



UNAOC Fellowship Alumni Event:
“The role of media and civil society in fostering peace”

Organized by UNAOC and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN

ALUMNI RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Transformational Power of Media

- Raise awareness and develop capacity building through the power of media to positively influence societies.
- Credible, objective and balanced reporting by journalists through focusing on creative ideas used to address grievances that would narrow the differences between nations.
- Encouraging and supporting citizen journalists to tell their societies’ stories.
- Encouraging and supporting youth to be critical consumers of media on one hand and to participate in their communities’ discourses through their media productions on the other hand.
- Creating special training programs for future religious leaders, which, will enable them to interact more with “secular society”.

2. Building Peace Through Diversity and Inclusion

- Include more non-traditional actors in decision-making processes in local peacebuilding.
- Enhance the capacity of local facilitators that work on promoting trust-based relations among people.
- Incorporate conflict sensitive frameworks taking into account contextual factors to align programming with social peace and local development needs.
- Enhance coordination between key stakeholders and different peacebuilders.

3. How to Combat Hate Speech?

- International harmonization of the legal definition of hate speech; clear and comprehensive definition at national level of hate motives, such as nationality,

ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion and disability.

- Encourage reporting of hate speech by targeted individuals or groups to online platforms and relevant authorities to allow a better understanding of the phenomenon and to undertake effective counter-measures.
- Increase the sense of responsibility on the media in giving platforms to groups or individuals who promote hate speech.
- Promote better representation in the mainstream media of minority groups.
- Support grassroots community groups and marginalized communities to create independent forms of media productions to ensure we have multiple perspectives.
- Fostering a more peaceful and inclusive environment that would encourage responsibility and engagement by including meditation, civic education and philosophy to education curricula from a very early age.

4. Connecting Humanity through Stories and the Arts

- Ensure that funds are prioritized to strengthen projects by artists aimed at social integration and psychophysical well-being, especially involving residents from insular communities.
- Leverage and promote existing arts institutions and programs that engage in peacebuilding, rather than creating new multinational initiatives.
- Build the capacity of educators and curricular designers to promote global citizenship, civic engagement, critical thinking, multiple literacies and expression.
- Collaborate in broad support of the arts sector, in both rural and urban locations, investing in the development of the creative skills needed to meet labor demands and to sustain arts entrepreneurship activities.