



In commemoration of the **first International Day of Human Fraternity**, the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)**, in partnership with the **Permanent Missions of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates to the UN**, and with the sponsorship of the **Higher Committee of Human Fraternity**, organized a high-level event entitled, “**The International Day of Human Fraternity: A Pathway to the Future**”.

The opening session of the event included **UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres**, the **Permanent Representatives of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates to the UN**, **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees** and **H.E. Mrs. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh**, the **Secretary General of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity**, **H.E. Judge Mohammad Abdul-Salam**, as well as more than **75 member states at the ambassadorial level**, **senior religious leaders**, **faith actors**, and **faith-based organizations**. The highlights of the opening session were two video messages by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Dr. Ahmed Al Tayyeb, co-authors and co-signatories of the Document of Human Fraternity.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Moratinos emphasized the need to observe an International Day of Human Fraternity: “We are not only facing the ramifications of a pandemic, but also the contagious virus of hate, discrimination, and racism. The antidote is human fraternity, which embodies compassion, solidarity, unity and mutual respect. UNAOC stands ready to work with all member states, religious leaders and civil society to strengthen interreligious and intercultural dialogue to enhance mutual respect, cultural diversity and freedom of religion and belief.” The event was organized within the framework of World Interfaith Harmony Week. (4 February)

LaLiga joins the #OneHumanity Campaign



Watch the LaLiga #OneHumanity video here:
<https://youtu.be/TzXzUtBq3DQ>



LaLiga and UNAOC signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** in which they agreed to work together to raise public awareness about social responsibility in the promotion of diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect as a preventive tool of violent extremism. The signing ceremony took place at LaLiga's headquarters in Madrid, Spain, in the presence of **Mr. Javier Tebas, President of LaLiga**, and the **High Representative for UNAOC**. UNAOC and LaLiga kicked-off their new collaboration with a video promoting UNAOC's **#OneHumanity campaign**. The inspiring video features inspiring messages from key players of LaLiga clubs, including Real Madrid, Real Sociedad, Athletic Club, Alavés, Huesca, Osasuna, Celta Vigo, Atlético Madrid, Levante, Real Betis, Granada, Sevilla, Valencia, and Elche. (25 February)

The High Representative for UNAOC participated in a virtual conversation with the **Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, H.E. Ms. Melissa Fleming**, and the **Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mr. Antonio Vitorino**. The discussion was organized within **ECOSOC's Special Session on Reimagining Equality**, under the theme, "Eliminating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination for all in the Decade of Action for the SDGs".

"In order to eradicate racism and discrimination, we need to understand their root causes," Mr. Moratinos stated in his remarks. (18 February)



In the context of the implementation of the "Global Pledge for Action by Religious Actors and Faith-Based Organizations to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic in Collaboration with the United Nations", an initiative co-led by **UNAOC**, the **UN Office on Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG)**, and the **Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**, a webinar on "The Safeguard of Religious Sites" was organized.

The meeting brought together representatives from religious and faith-based organizations, civil society and human rights organizations. The event helped collect concrete recommendations on building a safer, fairer, and more inclusive world where no one is left behind. (25 February)



Mr. Moratinos shared a video message at a virtual conference entitled "**Chiara Lubich in Dialogue with Our Times**" organized by the **Chiara Lubich Centre** and the **Central National Library in Rome, Italy**. "Conflicts, terrorism, as Chiara Lubich would say, cannot be resolved by only approaching political security, or economic issues, but rather religious and cultural matters must be taken into account when seeking solutions," Mr. Moratinos stated. (19 February)



HIGHLIGHTS

UNAOC and Fundación Mujeres Por Africa held an interactive webinar on “Women and Mediation in Mali and the Central African Republic” as part of their joint initiative, Women’s Alliance for Peace, to support the role of women as peace mediators and negotiators in conflicts with a sociocultural and religious dimension. Fifteen women mediators from Mali and the Central African Republic participated in the discussion, which ended with a commitment for a roadmap for engagement that will address the challenges identified in the discussion, including capacity-building, training in conflict prevention, mentorship and organizational skills, and the future establishment of a network of women mediators in both countries. (18 February)



UNAOC signed a **Cooperation Agreement** with the **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** to partner on several initiatives that will further the rights of persons with disabilities. The IPC will notably support UNAOC’s **#OneHumanity campaign**, which calls for solidarity, compassion and unity in the face of discrimination and divisiveness. The IPC and UNAOC will also explore areas of cooperation with regards to strategy and policy development, research and events, including the IPC Inclusion Summit to be held during the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. (11 February)



The High Representative for UNAOC met with the new **Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel, Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye**.

