



## **United Nations Alliance Of Civilizations**

### **Fellowship Program 2017**

-

***Participants from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)***

***October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 18<sup>th</sup> 2017***



Federal Foreign Office

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



2017 UNAOC Fellowship Program – MENA Participants





**Abdelsamee Abdallah (Egypt)** is cultural activists and trainer with civil society. He is working currently as a trainer of Action Aid ARI/Jordan in Advocacy, Campaigning and Youth Leadership, in addition to his experience in capacity building with local, regional and international organizations. He has BA in Theater and diploma in Multi-media. As a cultural activist, he is Theatre director and Film maker, and he has different cultural and artistic initiatives in Egypt and the Arab region; Abdelsamee has co-founded Atabet Fann

association based in Palestine and works in regional level in Art and Media fields, in addition to his artistic group “Sailors for Arts” in Alexandria, which includes several projects such as Bahharah for Arabic Short Film Forum (BASFF). Abdelsamee is active member of regional Mediterranean networks such as Cultural Innovators Network (CIN), Robert Bosh network for cultural managers and Tandem shaml, and he has participated in several cross-cultural projects. Abdelsamee received different awards due to his participation in regional theatre festivals and from ministry of Culture in Egypt.



**Ahmed Ibn Nejma (Tunisia)** is young activist involved with local NGOs in Tunisia. Since 2009, he has been working with several NGOs for different causes both on the national and international level. He participated in 2012 in the Tunisian national environmental advocacy campaign "Protect" which resulted in the enacting of new laws in the new Tunisian constitution to protect the environment. In the same year, he was a member of the local NGO GDA Sidi

Amor working on a "Compressed Earth Bricks" construction techniques for the construction of ecological houses in Tunisia. He also worked with the Tunisian Association for Management and Social Stability to empower women on entrepreneurship skills. In 2013, he joined the Vermont Workers Center in Burlington VT and 350 Vermont to advocate for environmental rights. Back to Tunis in 2014, he joined “L'Action Associative” to implement the Participatory Budgeting in Tunisia as pioneer project. Today, Ahmed is a national expert in the Participatory Budgeting Process. He is training and supporting local municipality members and Local CSOs members in 11 Tunisian municipalities to implement the Participatory Budgeting in their local municipalities in order to help construct a trustful relationship between citizens and the state institutions.



**Aya Chebbi (Tunisia)** is an award winning peace activist and renowned blogger. She is the co-founder of the Voice of Women Initiative (feminist collective) and founding Chair of Afrika Youth Movement. Aya's passion for youth empowerment intersects with a vision for peace. As the Programs Director at World Peace Initiative Foundation, she founded and led dynamic peace projects such as Heya Fellowship for Women and MENA Salam fellowships that trained hundreds of young people to become peace agents and she introduced non-violent communication to over 5000 youth from some 40 countries across Africa and the Middle East. She currently sits on the Board of Directors of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, the International Steering Group of UNOY Peacebuilders and joined the World Refugee Council as the youngest Councilor. In 2012, she was a Fulbright scholar at Georgia Southern University and 2015 Mo Ibrahim Scholar for her MA in African Politics at SOAS, University of London. In recognition to her achievements, Aya appeared on top lists of people to watch at the Huffington Post as well as 100under40 Most Influential Arabs in the World. She is also 2016 Inspirational Woman of the Year Award winner by Women4Africa UK.



**Emadeddin Badi (Libya)** is a Business management graduate. Recognizing the urgent need for Libya to undergo a post-Arab Spring cultural change in 2012, Emad worked as an international soft skills trainer at Dale Carnegie Training, focused on engaging Libyans to solve conflicts via dialogue. To this day, Emad continues promoting dialogue-based solutions through his work in Civil Society on two fronts. Emad is CEO of Project Silphium, a Libyan NGO, and has helped diversify PS' to become a well-established and trusted platform promoting gender equality and advocating for women involvement in peacebuilding solutions. Emad also actively champions SCR2250/SCR1325 on Youth/Women involvement in Peace and Security, having represented Libya in the Arab States Consultation on Youth, Peace and Security in Amman and delivered tangible recommendations on their application in Libya and MENA. Emad's works full-time with Peaceful Change Initiative, an international peacebuilding organization, where he assumes a dual role: he leads on the Conflict Sensitivity Analysis for UNDP's Stabilization Facility and consults on the alignment

of community-led initiatives with social peace and local development needs. Through this work, Emad channels PCI's vision of empowering local leaders to build sustainable and conflict sensitive peace building initiatives.



