

# Voices of Change II

## *A Conversation from the MENA Region on: Women, Religion, and Constitutional Design*

In collaboration with the **MENA Program** at Sciences Po, Paris.

*SciencesPo Law School, Paris  
3 December 2025, 17:00–21:15  
Salle du Conseil, 13 rue de l'Université*

This second edition of the student-led [Voices of Change](#) Conference examines how political and constitutional transitions deals with equal citizenship where religion is embedded at the core of constitutional identity. Periods of transition-whether prompted by conflict, regime transformation, or comprehensive constitutional redesign-create rare opportunities to revisit and renegotiate the principles that shape belonging, rights, and the relationship between state and religion. Within these shifting landscapes, the conference asks a central question: where do women fit in conversations over who is included, how equal citizenship is defined, and how constitutional articles are drafted and understood?

Time	Session
<i>Welcome and opening session</i>	
1700-1730	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mahalia Wilcox and Mayya Chaykina on behalf of the students' academic preparation committee</li><li>• Madame <a href="#">Julie Babin d'Amonville</a>, executive director of Sciences Po law school</li><li>• <a href="#">Aghiad Ghanem</a>, Madame Léa Albrieux – directors of Sciences Po MENA program</li><li>• <a href="#">Sanaa Alsarghali</a>, Associate Professor of Constitutional law at An-Najah National University, Global Faculty Visiting Professor at Sciences Po, Paris.</li></ul>
<i>Keynote remarks – “The Future is Written by Her: Feminist Resistance, Gender, Ideology and Political Power”</i>	
1730-1815	<a href="#">Mona Tajali</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 25-minute talk</li><li>• 10-minute critical discussion with student representative <a href="#">Alix Mazieres</a></li><li>• 10-minute Q&amp;A</li></ul>
<i>Case Presentation</i>	
1815-1835	<a href="#">Federica Dell'Orto</a> – lawyer specialized in asylum and gender <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15-minute case presentation addressing gender, religion and migration</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commentary by <a href="#">Eleonora Bottini</a></li> <li>• Moderator: Angelica Ottolina</li> </ul>
<i>Coffee break</i>	
1835-1845	
<b>Panel 1: Saudi Arabia and Iran</b>	
1845-1910	Student presentation by Guilhem Lugange, Lena Gunyuzu, Marguerite Girod and Aminata Cissé
	Discussants: <a href="#">Mona Tajali</a>
	Moderator: Alix Mazieres
<b>Panel 2: Egypt and Tunisia</b>	
1910-1935	Student presentation by Coline Chouvenc, Sybille Douvillez, Sarah Millieras and Terence Blanc
	Discussants: <a href="#">Lamiss Azab</a> <a href="#">Shreya Parikh</a>
	Moderator: Maddalena Tabarelli de Fatis
<b>Panel 3: Syria and Palestine</b>	
1935-2000	Student presentation by Clément Basnier, Maddalena Tabarelli de Fatis and Angelica Maria Ottolina
	Discussant: <a href="#">Judge Sumod Damiri</a> and <a href="#">Aghiad Ghanem</a>
	Moderator: Aminata Cissé
<b>Panel 4: Iraq and Bahrain</b>	
2000-2025	Student presentation by Sarah Obadia, Paula Suk, Mie Lærke Holm and Alicia Bounouar
	Discussant: <a href="#">Tamara El Khoury</a>
	Moderator: Mayya Chaykina
<b>Panel 5: Concluding Panel - Rethinking Representation and Decolonising Narratives</b> As the final panel in this series, this discussion builds on the preceding country-specific examples by stepping back to examine the broader narratives that shape how women in the listed countries are perceived and represented. Drawing on the insights of Layla Abu-Lughod, it interrogates how colonial legacies and Western frameworks have contributed to portrayals of Muslim women as passive figures or subjects in need of rescue. These narratives continue to influence international policy debates, media discourses, and even the framing of constitutional reform.	

2025-2050	Student presentation by Madeleine Gayrard, Violette Verne and Alex Breschard
	Discussants: <a href="#">Mirjam Kuenkler</a>
	Moderator: Mahalia Wilcox
Closing remarks	
2050-20:57	Overall remarks by <a href="#">Sharon Pia Hickey</a> , Associate Programme Officer in the Constitution-building Programme at International IDEA
20:57-21:15	Reflections: <a href="#">Suki Capobianco</a> , Chief Strategy Officer, Better Politics Foundation.
	Closing remarks by <a href="#">Sanaa Alsarghali</a> , and <a href="#">Aghiad Ghanem</a>