



WOMEN IN
CHURCH AND
SOCIETY
THE LUTHERAN
WORLD FEDERATION

From the LWF Institutional Memory

Women on the Move – Her-Story:



- Name:** Ms Aida Haddad,
- Country of origin:** Jordan
- Date of Birth:** 4 January 1939
- Church:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan (ELCJ)
- Period of Mandate:** 1987-1990: first woman LWF Assembly vice-president from Jordan/Holy Land / Asia region
- Short biography:** *From LWI/Roger Kahle/29/87:* Aida Haddad of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan has been elected as one of the five vice presidents of the Lutheran World Federation at the Executive Committee meeting in Viborg, 14 July 1987. Head librarian at Birzeit University, the 48 year-old Haddad fills the vacancy created when Bishop Johannes Hanselmann was elected LWF president. She was elected during a special evening session on the second ballot with 15 votes to 12 votes for Dr Werner Leich of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia in the German Democratic Republic. With the death of the late LWF President Zoltan Kaldy of

Hungary, Bishop Gyula Nagy took up Kaldy's seat on the Executive Committee and that left a vacancy among the officers.

In an interview with journalists after her election, Haddad said that she did not expect to be elected vice president before coming to the Executive Committee meeting, but had been talked into running by the women, youth and male lay members of the committee. "My region, the Middle East, has also not been represented in the officers" Haddad said, "as the LWF lists projects there under its Asia Desk. But we in the Middle East are neither Asian nor African". She said that as vice president she feels the most important issues for the LWF are the peace issue "in my country, in South Africa, in Latin America and elsewhere, "the reevangelization of churches and the partnership of men and women in the church."

Haddad was born January 1939, in Nazareth, Palestine. She currently lives in Jerusalem with her husband, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Daoud Haddad, retired bishop of the 1,650 member ELCJ. She said that Birzeit University on the West Bank where she works has been shut down by Israeli military authorities since April 13 but is expected to reopen August 18. Commenting on the Palestinian resolution adopted by the LWF Executive Committee earlier in the week, Aida Haddad called the action "a step forward". She said, "It not only benefits Lutherans in the Middle East but all the Christian minority". She urged Christians visiting the Holy Land to visit the Arab Christians. "Often people only visit the kibbutzim where they are brainwashed by Israeli propaganda." she said and all Palestinians portrayed as terrorists. She said this image is false. There are still some 1.5 million Palestinians in Israel and about 4 million living in exile who have the "right to self-determination".

Haddad said she is not a member of any political party, but is active in working with women's groups and for the rights of Palestinians. She said the Palestinian issue is "not a conflict with the Jews, but with Israeli Zionists". Haddad said "It is not a religious problem but basically a national, political problem that needs to be solved in a just way".