

# لا لخطاب الكراهية

5<sup>th</sup> #SpreadNoHate  
SYMPOSIUM

*Cairo, Egypt*

*13 December 2017*



**UNAOC**  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

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## CONCEPT NOTE

*In 2015, the world witnessed its highest levels of forced displacement recorded since World War II, with a considerable increase in the number of refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced people across various regions of the world – from Africa to the Middle East and South Asia. While the so-called migrant crisis and its impact on Europe have dominated public debate, much less sustained attention has been dedicated to the processes of migration and displacement in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries, despite the fact that they have carried the lion's share of the burden.*

Just like in many European countries, the large number of newcomers in the MENA region has put a strain on governments as they struggle to cope with migrants crossing their borders and moving through their countries. MENA countries have had to confront new sets of social and legal issues, which have at times have led to incidents of violence against migrants and refugee communities.

In this context, the influence of the media in shaping public opinion and in setting the agenda of public

debates is crucial. The media have the ability and the power to challenge pre-conceived perceptions and to become a channel for new ideas and perspectives. With balanced, accurate news coverage, journalists and editors can contribute to reducing tensions between cultural and identity groups. However, journalists who report on migration too often exacerbate tensions and contribute to polarization by basing their narratives on sweeping, misleading generalizations and stereotypes about migrant communities.

### **UNAOC's #SpreadNoHate Series**

Considering these challenges, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) launched the #SpreadNoHate initiative in 2015 with the goal to provide global media with a platform to engage in an international dialogue on hate speech against migrants and refugees and to share good practices to promote positive narratives.

To date, UNAOC has organized four #SpreadNoHate Symposia: at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York (December 2015 and September 2016), in Baku, Azerbaijan (April 2016), as well as in Brussels, Belgium (January 2017), with the support of the European Union.

### **UNAOC's Fifth #SpreadNoHate Symposium**

UNAOC's fifth #SpreadNoHate Symposium in Cairo, Egypt, provides an excellent platform for discussion on hate speech against migrants and refugees in MENA media. This new #SpreadNoHate Symposium will shed light on the various dimensions and experiences of migration and forced displacement within the MENA region, their media coverage, and lessons learned by journalists from the region.

In addition, the Symposium will build and expand upon the observations and recommendations made at previous UNAOC #SpreadNoHate Symposia and will contribute to two other pillars of the initiative, namely:

1. A strategic media campaign that has reached millions of people online with the hashtag #SpreadNoHate – which trended in Brussels and New York City.
2. A full report with policy recommendations to be published at the end of the cycle of #SpreadNoHate Symposia.

# AGENDA

## ✳️SpreadNoHate: A Global Dialogue on Hate Speech Against Migrants and Refugees in the Media *MENA Edition*

In partnership with Egypt Media Development Program (EMDP)  
Wednesday, 13 December 2017 / Sofitel Cairo Nile El Gezirah, Cairo, Egypt

09:30 – 10:00

Registration

10:00 – 10:45

Opening Session – Welcome and Objectives of the Symposium

Welcome Remarks:

**Nihal Saad** @nsaad777 @UNAOC  
Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson  
for the High Representative, United Nations  
Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

**Radhia Achouri** @UNICCairo  
Director, United Nations Information Center-Cairo

**Chaker Khazaal** @ChakerKhazaal  
Author, Journalist, STEP Group

**Screening of short film “The True Impact” (Nepal)**,  
recipient of UNAOC-IOM PLURAL+ 2017 Award  
for the Prevention of Xenophobia

10:45 - 12:00

Panel 1 – Understanding Hate Speech in a Global Context and Across Cultures

**Raphael Minder** @RaphaelMinder (moderator)  
Spain and Portugal Correspondent, *The New York Times*

**Hicham Houdaifa**  
Journalist; Co-Founder and Contributor, *En Toutes Lettres*

**Randa Habib** @RandaHabib  
Author, Analyst and Journalist

**Firas Al-Atraqchi** @Firas\_Atraqchi  
Chair, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication,  
The American University in Cairo

**Elena D'Angelo** @dangelo\_el @UNICRI  
Project Analyst, United Nations International Crime and  
Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

**Q&A with participants and online**  
(@UNAOC #SpreadNoHate)

12:00-12:15

Coffee Break

12:15 - 13:30

Panel 2 – Traditional Media as a Vehicle for Hate Speech

**Nihal Saad** @nsaad777 @UNAOC (moderator)  
Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson  
for the High Representative of the United Nations  
Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

**Lamia Radi** @LamiaRadi  
Head of the Arabic Language Service, Associated Press

**Amr Taha** @IOMEgypt  
Head of Country Office in Egypt,  
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

**Sami Zaptia** @zaptias  
Co-Founder and Managing Editor, Libya Herald

**Tom Law** @TomLawMedia @EJNetwork  
Director of Campaigns and Communications,  
Ethical Journalism Network

**Q&A with participants and online**  
(@UNAOC #SpreadNoHate)

# AGENDA *(continued)*

13:30-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 - 15:45 Panel 3 – The Impact of Hate Speech in the Media: The Case of Immigrants and Refugees

