



UNAOC
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

IN FOCUS

JULY-DECEMBER 2017



لا لخطاب الكراهية

5th #SpreadNoHate
SYMPOSIUM

Cairo, Egypt
13 December 2017



UNAOC's 5th #SpreadNoHate Symposium Goes Viral in Egypt

More than 120 journalists from around the world gathered to discuss the misleading narratives and stereotypes about migrants and refugees often found in the media

IN THIS ISSUE

UNAOC IN FOCUS is UNAOC's programming-focused newsletter.

03	UNAOC's 5th #SpreadNoHate Symposium Goes Viral in Egypt
05	UNAOC Launches Migration Glossary for Middle East Media in Collaboration with ILO
06	United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and BMW Group announce recipients of the 2017 Intercultural Innovation Award
08	Spotlight on Intercultural Innovation Award recipients
10	UNAOC Launches the Second Edition of the Young Peacebuilders Programme in the MENA Region
11	Fellowship Programme 2017: Developing an intercultural understanding of the role of media and civil society in combatting hatred and fostering inclusion
12	Fellowship Alumni Meeting: Sharing grassroots experience and recommendations on media, civil society, and global peace
13	Fellowship Programme 2017: Measuring Intercultural Perceptions
14	Project Outcomes of Youth Solidarity Fund 2017 Edition
16	Youth Solidarity Fund: Capacity Building Workshop in Istanbul
17	Youth Dialogue Exchange on United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250
18	PLURAL+ Awards Ceremony
19	Unraveling #fakenews from opinion-making information
19	PEACEapp Tangier



UNAOC's 5th #SpreadNoHate Symposium Goes Viral in Egypt

On 13 December 2017 in Cairo, Egypt, more than 120 journalists from around the world gathered to discuss the misleading narratives and stereotypes about migrants and refugees often found in the media. The symposium was the fifth of the #SpreadNoHate series, an initiative developed in late 2015 by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) to engage global media in a dialogue on hate speech and the sharing of best practices to promote positive narratives.

"The impact of the mass movement of people around the world is more pronounced than ever," UNAOC Chief of Cabinet Ms. Nihal Saad said in the opening. "We've witnessed solidarity with refugees, but also xenophobia in the media."

The symposium was covered live on Twitter and trended as No. 1 in both the city of Cairo and nationally across Egypt with the hashtag #SpreadNoHate, showing the desire of the global community to have concrete discussions on issues related to hate speech. Previously, UNAOC has organized #SpreadNoHate symposia at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, as well as in Azerbaijan, and Belgium, with the support of the European Union.

The Cairo symposium's keynote speaker was Palestinian-Canadian reporter and writer Chaker Khazaal, author of the best-selling trilogy *Confessions of a War Child*, who himself grew up as a refugee. "Being a refugee is not a disease, it is a state of being," Mr. Khazaal said. "It has nothing to do with location, race or religion, and the media can play a fundamental role in the fight against hatred."

Humanizing the migration crisis as a powerful way to combat hate speech was reiterated by several speakers, including French journalist Rouguyata Sall of Bondy Blog, a news website created in France in 2005 to give a voice to underrepresented groups in mainstream news media coverage. Ms. Sall added that newsrooms urgently need to become more diverse to bring in more perspectives to public debate and avoid incidents of hate speech.

The symposium consisted of five main panels with migration experts and journalists. The first one, moderated by *New York Times* Spain correspondent Raphael Minder included the intervention of Moroccan journalist Hicham Houdaifa, who spoke about his experience covering the plight of sub-Saharan African migrants in Morocco. "It's essential for journalists to be in contact with civil society, and to provide accurate information," Mr. Houdaifa said.

Continued in page 4...

#SpreadNoHate Symposium (continued)



"While social media platforms are conducive to the spread of hate speech, they also help spread ideas and inspire people. With a simple hashtag, you can create a movement."

Rokhaya Diallo
Journalist, Writer, Filmmaker



"Without responsible media coverage, we end up in dangerous situations."

Radhia Achouri, the Director of the United Nations Information Center in Cairo also participated in the symposium. "Media are powerful, and they're able to control the minds of the masses," Ms. Achouri said. "We need that power to help the world address the biggest wave of migration and displacement since World War 2."

French-Lebanese journalist Randa Habib, with more than 35 years of experience covering the Middle East, said that refugees and immigrants have become the primary target of hate speech. "In the past, migrants and refugees were portrayed and perceived as victims," Ms. Habib said. "Now they're perceived as invaders."

Continued in page 5...

"Being a refugee is not a disease, it is a state of being. It has nothing to do with location, race or religion, and the media can play a fundamental role in the fight against hatred."

