



### UNAOC Fellowship Alumni Event

*“Engaging women in peacebuilding, conflict mediation and the prevention of violent extremism”*

December 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 – New York, U.S.A.



Federal Foreign Office

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## – Participants Biographies –



### **Abdelrahman Ibrahim (Egypt, 2019 MENA cohort)**

Abdelrahman has worked with various civil society organizations for over 15 years and has developed or taken part in projects dealing with youth empowerment, education, gender issues and more. Currently, he is working on an education project in Colombia aiming to increase cultural exchange between Colombian students and the rest of the world. He is also working with over 6 different civil society organizations worldwide to launch an online campaign to increase awareness on gender equality and gender mainstreaming. He is the former Curator of the World Economic Forum Global ShapersCommunity Alexandria hub and is now working with the Global Shapers network in Colombia as a consultant on local projects.



### **Anas Talalqa (Jordan, 2019 MENA cohort)**

Anas 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 abducted by Boko Haram in order to improve their education, their social and economic situation and their civic and political participation.



### **Annegret Yüksel (Germany, 2016 EUNA cohort)**

Annegret is a high school teacher in Spanish, French, and German and a Model United Nations Coordinator from Berlin, Germany. While studying at the University of Mannheim, Germany she worked with young immigrants from different backgrounds in school. In 2014, with other European colleagues, Annegret led workshops in schools around Paris, France. Being interested in gender equality and linguistics, Annegret wrote her Master thesis in the area of womanhood and how it is constructed in women's magazines. In the field of sustainable education, she is an expert in implementing intercultural competence in the classroom. Spanning across France, Spain, the Czech Republic, and Turkey, she has been involved in intercultural projects for over 15 years.



**Cora Alder (Switzerland, 2019 EUNA cohort)** Cora is a program officer in the Mediation Support Team at ETH Zurich. She is working on various projects within the Culture and Religion in Mediation (CARIM) Program – a joint initiative of the Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The program aims to support mediation and conflict transformation processes that deal with the religious dimensions of conflicts. Cora's work involves researching mediation methodology as well as developing practice and policy guidance, particularly on the nexus of religion and gender in conflict. She advises on gender in mediation support processes on conflicts around religious issues.



**Ghada Zribi (Tunisia, 2019 MENA cohort)** Ghada is the founder and 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, 2019 MENA cohort)** Hasnaa 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.



**Hunderra Assefa (Finland, 2018 EUNA cohort)** Hunderra is a HR and Recruitment Specialist currently working as Business Director in the healthcare industry. He has previous recruitment and career coaching experience from Academic Work, where he worked as a Consultant Manager, and Monik, a multicultural NGO, where he coordinated and developed Urax, a career coaching project for unemployed migrant youth. Hunderra is founding member of Young Muslims NGO (NUMU), one of the largest Muslim youth organizations in Finland. From 2015 to 2018 he was responsible for the organization's CVE/PVE activities. Previously, Hunderra worked as Supervisor of Youth Work for the City of Espoo and served in various committees related to radicalization and Islamophobia. In addition, he has offered consultancy and training services related to topics such as radicalization, community relations, Islamophobia, polarization and integrative complexity.



**Indre Anskaityte (Lithuania, 2017 EUNA cohort)** Indre is a Lithuanian journalist and communication expert with interest in developing countries, conflicts, and human rights. She has produced several award-winning radio documentaries that focused on discrimination against ethnic minorities. She found it particularly important to raise awareness on important but often ignored topics in Lithuania such as the Rohingya crisis, the Arab Spring, or the refugee crisis. Currently, Indre is based in Brussels, where she continues writing as a journalist and works as a European communication coordinator for the international NGO Slow Food. She is particularly interested in food as a weapon of war and food security. Indre has a BA in Journalism and an MA in Peace and Conflict Management.