**Ezzat Ibrahim** @*ezzatahram* (moderator)  
Editor-in-Chief, *Al-Ahram Weekly*

**Eliza Marks** @*escmarks*  
Technical Officer, Regional Fair Migration Project in the Middle East (FAIRWAY), International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Rouguyata Sall** @*rouguyata*  
Journalist, Bondy Blog (France)

**Naila Hamdy, Ph.D.** @*nailaha*  
Associate Professor and Graduate Director, Journalism and Mass Communication Department, School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, The American University in Cairo

**Farah Abdul Sater** @*FarahASater @IOM\_MENA*  
Regional Media and Public Information Officer, UN Migration Agency (IOM) Middle East and North Africa

15:45 - 17:00 Panel 4 – Social Media Platforms and Hate Speech: Role and Responsibility

**Leila Ghandi** @*Leila\_Ghandi* (moderator)  
TV Host and Producer

**George Salama** @*GeorgeSalama*  
Head of Public Policy and Government Relations for the MENA Region, Twitter

**Chaker Khazaal** @*ChakerKhazaal*  
Author, Journalist, STEP Group

**Rokhaya Diallo** @*RokhayaDiallo*  
Journalist, Writer, and Filmmaker

17:00 - 17:15 Coffee Break

17:15 – 18:30 Panel 5 – Mind Your Language: Promoting Ethics in Public Discourse and Reshaping the Migration Debate

**Joe Lowry** @*lowryjoe @IOMROVienna* (moderator)  
Senior Regional Media and Communications Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

**Amy Bracken** @*brackenamy*  
Independent Print and Radio Reporter and Producer

**Soumia Alloui** @*allouisoumia*  
Journalist and News Anchor/Producer, Algerian TV; Columnist, Alkuwaitya Newspaper

**Rita Izsák-Ndiaye** @*IzsakRita*  
Elected Member, United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Former Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues

**Gwen Griffith-Dickson** @*GriffithDickson*  
Director, The Lokahi Foundation; Visiting Professor, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, King's College London

18:30 – 18:45 Closing Session: Conclusion, Recommendations, and Way Forward

**Tarek Atia** @*shrinkingglobe @emdponline*  
CEO and Founder, Egypt Media Development Program (EMDP)

**Thibault Chareton** @*Thibaultdigital @UNAOC*  
Project Management Specialist – Media and Migration, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

*For any information about UNAOC's #SpreadNoHate initiative, consult [www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org) or contact: [HateSpeech@unaoc.org](mailto:HateSpeech@unaoc.org)*

## OPENING

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**Nihal Saad** @nsaad777 @UNAOC

*Chief of Cabinet & Spokesperson for the UNAOC High Representative*

Nihal Saad is Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). Before that, she was the Spokesperson for the 66th President of the United Nations General Assembly. With more than twenty-two years of experience in journalism, Ms. Saad was the Head of the Press and Information Bureau at the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations. Before moving to New York, she was Senior Political Correspondent and TV host for Egypt's TV. She has appeared on several TV shows as a commentator on international affairs, with Larry King (CNN), Al Arabyia TV, France 24 and Egypt's TV among others.

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**Radhia Achouri** @UNICCairo

*Director, United Nations Information Center-Cairo*

Radhia Achouri, of Tunisia, is Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Cairo, covering Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Before this appointment, Ms. Achouri had served since 2014 as Director of the Public Information Office and Spokesperson for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), providing operational leadership to that Mission's public information activities and formulating its overall communications strategy. From 2004 to 2014, she led the public information operations and served as the spokesperson for several United Nations peace operations and entities in Libya, Iraq, Lebanon, and Sudan. Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Achouri worked in Tunisia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as Counselor at the country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. She is fluent in Arabic, English, and French.

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**Chaker Khazaal** @ChakerKhazaal

*Author, Journalist, STEP Group*

Chaker Khazaal — author of Confessions of a War Child trilogy and Tale of Tala, speaker, reporter, and Editor-in-Chief of StepFeed and YallaFeed — grew up in a refugee camp in Beirut. Always a dreamer, he immigrated to Canada and graduated with a B.A. in International Development Studies from York University in Toronto. An advocate for humanitarian causes, Chaker was named Esquire Man of the Year (2015) and Most Influential Arab Under 40 (2016). He has won several awards for his novels and articles in the Huffington Post. Reporting on the refugee crisis in 2015, interviews often took place in conflict zones where the events of his latest novel, Tale of Tala, were inspired.

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## PANEL DISCUSSION I

### *Understanding Hate Speech in a Global Context and Across Cultures*

As the world becomes more interconnected, incidents in many countries have drawn attention to the issue of hate speech, which today is more easily spread across borders. The rise of the Internet and the instantaneous global communications that it enables have raised many questions on how to handle hate speech when it can be read, viewed, and heard by all types of audiences around the globe.

