



NEWS FLASH 📅 April 2020
Solidarity in the Face of COVID-19

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UNAOC Under Covid-19:

- ✔ We continue to telecommute while ensuring business continuity.
- ✔ We keep our state and non-state partners as well as alumni of our programmes connected and informed about our activities. More than 110 virtual meetings were conducted in April.
- ✔ We repurposed our website and launched a brand-new microsite featuring important UN statements related to the current health crisis, along with stories of solidarity and compassion from our global community of alumni and programme participants around the theme and hashtag **#OneHumanity**. Over the next few weeks, UNAOC will feature the stories – essays, videos, and photos – on social media. Check them out on our microsite (solidarity.unaoc.org) and follow **#OneHumanity** for updates!

HIGHLIGHTS



Concerned about the rise in stigma, hate speech, and hate crimes targeting individuals and groups wrongfully vilified and perceived to be associated with the Coronavirus across the globe, the **High Representative for UNAOC, Miguel Moratinos**, and the **Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide, Mr. Adama Dieng**, issued a **Joint call for Solidarity, Compassion and Unity in the face of the global pandemic**. The joint call warns against the repercussions of stigmatization and calls on the global community to join hands in the face of adversity: “As the pandemic affects everybody, we should all be reminded of our common humanity, and that our lives are inter-connected and our survival depends on reciprocal support.” The joint appeal got a lot of media traction, including *Time Magazine*, *The New York Times*, and the Associated Press, among others. (26 March)



Livestream: United Nations International Day of Conscience

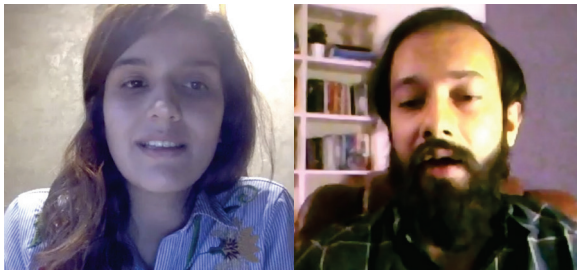
The High Representative for UNAOC was a keynote speaker in a webinar commemorating the very first **International Day of Conscience**, co-organized by the **Kingdom of Bahrain** and the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**. “The International Day of Conscience is a reminder and opportunity to take a moment to self-reflect, follow our conscience, and do the right thing,” Mr. Moratinos reflected as he spoke on ways to foster solidarity amid the health crisis. Other panelists in the meeting included Deputy Secretary-General H.E. Amina J. Mohammed, WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom, President of the royal court of HRH the Prime Minister of Bahrain Mr. Hussam bin Eissa, SDSN Director Professor Jeffrey Sachs, former Prime Minister of France Mr. Dominique de Villepin, and American actor and UN Messenger of Peace Mr. Michael Douglas. (5 April)



In their capacity as co-chairs of the **UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development (IATF)**, the High Representative for UNAOC and the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide, Mr. Adama Dieng, issued a **Joint Statement on behalf of IATF in response to the Covid-19 pandemic**, in collaboration with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in its capacity as the executive secretariat of the Task Force. The statement stresses the vital role that religious leaders and faith-based organizations play in bringing people together around the common values of our shared humanity – solidarity and compassion. The statement was endorsed by all members of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council (MFAC). IATF includes 21 UN entities and MFAC includes 42 faith-based organizations. (18 April)



As one of the co-organizers of the **Baku Process' World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue**, UNAOC was invited by the Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan, Mr. Abulfas Garayev, to participate in a panel discussion on the "Future of Human Relations". The High Representative for UNAOC and his Chief of Cabinet, Ms. Nihal Saad, discussed the impact of the pandemic on human relations and the future of cultural activities in a post-Covid-19 world. Other participants included representatives of UNESCO, ICESCO, and Coventry University. (23 April)



On the margins of the **UN Security Council open debate on the implementation of Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security**, UNAOC participated in a side event organized by the Permanent Missions of Jordan and the Dominican Republic and UNFPA/PBSO on Youth, Peace and Security, entitled "Where are we now?". **Farah El Alami, UNAOC Young Peacebuilder**, and **Syed Ali Abbas Zaidi, a former recipient of UNAOC and BMW Group's Intercultural Innovation Award**, participated in the interactive roundtable discussion. They both shared their experiences advancing the YPS agenda and how the global Covid-19 pandemic has impacted their work. (23 April)

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS



UNAOC and the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, organized a webinar about their joint initiative, the **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival**. They shared information about the 2020 edition of PLURAL+, answered questions from the many young filmmakers who participated and shared useful tips on ways to create compelling video content amid the global pandemic. After the webinar, UNAOC also published a series of short video tutorials on ways to produce creative video content. This year, the deadline to submit videos for PLURAL+ is 19 June. (17 April)



UNAOC is currently reviewing the many applications received for the 2020 edition of its **Fellowship Programme**. This year, the Fellowship programme focuses on the theme, "**Building Peace in the Age of New Media**". The names of the selected candidates from the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and North America will be announced in May.



UNAOC and **BMW Group** organized a webinar as part of their joint initiative, the **Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA)**. With the webinar, current IIA recipients were mentored online on a timely topic, "**Fundraising in the face of COVID-19: Donor Networking and Creating Lasting Relationships.**" (7 April)

On **World Creativity and Innovation Day**, UNAOC and **BMW Group** also published a brand-new video to celebrate IIA recipients and their role in leveraging creativity and innovation to promote intercultural dialogue and make the world a better place. UNAOC and **BMW Group** both disseminated the video widely on social media. (21 April)



UNAOC and partner **Beach Soccer Worldwide** joined forces on **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace** calling for team spirit and solidarity against Covid-19 as "One Humanity". The organizations shared common messages on social media to foster kindness and compassion. (6 April)



UNAOC organized a series of virtual discussions with its programmes participants and alumni to speak about current challenges and how they are adapting their work and activities across the globe. UNAOC also invited them to contribute testimonies and experiences to its new **#OneHumanity** microsite in response to the global pandemic. UNAOC has already featured videos submitted by its **Young Peacebuilders** and **PLURAL+** winners, as well as photos and essays written by **UNAOC Fellows** and recipients of the **Intercultural Innovation Awards** from all around the globe. Discover them on our **#OneHumanity** microsite - [solidarity.unaoc.org!](https://solidarity.unaoc.org/)