with the covered themes. A closing ceremony, organized in collaboration with our partner, will celebrate the accomplishments of participating teachers. Certificates and awards will be presented to recognize teachers who have excelled in implementing impactful civic projects, promoting broader participation from public and private schools across the country.

6. TARGET BENEFICIARIES

25 high school teachers will participate in each training session, and then develop projects with their students. With an average class size of around 30 students, this initiative will directly impact and benefit approximately 750 high school students.

7. RESOURCES

To fund this project, we seek the solidarity and generosity of donors interested in supporting this training at the Faculty of Religious Studies, particularly organizations dedicated to promoting citizenship and sustainable peace in Lebanon. It is worth noting that this training will be free of charge for teachers.

8. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST

\$15,900 per training session (fifteen thousand nine hundred US dollars).

9. DETAILED BUDGET AND FUNDING

Description	Price	USJ Expenses
Training, project support, and transportation	\$ 2,500	
Participant transportation and various expenses	\$ 3,900	
Certificate award ceremony	\$ 3,000	
Research and publication	\$ 2,500	
Human resources	\$ 4,000	
Indirect costs		\$ 1,100
Total	\$ 15,900	\$ 1,100

Donors will finance 93.5% of the project, and USJ will cover the remaining 6.5%.

10. PROJECT RESULTS AND REPORTING

● Results

To assess the training's impact, pre-and post-training evaluations will be conducted among the students in the respective classes.

● Transparency

By the end of the training, we will provide a financial report. Additionally, the donor will receive invitations to project presentations and the certificate award ceremony.

Annually, we distribute an impact report to the USJ community, as well as friends and donors.

For your donation: <https://www.usj.edu.lb/donations/>

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