There is no universally accepted definition of hate speech, which leads laws on the topic to vary widely from country to country. In a majority of countries, the most egregious and harmful forms of hateful speech — direct threats, harassment, and incitement to immediate acts violence — are typically unlawful. However, when it comes to less definable types of offensive speech, there is no single standard for what qualifies.

Words heard as innocent by some can be greatly menacing to others, and content considered acceptable in one place might be considered offensive, discriminatory, or even illegal in other areas. A community's understanding and perception of hate speech are informed by its history, culture, traditions, as well as by race, religion, socio-economic background, structural inequalities in society, and a multitude of other factors.

In Panel 1, speakers will work to deconstruct hate speech and discuss its many complexities and nuances, especially in our globalized world. It will also provide Symposium participants with a general context for understanding hate speech and encourage their active input throughout the day.

#### **Questions for Discussion:**

- *What are ways to address and understand hate speech in different contexts and cultures?*
- *How can journalists learn about “red lines” when reporting on sensitive topics abroad?*
- *What are effective ways to learn about the various understandings, sensitivities, and perceptions of hate speech? How can one best contextualize them?*
- *In what way does hate speech remain a pervasive element that contributes to violent extremism?*

## SPEAKERS



**Raphael Minder** @RaphaelMinder (moderator)  
*Spain and Portugal Correspondent, The New York Times*

Raphael Minder has been based in Madrid as the Spain and Portugal correspondent for the International New York Times since April 2010. He has written extensively on the impact of the financial crisis on Spain and Portugal and the resulting political tensions, including the secessionist drive in Catalonia. He has also covered social issues such as illegal migration and domestic violence in Spain and writes about sports and culture. Born in Geneva, Raphael has been a full-time journalist since 1993, when he started working in Switzerland for Bloomberg News. He spent ten years as a staff correspondent for the Financial Times, working in Paris, Brussels, Sydney and Hong Kong as the Financial Times' Asia regional correspondent.



**Randa Habib** @RandaHabib  
*Author, Analyst and Journalist*

Randa Habib is a longstanding journalist and author who served as Amnesty International's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa in Beirut. She has 35 years of experience as a journalist based in the Middle East. She worked as the Director for the Middle East and North Africa for the Agence France-Presse (AFP) Foundation, and she spent more than two decades as bureau chief for AFP in Amman, Jordan. During her time as a journalist, she reported from Iraq as well as other hotspots and conflict zones throughout the region and interviewed several heads of states. In 2008 she was awarded the highest French award la Légion d'Honneur. She is also a founding member of the Jordan Media Institute and is the author of "Hussein and Abdullah, inside the Jordanian Royal family" published in French, Arabic, and English.



**Firas Al-Atraqchi** @Firas\_Atraqchi  
*Associate Professor of Practice & Chair, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, The American University in Cairo*

Firas Al-Atraqchi is a Canadian journalist and editor who has covered the Middle East and North America since 1992. Raised in Europe, North America, and the Middle East, he is a product of internationalism, bridging both eastern and western values. He has worked at the Middle East Times; Pose Magazine; Al Ahram Weekly; Daily News Egypt (chief editor); Egypt Today (assistant editor); General Physics Canada (senior technical writer); and editor of Imprint (Toronto). He is also a regular contributor to the Huffington Post. In 1996, he received an award from the Arab League for accomplishments in the field of journalism. Between 2004 and 2010, he worked at Al Jazeera English as a senior editor for its online edition and was in charge of converging web and TV broadcast. Since 2010, he has been the faculty advisor of AUC's student newspaper The Caravan. In 2012, he became co-founding editor of The Brics Post.



**Hicham Houdaifa**  
*Journalist; Co-Founder and Contributor, En Toutes Lettres*

Hicham Houdaifa was born in Casablanca in 1969. A journalist since 1996, he has worked for several media outlets, including Al Bayane. Between 1999 and 2002, he was a correspondent in New York for Afrique Magazine. He also worked for Journal Hebdomadaire, from October 2004 to the closing of the magazine in January 2010. He is now a regular contributor to the weekly La Vie Economique. During his career, Hicham Houdaifa has mainly worked on societal issues: freedom of religion, women's rights, the situation of sub-Saharan migrants ... He is the co-founder with the journalist Kenza Sefrioui of "En Toutes Lettres, a publishing house specialized in features and investigations, where he continues to write, in an extended format, on similar issues.



**Elena D'Angelo** @dangelo\_el @UNICRI  
*Project Analyst, United Nations International Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)*

Elena D'Angelo joined the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in 2010. She is the author and co-author of several publications on the following topics: transnational organized crime, data protection, and anti-discrimination, including online hate speech. She was recently heard by the Commission Jo Cox at the Italian Chamber of Deputies on UNICRI activities on anti-discrimination and hate speech. Since 2016, she has been a visiting fellow at the United Nations University (UNU-VIE SCYCLE), focusing mainly on illicit trafficking of waste and sustainable policies. She is also a UNAOC Fellow, and a consultant for the Research Institute on Crime and Security (RISSC), working on hate crime and hate speech incidents. Before joining UNICRI, she worked with multiple international organizations and NGOs (Belgium, Brazil, Iran), both at the institutional level and in the field, working on development and gender-related issues.

