Women and Power in the Middle East
30 April 2013

09.00  Registration and Coffee

09.30  Welcome and Introduction
Jane Kinninmont, Chatham House
Keynote address: Mrs Arzuhan Doğan Yalçındağ, Doğan TV Holding

10.00  Social Justice, Democracy and Gender Equality
This session will explore how calls for social justice and democracy impact on the lives of women in politics, business and society. Discussion will focus on whether aspirations for equality of rights for all are being met. Are women’s rights being reflected, protected and expanded in the drafting of constitutions, the practice of politics, on the streets and in the boardroom? What is the impact of revolution, conflict and changing governments? Are perceptions around gender changing and what roles will women play in shaping the future of their region?

Speakers:
Professor Deniz Kandiyoti, School of Oriental and African Studies
Dr Maha Azzam, Chatham House
Mehrezia Labidi, National Constituent Assembly, Tunisia
Dr Fatemah Khafagy, Alliance for Arab Women

Chair: Alan Philps, The World Today

11.30  Coffee break

12.00  Grassroots Initiatives and Everyday Challenges
What obstacles stand in the way of ordinary women gaining access to power and in what ways are these obstacles being overcome? How do strategies and options differ for women in rural or urban environments and between different generations? Is the engagement of women in local initiatives resulting in an increased focus on women’s priorities, and has this started to shift perceptions and result in real change? This session will assess the impact of bottom-up activities on equality, rights and access to power.

Speakers:
Dina Wahba, independent activist
Myrna Atalla, Alfanar
Carina Kamel, Al Arabiya
Ala’a Shehabi, independent economist and activist

Chair: Dr Claire Spencer, Chatham House
13.30  
*Lunch*

14.30  
**Women at the Top**

Across the region, an increasing number of women are becoming global leaders in their field. What are the prospects and challenges for women in positions of political and financial power and for those striving to get there? What role, if any, do these women play in shaping the discussion around gender in the region more generally?

Speakers:
*HE Assia Bensalah Alaoui*, Ambassador at Large of HM the King of Morocco  
*Farmida Bi*, Norton Rose  
*Fatma Şahin*, Minister of Family and Social Policies, Turkey

Chair: *Jane Kinninmont*, Chatham House

16.00  
**Closing Address**

*HRH Princess Basmah Bint Saud*, Global United Lanterns Foundation

Chair: *Dr Claire Spencer*, Chatham House

16.30  
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