



## **United Nations Alliance Of Civilizations**

### **Fellowship Program 2017**

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

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



Federal Foreign Office

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**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.



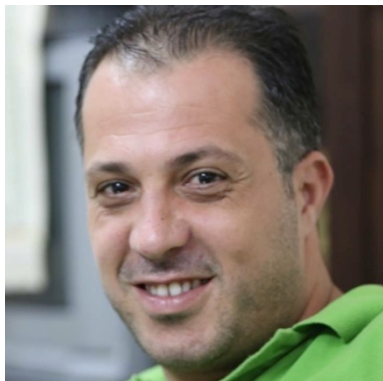
**Hafssa Ait Tabamoute (Morocco)** is a project coordinator for Réseau des Association de Tinghir pour le Développement et la Démocratie. She works with five women associations in the South East of Morocco where she organizes trainings and workshops for them about Advocacy, Gender and Leadership. The 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, TEDxBeirut, 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.