Chaker Khazaal
Reporter, Refugee,
Author of the best-selling trilogy
'Confessions of a War Child'

One of the highlights of the day was a panel focusing on the role and responsibilities of social media platforms in combatting incidents of hate speech. The panel included George Salama, head of public policy for the MENA region for Twitter. “It’s not a matter of hiring an army to monitor content,” Mr. Salama said. “It helps perhaps, but this is a shared responsibility, and that’s why we’re here today, hand in hand with the United Nations, governments, and civil societies.”

Leila Ghandi, Moroccan television presenter and producer, and French film writer and director Rokhaya Diallo, who both have vast followings on social media, insisted on the positive impact of social media and the need for users to become more responsible. “While social media platforms are conducive to the spread of hate speech, they also help spread ideas and inspire people,” Ms. Diallo said. “With a simple hashtag, you can create a movement.”

The editor and co-founder of the Libya Herald newspaper, Sami Zaptia and Tom Law, campaign director of the Ethical Journalism Network, described some of the guidelines that reporters should follow to improve their coverage of migration stories. “We can’t ask the media to focus only on positive stories, as it would be counterproductive and it would backfire,” Mr. Law said. “The most important thing is to avoid sensationalism and to resist the rush to publish.”

A full report of UNAOC’s #SpreadNoHate symposium in Cairo will be published in 2018 and disseminated widely.



UNAOC Launches Migration Glossary for Middle East Media in Collaboration with ILO

UNAOC launched a tool in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) for journalists across the Middle East and Gulf region to ensure rights-based and gender-sensitive reporting on migration.

The new document details technical terminology relating to forced labor, trafficking in persons, displacement, refugees and labor migration, and proposes accurate and neutral alternatives to inflammatory and discriminatory language.

The brand-new “Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration: Middle East Edition” is based on the Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration produced by UNAOC and Panos Europe Institute (IPE) in 2014 with the support of Open Society Foundations.





United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and BMW Group announce recipients of the 2017 Intercultural Innovation Award

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and BMW Group announced this year's ten Intercultural Innovation Award recipients, during a ceremony in late November held for the first time at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Intercultural Innovation Award, a partnership between UNAOC and the BMW Group, supports grassroots initiatives that promote intercultural dialogue and understanding.

Throughout a one-year support period, the selected projects can reap the benefit of resources provided by the BMW Group and UNAOC. In addition to receiving financial grants and increased visibility, awardees will have the opportunity to participate in training activities and become a part of the exclusive "Intercultural Leaders" network, a skills and knowledge sharing platform for civil society organizations and young leaders. This model of collaboration between the United Nations and the private sector creates deeper impact, as both partners provide their respective expertise to ensure the sustainable growth of each project.

In her video message broadcasted during the ceremony, the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed said, "In 2011 the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the

"We are proud to announce that our collaboration with UNAOC has been renewed for another four years. We are pleased to move forward with this strong partnership and to continue helping grassroots initiatives flourish, together."

Bill McAndrews

*Vice President BMW Group Communications Strategy,
Corporate and Market Communications*

BMW Group established the Award to support intercultural dialogue and civil society," and welcomed the commitment of this partnership. "It is essential to achieving a safer, more sustainable, equitable and prosperous world for all", Ms. Mohammed said.

THE INTERCULTURAL INNOVATION AWARD

2017 Recipients

"Supporting grassroots initiatives that are deeply committed to promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding lies at the core of our work. Through the Intercultural Innovation Award and our collaboration with BMW Group, we foster initiatives that address these issues in new ways."

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Community Relations In Schools
Buddy Up!
United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

'Buddy Up!' is an inter-generational school-based peacebuilding programme working in one of Northern Ireland's most divided areas. The project features a partnership between a Protestant school and a Catholic school, engaging 3-4 year old children, their parents and families.

Young Leaders Entrepreneurs
Unleash Tunisia Venture Bus
Tunisia

The Venture Bus is equipped to tour the country with the aim of spreading peace education and entrepreneurship among vulnerable youth in remote areas. The bus provides economic empowerment by pushing youth at the brink of extremism to start their own entrepreneurial projects.

Etijah Safarni
Egypt

Safarni designs and facilitates "Simulated Travel Adventures" for children with little exposure to diversity, to embrace and connect with cultures. The "Simulated Travel Adventures" takes place over 8-weeks where children can play, dance, eat and interact with locals from around the world.

Universidad Regional Amazónica Ikiam
Awakkuna
Ecuador

Knitting groups are created within indigenous communities, to produce scientifically accurate and culturally important Amazon animals as toys. In this way, cultural and scientific knowledge is shared, to create an understanding of indigenous communities and their natural environment.

Encontrarse en la Diversidad
Encontrarse en la Diversidad (Meeting in Diversity)
Argentina

Encontrarse en la Diversidad was established in response to the lack of awareness about discrimination in Argentina. It builds mechanisms for effective education on these issues, particularly through engaging teens and young adults with methodologies that speak to their sensibilities.