## PANEL DISCUSSION II

### *Traditional Media as a Vehicle for Hate Speech*

Hate speech in the media adopts many forms. It can be found in the content published and aired in traditional media. Indeed, faced with intense competition, news organizations have had to release content faster, often with less editorial oversight and fact-checking, and too little consideration of the potential impact. This has resulted in more generalizations, labeling, and divisive language.

Hate speech is also found in the comment sections of articles online. While those sections offer readers a critical space to express their opinions and provide additional information, they are also ideal ground for hate speech. Offensive language seeps into and often overwhelms those sections, especially for articles that cover more “sensitive” topics such as migration or religion. The invasion of the “trolls” has pushed many news organizations to moderate or to close comment sections altogether for stories that generate too much vitriol.

In Panel 2, speakers will discuss the role of traditional media in spreading hate speech; their responsibilities in tackling the issue, and the possible implications in taking measures to counter and combat this phenomenon.

#### *Questions for discussion:*

- *How are media organizations addressing the issue of hate speech?*
- *How can media organizations balance the right to freedom of expression with a need to prevent the spread of dangerous rhetoric?*
- *How can reporters give room to controversial public opinion without inciting tensions? Should space be given to hateful voices in reporting?*
- *What role should media organizations play in monitoring hate speech coming from their audience?*

# SPEAKERS



**Nihal Saad** @nsaad777 @UNAOC (moderator)  
*Chief of Cabinet & Spokesperson for the UNAOC High Representative*

Nihal Saad is Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). Before that, she was the Spokesperson for the 66th President of the United Nations General Assembly. With more than twenty-two years of experience in journalism, Ms. Saad was the Head of the Press and Information Bureau at the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations. Before moving to New York, she was Senior Political Correspondent and TV host for Egypt's TV. She has appeared on several TV shows as a commentator on international affairs, with Larry King (CNN), Al Arabiya TV, France 24 and Egypt's TV among others.



**Lamia Radi** @LamiaRadi  
*Head of the Arabic Language Service, Associated Press*

Lamia Radi is a veteran journalist who has reported on war and transformation for three decades throughout the Middle East. Before becoming Head of the Associated Press Arabic language service in 2014, she was a founder member and Head of the website at Sky News Arabia (Abu Dhabi) where she undertook field assignments in the region along with her managerial tasks. Senior Middle-East correspondent at Agence France-Presse (1993-2008), she covered conflicts and major events in the Middle East, North/East Africa with numerous assignments in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Eritrea, Libya, Palestinian Territories, Algeria, Tunisia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jordan, Yemen and UAE. She also has done media training courses for the BBC World Service and Thomson Reuters. She began her journalism career in Geneva in 1982 as a United Nations correspondent for the Egyptian weekly Al-Siyassy. Currently based in Cairo, she lived in Rome, Geneva, Beirut, Dubai, and Yemen, and speaks Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Italian.



**Amr Taha** @IOMEgypt  
*Head of Country Office in Egypt, International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

Before moving to Egypt as the IOM Head of Office, Amr TAHA was the Emergency Coordinator and later Field Coordinator in the area of Transition and Recovery in IOM's Mission to Yemen, Human Security and Stabilization Officer in IOM Mission in Sarajevo Bosnia-Herzegovina, Emergency and Post-Crisis Officer in IOM headquarters in Geneva, Project Manager in the area of Assisted Return and Reintegration in IOM Mission in Afghanistan, and Community Development Specialist in Kosovo. He has contributed to several publications and delivered numerous lectures on topics related to migration. His current research focus is how to support Governments on both sides of the Mediterranean in capitalizing on demographic transitions for mutual social and economic benefits through well-managed human mobility.



**Sami Zaptia** @zaptias  
*Co-Founder and Managing Editor, Libya Herald*

Sami Zaptia is a Libyan national and co-founder and Managing Editor of Libya Herald ([www.libyaherald.com](http://www.libyaherald.com)), an independent privately owned on-line English-language newspaper established in 2012. He studied in the United Kingdom where he received a degree in politics, economics, and law from the University of Buckingham and a Master's in international politics from the University of Southampton. He is a political analyst and activist. He co-founded the Libyan NGO the National Support Group, and he is a businessman with interests in the training, consultancy, research, ([www.knowlibya.net](http://www.knowlibya.net)), oil, and construction sectors. Besides the many articles, interviews, and op-ed pieces he has written for the Tripoli Post and Libya Herald, he has, for over a decade, been interviewed in English and Arabic on BBC TV and radio, ITN, Aljazeera, Dubai TV, VOA, the Guardian, the Nation (UAE), El Pais (Spain), Reuters, Rte (Irish Republic), and RAI TV, among others.



