

towards universal peace



JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS FOUNDATION **GLOBAL ACTIVITIES**





The Journalists and Writers Foundation

The Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) was established by a group of distinguished writers, scholars, and journalists in 1994 to contribute to peaceful coexistence and dialogue by bringing together intellectuals from all political spectrums with different cultural, religious, ethnic and ideological backgrounds that belong to the many diverse disciplines in science, religion, philosophy, politics, and art. Its mission is to look for ways of building a common living space based on reconciliation and mutual respect. Currently, there are five different platforms relied upon to organize the work of the Foundation; each platform specializes in different aspects of building dialogue. These include the Abant Platform, Dialogue Eurasia, the Medialog Platform, the Intercultural Dialogue Platform, and the Women's Platform. There is also a Research Centre. JWF holds General Consultative Status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council, being the first and only institution to achieve this status in Turkey.





JWF Gains 'General Consultative Status' with ECOSOC



The Journalists and Writers Foundation was entitled to have General Consultative Status at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) meeting in 2012, by the unanimous voting of 54 member countries. Only 147 institutions hold this consultative status throughout the world.

"General Consultative Status members have the right and authority to, if required, go directly through ECOSOC to the UN Secretary-General for agendas and proposals. Presently we are the first and only organization in Turkey with this status."

"Programs can be offered based on economic and political issues on a global scale within the framework of the United Nations' plans and projects during its annual period. An NGO can participate as a partner in one of the programs or prepare a report regarding a separate problem and present it to the United Nations. It can also be involved in lobbying actions with other NGOs regarding a given problem. An organization with this authority and support from the United Nations can take an active role in global human-centered incidents and international organizations of every kind."

Mustafa Yesil, JWF President

As of this date, the JWF, within the framework of its mission and vision, shares its opinions in relevant UN platforms with other UN agencies, international NGOs and foreign missions via written or oral statements.



Istanbul Summit: Women's Perspectives on UN Post-2015 Development Agenda

MAY 31 – JUNE 1, 2014 /ISTANBUL

The Istanbul Summit is an international CSO summit which aims to gather prominent figures from every quarter of the international community with a new topic each year. The first summit, "Women's Perspectives on the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda," was held at the Fatih College Congress Center in Istanbul. The main objective of the Summit was to ensure that the views of women are adequately represented in future work designed to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

More than 300 participants from 45 countries, including members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), parliamentarians, academics, activists, and journalists, discussed the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will be worked towards after the 2015 deadline passes for the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



The Summit started with a welcome reception that also hosts the Peace Projects 2014 Grants Award Ceremony. The Istanbul Summit had a very dynamic start with the opening ceremony on May 31, 2014. Following the opening remarks of Müşerref Özer, Secretary General of JWF Women's Platform, Nafis Sadik - Special Adviser to the Executive Director of UNAIDS - delivered the keynote. Also, video message of the High Commissioner of the United Nations Human Rights Navi Pillay was presented before four discussion sessions organized around Development Agenda's environmental, economic, and social dimensions and the role of civil society on development goals. The sessions provided the opportunity for registered representatives of CSOs to deliver oral statements.



Second day started with seven working groups and a parliamentary roundtable followed by a plenary session titled "Making the New Sustainable Development Agenda Work" and finished with the announcement of the Final Declaration, Working Groups Outcome, Call For Action of the Parliamentarians.

Participants had a chance to experience the beauty of Istanbul, announced as the top travel destination of the world by Trip Advisor's 2014 Travelers' Choice, with a cocktail cruise along the Bosphorus.





Peace Projects Grant Program

AWARD CEREMONY ON MAY 30, 2014 /ISTANBUL

Peace Projects is a grant program launched by The Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) to support innovative conflict resolution and peacebuilding projects focused on preventing, managing and resolving violent conflict and promoting post-conflict peacebuilding. JWF seeks to support individuals and organizations that strive to prevent or respond to conflicts and establish enduring peace.