Interfaith Mediation Center
Transforming pastoralist-farmer conflict in Nigeria
Nigeria

The conflict between farmers and pastoralists has strong ethno-religious dimensions, requiring the involvement of Muslim and Christian faith leaders to co-initiate and co-facilitate a process of intercultural dialogue. This project creates a positive feedback loop in which intercultural cooperation enhances livelihood collaboration and improves the rural economy.

Media Focus on Africa Uganda
Yat Madit: The Crossroads Project
Uganda

The Crossroads Project promotes alternative ways of resolving conflict among communities in northern and north-eastern Uganda. Yat Madit, a television and radio drama series, was designed and produced by the organization, based on real life experiences in the region. Intercultural dialogue sessions are held following the series being aired nationally.

Games for Peace
Play2Talk
Israel

Play2Talk aims to reduce stereotypes and promote tolerance between children in Israel through the use of online video games. Virtual trust-building encounters are organized on a weekly basis using the multiplayer video game Minecraft. This eventuates in face-to-face encounters between participants facilitated by Games for Peace.

Pakistan Youth Alliance
Peace Rickshaws Project
Pakistan

Using auto-rickshaws as a canvas, messages of tolerance and interfaith harmony are shared in the pop art style, sparking conversations about peace in the streets. The project was successfully implemented in Karachi, Pakistan's most populous city, and will now be replicated in Lahore.

Te Kaihau Education Trust
Global Enterprise Experience
New Zealand

The motivation of the Global Enterprise Experience is to develop future global leaders skilled in managing across cultures and countries with world views that are worlds apart. The experience engages multinational teams of eight students to work together via the web to develop business concept proposals on profitable products and services that will foster social wellbeing.

Spotlight on Intercultural Innovation Award Recipients



Kids Together Now Wins an ATOM (Australian Teachers of Media) Award

All Together Now, an Intercultural Innovation Award alumni organization, promotes racial equality through education and is dedicated to erasing all forms of racism in Australia.

Following the success of their Everyday Racism app, All Together Now launched an anti-racism app for children called Kids Together Now in September 2016 with support from UNAOC and BMW Group. A year after implementation, Kids Together Now won the 2017 ATOM Award for Best Educational Game. The ATOM Awards celebrates the best of Australian and New Zealand screen content from the education sector and screen industry professionals.

The app is designed as a one-term classroom tool to teach students aged 8 to 10 years old on how to identify and challenge non-race based exclusion.



Peter Mousaferiadis, CEO and founder of Cultural Infusion, receives a Peace Ambassador Award

Peter Mousaferiadis, CEO and founder of Cultural Infusion, accepted the 2017 Peace Ambassador Award from the Centre for Peace Studies in Sri Lanka during October 2017. The Peace Ambassador Award recognizes individuals who have the motivation to build a better world where a different peace is possible. Peter stated in his acceptance speech, "I always used arts and culture as a meaningful driver to building intercultural understanding as a core value and key competency of global citizenship." Cultural Infusion received the Intercultural Innovation Award at the 4th UNAOC Global Forum in Vienna during 2013.

"My Life...and yours?" Film Wins Best Indigenous Short Film



CanalCanoa, a project by Intercultural Innovation Award alumni organization Shine a Light, works with children from remote communities in the Amazon to produce movies, cartoons and music that showcases the richness of their lives. The film 'My life...and yours?' produced by CanalCanoa won Best Indigenous Short Film at the Cine Tamoio Festival. Through this cultural exchange video, children from two different communities interact and ask questions to learn about each other's cultural backgrounds.

A New Documentary from FilmAid Kenya

On 16 September 2017, Intercultural Innovation Award alumni organization FilmAid Kenya premiered 'A Journey Through My City' a documentary that is showcased in prime time on one of Kenya's most prominent broadcasters. The documentary is about Kenyans and refugees building communities of mutual support and respect that seeks to integrate refugees into Kenyan society through skills training.

Wapikoni mobile Establishes an Official Partnership with UNESCO

Wapikoni mobile, a traveling audiovisual training studio for First Nations youth based in Canada, established an official partnership with UNESCO to provide through consultative services a platform for Indigenous youth to express themselves on issues which affect them. The partnership calls for a mutual commitment to work together in a spirit of tolerance and solidarity in the interests of humanity with respect for cultural identities. Wapikoni mobile consists of approximately 1,000 films and 750 pieces of music created by members of indigenous communities. The organization received the Intercultural Innovation Award at the 5th UNAOC Global Forum in Bali during 2014.

