



Information note for **Equality Now's 2019 Strategic Meeting on April 8-9**, in Beirut, Lebanon.

In preparation for your upcoming trip to Beirut, Lebanon for the strategic meeting on April 8-9 please review the following pre-departure information.



**Dates:**

Arrival is on 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> of April and Departure is on 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> of April subject to flight availability.

**Flights and transfers to and from hotel:**

Airport transfer to and from the hotel will be provided through Padova Hotel taxi service. The driver will be holding a sign with "Equality Now" on it, while waiting for your arrival at the exit terminal.

**Conference venue and accommodation:**

The meeting will take place on 8-9 of April 2019 at Padova Hotel conference room in Beirut, Lebanon. Participants will be accommodated in the same venue.

**Padova Hotel**

- Address: Horsh Tabet, Sin El Fil, Beirut <https://goo.gl/maps/jrFqRTqePnT2>
- Phone: +961-1-501333 to 339
- Website: <https://www.padovabeirut.com/index.htm>
- Check in time: 13:00 Check out time: 12:00

We have arranged and confirmed your stay according to your arrival and departure times. Upon your arrival at the hotel, please have your passports ready for check in.

**Internet service:**

The hotel offers complementary Wi-Fi services.

**Meals:**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided at the hotel for the duration of the programme.

**Smoking in the facility**

The hotel has designated smoking zones; ask the hotel staff to direct you accordingly.

**Expenses:**

You will be personally responsible for your personal expenses including expenses related to accompanying persons; telephone calls, laundry/dry cleaning services, alcoholic beverages, room service, massages, mini bar and other personal services you might require from the hotel.

**Weather and Attire:**

The weather in Beirut in April is moderate to warm with the temperature ranging between 19-21 Celsius during the day. There is a slight chance of light rain in the afternoon on some days. Please see the link provided here for weather updates

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/lb/beirut/227342/april-weather/227342>

**Time:**

Lebanese time is G.M.T. +3 hours in summer (April to October).

**Currency**

In Lebanon, both the American Dollar (USD) and the Lebanese Pound (LBP), also called Lebanese Lira (L.L.) are accepted. Currently, the Lebanese Pound is pegged against the USD at a rate of 1,500 LBP to 1 USD.

ATMs are also widely available in Beirut and usually dispense both US dollars and Lebanese pounds. If you have another currency, you can exchange it in banks or money exchange shops which are dotted along any street in Beirut, specifically Hamra Street.

**Shopping Destinations**

- "Le Mall" located in Sin El Fil: 10 min walking distance from Padova Hotel.
- "City Center Beirut" located in Hazmieh: 10 min drive by car.
- "Beirut Souks" located in Downtown Beirut: 20-30 min car ride depending on traffic.

### **Transportation:**

We recommend the hotel's taxi service for reliability and safety.

Another option is Allo Taxi where you can pay with a credit card or cash. Phone number: **1213**

### **Places to visit in Beirut:**



Beirut Souks, Martyrs' Square, Nijmeh Square, Hamra Street, Zaituna Bay, Raouche, the National Museum, Sursock Museum.

You can check this link for more details: <https://theculturetrip.com/middle-east/lebanon/articles/19-must-visit-attractions-in-beirut/>

### **Safety:**

Beirut is a safe city during the day and night. However, this should not prevent you from looking after your belongings while walking in the city and taking any other reasonable precautions.

We have provided you with travel insurance coverage for the period: of your stay. Kindly contact **Eurocross Assistance** within 48 hours from occurrence of an accident or a sudden illness on: **00961-4-548348**. Please refer to your travel insurance policy booklet provided for more details.

Please also communicate your contact details to Aya Dabbous if you have not already done so. If you wish for us to contact someone in case of an emergency during your trip to Beirut, please share that person's contact details with us before you travel.

**Contact Persons:**

Aya Dabbous (Email: [ayamohammad@equalitynow.org](mailto:ayamohammad@equalitynow.org); Tel: +961 76 810678)

**Emergency contact:**

- Lebanese Red Cross: 140
- Police (operation): 112
- Hariri International Airport: +961-1-628000 or 150
- Eurocross Assistance: +961-4-548348.