

## Women rights in Israel-campus tabling

Toward the end of the first semester we decided to table on campus- We saw that the international day of raising awareness to violent against woman is taking place that week and decided to table on the issue of women right and female leadership in Israel. We had some hot chocolate and SDM fortune cookies to draw the students. The students picked leaders from different field of interest and wrote a short bio on their life achievement. We had flyers talking on the issue of equality in Israel. The student board did an amazing job in engaging the students that stopped by our table- we had some great conversations and the girls felt a huge sense of success in the end of the day. We were able to educate the 80% who has no idea what Israel is all about!

See materials below

## Did you know!?

### Women's rights in Israel

Women in Israel have been guaranteed gender equality since the establishment of the state in 1948. This has enabled women to actively participate in Israeli life. The Israeli Declaration of Independence states:

**"The State of Israel (...) will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex."**

(1948, the Israeli Declaration of Independence)

Israel was the third country in the world to be led by a female prime minister, Golda Meir, and in 2010, women's parliamentary representation in Israel was 18 percent, which is above the Arab world's average of 6 percent and equals that of the U.S. Congress. Still, it trails far behind the Scandinavian countries' 40 percent average

#### Arab (Muslim & Christian) women in Israel

According to Shi'ite Pakistani-American scholar Tashbih Sayyed, the Muslim Arab citizens of Israel are afforded all the rights and privileges of Israeli citizenship. He noted that:

**" Israel is one of the few countries in the Middle East where Arab women can vote... "**

(Tashbih Sayyed)

In contrast to the non-Israeli Arab world, Arab women in Israel enjoy the same status as men. Muslim women have the right to vote and to be elected to public office. Muslim women, according to Sayyed, are more liberated in Israel than in any Muslim country. Israeli law prohibits polygamy, child marriage, and female sexual mutilation.

Arab-Israeli women actively participate in government and public life.

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## Israeli female Leaders and Role Models

**Tziporah Malkah "Tzipi" Livni**- Israeli lawyer and politician. She is the current Israeli Opposition Leader and leader of Kadima, the largest party in the Knesset. Raised an ardent nationalist, Livni has become one of her nation's leading voices for the two-state solution. In Israel she has earned a reputation as honest, clean, and sticking to her principles. Is the first woman to be leader of the opposition in Israel. In 2011 Livni was named one of "150 Women Who Shake the World" by *Newsweek* and *The Daily Beast*

**Rana Raslan**-(Hebrew: רנא רסלאן, Arabic: رسلان رنا) an Arab Israeli from Haifa who was named Miss Israel in 1999. She was the first, and so far the only, Arab Israeli to win this title. She also took part in the 1999 Miss Universe contest.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed Raslan's nomination as a feat of democracy in Israel, while some Arab and Israeli journalists viewed it as a pre-electional political move.

Rana Raslan describes herself as a "secular Muslim" in responding to accusations of Muslim fundamentalists regarding immorality – specifically in reference to the swimsuit part of the pageant.

**Orna Barbivai**- a general in the Israel Defense Forces and the current head of its Manpower Directorate. She was the first woman to be made Aluf, the IDF's second highest rank

**Golda Meir**- was a teacher, *kibbutz*nik and politician who became the fourth Prime Minister of the State of Israel. Meir was elected Prime Minister of Israel on March 17, 1969, after serving as Minister of Labor and Foreign Minister. Israel's first and the world's third woman to hold such an office, she was described as the "Iron Lady" of Israeli politics years before the epithet became associated with British prime minister Margaret Thatcher. Former prime minister, David Ben-Gurion used to call Meir "the best man in the government"; she was often portrayed as the "strong-willed, straight-talking, grey-bunned grandmother of the Jewish people."

In 1974, after the conclusion of the Yom Kippur War, Meir resigned as prime minister. She died in 1978.

**Daphni Leef**- Israeli activist who on July 14, 2011, established an encampment in central Tel Aviv in the Rothschild Boulevard to protest the high cost of housing in Israel.

Her act sparked off one of the largest waves of mass protest in Israel's history, inspiring demonstrations throughout the country with the demand to return to the welfare-state model.

**Dana International**- a Israeli pop singer of Yemenite Jewish ancestry. She is most famous for having won the Eurovision Song Contest 1998 in Birmingham with the song "Diva".

Born biologically male, Dana discovered that she was a transsexual at an early age, coming out when she was 13 and Undergoing sex reassignment surgery in 1993.

In 1998 she was selected to represent Israel in the Eurovision Song Contest with her song "Diva"; subsequently winning the international competition, Dana came to public attention throughout Europe.

Dana International has been credited with being one of the world's best known transsexuals.