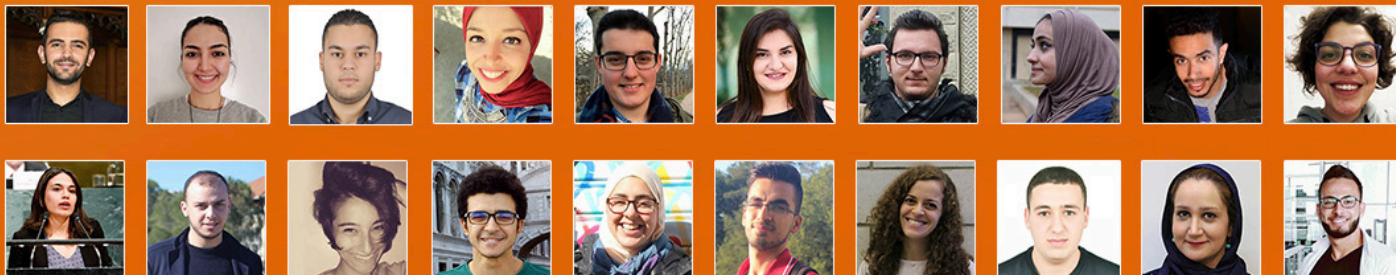
"Wapikoni achieves extraordinarily great things by giving Indigenous youth a powerful voice and helping improve recognition of their rights and cultures. Its success also highlights the important role of media arts in reconciling cultures and bringing them closer together," said Sébastien Goupil, Secretary General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.



UNAOC Launches the Second Edition of the Young Peacebuilders Programme in the MENA Region

Young Peacebuilders IN MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

2017-2018 PARTICIPANTS



Building on the success of last year's pilot project in West Africa, UNAOC is now implementing a second edition of the Young Peacebuilders Programme (YPB) focusing on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. YPB supports the growth of networks of young peacebuilders who are equipped with the tools to address stereotypes, prejudice and polarization in order to build more inclusive and peaceful societies in their communities and globally.

After a competitive selection process, 10 young women and 10 young men between 18 and 25 years old were chosen to participate in the 2017-2018 edition. They come from 12 MENA countries: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen.

The participants are currently completing 7 online modules about identity, diversity, conflict analysis, intercultural dialogue and other peace tools that youth can use to build bridges between cultures and religions. Getting to know each other's reality on the online platform opens the eyes of many. Some peacebuilders are surprised how different countries from the region face the same kind of conflicts: "I find it quite interesting how these problems are recurring in many societies and how few people are even aware of them. I hope we all benefit through this program and become promoters of peace". Others now better understand the possible root causes: "It is often the generalizations and perceptions we produce that act as barriers to intercultural dialogue and conflict prevention".

The online phase will prepare them for the next stage: a face-to-face-workshop in Amman, Jordan, where analysis of regional conflicts and the use of practical peacebuilding tools are on the agenda. The participants will also be supported in the design of their own peace project, the results of which will be presented to all relevant stakeholders after a 3-month implementation phase.

Implemented in collaboration with Generations For Peace and funded by AEXCID (Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo), the Young Peacebuilders Programme is an example of a meaningful partnership that strengthens the ground-breaking UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security which recognizes that "young people play an important and positive role in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security".





Fellowship Programme 2017: Developing an intercultural understanding of the role of media and civil society in combatting hatred and fostering inclusion

Thanks to the financial assistance of Germany and Spain, as well as the support of Morocco, Egypt, Qatar and the League of Arab States, UNAOC Fellowship Programme enabled young professionals and civil society leaders from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and their counterparts from Europe and North America (EUNA) to learn from one another and address issues related to intercultural understanding and interfaith dialogue.

Selected for their experience in the fields of media and civil society, the 2017 UNAOC Fellows travelled across the United States, Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East to exchange with local stakeholders on the role of media and civil society in combatting hatred and fostering inclusion. They met with journalists from media outlets such as NPR in New York, Deutsche Welle in Berlin, Le Monde in Paris, and El Mundo in Madrid. In Cairo, they talked to the young team leading the Al Azhar Observatory for combatting extremism. Meeting with representatives of the National Committee on Human Rights in Morocco, Egypt, and Qatar gave Fellows the occasion to have open debates on a series of issues.

They had fruitful discussions with representatives of the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, the Federal

“At the conclusion of the fellowship I have changed my initial perception as to the best way to bridge the gap between media and civil society [...] We need to introduce diversity to our newsrooms and start thinking about media as more than just news.”

Marwa Shabbar
2017 MENA Fellow from Iraq

Foreign Office of Germany, the League of Arab States, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, Spain, Morocco, and Qatar.

After their journey, Fellows returned home expressing their will to replicate some of the good practices and lessons learned. For example, a group of Fellows proposed to launch an initiative called “One God”, an online platform aiming at engaging the wide public on intercultural dialogue by sharing grassroots stories from all over the

Continued in page 12...

world of friendships and collaborations between people of different religions. Using modern technologies to share local stories among the global community, the platform will seek to support the dissemination of these stories worldwide through social media and strategic cooperation with national and local media groups.

Fellows also expressed their intention to share with their communities a more nuanced understanding of the role of media and civil society in combatting hatred and fostering inclusion. In their final reports, Fellows addressed crucial issues related to the theme of the trip, basing their conclusions on lessons learned during their Fellowship.

