

# News

## Gender-Based Violence Awareness Campaign

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) in collaboration with KAFA ("Enough Violence and Exploitation"), an organization that works on combating violence and exploitation of women and children, organized a consciousness-raising event from November 3-5, 2008. This event was part of the 16-day activism campaign against gender-based violence KAFA launched to mobilize the youth and general public to support efforts to combat domestic violence.

Throughout the three days, a stand was put up in front of Irwin Hall where social workers from KAFA, IWSAW personnel, and volunteers met with students and introduced them to concepts related to gender-based violence and encouraged them to sign the family violence protection bill prepared by KAFA. Very many signatures in support of the bill were collected where students, faculty, and staff signed the petition.



On the last day, November 5, a short film entitled "Survivors" (i.e. *Najiyat*) was screened at 12:00 p.m. at LRC 21 and a discussion followed where Danielle Howayek, a lawyer from KAFA, discussed the importance of adopting the family violence protection bill.

As a follow-up to the above joint activity, IWSAW in collaboration with KAFA launched a petition signing campaign on November 25, 2008 at LAU, Beirut campus to collect signatures for the draft law criminalizing domestic violence that KAFA is planning to submit to the government for approval.



Students signing the petition

