



*United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)
Fellowship Programme 2016*

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*2016 MENA cohort
Visit to the United States, Germany, France, and Spain*

October 23rd – November 9th 2016



Federal Foreign Office

The UNAOC Fellowship Programme is made possible thanks to a grant from the Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Provisional Agenda

Washington DC, U.S. – October 23rd to 26th

Hotel: Hampton Inn, White House, 1729 H Street N.W. Washington DC 20006

Sunday, October 23:

- All day: Arrival

Monday, October 24:

- **09:00:** 2016 MENA Fellows – Introduction session
- **11:30:** Meeting with the United States Commission on Religious Freedom
The United States Commission on international Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is an independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government commission created by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad. USCIRF uses international standards to monitor religious freedom violations globally, and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress. USCIRF Commissioners are appointed by the President and Congressional leaders of both political parties. Their work is supported by a professional, nonpartisan staff.
(<http://www.uscirf.gov>)
- **14:00:** Meeting at the Department of State with the Education and Cultural Affairs Bureau
As mandated by the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) works to build friendly, peaceful relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public/private partnerships. In an effort to reflect the diversity of the United States and global society, ECA programs, funding, and other activities encourage the involvement of American and international participants from traditionally underrepresented groups, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities. ECA serves as part of the Public Affairs arm of the U.S. Department of State.
(<https://eca.state.gov>)
- **16:00:** Meeting with Peace Corps. – “Let Girls Learn” and “World Wise Schools” Programs
The Peace Corps is a volunteer program run by the United States government and established by John F. Kennedy on March 1, 1961. The stated mission of the Peace Corps includes providing technical assistance, helping people outside the United States to understand American culture, and helping Americans to understand the cultures of other countries. (<https://www.peacecorps.gov>)
“Let Girls Learn” was launched in March 2015 by President Barack Obama and the First Lady with the aim to address the range of challenges preventing adolescent girls from attaining a quality education that empowers them to reach their full potential. (<https://letgirlslearn.gov>)
“World Wise Schools” promotes the Peace Corps' Third Goal of teaching Americans about the world by providing educational resources to promote global competence.
(<https://www.peacecorps.gov/educators/>)

Tuesday, October 25:

- **09:00: Meeting with the United States Institute of Peace**
The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) works to prevent, mitigate, and resolve violent conflict around the world. USIP does this by engaging directly in conflict zones and by providing analysis, education, and resources to those working for peace. Created by Congress in 1984 as an independent, nonpartisan, federally funded organization, USIP's more than 300 staff works at the Institute's D.C. headquarters, and on the ground in the world's most dangerous regions. (<http://www.usip.org>)

- **11:00: Meeting with the International Centre on Nonviolent Conflict**
The International Centre on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC) is an independent, non-profit educational foundation that develops and encourages the study and use of civilian-based, nonmilitary strategies aimed at establishing and defending human rights, democratic self-rule and justice worldwide. The purpose of ICNC is to develop and share knowledge related to nonviolent civil resistance and its practice with interested recipients throughout the world. This includes citizens and activists living under conditions of repression, injustice and corruption, and also educators, nongovernmental organizations, media professionals and members of the policy community. (<https://www.nonviolent-conflict.org>)

- **14:00: Meeting with U.S. Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Arsalan Suleman**
Arsalan Suleman is the Acting U.S. Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He engages with the OIC, OIC member countries, and relevant civil society on key foreign policy issues and works to deepen and expand partnerships in areas of mutual interest, such as human rights, countering violent extremism, health, education, entrepreneurship, and science and technology. (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/biog/237813.htm>)

- **16:00: Meeting with Islamic Relief**
Islamic Relief USA is a community of humanitarian staff, volunteers, affiliates, supporters, partners, and donors who have been working together for more than 20 years. In 1993, Islamic Relief USA became an independent member of Islamic Relief, a global family of collaborating relief organizations that share a common vision, mission and family identity. Islamic Relief USA operates seven regional offices in the United States and its headquarter in Virginia. These IRUSA offices have been serving to educate, inform, and raise awareness about our various relief and development projects for years. Additionally, IRUSA holds seminars, banquets, concerts, and other public awareness programs across the country to help fund domestic and international projects. (<http://irusa.org>)

Wednesday, October 26:

- **09:00: Check-out**
- **09:30: Visit to the National Mall and the National American History Museum**
- **14:15: Departure to Washington R. Reagan National airport**
- **17:20: Departure to New York, flight Delta Airlines DL1381**