The issues addressed by the Fellows included: the importance of increasing diversity in the newsrooms to combat stereotypes in media narratives; the shift of the media industry towards digital content and the role youth should play in that process; promoting diversity by empowering minorities through storytelling; how to differentiate hate speech from freedom of expression; the role of media literacy in promoting mutual understanding across cultures; and more.

Fellowship Alumni Meeting: Sharing grassroots experience and recommendations on media, civil society, and global peace

UNAOC and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN invited to New York 16 UNAOC Fellowship Alumni in December 2017 to share their recommendations on the role media and civil society should play in fostering peace. Coming from 16 countries across the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and North America, participants were selected by UNAOC for their professional achievements as journalists and civil society workers.

Following a TED Talk format, Alumni focused their presentations around four main topics: media literacy; diversity and inclusion in peace-building; hate speech; and the power of arts and storytelling in connecting people. Alumni based their presentations on their own grassroots experience and each group concluded with a series of recommendations on the role of media and civil society in fostering peace, before opening the floor for a discussion with the audience.

Below are some of the recommendations shared:

- Encourage youth to be critical media consumers and support their efforts to become engaged media producers.
- Create special training programs for future religious leaders to enable them to better interact with civil society.
- Include more non-traditional actors in decision-making processes in local peace-building.
- Support grassroots community groups and marginalized communities to create independent forms of media production to ensure the multiplicity of perspectives.
- Build the capacity of educators and curricular designers to promote global citizenship, civic engagement, critical thinking, multiple literacies and self-expression..



Two Alumni were also invited to participate in an event organized by the new Task Force on the Responsibility of Religions for Peace of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. Together, they shared their experience as young civil society leaders in the field of interfaith dialogue in their home countries, Ukraine and Saudi Arabia.

MEASURING INTERCULTURAL PERCEPTIONS

A survey was conducted with the 2017 UNAOC Fellows before and after their trip to measure the evolution of their perceptions. MENA Fellows travelled to the United States, Germany, and France. EUNA Fellows went to Morocco, Egypt, and Qatar. The two cohorts met in Spain.

OVERALL PERCEPTION



100% of EUNA Fellows

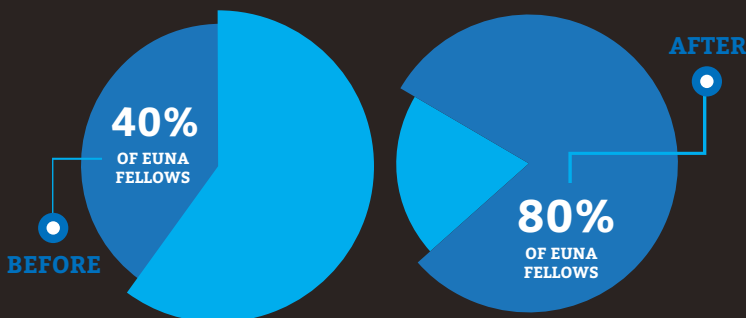
After the trip, all EUNA Fellows had an overall positive perception of the MENA region.



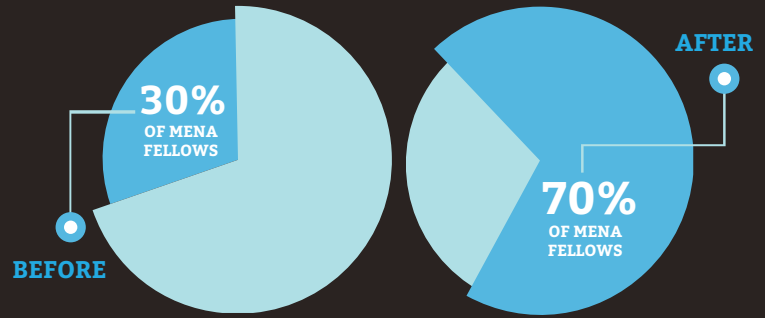
75% of MENA Fellows

After the trip about 75% of the MENA had a positive overall perception of the EUNA region, with half of them saying that taking part in the Fellowship had significantly changed their perception.

SENSITIVITY TO CULTURAL DIVERSITY

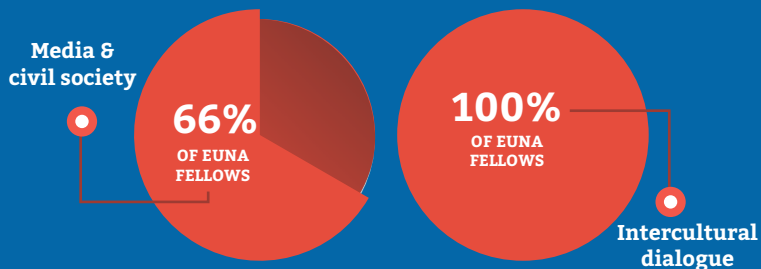


After their trip, EUNA Fellows' awareness of the cultural diversity between Morocco, Egypt and Qatar had significantly increased. Before their trip, only 40% of the EUNA Fellows expressed their awareness of the diversity of culture, religious practices, and traditions in the MENA region. After the Fellowship, they were 80%.