**Tom Law** @TomLawMedia @EJNetwork  
*Director of Campaigns and Communications, Ethical Journalism Network*

Tom Law joined the EJN in December 2015 to lead the organization's international media ethics campaigns with a focus on challenging hate speech, migration reporting, media literacy, and promotion of good governance and self-regulation. Before joining the EJN, he worked as a freelance journalist specializing in covering Sudan and South Sudan and for four years was the associate editor of Sudan Tribune, a leading East African news website. From 2014 until 2015 was the Head of Communications of Childreach International, leading the child rights organization's Taught Not Trafficked campaign in collaboration with SOLD, a feature film about child trafficking from Nepal to India.

## PANEL DISCUSSION III

### *The Impact of Hate Speech in the Media: The Case of Immigrants and Refugees*

In more and more countries, anger and polarization have characterized politics, and harsh measures targeting migrant and refugee communities have been put forward. That is partly due to misconceptions and prejudice in a context where communities face challenges related to the arrival of refugees and migrants with diverse backgrounds, cultures, and religions.

Acts of intimidation and violence have spiked, and hate speech against migrants and refugees – and all those who are perceived as foreigners on the grounds of their national or ethnic origin, their religion, etc. –, inaccurate reporting, false “data” and xenophobic slogans are intensifying. Increasingly, migrants and refugees are portrayed and perceived as unable to adapt to customs and life in receiving societies, and are associated with fears of terrorism. Their positive contribution to societies is not explained and therefore rarely absorbed.

In this context, the media is a major player. Every minute of the day people are exposed to television, radio, newspapers, and social media. Every day, information from the media is influencing their thoughts, perceptions, and opinions. The media is well placed to inform, communicate and connect citizens across the globe. Instead, in many cases, it acts as a powerful platform for discrimination, exclusion, and hate speech.

In Panel 3, speakers will discuss the impact of media coverage on people’s perceptions of migrant and refugee communities. They will examine the difficulties that journalists face when covering migration, and explore what can be done to guarantee both accurate and compelling reporting. They will also examine the media’s potential to help prevent and moderate tensions and to build balanced narratives, thereby contributing to counter hateful language and promote inclusion.

#### **Questions for discussion:**

- *What can be done to the migration narrative that would help curb hate speech against migrant communities?*
- *What are the links between hate speech and the treatment of migrant and refugee communities?*
- *What is the role of the media in combating hate speech?*
- *What can be done to cut through the corrosive rhetoric and help build a more inclusive global community?*

# SPEAKERS



**Ezzat Ibrahim** @ezzatahram (moderator)  
*Editor-in-Chief, Al-Ahram Weekly*

Ezzat Ibrahim is the Editor-in-Chief of Al-Ahram, Egypt's largest daily newspaper. In his time at the paper, he has covered foreign policy with a focus on the U.S.-Egyptian relations. Mr. Ibrahim served as bureau chief in Washington D.C. and New York (2009-2013). Following a Master's degree in International Relations from Sussex University (UK), he served as a Fulbright Congressional Fellow in U.S. Congress and a Visiting Scholar at the Brookings Institution (2003-2004). He also finished the Yale World Fellows Program (2006-2007), where he started writing a book on the history of Middle East in early American newspapers. His work focuses on domestic politics, the relationship between the West and Islamic societies, American-Egyptian relations, and American foreign policy.



**Rougyyata Sall** @rougyyata  
*Journalist, Bondy Blog (France)*

Rougyyata Sall is a freelance journalist who has worked for the Bondy Blog since 2012, an online media created in 2005 after riots erupted on the outskirts of major cities in France following the deaths of two youths with immigrant backgrounds. The Bondy Blog was created with the mission of giving a voice to groups often underrepresented in mainstream news media coverage, and providing young journalists in France's deprived suburbs an opportunity to shape their own narrative and combat negative stereotypes. Rougyyata Sall also writes about social issues and social justice for magazines such as Debout and Liaisons sociales. She has degrees in journalism and biology.



**Farah Abdul Sater** @FarahASater @IOM\_MENA  
*Regional Media and Public Information Officer, UN Migration Agency (IOM) Middle East and North Africa*

Farah Abdul Sater is a media and communication specialist and the Media and Public Information Officer of the UN Migration Agency (IOM) Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa. Her previous assignments in Lebanon and the MENA region were under the umbrella of the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organization, the Arab League, the United Nations Youth Association and Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie. Farah is also a freelance writer and blogger, focused on youth, gender, and violent extremism. She has been published by local and regional media outlets (Al Arabiya English, Assafir, Your Middle East, Tactical Tech, Common Ground News, etc.). She is laureate of the first online Francophone writing award (Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Quebec 2008).



**Eliza Marks** @escmarks  
*Technical Officer, Regional Fair Migration Project in the Middle East (FAIRWAY), International Labour Organization (ILO)*

Eliza Marks is a Technical Officer with the ILO Regional Fair Migration Project in the Middle East (FAIRWAY). The FAIRWAY project works to promote fair migration and prevent forced labor and human trafficking in the construction and domestic work sectors. In this role, she provides technical support in the areas of research, advocacy, capacity building and media engagement. Prior to joining the ILO Regional Office for Arab States, she worked with the ILO in Bangkok, Thailand, on women migrant worker programmes. She holds a BA in Development Studies (Hons Class I) from the University of New South Wales, and an MSc in Migration Studies from the University of Oxford.