New York, U.S. – October 26th to 29th

Hotel: Hampton Inn, Grand Central, 231 East 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017

Wednesday, October 26:

- **18:45:** Arrival in New York

Thursday, October 27:

- **10:30:** Meeting at UNAOC
The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) was established in 2005, at the political initiative of then UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan, and co-sponsored by the Governments of Spain and Turkey. A High-Level Group of experts was formed by Mr. Annan to explore the roots of polarization between societies and cultures today, and recommend a practical program of action to address the issue. In 2006, the High-Level Group identified four priority areas: Education, Youth, Migration, and Media. The UNAOC projects and activities revolve around these areas, guided by the assumption that they can play a critical role in reducing intercultural tensions and in building bridges between nations. In 2013, Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser became UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, operating with UNAOC Secretariat from New York City. (www.unaoc.org)
- **13:00:** Luncheon at the Institute of International Education
Founded in 1919, the Institute of International Education (IIE) is a private not-for-profit leader in the international exchange of people and ideas. In collaboration with governments, foundations and other sponsors, IIE creates programs of study and training for students, educators and professionals from all sectors. IIE administers over 200 programs serving more than 20,000 individuals each year. IIE provides a wide range of services to and manages or administers programs for many corporations, foundations, government partners, and international agencies. (<http://www.iie.org>)
- **14:45:** Guided tour of the United Nations
- **16:00:** Briefing at the United Nations on Education and Prevention of Violent Extremism
- **17:15:** PLURAL+ screening session on Social Inclusion and Human Rights
PLURAL+ is a youth-produced video festival that encourages young people to explore migration, diversity and social inclusion, and to share their creative vision with the world. PLURAL + is a joint initiative between the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the International Organization for Migration, with a network of over 50 partner organizations, who support the creative efforts of young people and distribute their videos worldwide. Since 2009 almost 1,300 entries from 90 countries have participated. Winning videos have been screened in dozens of festivals, cinemas and broadcast on television networks throughout the world. This two screening sessions will highlight PLURAL+ 2016 partner awards in the following categories: Social Inclusion and Human Rights. (<http://pluralplus.unaoc.org>)
- **19:00:** PLURAL+ International Ceremony Award at the Paley Centre for Media

Friday, October 28:

- **09:30: Meeting with Soliya – “Connect Program”**
Soliya is a network of staff, universities, volunteers, trainers and coaches, experienced in the fields of new media, new technology, social entrepreneurship, conflict resolution, advocacy and international affairs. In 2009 Soliya became a UNAOC partner and has been supporting UNAOC’s efforts to engage young people and to use media and communications technologies to foster greater cross-cultural understanding. The Connect Program is Soliya’s flagship virtual exchange initiative. It is an online cross-cultural education program integrated into curriculum that provides students with a unique opportunity to establish a deeper understanding for the perspectives of others around the world on important socio-political issues. Since 2003, the Connect Program has linked students from over 100 universities in 27 countries in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, Europe and North America. (<http://soliya.net>)

- **11:00: Meeting at the Office of the United Nations Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth**
The UN Secretary-General (UNSG) has identified in his second term working with and for young people as one of his top priorities. In this regard, he established in 2013 the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth with a mandate to harmonize the UN system efforts on youth development, enhance the UN response to youth needs, advocate for addressing the development needs and rights of young people, as well as to bring the work of the United Nations with and for youth closer to them. The Envoy on Youth also acts as the advisor to and the representative of the Secretary-General on youth related matters.
(<http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/>)

- **13:00: Luncheon at Columbia University with Peace & Human Rights Education teachers and students**
In 1899, Teachers College at Columbia University became the first graduate institution in the United States to develop a program that is now called International and Comparative Education (ICE). In recognition of the unprecedented dimensions of issues of security, war and peace, human rights and global justice, and sustainable development in a world of violent conflict, the ICE program offers a degree concentration in Peace & Human Rights Education. Peace & Human Rights Education are primarily concerned with addressing direct, structural & cultural violence through the transformation of pedagogy, curriculum, and policy related to education in both formal and non-formal contexts.
(<http://www.tc.columbia.edu>)