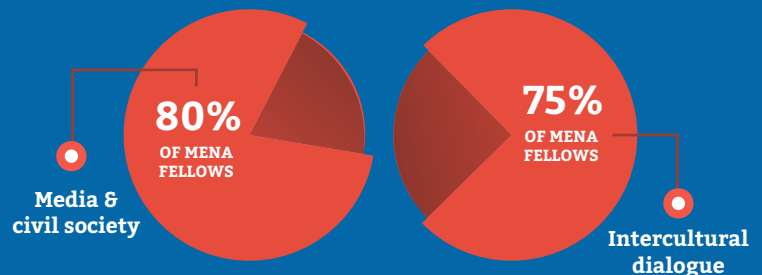


After their trip, MENA Fellows' awareness of the cultural diversity between the United States, Germany, France, and Spain had significantly increased. Before their trip, only 30% of the MENA Fellows expressed their awareness of the diversity of culture, religious practices, and traditions among EUNA countries. After the Fellowship, that figure increased to 70%.

KNOWLEDGE GAINED ON MEDIA, CIVIL SOCIETY, & INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE



Regarding content, the overall feedback is that two thirds of the EUNA Fellows said they have gained significant knowledge in the fields of media and civil society – particularly in Egypt and Qatar. When it comes to intercultural dialogue, all of the EUNA Fellows said they had gained significant knowledge in that field – particularly in Morocco and Egypt.



Regarding content, the overall feedback is that 80% of the MENA Fellows said they have gained significant knowledge in the fields of media and civil society – particularly in the United States and in Germany. When it comes to intercultural dialogue, about three quarters of the MENA Fellows said they had gained significant knowledge in that field – particularly in Germany and in Spain.

Project Outcomes of Youth Solidarity Fund 2017 Edition

11,000 =
Direct Beneficiaries

83%
Youth

57%
Women

The implementation period for the seven projects supported under the Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF) 2017 edition came to an end on 31 October 2017. YSF recipients had five months from June 2017 to complete projects funded with a grant up to USD 25,000.

Projects ranged from encouraging behavior change for peaceful elections in Liberia, to promoting the social inclusion of migrants through arts-based public events in rural areas of Morocco, and engaging young women in peace clubs and sports to promote diversity in Afghanistan. Other projects focused on the role of the media to prevent violence

in South Sudan, trained Pakistani youth to advocate for the local implementation of Security Council Resolution 2250, used filmmaking to share stories of youth in India, Nepal and Bhutan, and taught peace education to reduce instances of violence towards refugees in Uganda.

By the end of the implementation period, over 11,000 direct beneficiaries had been impacted by YSF projects, with 83% of those beneficiaries being youth. Of those direct youth beneficiaries, 57% were women. In total, the seven projects of the Youth Solidarity Fund 2017 edition impacted almost 100,000 individuals, both directly and indirectly.



"The objective of our travelling caravan was to expose the Moroccans to the culture of the migrants through a photo exhibition and a concert made by migrant artists. We also brought together youth from the migrant and Moroccan communities in a space to discuss stereotypes. The Youth Solidarity Fund provided us with the opportunity to share some coexistence values in remote cities which didn't have these ideas previously."

Youness Ben-Abbou, 27, Project Coordinator, Chantiers Sociaux Marocains (Morocco)



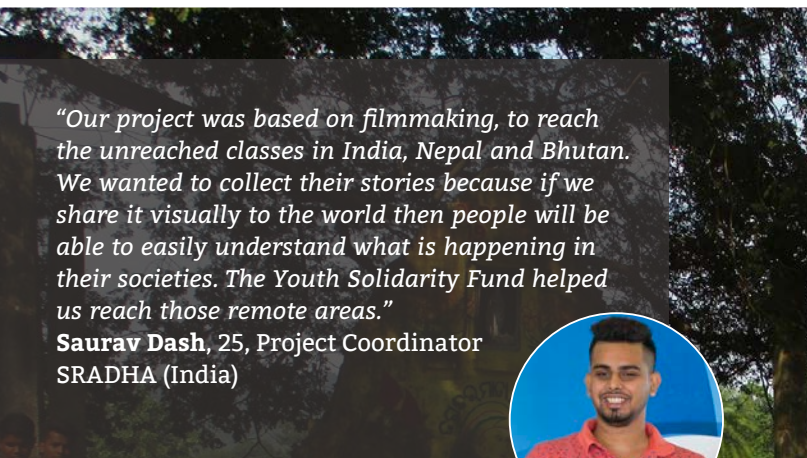
"We wanted to create a culture of dialogue, so that different tribes, different cultures, can meet together and find more peaceful ways to interact. The funding has helped us create a Youth for Peace Guidebook and a Radio for Peace Guidebook. This is a good reference of techniques and strategies of creating peace in South Sudan."

