



*“Safeguarding the rights of others is the most noble  
and beautiful end of a human being”*

*Gibran Khalil Gibran*



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة  
ESCWA

**Observance of the Eleventh World Day of Social Justice**

*“Celebrating Equality and Justice in the Work of  
Gibran Khalil Gibran”*

Tuesday, 20 February 2018  
United Nations House, Beirut

## Background

In 2007, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 20 February as World Day of Social Justice, inviting Member States to devote the day to promoting national activities in accordance with the objectives of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly. Observance of World Day of Social Justice supports the efforts of the international community in eradicating poverty, promoting full employment and decent work, and ensuring gender equality and access to social well-being and justice for all.

This year, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) selected the theme "Celebrating equality and justice in the work of Gibran Khalil Gibran" to commemorate the eleventh World Day of Social Justice in an event that focuses on the principal concepts of social justice in the work of one of the most accomplished writers and philosophers. Although Gibran was a native of Lebanon, his literary and artistic heritage transcends geography to represent all humanity. His inspirational writings, popular in the Arab region and beyond, focus not only on beauty, life and death, but also on poverty, justice, peace,

freedom and the need to safeguard the rights of all people. Along with his paintings and poetry, his writings advanced ideas that remain anchored in the history of mankind as major influences that shape our modern spiritual, cultural and political thinking.

In this context, ESCWA hopes to highlight the concepts of social justice by paying tribute to his work – with a special focus on how the philosopher perceived justice and equality – in a half-day event at the United Nations House in Beirut on Tuesday, 20 February 2018. The celebration includes two panel discussions on this topic, a musical rendition of his main poems, and an exhibition of some of his renowned artwork.

The event will bring together officials from the Lebanese Government, representatives of the diplomatic corps in Lebanon including embassies of ESCWA member States and other States, representatives from civil society institutions and the private sector, a number of academic experts working on social justice issues, and specialists from the media sector. Representatives from sister United Nations agencies and offices in Lebanon and non-United Nations regional development organizations are also invited.

## Observance of the Eleventh World Day of Social Justice

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**Tuesday, 20 February 2018, United Nations House, Beirut**

#### Programme

11 a.m.-11.30 a.m.	Welcome note and opening remarks by the Master of Ceremonies Mr. Nabil Tay Abu Dargham, Head of ESCWA Communication and Information Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Message of Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General on the observance of the 11th World Day of Social Justice</li><li>• Statement by Dr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCWA</li><li>• Statement of H.E. Mr. Pierre Bou Assi, Minister of Social Affairs, Lebanon</li></ul>
11.30 a.m.-12 p.m.	Musical performance by Mr. Gabriel Abdel Nour, Tenor, Composer and Poet
12 p.m.-12.10 p.m.	Short documentary about Gibran Khalil Gibran
12.10 p.m.-12.45 p.m.	Panel discussion (1) on «Equality and Justice in the Literary Work of Gibran Khalil Gibran»: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Henri Zgheib, Poet</li><li>• Mr. Francesco Medici, Literary Critic</li><li>• Mr. Tarek Chidiac, President of the Gibran National Committee</li><li>• Mr. Alexandre Najjar, Author</li></ul> Moderator: Ms. Roula Mouawad, Journalist
12.45 p.m.-1 p.m.	Panel discussion (2) on «Equality and Justice in the Artwork of Gibran Khalil Gibran»: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Joumana Bou Fakhreddine, Author</li><li>• Mr. Nagi Abdullatif, Art Critic</li></ul>
1 p.m.-1.20 p.m.	Appreciation ceremony
1.20 p.m.-2 p.m.	Reception and painting exhibition



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