

# The Lebanese Family Planning Association (LFPA) Discusses the Woman's Status in Lebanon

A panel discussing the present status of the Lebanese woman and pointing out priorities in her demands and duties, was held in Beirut on 4-6 November 1982. The participants consisted of LFPA representatives and delegates of women's social organizations in Lebanon. A few papers were presented, some of which will be summarized in subsequent issues.

## Projected Recommendations

The recommendations proposed by the Panelists defined the present status of the Lebanese woman as "Lacking all the prerogatives allowing her full participation in development". Legal, social and educational discrimination against woman prevents her normal evolution. UNO agreements regarding woman have not been observed by the Lebanese government. Female illiteracy, traditional socialization of children, lack of health education among women contribute to the perpetuation of their retarded condition.

Recommendations include the following:

1. Creation of adequate and progressive vocational schools for girls and boys.
2. Revision of the programs of civic education in school curricula.

3. Increasing the number of nurseries and social welfare centers.
4. Encouraging the creation of cooperatives for domestic rural industries.
5. Adoption of the field-workers experiment by the various women's organizations and the Social Welfare Centers, on condition that training courses be previously arranged for the candidates.
6. Abolition of all discriminatory laws against women on the civil, penal and educational levels.
7. Unification of the personal status laws through a secularization project including the establishment of civil marriage.
8. Introducing adequate protective measures for the working woman in the Labor Code.
9. Creating a social welfare service for war orphans.

Finally, a noteworthy contribution of the LFPA was the preparation of a project for training experts in an intensive home economics program for young women in the Central Bekaa district.