United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

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Fellowship Programme 2020

"Building Peace in the Age of New Media"

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Participants from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Al Mustapha Sguenfle (Morocco) is a journalist at the Moroccan News Agency (MAP). He covers a variety of themes ranging from economic to political, social and environmental matters, but above all, it is the cultural subjects which ignite his passion. Since 2017, he is Head of the Amazigh service of the MAP and, as such, he contributes to the promotion of cultural diversity with articles focusing on Moroccan Amazigh culture and its connections with other cultures. He won the ENP South first prize of the "Journalistic Craft for the Neighbourhood" (JCN), a competition funded by the European Union. Al Mustapha is also involved in civil society, as he participated in the organization of several events related to citizenship and political participation of Moroccan youth. He provided workshops for young Moroccans, Subsaharan Africans and Europeans on journalism, dialogue and coexistence."

Ali Ghaith (State of Palestine) is a Palestinian Media, Communications and Advocacy Consultant; he is also an independent journalist based in Jerusalem. Ali found his passion in working with the French Television (TF1) for six years as the Regional TV Producer. He was responsible for covering and producing news stories from different parts of the Middle East during the Arab Spring. Ali is currently a regular contributor at OpenDemocracy. He is a regular panellist at United Nations conferences in the Middle East and a political commentator on local and international media. Ali leads an alumni association for journalists graduating from the United Nations Training Programme for Palestinian journalists, which started in 1994. The association aims at producing new media content that fosters peaceful relations with the international audience while advocating the Palestinian cause.

Amal El-Jabali (Lebanon) has always admired working in the field of communications and education, especially in the context of the humanitarian values and commitment to sustainable development. Amal is currently working with UNICEF Lebanon as an Inclusive and Outreach Education Assistant to support the development and implementation of quality formal and non-formal education projects. She supports the program implementation specifically tailored to children with special needs, focusing on inclusion, child protection, and visibility. Previously, Amal was an Intern with UNESCO Lebanon, in their Technical and Vocational Education and Training department where she supported youth leadership, life and work skills, labour market research and information systems, and capacity building. Amal has over six years of experience in communications and client focused positions for corporate organizations. She has a Master's in Education and is currently pursuing another Master's in Diplomacy and International Relations.

Kawtar Amrani (Morocco) is dedicated to driving sustainable social impact. She believes in the power of story-telling and its ability to connect humans regardless of their origin, religion, or social group. She began her professional career working for the UN Refugee Agency. As Refugee Status Determination Associate, she heard and recounted the stories of hundreds asylum seekers fleeing persecution, and argued for the recognition of their refugee status by Moroccan authorities. She later worked as a Political Analyst for the Swiss Embassy in Morocco, where she reported on internal political developments and led on Human Rights initiatives. She currently lives in Dublin, Ireland, where she works at the Facebook International Headquarters as MENA Market Specialist. Her role consists of utilising her knowledge of the region and of current events to proactively identify opportunities to improve users experience.

Kholoud Al-Ajarma (State of Palestine) is an award-winning anthropologist, photographer, film-maker, and refugee rights advocate. Kholoud has worked in the fields of refugee studies, migration, human rights, and visual culture in the Mediterranean region, Europe and Latin America. She works with refugee communities and many youth-led organizations in Palestine and the region developing innovative platforms for active youth participation within human rights research, media production, conflict resolution, and social and environmental justice. Kholoud is currently the water and migration focal-point for the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat) in addition to her work in the fields of knowledge production, media and anthropology. Growing up in a Palestinian refugee camp, Kholoud trained local children in creative writing, oral history, and photography and founded the Refugee Youth Forum, an innovative platform for human rights research and media among refugee youth from the West Bank.

Moath Abu Lail (Jordan) is the producer and co-host of "ShezoMedia", a weekly talk show broadcasted in Arabic on social media. During his show, Moath focuses on issues such as tolerance, human rights, gender equality, discrimination, xenophobia, social peace and inclusion. With more than 40 episodes filmed across Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Turkey and Italy, the show is now in its fourth season and has received more than 5 million views over the years. Moath has taken part in several global events and conferences as a keynote speaker and a panellist to talk about how he tries to raise awareness among young people through his show on a wide range of social issues. Moath also took part in a 16-day global campaign against gender-based violence during which he produced an episode on economic discrimination against women.

Najwa Bin Wahiba (Libya) is a social media journalist for Al Jazeera Arabic. Prior to that, she worked as a journalist for various radio, TV and online platforms. Najwa has always been passionate about writing and storytelling, which made her good content creator for social media. Through her studies on peace and conflict management, she has been able to grow from being a local journalist to a no border journalist, and to produce stories about different parts of the world. During her work as a reporter on the field, she chose to focus on migrant and refugee stories. She visited several detention centers where she listened to refugees which led her to study conflict management and humanitarian action. She is one of few Libyan journalists specialized in writing about environment and economy.

Peter Mosaad (Egypt) co-founded Robabikia in 2014, an organization based in Assiut, and committed to improving the local community through youth-led artistic activities. Robabikia provides a space for young people for them to express their creativity while exchanging ideas and solutions to address social issues using art and culture. Peter believes that art is a common language that everyone can use to address social issues and encourage peace and cohesion. He is participating in debates, intercultural dialogue and forums in the Anna Lindh Foundation's Young Med Voices + and as such he volunteers for projects targeting migrant populations and seeking to build bridges between both sides of the Mediterranean. Currently working as a human resource senior admin for a large Egyptian BPO company, he applies his knowledge in communications to support and improve to support his team.

Radwa Sakr (Egypt) is the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation. Radwa was a Fulbright Scholar at Indiana State University in 2015-2016, where she was a lecturer of Arabic and a cultural ambassador. During her Fulbright year, she initiated seminars that tackled intercultural dialogue, dismantling stereotypes, and bridging the gap between the West and the Arab culture. Radwa participated in holding a conference in Germany in which She displayed a documentary that presented her interviews with Arab refugees in a camp in Germany. Radwa conducted an internship at Volkskundemusuem in Vienna, Austria in which she worked as an intercultural dialogue officer in a refugee integration program. Radwa holds a Master's degree in European Studies and International Relations from the University of Göttingen in Germany and a Master's degree in English Translation from Alexandria University in Egypt.

Samiha Tadjine (Algeria) is a master's student of Media and Cultural Studies at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Qatar. Studying media enabled her to realize the power of media in shaping people's mind, as well as its contributions in making wars and peace, Samiha has been involved in humanitarian and cultural activities since 2015, she has an experience in the educational field. She holds a Masters in Civilization and Literature and has taught English at university level. She is currently an academic advisor of Advanced Science and Creativity Association in Touggourt, Algeria; a non-profit association that focuses on promoting sustainable development goals, their projects rely on spreading awareness toward these goals and making people involved in such initiatives regionally and thus nationally.

Walid Alnabahin (State of Palestine) is a Palestinian refugee born and raised in Gaza. He left software engineering to defend the rights of the Palestinian people after the war on Gaza in 2008. Walid has over 12 years of experience working in defending human rights, combating gender-based violence, and promoting the Palestinian identity using media and arts. Walid believes in the power of arts that brings people together and help them understand and communicate with each other. Such belief inspired him, among other things, to lead "Gaza mobile film" festival; the first of its kind in Gaza Strip to promote the use of digital media among youth, he also established MediaShow initiative which serves as a platform for young men and women to voice their demands and speak out using arts and digital media.