**Fatima A Banawi (Saudi Arabia)** holds a Masters Degree in Theological Studies with a focus on Women, Gender, and Islamic Studies, from Harvard University. Prior to her masters, Al-Banawi worked against violence at the Family Protection Society in her home city Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Al-Banawi combines consultancy, writing, and performance to deepen the conversation and strengthen the bridge between social impact work and the arts. She has co-founded the Theatre of the Oppressed Jeddah Chapter in 2010 and

staged one of its plays at Harvard Arab Weekend in 2014. Later in 2015, she launched The Other Story Project, a platform that documents and represents personal narratives through storytelling toward psychosocial development and a realization of our shared humanity. She became known for her debut in the celebrated Saudi feature film Barakah Meets Barakah.



**Hafssa Ait Tabamoute (Morocco)** is a project coordinator for Réseau des Association de Tinghir pour le Développement et la Démocratie. She works with five women associations in the South East of Morocco where she organizes trainings and workshops for them about Advocacy, Gender and Leadership. The objective is to give these associations the tools and the expertise that will help them create a better change in their communities through their NGOs. Last year, Hafssa served for a year as a volunteer for Coprs

Africa/Maroc organization. She was placed in a small village near Marrakech city where she organized many events such as the Ecological Caravan, a two-day sensitizing sessions for kids and women about hygiene, and a bio-compost and bio-agriculture day for men working in agriculture. Hafssa implemented and equipped a kindergarten for kids and a literacy and handcraft class for women. Since 2011, she co-founded E-news, an online news paper that aims at giving a voice to Ouarzazate city, write about the events happening there and try to bring change through positive articles, pictures and reportages.



**Hayder Al Shakeri (Iraq)** is a youth advocate from Iraq who worked on development and youth issues in Iraq and MENA. He has an interest in post-conflict development and youth participation in decision making in addition to an interest in media specifically citizen journalism. Hayder finished his Bachelors degree at the American University in Beirut and worked after that in different parts of Iraq for three years prior to moving to London to finish his Masters degree in Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Hayder has a passion for volunteering and volunteered in many youth initiatives including a project with the United Nations Development Program in Iraq, Startup weekend Baghdad, the Lebanese Red Cross, TEDxB Beirut, Ahalna campaign and others. Additionally Hayder is an alumni of the Tomorrow's Leaders program from the Middle Eastern Partnership Initiative at AUB, an alumni of the Young Leaders Visitors Program from the Swedish Institute, a fellow at HIVOS for IGMENA and currently a holder of the Chevening Scholarship to finish his Masters degree in London.



**Hazem Balousha (State of Palestine)** is a Palestinian journalist based in Gaza City. He has worked as a news producer for BBC World Service, contributed to Deutsche Welle and has written for The Guardian, Al-Monitor, Washington Post, Al-Raya (Qatar) and other publications. He is the founder of the Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development (PICD), He was Board chairman for four years and now he is the Chairman Deputy.



**Ihab Salameh (Jordan)** is the head of MENA office for Global Nomads Group (GNG); an international organization based in New York city in the United States of America that aim to foster dialogue and understanding among world youth. Since 2014, he has been running GNG's MENA office located in Amman, Jordan. In 2014, Ihab started serving as Global Nomads Group's MENA head of office; managing GNG's programs to scale in the region through partnerships and overseeing MENA staff in program

implementation and school support to establish procedures and standards, organize office operations, Inspired by his technological background and intercultural professional opportunities, Ihab's current work in virtual cross-cultural exchange has reflected his belief in the impact of virtual intercultural exchange and the role that technology play in connecting the world's youth to learn more about each other's cultural and communal backgrounds and empowering them with 21st century skills needed in today's workforce and learners' human growth as whole person.



**Marwa Shabbar (Iraq)** was born in Najaf, Iraq and she came to Australia as a refugee with her family in mid 2001. Since her arrival in Australia she had to integrate with the Australian culture and was driven to create an intercultural dialogue between the Iraqi and the Australian community. She is a passionate young person who dedicates most of her time volunteering and supporting causes that nurture multiculturalism and social inclusion. She has completed a Bachelor of Law and Legal Practice and a Bachelor of Behavioral

Science Honors (Psychology). She commenced her professional career at the Women's Legal Service (SA) Inc. before moving to private legal practice in 2015. In her volunteering capacity, Marwa is a board member of the Migrant Resource Centre of Australia, member of the Multicultural Youth Link of South Australia Inc., member of the Iraqi Women's Voice of South Australia Inc. and she sits on many boards and roundtables that aim at combating hate and advocate for social inclusion. Marwa has vast experience in supporting and advocating for youth issues and social inclusion.