**Naila Hamdy, Ph.D.** @nailaha  
*Associate Professor and Graduate Director, Journalism and Mass Communication Department, School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, The American University in Cairo*

Naila Hamdy has published journal articles and book chapters on Arab media, the journalism profession, news production, social media and digital media impacts. She is also a former television journalist who has covered major news events for prominent international television stations. She is also the past President and member of the board of the Arab-US Association for Communication Educators (AUSACE), a member of the Broadcast Educators Association (BEA), the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), and the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR). She teaches journalism and mass communication courses in both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

## PANEL DISCUSSION IV

### *Social Media Platforms and Hate Speech: Role and Responsibility*

The use of social media to disseminate narratives of hate and radicalize people has lent more urgency to tackling hate speech online. In the last few years, social media platforms have been under scrutiny for the amount of hate speech that thrives on their platforms and attention is being paid to how they respond to incidents.

Internet intermediaries – which include social media platforms, Internet service providers (ISPs), web hosting platforms, and search engines – play a crucial role in enabling people to access information. They do not typically engage in content creation, but governments around the world have insisted that they bear some degree of responsibility for what circulates on their various platforms. Across the world, social media platforms are being questioned about their expanding role and responsibilities as publishers of information.

Some States now request that Internet intermediaries monitor, filter, and sometimes block content that they consider breaking the law. Failure to do so can expose Internet intermediaries to legal consequences and financial penalties.

In Panel 4, speakers will explore how social media tackle hatred online and will discuss their role and responsibility.

#### *Questions for discussion:*

- *How can social media platforms combat hate speech without limiting free speech in the process? How can they avoid sweeping up legitimate discourse along with hate speech?*
- *What impact does delegating the task of content regulation to social media companies have on democracies?*
- *What's the responsibility of social media companies for content produced and posted by their users? Should social media companies be treated as mere messengers, or as publishers?*
- *What is the responsibility of social media users?*

## SPEAKERS



**Leila Ghandi** @Leila\_Ghandi (moderator)  
*TV Host, Journalist and Producer (Morocco)*

Leila Ghandi is a French-Moroccan TV host, journalist, producer, author, and photographer. Jeune Afrique Magazine has ranked her among the 50 people with most influence in Morocco. Followed by a digital audience of over 600 000 people, she has produced and hosted a prime-time television show that was viewed by over two million people each month.

Through her work, she promotes the representation of free Arab Muslim women, women's empowerment, and aims to build and encourage dialogue between cultures. She has been a speaker at the European Parliament and the UNESCO and is regularly invited to speak at international conferences held by the OSCE, the Union for the Mediterranean, or the EU. She has been named opinion leader by Search for Common Grounds and has won numerous awards such as the Anna Lindh Journalist Award, the Euro-Mediterranean Woman Success Trophy, and the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres from France. She has been chosen to represent North Africa at the exhibition Summit of the African Union in Adis Ababa.



**Chaker Khazaal** @ChakerKhazaal  
*Author, Journalist, STEP Group*

Chaker Khazaal — author of Confessions of a War Child trilogy and Tale of Tala, speaker, reporter, and Editor-in-Chief of StepFeed and YallaFeed — grew up in a refugee camp in Beirut. Always a dreamer, he immigrated to Canada and graduated with a B.A. in International Development Studies from York University in Toronto. An advocate for humanitarian causes,

Chaker was named Esquire Man of the Year (2015) and Most Influential Arab Under 40 (2016). He has won several awards for his novels and articles in the Huffington Post. Reporting on the refugee crisis in 2015, interviews often took place in conflict zones where the events of his latest novel, Tale of Tala, were inspired.



**Rokhaya Diallo** @RokhayaDiallo  
*Journalist, Writer, and Filmmaker*

Rokhaya Diallo's work dismantles the barricades of racism and sexism through the promotion of equality and pluralism. She is the host of two TV shows for BET France, a contributor to the RTL radio program, "On refait le Monde" (We change the World), and a pundit on several networks, including Canal +, TV5, and France 24. Through analyzing the dynamic reconstruction of French culture and the

origins of societal fracturing she co-authored and hosted "Egaulx mais pas trop" (Equals but not too much) on LCP-AN. She has contributed to the Huffington Post, regularly writes for Elle Magazine and the newspaper Liberation. She directed and co-produced the documentaries: Steps to Liberty (2013); Networks of Hate (2014); and Not your Mama's Movement (2016). Among Rokhaya's published works are Racism: A Guide (2011), France Belongs to Us (2012), France: One and Multicultural (2012), and How To Talk To Kids About Racism (2013). In 2015, She released her first graphic novel Pari(s) d'Amies, followed closely by her newest book Afro!



**George Salama** @GeorgeSalama  
*Head of Public Policy and Government Relations for the MENA Region, Twitter*

George Salama is responsible at Twitter for the strategic engagement with key governments, political figures, policymakers, regulators, lawmakers and media representatives across the MENA region. In that role, he assists in developing public policy solutions that meet the needs of policymakers while advancing

the interests of users. Previously, he spent five years with the SAMENA Telecom Council where he was in charge of setting up and executing the council's business strategies and public policy plan. He also served for seven years with the Egyptian Government, National Telecom Regulatory Authority - (NTRA), and was in charge of International Technical Coordination and Internet Public Policy.

