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# UNAOC's Support of UN Responses to Address Challenges of COVID-19 Broadening Outreach to Religious Leaders and FBOs

- On 26 March, issued joint call with OSPAG for Unity, Solidarity & Compassion
- On 18 April, as co-chairs of the Inter Agency Task Force for Religion and Development we mobilized the Multi-faith Advisory Council to support and promote the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19
- On 28 May, joined forces with OSAPG and OHCHR and held a consultation with religious leaders and FBOs
- On May 14, UNAOC co-organized a Prayer for Humanity with the Higher Committee for Human Fraternity in which H.H. Pope Francis, H.E. Grand Imam of Al-Azhar and the United Nations Secretary-General participated
- On 12 May, participated in a High-level meeting on the Role of Religious Leaders to Address Challenges related to COVID-19 organized by Morocco

# UNAOC's Support of UN Responses to Address Challenges of COVID-19



Contributed to combating racism and stigma by re-packaging stories created by UNAOC PLURAL+ alumni



Produced multimedia stories of solidarity and compassion from UNAOC alumni and programme participants



Supported and participated in the Verify campaign, launched by UNDGC



# **United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites**

- Launched in September 2019, UNAOC is the focal point for the Plan's implementation in the United Nations system;
- October 2019-August 2020: ongoing engagement of the High Representative with member states and stakeholders (New York and Geneva briefings, World Interfaith Harmony Week);
- Work in progress with UNOSAT UN
   Operational Satellite Applications Programme for the mapping of religious sites
- 15 attacks against religious sites took place in 2019 and until now in 2020
- Planning to organize a conference on religious sites of historical importance

Global Call to Action #forSafeWorship: A Communications Campaign to Foster Mutual Respect, Understanding, Unity and Solidarity

 Launch date: Today, Tuesday 29 September 2020!

- Objectives: Celebrate the universality of religious sites and emphasize the need to safeguard religious sites and worshippers
- Website: SafeguardReligiousSites.unaoc.org
- Toolkits on ways to get involved and stand #forSafeWorship



#### **Monitoring Anti-Semitism**

- Designated as UN Focal Point to monitor Anti-Semitism and enhance a system-wide response.
- Statements denouncing all manifestations of anti-Semitism
- From March September liaised with major Jewish organizations and relevant bodies to forge an a comprehensive action plan that enhances a system-wide response.
- December 2020 planning a broader consultation with Jewish organizations





#OneHumanity

#### **#OneHumanity Campaign**

- Operationalizing UNAOC's motto "Many Cultures. One Humanity." through new projects or tools
- Promoting the initiative in support of the UNSG's appeal for solidarity and unity
- New partnerships forged with entities who embrace the notion including sports clubs, sports federations.
- Through microsite
   solidarity.unaoc.org, published
   stories of solidarity and compassion

# Role of Cities/Municipalities The LA Dialogues: Building Cities of Belonging

- In March 2020, launched the LA Dialogue
- Mayors of the cities of Los Angeles, Rabat, Seville, Damietta, La Courneuve, Coventry, and Tunis signed the LA Declaration stressing their determination to create cities of belonging that ascribe to UNAOC's "Many cultures. One humanity"



# Role of Cities/Municipalities La Courneuve: Empowering Local Youth to Create Alternative Narratives and Champion Diversity in the Media

- UNAOC and Mr. Gilles Poux, Mayor of La Courneuve, France, signed an MOU on 13 December 2019 to promote multiculturalism and interreligious understanding at community level
- A series of youth-targeted workshops to deconstruct stereotypes and tackle fake news



#### **Mediation in Identity-based Settings**

- UNAOC engages in mediation support in view of developing interreligious and intercultural-dialogue-focused workshops
- First consultations with DPPA held in Spring 2020
- In November 2019, UNAOC participated in a mission to CAR an interreligious workshop and high-level meetings in CAR; national and local leaders confirmed their need and interest for a sustained interreligious dialogue and welcomed UNAOC's engagement
- Co-funding local organizations in CAR which focus on interreligious dialogue

#### **Women as Peace Mediators**

- 1st meeting of the Advisory Council of the Women's Alliance for Peace on 15 May, followed by a meeting with African female Permanent Representatives to the UN in New York
- In November 2019, UNAOC and Women for Africa (NGO) constituted "Women's Alliance for Peace" – partnership with an objective to advance the role of African women as peacemakers in conflicts with sociocultural and interreligious dimensions
- Upcoming activities: a webinar on mediation training for women in identitybased settings



#### **Sports for Peace Initiatives**



Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism (Implemented by UNOCT in partnership with UNAOC, UNICRI and ICSS, launched in February 2020)



New Partnerships with:
Fundación Atlético de Madrid,
GAISF, La Liga,
and Turkish Airlines



#### **New Programmes and Projects**



Intercultural Dialogue and Socio-Emotional Competencies for Peacebuilding



#YouthWagingPeace
Phase II: The Whole
Community Approach to
Prevention of Violent
Extremism through
Education