**Ionela Constantin (Romania, 2017 EUNA cohort)** Ionela is an international relations specialist officer for the Romanian National Ministry of Defense. Prior to that, she was the Television section chief for Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan. She was responsible for the production of Resolute Support content to explain its mission and activities to a broad public in order to create a supportive atmosphere for the conduct of military operations under UN mandate. Ionela is a specialist in the field of Psychological and Information Operations, Communications, Media Operations and International Affairs. She has planned and implemented media programs in order to increase the popular support for the Afghan National Security Forces. Ionela has also developed several TV campaigns

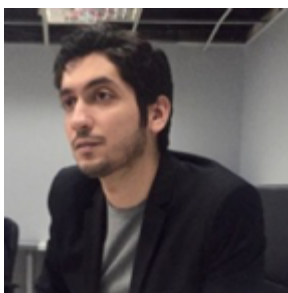
to empower the Afghan women and to increase the quality of the Afghan educational system.



**Joaquin Caudeli (Spain, 2019 EUNA cohort)** Joaquin works for the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development where he focuses on gender, human rights and the 2030 Agenda in Latin America. He has written his dissertation on “Gender mainstreaming in peace and security processes in Latin America following Resolution 1325 of the Security Council: an analysis of women's participation”, focusing on its implementation in the region. He holds a M.A. in Diplomacy and International Relations and co-founded “Equipo Europa” with volunteers of the European Parliament. Currently they are working on youth sustainable transformation with projects encouraging the participation of young women and men in Europe. Joaquin specialized in youth and civic engagement at the non-profit sector



**Marwa Shabbar (Iraq, 2017 MENA cohort)** Marwa was born in Najaf, Iraq and she came to Australia as a refugee with her family in mid 2001. She commenced her professional career at the Women’s Legal Service (SA) Inc. before moving to private legal practice in 2015. She dedicated most of her time volunteering and supporting causes that nurture multiculturalism and social inclusion. Marwa was a board member of the Migrant Resource Centre of Australia, member of the Multicultural Youth Link of South Australia Inc., member of the Iraqi Women's Voice of South Australia Inc. and she sat on many boards and roundtables that aim at combating hate and advocate for social inclusion. Marwa is currently a Generalist Delegate working for the International Committee of the Red Cross.



**Mohammad Al Azemi (Kuwait, 2019 MENA cohort)** Mohammad 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 on gender-based violence. Mohammad 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.





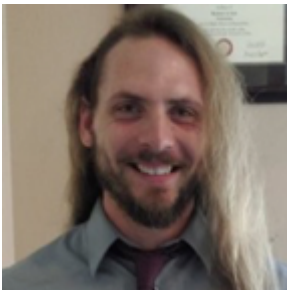
**Mustafa Kemal Akbulut (Turkey, 2016 EUNA cohort)**

Mustafa Kemal is a career diplomat and currently serving as the Deputy Chief of Mission for Political and Economic Affairs at the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Juba, South Sudan. His duties include assisting the Turkish Ambassador to South Sudan in improving the bilateral relations between two countries, coordinating Turkey's humanitarian and development aids to the country and following the political developments in South Sudan regarding the peace process involving the UN and other regional and international actors. Before taking up this post, he worked at the Deputy Directorate General for the Americas in Ankara and focused on Turkey's relations with the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in his capacity.



**Tasneem Ma'abreh (Jordan, 2019 MENA cohort)**

Tasneem 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, an organization fostering dialogue among youth from different communities.



**William Lindsay (United States of America, 2019 EUNA cohort)**

William is the Program Manager at Women of the World; a non-profit that seeks to empower refugee and immigrant women to attain self-sufficiency, with a focus on capacity building and economic empowerment. Through a highly personalized approach, William works on supporting refugee and immigrant women with legal assistance, access to healthcare, reliable housing, and English learning programs. William also streamlining processes such as employment outreach and securing contacts with public services. He works closely with other refugee services providers such as the International Rescue Committee and the local Refugee Education and Training Center to coordinate partnerships and maintain a network whose purpose is to best and most efficiently serve refugee and immigrant women.



**Zied Touzani (Tunisia, 2018 MENA cohort)** In the wake of the Jasmine revolution, he founded and chaired Tun'Act, an NGO working on youth citizenship awareness and inclusion in the decision process in Tunisia. He was the organiser of the first and second Tunisian Youth Parliament, the flagship event of Tun'Act. During the Tunisian elections of 2011 and 2014, he worked as a political analyst at the EU observer mission to the elections. Zied is regularly invited to speak about the challenges faced by Tunisian youth such as the lack of political engagement and radicalization. Furthermore, he is also involved in Jewish cultural heritage preservation efforts in Tunisia.