



United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Fellowship Programme 2019

“The Role of Women in Peacemaking and Conflict Prevention”

-

Participants from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

October 13th – 27th 2019



Federal Foreign Office

The UNAOC Fellowship Programme is made possible thanks to a grant from the Federal Foreign Office of Germany



Abdelrahman Ibrahim (Egypt) has developed and participated in numerous projects in Egypt to provide education to refugees and at-risk communities. As the curator of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers' hub in Alexandria, he has organized PeaceHackMena with the Swedish Institute. The event was a peace hackathon where young leaders from Mediterranean countries exchanged ideas on intercultural dialogue and peacebuilding in the region. One main dimension of the hackathon was to encourage participants to share thoughts on gender equality, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and the refugee crisis. Abdelrahman is currently working on developing an online campaign to increase awareness on gender issues, social stereotypes and gender inequalities in the economic field. Being passionate about education, human development and civil society, he has lived in Ecuador and Columbia where he volunteered as an English teacher through governmental programmes.



Anas Talalqa (Jordan) is a human rights advisor at Inti Raymi Fund (IRF). As such, he works on different projects in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America, South America and South Asia focusing on indigenous people issues, post-conflict reconciliation, women's rights, youth empowerment, war and disaster relief, sex and modern slavery and also victims of marginalization and oppression. In 2018, Anas started a two-year partnership with the Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) in Nigeria. He is working on developing programmes targeting women and girls in order to improve their civic and political participation, their education, and their social and economic situation. Prior to this, Anas worked with Generations for Peace in Jordan, through programmes aiming at reducing violence in schools and seeking to promote social cohesion amongst Jordanians and Syrian refugees in 10 host communities.



Fidaa Al Araj (State of Palestine) has been working on gender equity and women rights for more than 10 years. She currently works as a protection and gender officer for Oxfam. As such, she has been leading women capacity building workshops on leadership. Her goal is to help them take part in their communities' life and become influential agents of change to prevent gender-based and conflict related violence. Fidaa is overseeing a project with local partners working on the

intersectionality between women peace and security and youth peace and security. One of the main objectives is to find mutual ground on these issues and create innovative ways for youth and women to address peacemaking and conflict prevention. Prior to this, she coordinated a project with local civil society organizations to promote women's political participation, focusing on peacemaking and conflict resolution.



Ghada Zribi (Tunisia) is an African peace and civic education practitioner with over 6 years' experience working for national and international non-governmental institutions. She is the founding president of iBuild Africa, a peer-to-peer support system for African youth, leading major projects around the continent to celebrate the African identity, counter violent extremism among young generations, and advocate for the global Sustainable Development Goals. Ghada is a youth representative in the Network of Arab Leaders for Sustainable Development in UNESCO. She is also an Ashoka Changemaker scholar in employment in Africa and serving as Tunisia's ambassador for Youth Counselling and Development Network. Ghada also specialized in capacity development in the intersecting areas of youth inclusion, participation and empowerment in the peacebuilding process, as well as the democratic transition in her post-revolution country Tunisia.



Hasnaa EL Jamali (Morocco) is a consultant on conflict, security, peacebuilding, and development. For the last five years, Hasnaa has been working with the Small Arms Survey (SAS) in Geneva, a global centre of excellence generating knowledge on all aspects of small arms and armed violence; taking different roles as Research Assistant, Project Associate, and Outreach Coordinator in the MENA region. Hasnaa has a special interest in peacemaking and conflict prevention and the role of women in peacebuilding and violence prevention. While in Morocco she volunteered with different associations and civil society organizations working for development and women's empowerment projects. Prior to this, she was a researcher with both UNDP and the Global Institute for Water Environment and Health in Geneva working on different projects in the MENA countries.



Islam Ennara (Egypt) has been a trainer with various NGOs. In his workshops, he has led interactive sessions on intercultural understanding and on fostering a culture of peace. Islam has been working with Erasmus+ to develop online training courses on how to address cross-cultural issues through the creation of an online video campaign. Through the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Programme, he is a facilitator for “Nationalism and Newcomers”, a project that focuses on hate speech and conflict prevention. Islam is also involved in a long-term project on interreligious dialogue, community reconciliation and peacebuilding, coordinated by PDCS. As such, Islam has developed an educational theatre-based game to promote integration, empathy, and conflict prevention. Islam sees education and critical thinking as central tools to counter intolerance and foster a culture of peace among young people.