Peer-to-Peer Training of Young Religious Leaders and Young Media Makers

# **Intercultural Dialogue and Socio-Emotional Competencies for Peacebuilding**

- Programme to be launched in October 2020, in partnership with UNOCT, UNAOC and UNESCO MGIEP
- Objective: supporting South-Asian youth aged 18-34 in exploring and co-designing game-based methodologies to develop competencies for intercultural dialogue and social and emotional learning to prevent violent extremism
- Activities: online training and a face-to-face hackathon
- Outputs: 1) youth-led proof-of-concept; 2) blueprint for a new game



# **#YouthWagingPeace Phase II: The Whole Community Approach to Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education**

Collaboration with UNESCO MGIEP since 2019;
 2nd phase launched in February 2020

 Objective: empowering South-Asian youth leaders with the skills and tools to implement "PVE through education" initiatives

- 4 phases, online and face-to-face, including a workshop conducted in Colombo, Sri Lanka (February 2020)
- Expected outputs: 1) 30 community-wide activities in 6 countries, impacting directly more than 1,000 community stakeholders; 2) a youth-led report on the "State of Prevention of Violent Extremism in South Asia"



## Peer-to-Peer Training of Young Religious Leaders and Young Media Makers

- Programme developed with UNCCT/UNOCT in 2019; first activities to start in November 2020
- Objective: engage young religious leaders and young media makers in peer-to-peer capacity building activities to use religion and interfaith dialogue on social media, to counter terrorist narratives and to promote social cohesion
- Ongoing selection process



#### **ONGOING PROJECTS**

#### Young Peacebuilders Programme

- Ongoing; hybrid learning model adapted
- Impact: youth-led projects reaching approx. 2,000 direct and 10,000 indirect beneficiaries every edition

#### PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival

- Video submissions from 100+ countries
- PLURAL+ Awards ceremony: 4
   December 2020
- New PLURAL+ Awards categories in 2020: #forSafeWorship and "The Future We Want"

#### Intercultural Innovation Award

- Series of online trainings and mentoring support implemented during the coronavirus pandemic
- As of January 2020, 6 editions of IIA supported 61 initiatives across the world, impacting 3.5MLN+ people in 112 countries

#### **Youth Solidarity Fund**

- In 2020, UNAOC funded projects in Kenya, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Lebanon, Sri Lanka and Uganda;
- Next edition of the YSF will be launched in December 2020

#### **Fellowship Programme**

- 2020 theme: "Building peace in the age of new media". UNAOC selected 22 fellows from 18 countries of MENA, Europe and North America
- October-November 2020 activities: online workshops and webinars;
- 250 fellows from 53 countries

#### **Intercultural Leaders**

- 996 alumni of UNAOC programmes are part of this global leadership platform;
- Alumni contributed to UNAOC policy activities in times of the coronavirus pandemic.

# PARTNERSHIPS

#### **Memoranda of Understanding**

Within the past 12 months, UNAOC entered partnership MOUs with the following entities and organizations:



















Global Association of International Sports Federations





- Plus: Ongoing collaboration with Higher Committee for Human Fraternity
- MOUs in the pipeline: COE, KAICIID, ALIPH, Grupo Ciudades Patrimonio de la Humanidad España, Muslim World League

# INSTITUTIONAL and DONOR RELATIONS

#### **Group of Friends**

## 5 new members

joined the UNAOC Group of Friends (in alphabetical order): Mauritania, Muslim World League, Niger, Sri Lanka and Venezuela

### 153 total members

As of 29 September 2020, the Group of Friends has 153 members

#### **Donors and Trust Fund Status**

- Voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund no allocations from the United Nations regular budget since 2005
- UNAOC thanks 16 donors which contributed funding in 2019 (in alphabetical order):
   AEXCID, Azerbaijan, BMW Group, Caucasus Muslim Board, Finland, Germany,
   Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Portugal, Qatar, Spain, Sweden, Thailand,
   Turkey
- In-kind support in 2019: AEXCID; Morocco; LAS; Qatar; Spain
- UNAOC thanks donors, which have already contributed funding during January-September 2020 (in alphabetical order): BMW Group, Equatorial Guinea, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Thailand, UNOCT
- UNAOC welcomes FY2020 pledges made by (in alphabetical order): Finland, Germany,
   Sweden, Turkey and Turkish Airlines



#### **Digital and Social Media Outreach**



#### **Media Coverage**

UNAOC was featured in leading publications around the world about its programmes and activities. Coverage of UNAOC advocacies spans print, radio and television.

El Mundo

La Vanguardia

**EFE** 

Al-Ahram

Egypt Today

Mediapart

TV5 Monde

**UN News** 

**UN Radio** 

**UN Web TV** 

Al Jazeera

Al Arabiya

**TRT World** 

**ANSA** 

Xinhua

The New York

Times

Fox News

Le Magazine de

l'Afrique

El Universal

Expansión

i24 News

Jerusalem Post

Haaretz

Al Sharq Al

Awsat

**Anatolian News** 

Agency

L'orient le Jour



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