**Sara Tallawi (Egypt)** started interning at Al-Ahram Weekly, as soon as she graduated 13 years ago. She began covering protests and riots in 2005 when the political scene in Egypt was incredibly tense with more people demanding the removal of President Hosni Mubarak. She started freelancing with different papers and magazines, mainly focusing on humanitarian stories and the struggles of women. She also freelanced for different international media organizations such as NPR. She worked at the Daily

News Egypt and then seven years later, she became the political editor of the paper;

she led teams of reporters while covering some of the most intense news in modern Egyptian history; the clashes in downtown Cairo under military rule in 2012, the ousting of Islamist President Mohamed Morsi, the arrests of activists and human rights lawyers under the rule of President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi. She worked for the BBC in 2014 and produced different radio and TV segments. She also produced two documentaries.



**Sarah Shmaitilly (Lebanon)** is a community worker, researcher, writer, and photographer. She is active in different social and political collectives that are trying to improve the future of society in Lebanon. She has also co-founded a grassroots, alternative media and slow-journalism website called Beirut Syndrome which focuses on topics that are often overlooked by mainstream media. She has worked for years at local organizations with refugees from Syria and Palestine on programs that enable and promote

better livelihoods. Sarah studied psychology and political science at Haigazian University, and received two scholarships to study abroad at the University of Vienna and Temple University in Philadelphia where she joined other curious minds from around the world to learn more about human rights, cultural studies, international law, migration, and other social sciences that shape many of her views today. Sarah currently works as a consultant supporting local and international organizations with developing programs that are relevant and efficient. Sarah seeks to network with people from around the world in an effort to fight radicalism and join hands with those who are trying to develop and promote positive narratives.



***United Nations Alliance Of Civilizations***

***Fellowship Program 2017***

-

***Participants from Europe and North America (EUNA)***

***October 15<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup> 2017***



Federal Foreign Office

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



2017 UNAOC Fellowship Program – EUNA Participants







**Athar Ahmad (U.K.)** is a multi-award winning reporter and documentary maker for the BBC. His work focuses on exploring the nuances and intricacies of minority communities, providing a platform for voices and ideas often ignored by the mainstream media. Athar's work is renowned for its robust, analytical yet sensitive deconstruction of often complicated issues, from an undercover investigation into the sexual exploitation of divorced Muslim women in the UK, to his award winning documentary on mental health conditions faced by men with body image issues. Athar regularly appears across international BBC news programs, providing analysis and insight on television, radio and online. He has presented feature length documentaries for the BBC World Service and has made films for a number of the BBC's flagship news programs including Newsnight and the Victoria Derbyshire program. Athar's tenaciousness and specialism in delivering original forms of investigative journalism has seen him recognized as a key ethnic minority voice within the industry, leading to him being shortlisted for New Journalist of the year at the British Journalism Awards. Athar also has a MA in Broadcast Journalism from City University, London.



**Elena D'Angelo (Italy)** graduated in Political Science, MSc in Cooperation and Development at the University of Turin. She holds a BA in Media Languages, Theory and Practices of Information, at the Catholic University of Milan. She joined the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in 2010, where she is currently working. Her work is mainly focused on applied research, training for law enforcement and legal professionals and technical cooperation. Ms. D'Angelo is the author and co-author of several publications on the following topics: transnational organized crime, data protection, 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 is visiting fellow at the United Nations University (UNU-ViE SCYCLE), mainly dealing with illicit trafficking of waste and sustainable policies. She is also consultant for the Research Institute on Crime and Security (RiSSC), dealing with hate crime and hate speech related activities. Before coming

to UNICRI, Ms. D'Angelo worked with multiple international organizations and NGOs (Belgium, Brazil, Iran), both at the institutional level and in the field, dealing with development and gender-related issues.