Jessica Kastoun (Lebanon) born in Australia, having lived 10 years of her childhood in Lebanon. Jessica is an Australian Lawyer and accredited as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner. Recently she has been contracting for the Australian federal government, working across a few departments in the legal, policy and human rights fields. In 2014, she worked in Lebanon for the UNHCR and the IRC in a legal and human rights protection capacity, which included a focus on conflict prevention and social cohesion between the Lebanese and Syrian refugee communities. Upon her return to Australia, she continued her advocacy work for persons seeking asylum in Australia and worked with the Australian veteran community. On the side, she currently consults for Peacemaker360 and hosts live talk-shows on peacebuilding and human rights topics pertaining to the global community of youth activists.



Liali Jaraei (State of Palestine) is a gender officer for UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People in East Jerusalem. As such, she engages the local community, civil society organizations and particularly women’s organizations, with the goal to stimulate dialogue on gender-related issues and to challenge the prevailing social norms, and stereotypes. Prior to this, Liali was the gender focal point for UNDP Jerusalem office and was part of the gender task force with other UN agencies serving in the Palestinian territories. Liali conducted workshops on gender equality for groups of young UNDP projects’ beneficiaries. She is currently preparing a series of

workshops for high school students in marginalized areas of East Jerusalem. Liali has also worked as a Research Assistant at the Palestine Economic Policy Research Initiative, and as an analyst intern at the Arabia Monitor in London.



Mohammad Al Azemi (Kuwait) is a founding member of the gender and peacemaking movement “Manara”, created in Kuwait to tackle gender issues across the MENA region. The movement has been joined by experts and grassroots activists involved in the field of women’s rights, including former Members of the Kuwaiti Parliament. Recently, the movement launched an online awareness campaign to spark conversations across the country, with the hope to gain political support and change the legislation. Prior to this, Mohammad has been a trainer and a mentor for several youth programmes, focusing on social entrepreneurship, civil society, and advocacy. He has led campaigns focusing on cyberbullying and women’s safety and empowerment. Mohammad is also the founder of The Divan, a non-profit community-centred organization offering a space for conversations on various social issues, such as women’s empowerment, gender equality, peacemaking, justice.



Rana Al Sharif (Jordan) is a programme manager at Global Nomads Group, an international NGO that aims to foster global, youth-driven intercultural dialogue through virtual exchange programmes between students in the MENA region and the US. She manages the implementation and design the curricula of the organization’s flagship programmes: “Campfire: Collaborating Classrooms”, “Student to World: Art in Action” and “Student to World: Ocean Health”. While designing the curricula, her main focus is to ensure the inclusion and representation of young girls from different parts of the world. Assignments are anchored in storytelling where youth share personal experiences that humanize them and enable them to engage in fruitful dialogue with global peers. Together they work on deconstructing stereotypes and cultural misperceptions. These curricula are implemented at diverse locations such as girls’ schools in underserved areas in Jordan, in Morocco, and schools with at-risk teens in the US.



Tasneem Maabreh (Jordan) has been working in the field of peacemaking since 2017. She currently works as a digital engagement officer for PeaceGeeks, an international non-governmental organization focusing on preventing violent extremism through the promotion of alternative narratives. Tasneem runs the PeaceGeeks Artists-in-Residence programme where she works with 12 young and aspiring artists to produce online content, mostly short films and videos, that promotes tolerance, acceptance and community cohesion. She is also the social media manager and website content designer of PeaceGeeks in Jordan. Tasneem is currently working on her first novel in which she addresses the issues faced by Jordanian women in the field of education. Prior to this, she worked as a cultural project coordinator for Qaf, a community-based organization, where she led a youth project seeking to encourage dialogue among communities.



Walid Alnabahin (State of Palestine) is a programme manager for Culture and Free Thought Association, where he is responsible of different programmes focusing on women's health and gender-based violence. As such, he has supervised several research studies on women's conditions in Palestine, in cooperation with UNFPA. He has also been involved in developing projects to improve women's economic empowerment, and their access to legal aid and health services. Walid contributed to the creation of Wessal Network, a network of more than 60 CBOs and NGOs focusing on gender issues in the Gaza Strip, with a strong emphasis on advocacy and empowerment. Walid supervised the restructuring process of the network which led to the reassessment of Wessal's mandate and to the election of its first board of directors. Walid is currently working on developing a national plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325.