They both discussed areas of collaboration around women as peace mediators, culture and arts, interfaith dialogue, changing the narrative discourse on Sahel. (12 February)



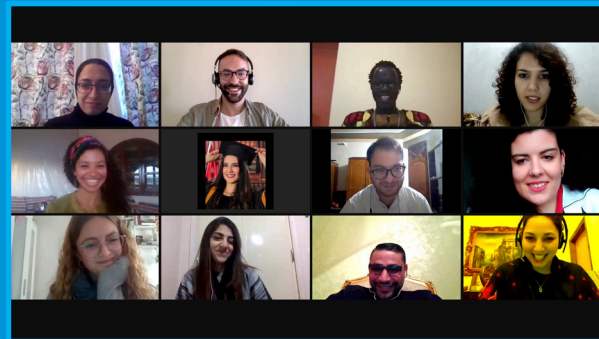
UNAOC’s global Call to Action **#forSafeWorship** to safeguard religious sites and worshipers worldwide is in full swing! This new UNAOC communications campaign engages the global community in taking concrete actions to contribute to implementing the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, developed by UNAOC.

Visit www.forsafeworship.org for a chance to watch inspiring multimedia stories from across the globe, and make sure to submit your own story about your special sacred place!

#LesMédias
C'est Nous



The first three workshops of **UNAOC's News Generation Against Hate** project just took place in February! In collaboration with the **French Municipality of La Courneuve**, **forty young people aged 15 to 25** living in La Courneuve and from various cultural and religious backgrounds participated in a series of capacity-building training workshops on multicultural and interreligious understanding. In the next few months, they will learn to deconstruct stereotypes and hate speech and work together to build alternative narratives through media.



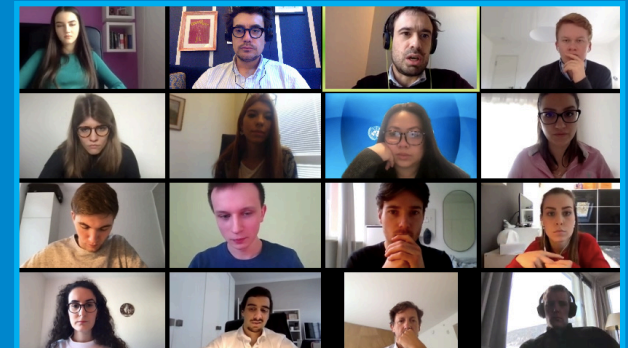
The participants in the fourth edition of **UNAOC's Young Peacebuilders** programme, implemented with the generous support of **AEXCID (Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo)**, have started drafting and designing their community-based initiatives. In the coming months, these youth from the **Middle East and North Africa** will implement up to twenty projects addressing intercultural and interreligious dialogue, training and empowering local youth and women.



The call for applications for the ninth edition of **UNAOC's Youth Solidarity Fund** recorded its highest submission rate with **1,508 applications from youth-led organizations representing 76 countries!** UNAOC is now in the process of selecting a group of organizations that will have a chance to participate in capacity-building workshops provided by its project partner, Search for Common Ground. This new interactive component is introduced to strengthen the project proposals and widen the support provided to the youth organizations that invested their time and efforts in the application process.



UNAOC and BMW Group organized a webinar as part of their joint initiative, the **Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA)**, in partnership with Accenture. IIA recipients were mentored online on **"Presenting your 'Killer' Presentation for Collaborators and Donors"**, which provided them with the tools to deliver captivating and informative presentations to attract their target audience. (9 February)



UNAOC organized a webinar with **CEMS**, a global alliance of leading business and management schools focusing on **Addressing Hate Speech Amid Covid-19 by Promoting Intercultural Dialogue**. During the session led by UNAOC, participating students discussed the issue of hate speech, learned about the UN response to the phenomenon as well as targeted activities led by UNAOC, and explored ways to prevent and counter hate speech through counter-narratives and effective communications. (12 February)