



Konrad
-Adenauer-
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Citizenship Issues in Lebanon: Dimensions and Current Challenges

Narrative Report

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The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS) organized, in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, a national workshop on **“Citizenship Issues in Lebanon: Dimensions and Current Challenges”** that was held on December 18, 2003.

At the end of its protracted civil conflict, Lebanon came out with a new formulation of its 1943 founding National Pact, under the guise of the 1989 Taëf Agreement. The Taëf Agreement was followed by a series of constitutional amendments in 1990, and they both set the stage and defined the agenda for the post-war political and civic reconstruction.

Over the last decade, a number of key legislation and administrative regulations on naturalization, immigration and residency, electoral laws, return of the displaced population, civil registry, conscription, women’s rights, civic education, and other related issues were part of a process leading to the redefinition of citizenship and citizens status and obligations, and the relationship between the state, citizens and communities in Lebanon. These decisions, the way they were reached, formulated and contested and their political, legal and practical implication for the Lebanese men and women were, and still are, at the heart of the political dynamics and public debates of the post-war Lebanese society.

In the workshop that the LCPS convened, the participants analyzed and critically reviewed the set of legal and administrative changes in citizenship issues, the degree to which they were accepted or contested and the extent to which they have affected the definition, boundaries, and practical content of citizenship in Lebanon. The national workshop served as a forum where leading intellectuals and community leaders debated and discussed the foundations of citizenship and the practical implications of the last decade changes for the consolidation of national reconciliation and political reconstruction in post-war Lebanon.

More than sixty participants engaged actively in the workshop’s debates, including key actors in the policy and research communities, the public and private sectors, the civil society and concerned organizations attended the workshop.

The LCPS gathered the relevant documentation, conducted planning meetings and consultations, and commissioned the papers. The papers covered various issues such as approaches to sectarianism in post-war Lebanon; the role of various educational systems in the political socialization of the Lebanese citizens; and the reasons behind the continuing weak representation of women in political, administrative and public life.

The proceeding of the workshop will be edited in-house and published in a collective book, including the papers, and highlights from the general discussion.