

Special Features

Because I am a girl, I must study

A father asks his daughter:
Study: why should you study?
I have sons aplenty who can study
Girl, why should you study?

The daughter tells her father:
Since you ask, here's why I must study.
Because I am a girl, I must study.

Long denied this right, I must study
For my dreams to take flight, I must study
Knowledge brings new light, so I must study
For the battles I must fight, I must study
Because I am a girl, I must study.

To avoid destitution, I must study
To win independence, I must study
To fight frustration, I must study
To find inspiration, I must study
Because I am a girl, I must study.

To fight men's violence, I must study
To end my silence, I must study
To challenge patriarchy I must study
To demolish all hierarchy, I must study.
Because I am a girl, I must study.

To mould a faith I can trust I must study
To make laws that are just, I must study
To sweep centuries of dust, I must study
To challenge what I must, I must study
Because I am a girl, I must study.

To know right from wrong, I must study.
To find a voice that is strong, I must study
To write feminist songs I must study
To make a world where girls belong, I must study.
Because I am a girl, I must study.

Retrieved from <http://www.gmc.ge/images/PDF/BuLLetin2006-9E.pdf> Accessed October 20, 2006.

The Marie Bashir Scholarship Award

In 2005 the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) at the Lebanese American University (LAU) received a scholarship for post-graduate studies from the Governor of New South Wales in Australia, Her Excellency Dr. Marie Bashir. The scholarship, which amounted to 25,000 Australian dollars, was to be offered to a young female Lebanese LAU student to pursue her studies in Australia for the academic year 2006. Dr. Abdallah Sfeir, Vice President for Academic Affairs, formed a search committee that was composed of the following faculty members: Dr. Tarik Mikdashi, Dean of the Business School, Beirut campus, Dr. Mars Semaan, Dean of Students, Byblos campus, Dr. Dima Dabbous-Sensenig, Director of IWSAW and Dr. Victor Khachan, Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics, Byblos campus. Drs. Dabbous-Sensenig and Khachan developed selection criteria based on the applicant's academic excellence, namely her GPA, English language proficiency as well as immediate commitment to the scholarship. Three applicants were short listed and interviewed. Nohad Mouawad was chosen to receive the scholarship given that she had the highest GPA, spoke and wrote English impeccably and showed great commitment to the scholarship. The following piece written by the scholarship recipient, describes Mouawad's experience as a graduate student in Australia.