## PANEL DISCUSSION V

### *Mind Your Language: Promoting Ethics in Public Discourse and Reshaping the Migration Debate*

As the so-called migrant crisis continues to escalate, politicians, journalists, and academics everywhere are trying to make sense of the phenomenon, which has led to an increase in public debates on migration. In many cases, negative language has polluted the global discourse about migrant and refugee communities, and the portrayal of migrants as “others” with different cultural practices has fed fears and xenophobia instead of highlighting the benefits of migration.

Many studies, old and new, have shown that migrants contribute to the prosperity of host countries, as well as to the development of the countries they left. In 2016 alone, migrants sent home almost half a trillion dollars, helping to lift communities out of poverty, and remittances have competed with foreign development assistance as one of the most critical financial inflows to developing countries.

The positive effects of migration often get lost among false perceptions and stereotypes that influence national policies. Migrants are usually described in a negative light and the political debate, especially in the context of elections, remains mostly focused on keeping migrants and refugees out.

The United Nations’ first-ever global accord on migration provides an opportunity to shape a new vocabulary and to improve the migration narrative. World leaders are due to commit to two global initiatives, one on refugees and one on migrants, by late 2018 under the auspices of the United Nations.

In this context, speakers in Panel 5 will discuss the power of public discourse and ways to promote a positive narrative on migration.

#### **Questions for discussion:**

- *In what ways is public discourse a mechanism of power by which certain realities are conceived and legitimated?*
- *What is the relationship of discourse to inequality and exclusion?*
- *What are ways to promote a positive narrative about migrant and refugee communities?*

## SPEAKERS



**Joe Lowry** @lowryjoe @IOMROVienna (moderator)

*Senior Regional Media and Communications Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

Joe Lowry is a Senior Media and Communications Officer with the United Nations Migration Agency (IOM) based in Vienna, Austria, where he is spokesperson for Southeastern and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. He also represents IOM on the regional UN Communications Group. He came to Vienna in January 2017 after five years in a similar position with IOM covering Asia and the Pacific. Before that, Joe spent many years with the International Red Cross/Red Crescent in communications and management roles. He has been deployed in several emergencies and crises since starting his career in Somalia in 1993, notably the typhoons that hit Myanmar, the Philippines and Vanuatu, the mass population movements from Libya to Tunisia, the Haiti Earthquake and several others. He holds a Master's degree in Media and Public Relations from the University of Leicester and has tutored at the International Diploma for Humanitarian Assistance in Fordham University, New York.



**Gwen Griffith-Dickson** @GriffithDickson

*Director, The Lokahi Foundation; Visiting Professor, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, King's College London*

Gwen Griffith-Dickson is Visiting Professor at King's College, London, in Theology; and the Director of the Lokahi Foundation, an independent research organization and social impact charity which created and ran the first community programme to prevent

a terrorist attack in the UK. She was also the Vice Principal of Heythrop College, University of London, and the first female Gresham Professor of Divinity and sat on the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life. She publishes on philosophical theology, European thought, philosophy of religion, interreligious dialogue and religious extremism and terrorism. With Lokahi, she oversaw numerous programmes working with grassroots communities to resist violent extremism and religious and race hatred and Islamophobia. She has also published a novel, *Bleedback*, which deals with the war on terror and the rise of Da'esh.



**Soumia Alloui** @allouisoumia

*Journalist and News Anchor/Producer, Algerian TV; Columnist, Alkuwaitya Newspaper*

Soumia Alloui has been a journalist and news anchor and producer for the State-run Arabic language Algerian TV for the past seventeen years. After working as a presenter for several years, she is now

also responsible for editing and completing documentaries on politics, as well as various national and international issues. She is also a columnist for Alkuwaitya Newspaper. Much of her work focuses on youth and human rights issues. She works closely with youth organizations in Algeria including the Scout organization. She has a master's degree in media management.



**Amy Bracken** @brackenamyl

*Independent Print and Radio Reporter and Producer*

Amy Bracken is an independent reporter and radio producer who covers migration, economic development, and human rights. She is based in Boston, Massachusetts, but has reported extensively from Haiti over the last decade, as well as from elsewhere in the Caribbean, Central and North America, and Europe. She is a graduate of the Columbia University School of Journalism and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, where she wrote a Master's thesis on the detention of asylum-seekers. As a French-American Foundation Immigration Journalism Fellow, she visited detention and alternatives in Florida and Texas. And with a grant from the Fund for Investigative Journalism, she researched labor conditions for Haitian sugar cane workers in the Dominican Republic. Her radio pieces have been broadcast by PRI's *The World*, *Latino USA*, and NPR, and her articles have appeared in *Al Jazeera America* and *The Christian Science Monitor*, among others.