**Florian Danner (Austria)** is an Austrian TV journalist and morning show anchor of Germany's broadcast network ProSiebenSat.1 Media AG, currently stationed at the network's bureau in Vienna, Austria, co-anchoring the most watched morning show in the country, Cafe Puls on PULS4. Furthermore, he is the station's special correspondent for major news events like the refugee movement throughout Europe, the last four U.S. presidential elections, the Afghanistan war, the resignation of Pope Benedict and the following conclave that led to the pontificate of Pope Francis, the financial crisis and political upheaval in Greece and much more. He recently spent four months in the United States to work for NBC News, MSNBC and WNBC in New York City as well as CNBC in San Francisco, California, as part of the Arthur F. Burns Fellowship 2016. In 2008, he received the US-Austrian Journalism Exchange Fellowship to work for CNN International in Atlanta, Georgia. Before becoming a journalist, Florian studied international relations and world order at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. After receiving training at German journalism schools like the ARD ZDF media academy in Mainz, RTL journalism school in Cologne, etc. Danner started his journalism career at a local radio station.



**Indre Anskaityte (Lithuania)** is a three time awarded Lithuanian journalist, who focus on the geopolitics of the Middle East and North Africa. She has produced several radio documentaries focusing on social aspects, tolerance and history that have received the highest broadcasting award in Lithuania three times in a row. Indre pursued her undergraduate in Journalism, the field that she was interested in ever since she was 10 years old. After two years of studies she has been invited to join the Lithuanian National Radio and Television, and work for the Radio News Service, where she soon realized that she feels the most passionate about the foreign news and events developing in the Middle East. Her growing interest in the geopolitics of the Middle East, has inspired her to study her graduate studies in Israel, where she studied

Peace and Conflict Management Studies. After her Master studies, Indre has returned to Lithuania where she started working as a foreign news editor in the Lithuanian radio. Later on, she started hosting a weekly foreign news program, and started working in the radio documentary group, where she usually tries to cover stories not only from Lithuania but abroad as well.



**Jasmin Hasic (Bosnia-Herzegovina)** holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Universite libre de Bruxelles and LUISS Guido Carli of Rome. His research interests revolve around diaspora studies and demographic changes associated with post-conflict migration, along with peacebuilding and transitional justice in multicultural societies. As a part of this Ph.D. research, he conducted fieldwork in 25 local communities in Bosnia-Herzegovina. His work has been generously supported by the EU Commission,

Open Society Foundations, and ULB's CCCI. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Humanity in Action Bosnia-Herzegovina, an international non-profit focused on minority and human rights. He has worked as a Research Analyst at the Center for Security Studies in Sarajevo and as a legal associate at the Crime Suppression and Re-Socialization Initiative focusing on evaluating the efficacy of the Bosnian penal system reform. He has completed professional traineeships at the European Parliament and the Bosnian Embassy in Brussels. Jasmin holds an LL.B., and an LL.M. (Hon) from the University of Sarajevo. He completed his undergraduate education at Masaryk University in the Czech Republic, majoring in International Relations and European studies, and holds an M.A. degree in Political Science from Central European University.



**Kacper Dziekan (Poland)** works as a European Projects Specialist in the Civic Culture Department at European Solidarity Centre. He is also a PhD student at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. Dziekan holds BA and MA in history and BA in Eastern Studies from the above-mentioned University. He is also a graduate of a European Academy of Diplomats, Moscow School of Civic Education and a former student of Irkutsk State University, Russia. Kacper Dziekan worked as a Project Coordinator and Youth

Worker for several government organizations and NGOs. Moreover he is Involved

in educational, cultural, social, history and civic projects, especially regarding post soviet countries.



**Kay Atanda (U.S.A.)** has extensive experience working in multilateral affairs and policy analysis. At the World Bank's New York Office, he supports the Special Representative in strengthening the Bank's high-level political, strategic, and operational partnership on a range of thematic and technical agendas across the UN system and with New York-based development partners. Previously, as a Policy Adviser at the Permanent Mission of the UK to the United Nations, Kay advocated key international

development priorities and negotiated a UN political declaration to tackle the critical public health challenge of anti-microbial resistance (AMR) which was successfully adopted at the 71st session of the General Assembly. He also worked in the Obama White House on legislative affairs and budgetary issues. Kay received a bachelor's degree in political science and public policy from the Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at The City college of New York, where he graduated as valedictorian. He later earned a master's degree in foreign affairs and human rights from Columbia University where he was a Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellow with the U.S. Department of State.



