

Address of Fr. Talal Hachem
Lebanon Unsettled
Remarks of USEK President
February 3, 2021

Good afternoon everyone!

I am glad to be here “with you” today, obviously virtually with you, to launch this interesting project **Lebanon Unsettled** between the London School of Economics and our beloved University.

I am also glad to see such a great number of participants in this event given the importance of the topic it is dealing with, especially during these challenging times and following the several tragic events that have been raging the country.

This project is important for more than a reason:

First, it is an opportunity for academicians to ponder on the events of Lebanon from a scientific lens perspective while adopting a scientific and holistic approach.

Second, the main deliverable of the project is to establish a publicly accessible archive for the events of Lebanon, which would contribute to the creation of a reliable database or source of information for future generations, and I must say **we owe it to future generations**, and obviously would lead to further research in the future.

And third, the project stems from a close collaboration between different stakeholders and is based on a collaborative approach. It will involve faculty members, researchers and students; in

other words, it provides different perceptions and perspectives and looks at the events of Lebanon from different angles.

Before I conclude, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to Dr. Michael Mason, Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science; I wish we could have met in person for the launching of this project, and hope we will meet at USEK when this whole situation winds down (hopefully soon).

Finally, I cannot but thank all the people who were behind the idea of this project, who worked hard to launch it, and will be sparing no effort in the future to reach the aspired results. I will not name you all but I'd like to mention Dr. Dean Sharp from London School of Economics and Dr. May Farhat who is spearheading this project at USEK.

I wish our researchers a fruitful work and I am sure we will be all looking forward to seeing the results of Lebanon Unsettled and hopefully to seeing **Lebanon Settled**.

Thank you!