

Suzanne JABBOUR

Member, United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture
Chief Executive Officer, Restart Center



Suzanne Jabbour is a current **member of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)** and a prominent human rights advocate. She previously served as Chairperson of the SPT for four years until February 2025, leading global efforts to advance international standards and practices for the prevention of torture. During her tenure as Chairperson, she was also elected as Chair of Chairpersons of Human Rights Treaty Bodies, demonstrating her leadership within the United Nations system.

As **Chief Executive Officer of [Restart Center](#)** in Lebanon, Ms. Jabbour has led impactful programs that support the rehabilitation of victims of torture and promote human rights through advocacy, training, and support services. The Restart Center, which she co-founded in 1996, is a leading organization in the region, known for its holistic and human rights-based approach.

In Lebanon, Ms. Jabbour has been instrumental in reforming Lebanon's prison system. Her initiatives include the design of a pioneering prison management training program for the Internal Security Forces and the establishment of an independent Forensic and Psychological Examination Unit at Tripoli Justice Palace. This unit, a first of its kind in the region, ensures medical screenings for individuals under investigation and contributes to the prevention of torture during police custody—an achievement recognized by the UN Committee Against Torture. Her leadership in drafting Lebanon's State Security Agency Code of Conduct and restructuring the forensic unit at the Ministry of Justice further show her impact on national policy and institutional reform.

Ms. Jabbour served as President of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) in Copenhagen and as a board member of Penal Reform International in London. She has been a trusted advisor on key frameworks such as the Méndez Principles, which enhance effective interviewing practices in investigations and information gathering.

Ms. Jabbour's dedication to human rights has earned her several international accolades, including the North-South Prize from the Council of Europe and recognition by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as an exceptional human rights defender from the Middle East and North Africa.

As a member of the SPT and through her extensive work at Restart Center, Suzanne Jabbour continues to influence global and national efforts to prevent torture and promote a culture of human dignity, transparency, and rule of law.