

# Institute for Policy Research



## Exploring new avenues for social policy and social welfare action

The project seeks to galvanise and further develop academic expertise and policy engagement around the emerging prospects for state social policy making and social welfare action more broadly in the Arab countries. It will be based on a network of social policy academics, national and international level policy-makers, and local NGOs in key Arab countries of the Levant and North Africa: Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and Syria.

This project will address the twin issues of better conceptual understanding and better policy assessment and evaluation capacities. The programme of research and networking activities will lay the foundations for future knowledge exchange (research and teaching based) and policy development.

### The project's main activities will be

- Policy Round Tables: Four one day events focusing on key social policy areas (social rights and social protection, poverty and unemployment, children and youth policy, and gender and female-headed households) to be held at the University of Bath and another Arab city
- Interactive Website: Set up at the University of Bath to support the research and dissemination of the project
- Proposal for an edited book: Network participants will produce a ground-breaking book proposal based on their own research on social policy in the Arab countries. The book will be structured along the four main policy themes chosen for the policy roundtables
- Research collaboration and long-term sustainability of network activities: Dr Jawad will make a funding application in 2013/2014 to the European Research Council's five year Starting Grant Scheme in order to establish a centre for the study of social policy in the Middle East at the University of Bath

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**Funder:** Council for British Research in Levant [www.cbri.org.uk](http://www.cbri.org.uk)

**Project dates:** 17.01.13-16.01.14