**Ada E. Yonath**- an Israeli crystallographer best known for her pioneering work on the structure of the ribosome. In 2009, she received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry along with Venkatraman Ramakrishnan and Thomas A. Steitz for her studies on the structure and function of the ribosome,

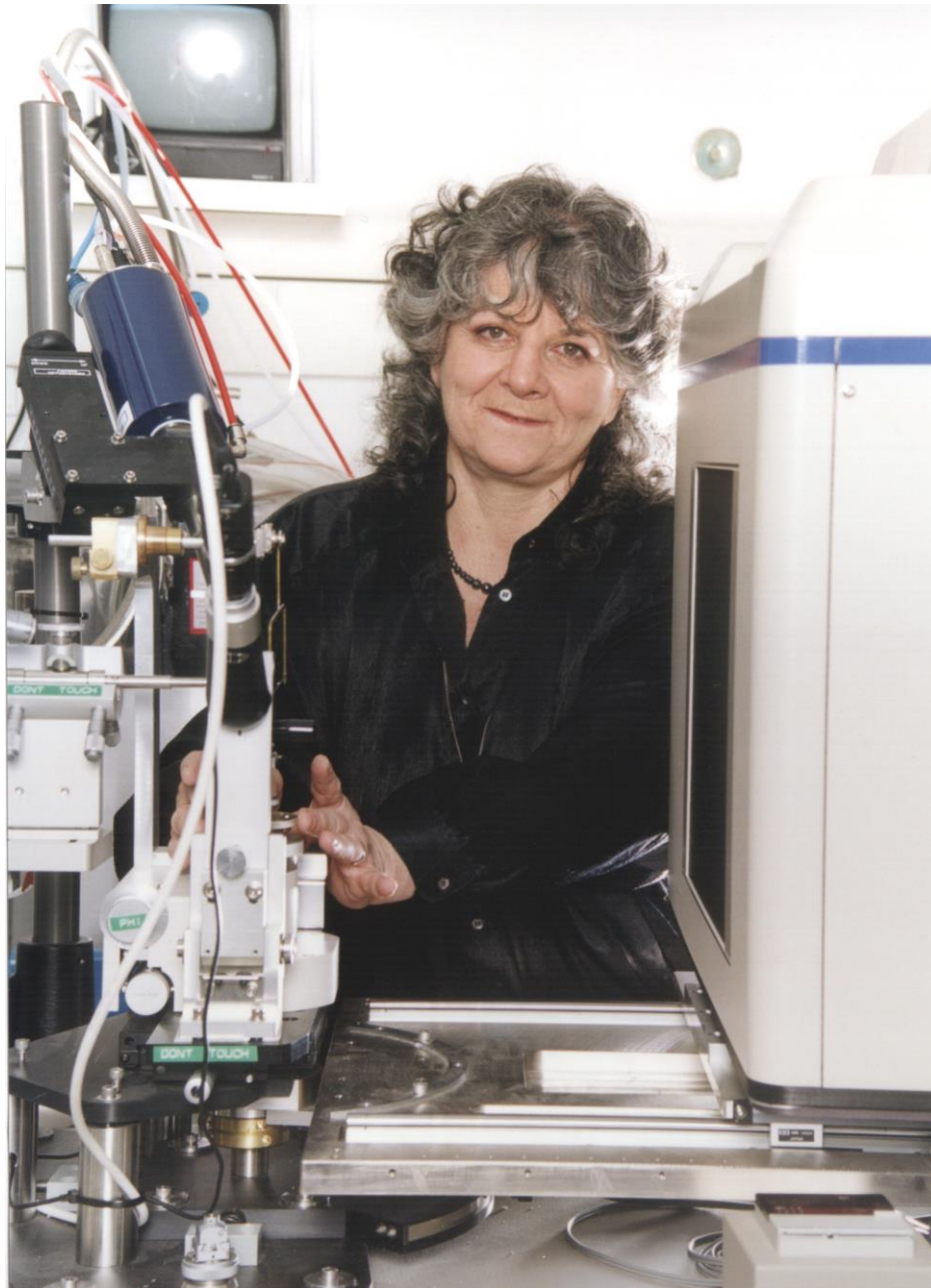
Ada is the first Israeli woman to win the Nobel Prize out of ten Israeli Nobel laureates, the first woman from the Middle East to win a Nobel prize in the sciences and the first woman in 45 years to win the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. However, she said herself that there was nothing special about a woman winning the Prize.

**Alice Miller**- a licensed engineering civilian pilot. She fought for the military pilots' course to be open to women. On November 8th, 1995 she submitted an appeal to the High Court by the Association for Civil Rights and Women's Network.

The High Court accepted the petition and ordered the IDF to promote equality for both women and men. Thus, Roni Zuckerman became the first female combat pilot in the IDF.

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# Tzipporah "Tzipi" Livni



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# Rana Raslan



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