- **14:30: Roundtable at City University of New York with the Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies department**
The CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies (CUNY BA), established in 1971, is a small, university-wide alternate program intended for self-directed, academically strong students who have clear and well-formulated academic and career goals. With guidance from a full-time CUNY faculty member who agrees to serve as a mentor, each student is able to design an individualized area of specialization. Some students have completed degrees ranging from American Revolutionary History to Zoological Photography; there is almost no limit to what students can pursue through this degree route. (<http://cunyba.gc.cuny.edu>)

- **16:30: Meeting with Arts and Resistance Through Education**
Arts and Resistance Through Education (ARTE) is an organization that uses art, design, and technology to empower young people to develop creative solutions and bring awareness to local and global human rights challenges, fostering leadership opportunities to train and organize other young people in their own communities. In this work, ARTE remains at the intersection of community organizing, democratic participation and global citizenry, first established as a way to make the universal instruments of human rights and fundamental freedoms more accessible and relevant to teens between the ages of 13 and 21, through public, art-based community projects. Such projects have included, but have not been limited to, volunteer hip-hop mural projects within schools and in neighbourhood community spaces. (<http://www.artejjustice.org>)

Saturday, October 29:

- **10:00: Discussion with Black Lives Matter and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity**
#BlackLivesMatter was created in 2012 after George Zimmerman was acquitted for the crime of 17-year old Trayvon Martin. Rooted in the experiences of Black people in this country who actively resist our dehumanization, #BlackLivesMatter is a call to action and a response to the virulent anti-Black racism that permeates our society. Black Lives Matter is a unique contribution that goes beyond extrajudicial killings of Black people by police and vigilantes. (<http://blacklivesmatter.com>)
Alpha Phi Alpha is a fraternity established for African American Men and was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. The fraternity initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice. Alpha also recognized the need to help correct the educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by African Americans. Alpha Phi Alpha has long stood at the forefront of the African-American community's fight for civil rights through leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. Alpha Phi Alpha has been interracial since 1945. (<http://www.apa1906.net>)
- **13:00: Departure to New York JFK airport**
- **17:30: Departure to Berlin, flight Air Berlin AB7249**

Berlin, Germany – October 30th to November 2nd

Hotel: Amano Grand Central, Heidestraße 62, 10557 Berlin

Sunday, October 30:

- **06:05:** Arrival in Berlin
- **13:00:** 2016 MENA Fellows – Mid-Trip Debriefing
- **15:00:** Guided tour to the Berlin Wall

Monday, October 31:

- **09:00:** Meeting at the Berghof Foundation
The Berghof Foundation is an independent, non-governmental and non-profit organization that supports efforts to prevent political and social violence, and to achieve sustainable peace through conflict transformation. Its mission is to promote a world in which people maintain peaceful relations and overcome violence as a means of political and social change. (<http://www.berghof-foundation.org>)
- **11:00:** Meeting with Schools Without Racism
School without racism - school with courage is a project made by and for pupils, committed to fight all forms of discrimination. It offers children the opportunity to actively shape the school environment while developing a sense of civism. Schools Without Racism is the largest school network in Germany and works with more than 2,000 schools and over a million pupils. (<http://www.schule-ohne-rassismus.org>)
- **14:00:** Meeting at the Federal Foreign Office
- **16:30:** Meeting at Amnesty International – Presentation of the report on hate crimes in Germany
Hate crimes have soared in Germany in the last few years, with an 87% increase in violent racist crimes between 2013 and 2015 and a sixteen-fold increase in the crimes targeting shelters for asylum-seekers. Long-standing shortcomings in the response to hate crimes have not been addressed by German authorities. This report analyses on-going failures to record, investigate and prosecute hate crimes effectively, all of which point to the existence of a broader problem of institutional racism within German police and judicial authorities. The report also examines the police response to the rise of attacks on asylum seekers and shelters. (<https://www.amnesty.org/en>)
- **18:30:** Concert at Forum Dialog with FAITHS IN TUNE
FAITHS IN TUNE seeks to build bridges between people of different cultural and faith backgrounds through the comparatively non-political and easily accessible medium of music. By providing an accessible and safe space at its Interfaith Music Festivals where people can experience and share music from different faith and interfaith backgrounds, and exchange and engage in peaceful dialogue with each other, FAITHS IN TUNE enables festival participants to build cross-faith relations, and helps them to reduce their ignorance and fear of other faiths. (<http://www.faithsintune.org>)

Tuesday, November 1st:

- **09:30: Meeting with Ali Aslan, journalist and TV host**
Ali Aslan is the host of the international talk-show Quadriga on Deutsche Welle TV. Born in Turkey and raised in Germany, Ali Aslan has worked as a journalist for leading television networks around the world. For four years, Ali Aslan worked for the German Islam Conference on assignment from the then German interior minister Wolfgang Schäuble. In 2010, he participated in the first edition of the UNAOC Fellowship Program, as a Fellow of the 2010 EUNA Cohort. (<http://www.aliaslan.de>)
- **11:30: Meeting at the House of One**
Three religions, one house of worship. This is the project the House of One wants to achieve, by bringing a synagogue, a church, and a mosque under one roof. The three separate sections will be linked by a communal room in the centre of the building. This will serve as a meeting place, where worshippers and members of the public can come together and learn more about the religions and each other. (<http://house-of-one.org/en>)
- **14:30: Meeting with Dialogue With School**
Dialog Macht Schule is German for “Dialogue with school”. It teaches schools on ways to commit to a democracy in which all social groups can shape society regardless of their social and cultural origins. The association aims at helping schools to meet the demands of an increasingly diverse student body. It also help schools promote democratic awareness to encourage students to develop into self-determined individuals, guided by their own strengths and in collaboration with others’. Dialogue in school has been designed by taking into consideration the needs of ethnically diverse schools with a high proportion of socially disadvantaged students. The program focuses on enhancing personal development, civic education and inclusive teamwork. (<http://www.dialogmachtschule.de>)
- **17:00: Meeting with Give Something Back to Berlin**
Give Something Back To Berlin is the largest project platform and network that makes social engagement and neighbourhood work accessible to the large migrant population of Berlin. The project started on Facebook and grew organically into a huge community, both on and offline, comprised of hundreds of skilled volunteers in over 60 social projects all over the city. The projects can be anything from homeless centres, mentorship programs for underprivileged youth, working with the elderly or creative work with children. In April 2016 GSBTB was chosen as the first place winner of the Intercultural Innovation Award, a UNAOC project in collaboration with the BMW group. (<http://www.givesomethingbacktoberlin.com>)

Wednesday, November 2:

- **09:00: Meeting at Deutsch Welle Arabic**
Deutsche Welle is Germany's public international broadcaster. The service is available in 30 languages in order to further promote German culture and interests to an international audience. Deutsche Welle has been broadcasting since 1953. Its radio services in Arabic were launched in 1959. (<http://www.dw.com>)
- **12:00: Departure to Berlin Tegel Airport**
- **15:20: Departure to Paris, flight Air France AF1535**

Paris, France – November 2nd to 6th

Hotel: Mercure Paris Tour Eiffel Grenelle, 64 boulevard de Grenelle, 75015 Paris

Wednesday, November 2:

- **17:05:** Arrival in Paris

Thursday, November 3rd:

- **09:00:** Meeting with Cafébabel

Cafébabel is the first European participatory magazine made for young Europeans across borders. Cafébabel is published in 6 languages - English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Polish - and relies on a network of 1,500 volunteer authors, translators, photographers and filmmakers in Europe. On Cafébabel, people talk about Europe “in Real Life”. Always dynamic with an off-the-wall style, sometimes funny but sometimes serious as well, Cafébabel covers society, politics, culture and lifestyle topics that suit young Europeans. Cafébabel’s founder Alexandre Heully participated in the UNAOC Fellowship in 2012. (<http://www.cafebabel.fr>)

- **11:00:** Meeting with the Collective Against Islamophobia in France

The Collectif Contre l’Islamophobie en France (CCIF or Collective Against Islamophobia in France) is a Human Rights advocacy group founded in 2003 with the mission to fight Islamophobia. Defined as "acts of discrimination or violence against institutions or individuals because of their affiliation, real or supposed, to Islam", the latter has been increasing since the early 2000s. The CCIF was created to respond to the lack of recognition of Islamophobia as a specific phenomenon by traditional anti-discrimination organizations. (<http://www.islamophobie.net>)

- **14:30:** Meeting at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- **17:00:** Meeting at Sciences-Po with – Promising Women of the Mediterranean Program

