Call for Papers: *Journal of International Women’s Studies*
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**Special Issue:**

**Women and Family life during the COVID 19 Crisis in Middle East Countries: Challenges and Responses**

The Geographical Scope of the Special Issue is the Greater Middle Eastern Region: The Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia.

This Special Issue examines the response of the Greater Middle Eastern Countries and societies to the Covid-19 Pandemic Crisis in terms of its challenges and opportunities with particular focus on women and families. The breakout of the Corona Virus Crisis a year ago represented an unprecedented challenge to the region. Governments, civil society institutions, regional and international organizations have scrambled to articulate a response to mitigate the catastrophic impacts of the crisis on the peoples and societies of the Greater Middle Eastern region. Simultaneously, the crisis has provided an opportunity for countries in the region to reexamine their preparedness to confront future catastrophes, test governmental and non-governmental ability to cope up with massive demands on public services, develop technical methods to handle challenges, articulate social-solidarity programs, strengthen the role of women and the family, civil society institutions, develop a mass communication methods to engage the public, and articulate a regional strategy to combat the crisis. This reevaluation follows recognition that those impacted most significantly have been the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, including women and children, intersecting with other social indicators such as class, ethnicity, ability, religion and the like.

The purpose of this Special Issue is to examine the response of the region to the crisis, the efforts to mitigate its impact on the people of the region, particularly the most vulnerable, and the preparedness of the Middle East to future health, food-security, and environmental catastrophes. Consistent with the mandate of the journal, this special issue highlights the role of women and gender dynamics and the challenges and opportunities the crisis has provided. Topics related to the following aspects and their relevance to women, family, society, and state are very welcome:

1. The role of women in responding to the crisis: women’s efforts of crisis management, women as victims of the pandemic, caring and raring children, family violence during a pandemic, rising women’s unemployment rates, etc.
2. The role of the state, civil society, regional and international organizations in responding to the crisis.
3. The local, regional, and international efforts of cooperation to contain the pandemic in terms of their strategies, methods, and instruments.
4. Social challenges: the family in the age of Corona, family solidarity, divorce, custody, etc.
5. Impacted communities the most: refugees, migrant workers, etc.
6. The economic impacts on growth, equity, distribution... job losses, etc.
8. Education and its challenges: Distance Learning, Internet and connectivity challenges, resources, educational platforms, TV platforms, rural education, home-schooling, parenting, and teaching in the age of Corona, etc.
9. Mental health, depression, suicide, etc.
10. International relations and collaborations between countries.
11. And any other topic related to the response of the Greater Middle Eastern societies and countries to the Covid-19 crisis, underlining the role of women, the family, the state, and society.

**Paper Guidelines:** papers should be between 5000 and 7000 words in length, 1.5 spacing, Calibri font, APA citation style, well-cited, original, and never been published previously. In addition, please follow the JIWS's guidelines found at this link: [https://vc.bridgew.edu/jiws/policies.html#guidelines](https://vc.bridgew.edu/jiws/policies.html#guidelines)

**Deadline:** The final submission of papers is September 5, 2021, or earlier.

**Special Issue Editors:** For inquires and submission, please contact any of the following Special Issue Editors:

- Prof. Muhamad Olimat, Emirates Diplomatic Academy, United Arab Emirates.
- Prof. Fakir Gharaibeh, Research Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

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