

What explains that within **less than a minute**, a **suicide occurs** somewhere in the world, other than the surrounding stress?

What explains that **spring, especially the month of May**, records the **highest number of suicides** among all months of the year, if not the difficulties associated **with change**?

What explains that the **epidemiological data** on suicide in **Lebanon** is becoming **increasingly concerning**, if not the changes that have occurred over the past five years, accompanying the **multifaceted crisis**?

What can **save the life of a person** in acute psychological distress, apart from **specialized and professional care** in a **medical center**, shielded from the effects of surrounding stress?

What could **fill the void left by public and private third-party payers**, who leave suicidal patients to their own fate outside hospitals, without the intervention of **solidarity**?

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The psychiatry department of Hôtel-Dieu de France is organizing a fundraising campaign this May 2024 to support patients suffering from mental disorders during these challenging times for our society.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide adequate and equitable care to all our patients due to the high cost of hospitalizations compared to the limited incomes of the majority of those who seek our help every day. The involvement of public and private third-party payers is either absent or lacking efficacy especially since the economic crisis since 2019.

The USJ Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut, has been collaborating for several years with its affiliated hospital, Hôtel-Dieu de France, to address gaps in various health-related areas. Currently, there is ongoing collaboration with the psychiatry department of Hôtel-Dieu de France, as this is a problem that worsens over time and can only be solved with the contribution of individuals capable and willing to help our patients.

For more information about our service and details on how to assist us, please refer to the attached document.

Let us not forget that the measure of our development as a society is not in metrics but in the willingness to assist the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rami Bou Khalil

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