

## Accessibility and Inclusion of people with disabilities in Lebanese Cultural, Heritage and Natural Sites

One Day Seminar

June, Tuesday 13, 2023

Lebanese University, Central Administration, Mathaf

Are we offering “equal access” to cultural sites for all people? Are our cultural, Heritage, Natural sites & museums accessible for people with disabilities? How can we plan inclusion in our sites? Can digital technology help make our sites more inclusive?

The main objective of this Seminar is to **answer the questions above**. More specifically, the goals of the seminar are to:

1. Raise awareness about accessibility issues.
2. Exchange ideas about inclusion and accessibility to our cultural sites.
3. Sensitize key actors and policymakers in developing inclusive cultural spaces.

In Lebanon, people with disabilities constitute a significant proportion of our population. Yet despite the Law 220/2000 on the Rights of Disabled Persons which was adopted by the Lebanese government since 2000, **very few cultural sites are accessible**. For too long, our **society has marginalized people with disabilities**. It is time to reverse that trend, to provide accessible spaces, and to invest in making the experience of people with disabilities at cultural sites meaningful.

This seminar, organized by ISHTAR for Inclusive Cultural Development in collaboration with Mouvement Social and the Deanery of the Lebanese University, Faculty of Letters & Human Sciences, Department of Arts & Archaeology, offers attendees an opportunity to develop advanced understanding around accessibility and inclusion. It will allow academics, local and international experts, governmental representatives, people with disabilities and other stakeholders to engage in dialogue around these issues. Following the “**Nothing about us without us**” principle, we emphasize that the presence of the Lebanese OPD (Organizations for Persons with Disability) is essential in ensuring people with disabilities are sharing their experiences and participating in creating change in spaces that impact them most.