

## Lebanese President welcomes delegation of international religious freedom leaders from the Middle East

### Press release

**Beirut, Lebanon – June 5, 2025:** A 20-person delegation, led by Advisor to the President for Human Rights and Religious Dialogue Habib Ephrem, met with His Excellency President Joseph Aoun at the Presidential Palace in Ba'abda on June 5, 2025, to discuss the importance of Lebanon as a model for co-existence.



His Excellency President Joseph Aoun hosts international religious freedom advocates, including ZPO Founder Lynn Zovighian (seated left), at the Presidential Palace in Ba'abda, Lebanon.

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Aoun welcomed delegates saying that they can count on Lebanon always being their home. He explained that Lebanon takes its state responsibility to protect all communities very seriously, stating: "The right to differ within the framework of the state lies at the core of democracy, but discord and division are not acceptable."

In his opening address, Ephrem, who is also the President of the Beirut-based Syriac League, said, "wherever we are, we are patriots, forged from stone, belonging to a civilization of life and identity, rooted in respect for all nationalities, all ethnicities, all religions, and all sects."

The delegation included members of parliament from Syria and Iraq, faith-based civil society leaders, philanthropists, and journalists. The Zovighian Public Office was represented by founder Lynn Zovighian.

“The President of the Republic has the important responsibility of protecting Lebanon’s identity and history as a safe haven for communities,” explained Zovighian. “Lebanon is at a historic juncture where it can build newfound leadership regionally and globally on international religious freedom.”



His Excellency President Joseph Aoun and Lynn Zovighian, founder of the Zovighian Public Office (ZPO) at the Presidential Palace in Ba’abda, Lebanon.

Photo by © 2025 Ba’abda Presidential Palace

The visit followed the celebration of the 50-year jubilee symposium of the Syriac League, which welcomed almost 50 delegates from around the world.

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### About the Zovighian Public Office

The Zovighian Public Office (ZPO) was established in 2015 to serve communities facing crises and crimes of atrocity. We are dedicated to amplifying their voices through research, culture, advocacy, and diplomacy. We are deeply committed to the empowerment of Lebanese communities, grassroots institutions, and cultural and civil society leaders.

<http://www.zovighian.org/>

The Zovighian Public Office (ZPO) was established in 2015 to serve and safeguard communities facing crises and crimes of atrocity through research, cultural, advocacy, and diplomacy.



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