Femmes d’Avenir en Méditerranée (or Promising Women of the Mediterranean) is a training program that selects every year 22 women from the South Mediterranean region for their achievements in the promotion of gender equality. For two weeks, the selected candidates will benefit from Sciences Po’s scientific and academic teachings through the Research and Academic Program on Gender thinking (PRESAGE) and from Sciences Po’s high level networking within the political, scientific, cultural and business worlds. The program also includes a visit to European institutions in Strasbourg. Modules on law, leadership, management, gender, and conflict resolution are part of the training program. (<http://blogs.sciences-po.fr/womed/>)

Friday, November 4th:

- **09:00:** Meeting with TF1 Foundation

Since its creation in 2007, the TF1 Foundation has been working on the professional integration and growth of youth from deprived neighbourhoods within the TF1 Group. TF1 Group is a French media holding company, owner of channel TF1, and the largest European private TV channel. To that day, about a hundred of young people between 18 and 30 years old have benefited from TF1 Foundation’s professional training. Most of them now work for the TF1 Group, in all the departments of the company. Beyond their professional training, these young people also acquired strong knowledge in business and media. (<http://www.groupe-tf1.fr/en/engagements/fondation>)

- **11:30: Meeting with TF1 Foundation executives**
- **12:00: Meeting with TF1 journalists**
- **13:00: Lunch at the TF1 Club with journalists**
- **15:00: Meeting with the association ENQUETE**
 Nowadays in France, religious issues have become a source of tension between communities. This degradation of the social fabric feeds on ignorance and mutual incomprehension. ENQUETE seeks to promote life in community around the notion of secularism and to foster the acceptance of all beliefs, including atheism. To that end, ENQUETE has developed a tool-kit to help children from 7 to 11 learn more about religion from a secular and non-sectarian angle. The goal is to enable them to better understand the environment they live in, its relationship to time, space, and symbols. The hope is to enable these children, once teenagers or adults, to raise these issues in a peaceful and constructive way. (<http://www.bondyblog.fr>)
- **17:30: Meeting with the association Zonzon 93**
 Through educational activities, Zonzon93 works on preventing crime among children and youth from deprived neighbourhood. The association offers a panel of artistic, cultural and sports activities. Zonzon93 also actively works towards the socio-professional integration of teenagers from these neighbourhoods, getting them ready for professional life, with workshops dedicated to writing resumes and cover letters. Zonzon93 also works with parents to ensure continuity between its actions and the family's involvement into their children's lives.

Saturday, November 5th:

- **10:00: 2016 MENA Fellows – Conclusion session**
- **13:30: Guided visit of Le Louvre Museum**
- **16:30: Meeting with the Bondy Blog**
 Bondy Blog is an online platform covering deprived neighbourhoods and making sure that the voices of people living in these areas are being heard on the national debate. Bondy Blog was created in 2005, during the riots that exploded in the French suburbs. Fifteen journalists decided to create a dedicated blog and for three months they covered the violent events from within the suburban city of Bondy. This approach was new for mainstream French media, often accused of being disconnected from the reality of these neighbourhoods. For the first time, people living in these urban areas could recognize their daily lives in media coverage. It also allowed readers from other neighbourhoods to realize how different life could be in deprived areas. The blog became a success and a central source of information for mainstream media. The online audience kept growing and in 2007, the threshold of one million of cumulative readers was reached. In 2009, Bondy Blog received the Challenge Award for "best political blog". (<http://www.bondyblog.fr>)

Sunday, November 6th:

- **06:30: Departure to Paris CDG airport**
- **09:40: Departure to Seville, flight Vueling VY8831**

Cordoba, Spain– November 6th to 9th

Hotel: Eurostars Conquistador, Calle Magistral González Francés, 15-17, 14003 Córdoba

Sunday, November 6:

- 12:10: Arrival in Seville. Transfer to Cordoba
- 20:30: Welcome dinner

Monday, November 7:

- 9:00: 2016 MENA & EUNA Fellows – Introduction session
- 11:00: Roundtable at Casa Arabe on Interfaith Dialogue
- 12:30: Guided visit of the Mosque/Cathedral of Cordoba
- 15:00: Guided visit of Madinat Al-Zahra
- 17:00: Guided tour of the city of Cordoba
- 20:30: Dinner in the city

Tuesday, November 8:

- 7:00: Departure to Granada
- 9:00: Guided visit of Al-Alhambra
- 14:00: Guided tour of the city of Granada
- 15:30: Return to Cordoba
- 18:00: 2016 MENA & EUNA Fellows – Closing session
- 20:30: Dinner in the city

Wednesday, November 9:

- All day: Departure