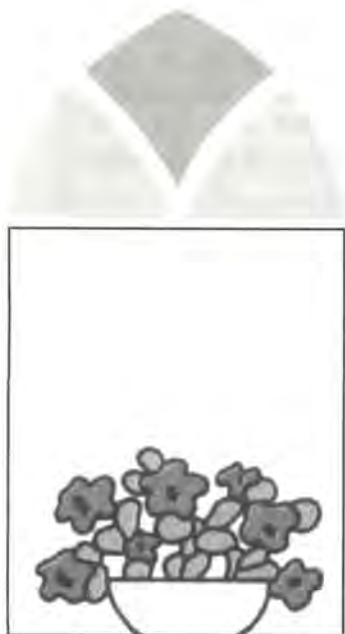


A Specialist Publishing House for Women in the Arab World



نور NOUR

We just received note that Nour, a specialist publishing house for women has been established in Cairo, Egypt by five leading Arab women scholars. They feel a publishing house for women is long overdue and crucial because the opportunities for women to publish serious writing have not clearly kept up with their potential to do so, since women make up half of the Arab university graduates, and nearly a third of Arab countries have achieved parity between boys and girls in secondary education. Nor has the general book publishing business in the Arab world kept pace with the region's growing literate population: 37 books are published for every million Arabs, in contrast to Europe, where 553 books are published per million people. In fact although the Arab region represents 4 percent of the world's population, it publishes only 0.9 percent

of its books. NOUR was founded to provide greater opportunities for women's voices to be heard, and to provide a forum for a range of perspectives on the lives and roles of Arab women today.

During the first two years NOUR plans to publish six titles as part of three series: social science, literature and general culture. In the social sciences series, its first publication will be Arab Women in the Field, in which six Arab women scholars from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan write about their experience in conducting field research in the Arab region, with a focus on conceptual and gender issues. The literature series features Beautiful Voices, a compilation of short stories from fifteen well-established Arab women writers, including Emily Nasrallah, Hanan

El-Cheikh, Latifa El-Zayyat to name only a few. The culture series will include two titles: Arab women Pioneers which presents the contributions of eminent Arab writers to literature, and Women and Nutrition which explores women's role in the family and community nutrition.

NOUR is a promising new enterprise by women and for women. Its success depends not only on the five women who created it but on a global and regional dedication to promoting Arab women publications •

For more information contact: NOUR, 9 Mudiriyet El Tahir Street, Garden City, Cairo, Egypt. Telephone and Fax: (202) 355 3825.