

World Day of Prayer International Committee – June 16-18, 2022

Middle East Regional Representative Candidates

Self-Introduction and Biography

1. Maral Barzkian Haidostian, WDP Lebanon



Name: Maral Barzkian Haidostian

WDP Committee: Lebanon

Church Denomination: Armenian Evangelical Church

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My name is Maral Barzkian Haidostian. I was born in Aleppo, Syria. I belong to the Armenian Evangelical Church of the Near East. My church was always my second home and my faith journey led me to major in Christian Education. I completed my Bachelor's degree at the Near East of Theology and Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon, where I also obtained a Teaching Diploma. Since 2000, I have been teaching the Bible for upper elementary classes and recently to the intermediate section as well. I lead the Sunday School in my local church in central Beirut and have been a member of the church session for a number of years. I am involved with the women's ministry in the church by preaching and organizing conferences. I

am married to an ordained minister and educator and we have two daughters, Garin and Talar.

I have been involved with the WDP Movement for more than 25 years. It was when a member from our church talked to me about it when I was 26 and asked me to replace her in the National Committee since she was leaving the country. At that time I did not know much about the movement, but the idea of praying and being united in prayer for 24 hours on the first Friday of March spoke to my heart. I embraced the idea immediately and eventually got closer and closer to the movement. I started by simply taking part in readings during the annual worship service. Later on, and for many years, I used to prepare a special banner representing the theme of the year to be presented during the worship services. The year 2000 was very meaningful since our country, Lebanon, was chosen to be the writer country for the year 2003. All the WDP National Committee members were excited and ready to work hard for the preparation needed. I was part of the subcommittee preparing the children's program. It was a learning experience for all of us. I became chair of the WDP National Committee of Lebanon in 2005, and currently in my third term now. I have also attended two WDP International Meetings, one in 2003 in England and one in Brazil in 2017. In 2017, I was elected to be one of the WDPIC Middle East Regional Representatives and also became a member of the Advisory Group of the WDP Executive Committee.

WDP has been part of my life, part of my family's life, and part of my community's life. I have involved my immediate and extended family in the preparations in direct ways. Through WDP, I have valued the life of prayer more by being informed and acting prayerfully. WDP helped me learn about a new country in depth each year without traveling physically. Not just learning about a specific country, but also getting to know about the situation of women and children and being connected to them through prayer. WDP also helped me build friendships with women in my country from different churches and with women from distant countries which enriched my life. I have always realized that a natural skill I have in this regard is to bring people together in a comfortable and smooth way, to join teams and work on projects collaboratively.

Indeed, celebrating 100 years of uninterrupted prayer in 2027 is very exciting, promising and I praise God for that. I am happy to be part of this story and my hope for the next 100 years of WDP leadership is to have the passion to value the legacy of the past and also to have a clear vision for the coming years. Vision to encourage women of different ages to learn more the word of God and lead a prayerful life, personally and in community. I hope for vision that is creative and to think about new ways of encouraging the young women to be spiritually connected and also take an active part in the WDP movement.