

## Women and the World

Meredith Ann O'Connell



### Stop Telling Women to Hide Their Bruises

The Moroccan daily ladies show Sabahiyat featured a demonstration recently on how to use make-up. However, this was no normal make-up tutorial, like the kind you see on Youtube. The program decided to show women the makeup they could use to cover the bruises on their face from domestic violence as a way to mark the International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women.

The backlash for the segment was swift: people immediately complained and a petition signed by nearly 2,000 people was sent to Morocco's High Authority for Audiovisual Communication. The segment posted online was taken down and the show issued an apology, calling the segment an "error in judgement."

Well, it was certainly an "error in judgment" but it was more than that: it was an example of how entrenched domestic violence is into everyday life. It was an example of how abuse is so commonplace that we must try to normalize it in any way. The show put the onus on women to hide the abuse, by telling them to put on makeup so they can go about their everyday lives.

Many an abused woman has wondered how she is going to hide her black eye from her friends, family, coworkers and the general public. Sure, knowing how to hide bruises or other marks might be a useful skill for women who are constantly subject to battering and want to know how to perfect their makeup skills. Should we not afford them this advice? I think women in such a position should have the ability to learn how to conceal these telltale marks if they want to, if it helps them cope.

Yet while Sabahiyat might have had good intentions behind this episode, it ultimately sends the wrong message. It teaches women to live with violence. Domestic violence should not and cannot be normalized. It cannot neatly fit into our everyday lives, like part of our schedule. Women die from domestic violence every day. Women get severely damaged, inside and out, from abuse every single day.

In teaching women how to conceal their bruises, we are teaching them how to go conceal a crime. However, this is a crime against them, not one they committed. People need to see the bruises and hold men accountable for their actions. We need to teach women what to do. We need to stop telling women to cover up and stay silent and instead start encouraging them to speak out.

*(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)*

## Speak out

Send your comments to [letters@dt.bh](mailto:letters@dt.bh)

This is in response to DT News story, 55 world heritage sites in Danger, published on December 3, 2016. The UN has urged the international community to protect these sites. Natural disasters cannot be controlled but people around the world can take few steps to protect and preserve

these heritage sites. Local organisations and the government must jointly take necessary actions in preserving these sites.

These cultural sites play a major role in an increase in tourism to the country. This in turn will boost the economy of the nation. The sites must be conserved taking into consideration the future generations.

All acts intended to sabotage such cultural sites must be commended and strict action must be taken against the defaulters.

**Kasim Manas**

# Bahrain inspires 'Future Doctors'



'Future Doctors' participants with RCSI Bahrain staff

DT News Network  
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### Manama

Obviously, the best part of practising medicine is taking care of people, which also makes it divine. However, its demanding nature also creates a fine line for the doctors to walk.

But, this week, things were quite different at the Busaiteen campus of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain). Making the difference was the presence of a group of students and teachers from around the Middle East.

Their mission: to get an insight into the lives of students and doctors at RCSI as part of the second annual Future Doctors programme by RCSI Bahrain.

The event kick started with a series of hands-on, interactive workshops as well as advice on specialist postgraduate careers in medicine by RCSI Bahrain senior academic staff. This was followed by an extensive tour of the campus by the staff and current RCSI Bahrain students.

The visiting students also interacted with RCSI Bahrain medical students, Reema Mahdi and Farah Zahir Akram Alrasasy, who are part of the Foundation Year programme of RCSI Bahrain. Various laboratory sessions on Echocardiograms and living anatomy sessions provided further insight.

Highlight of the programme was the afternoon tour of the island, Bahrain Fort, Royal Camel Farm in Janabiyah and the Bahrain National Museum.

Other activities included: a lecture on 'Overviews of specialist postgraduate

options' by Professor Martin Corbally, RCSI Bahrain Professor of Surgery and King Hamad University Hospital Chief of Staff, Communication skills workshop with Dr David Misselbrook, Senior Lecturer in Family Medicine,

and a general question-and-answer session.

Organised by the University's Marketing and Communications team, this year's programme included representatives from local and international school.

Twenty students and twenty counsellors participated. Among the attendees were Grade 11 and Grade 12 students and teachers from schools in Qatar, Oman, the UAE, Jordan, Kuwait, and Bahrain.

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