**Klara Hoskova (Republic Czech)** was born in Prague, back then a country belonging to the Communist block. At an early age she moved to Heidelberg in Germany. During high school, she developed a strong interest in different countries and cultures. Academically, she has always been interested in modern global history, politics, literature and media. In university, she focused on democratization processes in the former Communist block, researching the importance of civil society and the transparency of

media for a stable democracy in her master's thesis. During and after university, she has been working on various projects in the fields of media, civil society and education: teaching in Finland, working on the German film festival in Prague, developing a website on films dealing with the Czech-German border, working for the Council of Europe, filming in Tunisia and working as a teacher in Heidelberg

and Prague. Currently, she establishes various projects in the cross fields of education, media, civil society and interculturality.



**Mareike Hachemer (Germany)** is a high school teacher for German, English and Drama in Wiesbaden, Germany and a delegate to the International Department of the Ministry of Education in Hesse, Germany. She is on a mission to connect all learning to the UN Global Goals and therefore shares ideas as a speaker and author with teachers all over the world. As a member of the Pestalozzi Program, the Council of Europe program for the professional development of teachers and education actors and as a UNESCO

delegate for the role of teachers in Peace and Sustainable Development, a top 50 finalist in the Global Teacher Prize 2015 and Teacher Prize Jury Member 2017, she supports an education that fosters intercultural competences and active citizenship. She is a Fellow for the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes in Kansas. Her ideas are published in public speeches such as "Teaching - The Most Important Profession in the World", given at TEDxHeidelberg. She is writing a book about global education and wants to produce a documentary about intercultural teaching and learning.



**Nicole Bannister (U.S.A.)** is a globally-minded, collaborative professional with 8 years of experience implementing community development projects in 10 countries. Adept at cross-cultural communication and integrating into diverse international communities, Nicole is passionate about leveraging the existing resources of marginalized communities to enact sustainable empowerment initiatives. Nicole currently serves as the Partnerships Associate at Atlas Corps in

Washington, DC, where she liaises with American civil society, business, and government stakeholders to host emerging international social change leaders for a yearlong professional Fellowship. Prior to this, she worked for Grassroot Soccer in Cape Town, South Africa, facilitating sports-based adolescent health trainings for implementing partners across the African continent. Nicole served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in South Africa where she worked alongside local counterparts to develop literacy and public health interventions for 300 youth. Nicole speaks 3.5 languages and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Culture and Politics from Georgetown

University's School of Foreign Service. While at Georgetown, she coordinated a rehabilitation program for incarcerated men by organizing university students to teach weekly classes at jails in Washington, DC. Through these experiences, Nicole has gained expertise in partnership building, training development and facilitation, cross-cultural communication, and youth and community capacity building.



**Tomas Horvath (Slovak Republic)** After receiving a Master's Degree in Management at the Comenius University in Bratislava, Tomas has worked for a the business sector in Canada and managed events in Vancouver and Calgary. Slowly he spent more time cooperating with the non-profit organizations and dedicated part of his life to volunteer work across three continents. Discovering management as a great tool for more effective cooperation in the NGO field, he became a Project Manager at Caritas Slovakia. He

has coordinated development and humanitarian projects in Europe, Africa and Middle East and later stayed working at the Health and Education projects directly in East Africa for several months. He is now Project Manager at the Slovak NGDO Platform where he leads umbrella projects for the Slovak NGOs related to the SDGs and PCSD topics. Tomas is also a Member of the Steering Committee of the Health Initiative Association (CSO), works closely with the media and journalists to bring development and humanitarian topics in the Slovak media space and is a Consultant to the Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Informatization of the Slovak Republic, giving an expert inputs to the National Implementation Plan on SDGs.



**Viorica Trincu (Romania)** is Television section chief for Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan. She is responsible for the production of Resolute Support content to explain its mission and activities to a broad public in order to create a supportive atmosphere for the conduct of military operations under UN mandate. Viorica is a specialist in the field of Psychological and Information Operations, Communications, Media Operations and International Affairs. She has planned

and implemented media programs in order to increase the popular support for the Afghan National Security Forces and the Government of Afghanistan and decrease support for anti-government elements. Also, Viorica has developed several TV

campaigns to empower the Afghan women and to increase the quality of the Afghan educational system. Viorica is also involved in a PhD at National Defense Academy in Bucharest. Her thesis is related to Hybrid threats and their social, economic, and political implications for individual countries and their societies. Lieutenant in the Romanian Army, Viorica has also supported her multinational comrades, earning two US medals.