**Rita Izsák-Ndiaye** @IzsakRita

*Elected Member, United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Former Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues*

Rita Izsák-Ndiaye was appointed Independent Expert on minority issues by the Human Rights Council and assumed her functions in 2011. She was renewed as Special Rapporteur on minority issues in 2014, a position that she held until July 2017. Later that year, she was elected to become a member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) for a term of four years. She has been working on human and minority rights since her university years, inspired by her own experiences of prejudice and discrimination. In 1947, her father's family was forcibly moved under post-war population transfers from Czechoslovakia (present-day Slovakia) to Hungary due to their Hungarian ethnicity, and her mother is of Romani origin.

## CLOSING: Conclusion, Recommendations, and Way Forward

UNAOC's #SpreadNoHate Symposium will be covered live on social media with the hashtag #SpreadNoHate, to share key messages in real time and to engage the global community on several social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+, LinkedIn, and Snapchat. Thanks to this live coverage, the debate will gain global visibility and will reach and engage a maximum number of people, in particular among the youth.

Through the presentations, active discussions, as well as through the general public's participation on social media, this new #SpreadNoHate Symposium will result in a full report. The report will include concrete recommendations on ways global media, particularly media in the MENA region, can work to counter hate speech against migrants and refugees and to foster more inclusive societies.

The new #SpreadNoHate report will inform political debates on hate speech at relevant United Nations agencies and international fora. It will be made available for download on the UNAOC website and UNAOC will also share it with its global network of UN Member States, organizations, religious leaders, and interfaith groups, media organizations, journalists, academia, including graduate schools of journalism and communications, as well as think tanks.

UNAOC's Symposium in Cairo is part of UNAOC's #SpreadNoHate initiative, which provides global media with a platform to engage in an international dialogue on hate speech against migrants and refugees and to share good practices to promote positive narratives. With the #SpreadNoHate initiative, UNAOC aims at countering xenophobia, racism, and narratives of hatred.

For more information, please visit [www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org) or contact [HateSpeech@unaoc.org](mailto:HateSpeech@unaoc.org).

## SPEAKERS



**Tarek Atia** @shrinkinglobe @emdponline  
CEO and Founder, Egypt Media Development Program (EMDP)

Tarek Atia is an entrepreneur, journalist and media innovator. He is the Founder and CEO of EMDP, the Egypt Media Development Program, a media consultancy, training, and production company, and publisher of the pioneering hyperlocal media brand Mantiqti (My Neighborhood), as well as the popular Arabic news and entertainment website Zahma. A well-known figure in the global media development community, he has designed and implemented capacity building programs for over 6,000 journalists, editors and managers working across print, broadcast and online platforms. He was Assistant Editor in Chief of Al-Ahram Weekly, where he played leading editorial and managerial roles for 15 years and won local and international awards for his journalism. He teaches digital journalism at Cairo University's Faculty of Mass Communications and the British University in Egypt and is a frequent trainer at professional development programs at the American University in Cairo.



**Thibault Chareton** @Thibaultdigital @UNAOC  
Project Management Specialist – Media and Migration, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

Thibault Chareton is the Media and Migration Project Management Specialist at the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). In that role, he develops and manages media projects aimed at providing the public with fair and innovative media coverage of migration. Since 2015, he has focused on the #SpreadNoHate initiative at UNAOC, a platform engaging global media in a dialogue on hate speech and the sharing of best practices to combat it. Previously, Thibault was a Policy Program Officer at the French-American Foundation in New York, where he developed various transatlantic initiatives, including an international fellowship program for migration journalists. A native of France, Thibault received a master's degree in Global Journalism from New York University and a master's degree in English literature from the University of Paris IV, Paris-Sorbonne. He has written for various U.S. news publications.

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS



The **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** is a special initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General established in 2005 and co-sponsored by the Governments of Spain and Turkey. UNAOC works to build bridges between societies, promote dialogue and understanding, and seeks to forge the collective political will required to accomplish these tasks. UNAOC works as a convener and facilitator to bring all sectors of society together to strengthen intercultural dialogue, diminish hostility, and promote harmony among the nations and cultures of the world. UNAOC's activities are fashioned around the four pillars of Education, Youth, Migration, and Media. To read more about UNAOC's projects and initiatives, visit [www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org).

*Fifth UNAOC #SpreadNoHate Symposium organized in collaboration with...*



The **Egypt Media Development Program (EMDP)** is a media company specialized in training and consulting within the Egyptian, regional and global media industry. EMDP media specialists have a vast knowledge of global best practices in journalism, media training, and media business, as well as a deep understanding of local needs. EMDP is also a leading Egyptian media development company and publisher. Its editorial staff includes some of Egypt's best journalists, editors, photographers, and designers. The content produced by EMDP is innovative, accurate, engaging and impactful – mirroring the image and reputation EMDP's media products have developed in the market, as well as the broader publishing industry in Egypt, the Middle East and beyond. Learn more at [www.emdponline.com](http://www.emdponline.com).

# #SpreadNoHate

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RESPECT, SAFETY AND DIGNITY FOR ALL

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