Anne Kyomugisha, 30, Project Coordinator
Forum for Community Change and Development
(South Sudan)



"In Pakistan there is a complex society. We have different cultures and different religions and there is no tolerance among them. In a situation like this, we trained youth on interfaith harmony. There are some differences in the beliefs but there are similarities as well, and the similarities are more important than the differences. With the support of the Youth Solidarity Fund, we were able to implement the ideas that were in our minds."

Salma Bibi, 30, Project Coordinator
Aware Girls (Pakistan)



"Our project was based on filmmaking, to reach the unreached classes in India, Nepal and Bhutan. We wanted to collect their stories because if we share it visually to the world then people will be able to easily understand what is happening in their societies. The Youth Solidarity Fund helped us reach those remote areas."

Saurav Dash, 25, Project Coordinator
SRADHA (India)



"We're training youth in Nakivale refugee settlement and surrounding Ugandan communities in peacebuilding. They are taught how they can come together, understand and respect each other, regardless of them coming from different countries, having different religions, and being from different cultures. Thanks to the funding we received, we've now seen that youth have now started cooperating, regardless of having those differences. There are reduced cases of fights, hatred and violence."

Kato Ssekah Abdu, 33, Project Coordinator
Integrated Community Development Initiative (Uganda)





Youth Solidarity Fund: Capacity Building Workshop in Istanbul

A closing capacity building workshop was organized during December 2017 for the recipients of the Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF) 2017 edition. The workshop focused on the issue of sustaining their projects following the end of the YSF project implementation period.

In addition to current recipients, three YSF alumni were also invited to participate. They facilitated sessions for the recipients on solving challenges faced in implementing their projects as well best practices on organizational sustainability. Recipients then worked with professional trainers on topics including monitoring and evaluation, fundraising, social media strategies and advocacy.

“It created a great opportunity for networking and learning from international trainers and fellow YSF recipients,” said one participant. “There was free interaction with trainers and the hands-on training eased my learning process.”

The workshop took place in Istanbul, Turkey. Participants came from youth-led organizations located in countries such as India, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, South Sudan and Uganda. The Youth Solidarity Fund 2017 edition was supported by the Governments of Finland and Spain.

● YSF Capacity Building
Workshop Participants

● Host country of YSF
Capacity Building
Workshop





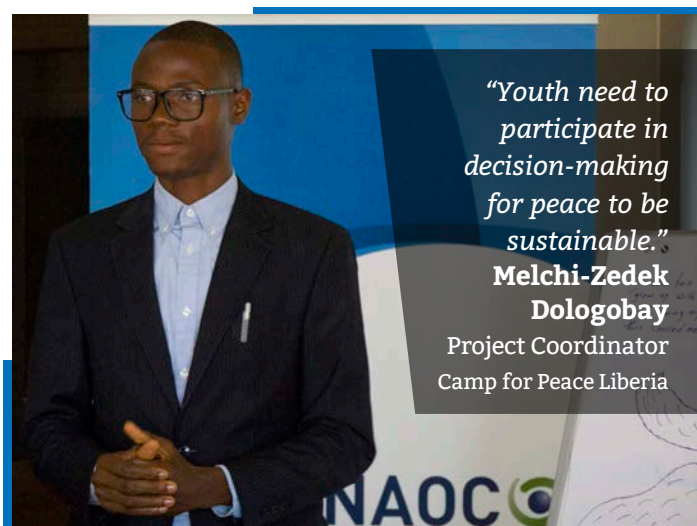
Youth Dialogue Exchange on United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250

In commemoration of the second anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250, recipients of UNAOC's Youth Solidarity Fund met with representatives from the Turkic Council youth network in a dialogue exchange on 11 December 2017.

Participants all belonged to youth-led organizations who worked to build peace in their communities. As one of the five action areas of Security Council Resolution 2250 focuses on partnerships, a significant portion of the dialogue exchange was spent discussing how youth from both UNAOC and the Turkic Council could work together, as well as how the international community can best support the participation of young people in peace efforts.

"The international community should organize more opportunities like this for young people to express themselves about problems they are facing," said Melchi-Zedek Dologobay, 21, youth coordinator of YSF recipient Camp For Peace Liberia. "Youth need to participate in decision-making for peace to be sustainable."

Following the dialogue exchange, group discussions continued via social media on the issue of potential partnerships. The dialogue exchange was part of a capacity building workshop held for recipients of the Youth Solidarity Fund 2017 edition.



