



ADULT LITERACY FOR REFUGEE WOMEN

SUPPORTING WOMEN AT RISK OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Within the last years of crisis in Lebanon, all types of gender-based violence - early marriage, domestic violence, sexual harassment, or exploitation - have been on the rise, and refugee women are at disproportionate risk of suffering from it. To help support women better, MERATH significantly scaled up the services provided to them through church partners.

This year, 230 refugee women were enrolled in adult literacy classes. These women, from different stages of life, have been given an opportunity they thought they would never have to learn to read and write and are proving to themselves, and to their families, that they are smart and capable.

In parallel, these women receive professional counselling and psychosocial support. They learn to better understand their emotions, those of people around them, and how to deal with them in a healthier way, in safe spaces where they can be open about their struggles without judgement and where they receive a compassionate, Christian response.



“Meet Hala

I have been teaching adult literacy to Syrian refugee women for years. For many, it is the first time someone thinks of them as individuals and gives them something that is just for them. It makes them feel special and gives them their dignity back.

After they reach a certain level of literacy, they can also teach their own children or follow up on their homework, and their children can reach their full potential. Educating women brings the entire family together.

In the time I have with the women, I also use every opportunity to raise awareness on social issues that they face in their community, such as early marriage or domestic violence. They ask me for advice, on how to raise their children for example. In everything, I try to teach them the Christian perspective, and to make them understand how much God values women.



FULL ARTICLE AND STORY