



When the whole world is silent, even
one voice becomes powerful.

- Malala Yousafzai

TO EDUCATE, SUPPORT, AND REACH
OUT TO WOMEN ON OUR CAMPUS IN THE
CONTEXT OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

The Center for Women's Studies
Newsletter

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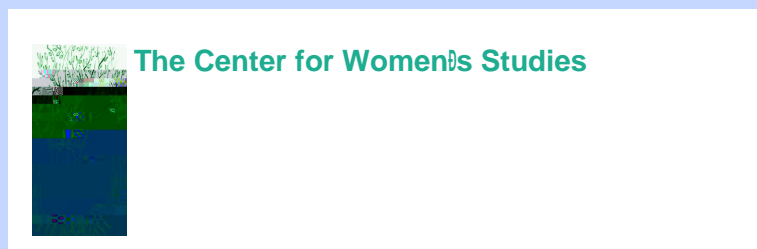
There are 1.8 million refugees in Lebanon which is where you find the oldest refugee camp in the world (68 years), Bourji al Barajneh. Refugees cannot become citizens, and work permits are very difficult to obtain. They cannot leave the country legally without proper documentation which is also hard to get. Most lack the resources to move out of the camp so they stay, and three generations have been born and raised in this place. They know no other life.

From this camp comes Mariam Shaar, born and raised in Bourji al Barajneh, with a drive to improve the lives of its residents. "Mariam's vision has always been to create opportunities for the refugee community and improve lives through education and production." After consulting with them, she learned from most of the women that they wanted to do something food related. From this was created [Soufra](#) (which means "a table of delicious plenty" in Arabic) a catering company. "The idea was to revive traditional Palestinian dishes and offer them to the Beirut market."

When not enough catering orders came in, the women came up with the idea of a food truck. After a great struggle, which included Mariam's learning to drive, they got their truck, the first refugee food truck in the world. They have produced a cookbook (available at <https://www.amazon.com/Soufra-Recipes-Refugee-Food-Truck/dp/0999259326>), the proceeds from which go to support "the ongoing development of the camp's Children Center School." A very moving and uplifting documentary film, [Soufra: A Table of Plenty](#), has been made about the story of Mariam and these amazing women, all of whom reside in the refugee camp. You can watch the trailer at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...](#). Soufra has become a symbol of hope and proof that women can do anything!



Source:



Still, even with the myriad of resources available, an abuser can be difficult to identify, pri-





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