"Youth need to participate in decision-making for peace to be sustainable."
Melchi-Zedek Dologobay
 Project Coordinator
 Camp for Peace Liberia

PLURAL+ 2017 Awards Ceremony



On the 10th of November UNAOC and IOM celebrated the PLURAL+ 2017 Awards Ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

PLURAL+ is a youth video festival focusing on the topics of migration, diversity, social inclusion and the prevention of xenophobia. In 2017 over 300 entries from 69 countries across the world responded to the PLURAL+ call for participation.

At the awards ceremony, four videos were particularly highlighted, the three International Jury Award winners and the Special Award for the Prevention of Xenophobia. "Eliminate Hate, Eliminate Borders" from Mexico received the International Jury Award for the age category of up to 12 years old; "Aibek" from Kazakhstan for the age category of 13 to 17 years old; "Child of All Nations" from Indonesia for the age group of 18 to 25 years; and "The True Impact" a co-production between Nepal and the US, received the Special Award for the Prevention of Xenophobia.

In addition to these awards, several PLURAL+ partners also participated at the event distributing awards to PLURAL+ videos they had selected for special recognition, among them: "Hope" from Syria, "Peace Bombs" from Spain, "We are Enough" from Poland, "Can you see the future" from Turkey, "We are Human" from South Africa, and "Twighead" from the Philippines.



"Building a bridge between cultures and identity groups lies at the heart of the mandate of UNAOC. PLURAL+ represents one of the strongest building blocks of that bridge. Combining a focus on youth with an appreciation for the power of visual art, I am particularly proud of this project and the young people we are so happy to support."

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
UNAOC High Representative

For additional information and to watch the videos, please visit:
pluralplus.unaoc.org

Unraveling #fakenews from opinion-making information

UNAOC organized a panel discussion titled “Media and Information Literacy: Educational Strategies for the Prevention of Violent Extremism” on February 9, 2017 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. As a follow up to that panel, on the 7th of September, UNAOC organized another panel discussion also at the UNHQ focused on how news literacy could be a tool to counter balance the spread and impact that fake news has in society.

Participants included Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations; Maher Nasser, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications; Howard Schneider, Executive Director of the Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook University; Alan Miller, Founder of the News Literacy Project; Mitra Kalita, Vice President of Digital Programming at CNN; Áine Kerr, Head of Journalism Partnerships at Facebook; Dina Temple-Raston, Counterterrorism correspondent at National Public Radio; and Michelle Ciulla Lipkin, Executive Director of the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE). Panelists acknowledged the urgency of developing

news literacy skills in the current state of the world, where the so-called “fake news,” widely distributed through social media platforms, have the capacity to twist the opinions of individuals and shift societies towards particular ideological patterns and visions of the world. News literacy was identified as an important and needed skill in the “Digital Age”, where citizens struggle to deal with information overload and the difficulty in determining the authenticity of reports. Panelists concluded that the ability of the next generations of citizens to judge the reliability and relevance of information will be a leading indicator of the public health of civil society around the world.



For additional information please visit:
www.unaoc.org/media-information-literacy

PEACEapp Tangier

“Games such as Survival, by Spanish startup Omnium Lab in collaboration with the PEACEapp program of the Alliance of Civilizations of the United Nations was developed with the help of young migrants and refugees, who shared their experience, and the challenges they had to face to make it to Europe.” (FORBES Magazine, Jan 7 2018)

Thanks to the support of the Government of Spain, UNAOC organized a PEACEapp workshop in Tangier, Morocco, October 2-7, 2017. Twenty-five participants, half young people from Tangier and the other half migrant and refugee youth living in Tangier, participated in a 5-day workshop where they worked together developing and designing Internet-based video games. Participants not only were trained in computational thinking and digital literacy but also in the development of inter-cultural skills while producing their own narratives that were then translated into video games. For the video gaming training sessions, participants were introduced to “Scratch”, an Internet-based video gaming design platform developed by the MIT Media Lab. Participants followed up the workshop by contributing to the design of the pre-sequel of “Survival,” a gamified app, available for free download, and developed with the support of the ICT company OmniumLab.

PEACEapp Tangier was developed in partnership with the Mediterranean Democratic Institute for Development and

Training (IMDDF) and the collaboration of the Center for Development and Empowerment of Youth Capacities of Ard Daoula; the Association Mediterranean Meeting for Migration and Development (ARMID); the organization Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergenti (COSPE) and OmniumLab.



For additional information, please visit:
www.unaoc.org/peaceapp.



UNAOC aims to improve understanding and cooperation among nations and peoples across cultures and to reduce polarization at local and global levels. It helps develop more inclusive societies, in which diversity is experienced as an asset.

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

730 Third Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, New York 10017

☎ Phone: +1-929-274-6217 📠 Fax: +1-929-274-6233 ✉ Email: contactaoc@unops.org

🌐 www.unaoc.org

🐦 twitter.com/UNAOC

f facebook.com/unaoc.org

📷 instagram.com/unaoc