Peace Projects Grant Program awards support projects up to US\$50,000 that apply a broad range of disciplines, skills and approaches promoting peaceful coexistence through dialogue and reconciliation; fostering pluralism, good governance, freedom of belief; advancing social and economic development and environmental responsibility; upholding respect for human rights, and gender equality and empowerment, among others. Not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

In its first year, the Peace Projects Award Ceremony took place at the Zaman daily's headquarters in Istanbul, Turkey, on May 31, 2014. This year, the Peace Projects program evaluated 1,179 project proposals from 107 countries. Of those, 17 were chosen as finalists in early May. The finalists were invited to Istanbul for the award ceremony, where 10 of the projects were chosen to each receive a grant worth up to \$50,000. All of these projects involved multiple peacebuilding strategies, ranging from dialogue to environmental responsibility to social and economic development. The projects also respected human rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of women.

List of Grant Recipients

Project Title	Project Location
A Dialogical Roadmap towards Resolving the Cyprus Conflict	Australia, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey
Collaborating for Peace (CfP): A Capacity-building Program for Israeli and Palestinian Peacebuilding Organizations Location	Israel, Palestine
Educating for Peace: Arabic & Hebrew Literature in the School: Teaching the Literature of the Other	Israel, Palestine
Fostering Peace through Intercultural Education in a Post Conflict Society: Understanding Peru's Internal Conflict Ten Years after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report	Peru
Media Advocacy Program: Young Human Right Journalists	Afghanistan
Men and Women as Partners in Peacebuilding	Burundi, Rwanda, DR Congo
Mitigating the Prolonged Culture of Youth-led Violence through Education	Nigeria
Supporting the Reintegration of Former Combatants in Colombia through the Inclusion of Women and Faith Actors	Colombia
The Day Will Come: A Film About Men in the DRC Who've Broken the Cycle	Congo, United States of America
Voices of Justice	Colombia

List of the Finalist

Capacity Building on Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation for Grassroots Peacebuilders in the Asia-Pacific Region	Philippines
Promoting Peace Journalism and Media Professionalism in the West Bank Palestine	Palestine
Reconciliation through Dialogue: Preventing Dangerous Conflict between China and Japan	China, Japan, United States of America
The Role of Faith in Conflict Transformation (RFCT)	Afghanistan, Nigeria, Thailand, United Kingdom
The World Through the Eyes of Women: Empowering Young Women Leaders	Sri Lanka

In May 2016, the ten grant recipients will be evaluated again, and awards will be given to the three most successfully-implemented projects.

The Peace Project grants are to be given annually. Applications are open for the second term. September 30, 2014 is the closure of application window and summary proposal submission deadline.





Philanthropy and Peacebuilding: Classical Approaches and Emerging Trends

APRIL 10-12, 2014 / ISTANBUL



The International Conference on
Philanthropy & Peacebuilding
Classical Approaches and Emerging Trends

The JWF and Kimse Yok Mu, a Turkish humanitarian aid organization, organized this international conference at Istanbul Bilgi University's Santral Campus in Istanbul, Turkey. Speakers from 19 countries attend-

ed the two-day conference, which analyzed philanthropy's actual and potential contributions to conflict resolution processes. Conference participants considered philanthropy's effectiveness by questioning who "gives," as well as what, how, when, and where this civic engagement is realized. The first day of the conference focused on the economic and business-related aspects of philanthropy, while the second day focused on peacebuilding efforts.

"Philanthropy is not an issue reserved solely for NGOs; rather, it is a philosophy that applies to non-profit organizations as well as people's everyday lives."

One of the main ideas from the keynote speech of **Dr. Paul Schervish**, Director of the Center on Wealth and Philanthropy at Boston College

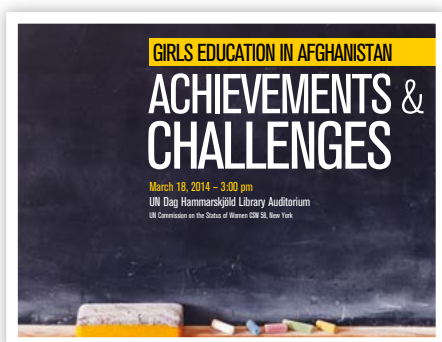




Girls Education in Afghanistan: Achievements and Challenges

58th session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW58)

MARCH 18, 2014 / NEW YORK



Working alongside Peace Islands Institute New York (PIINY) and the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the UN, the JWF Women's Platform co-organized an official side event. The panelists discussed the achievements of the Afghan government in girls' education and the challenges of implementing education policies. Moderated by Irwin Arief, a former Reuters correspondent who had worked at the UN bureau, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the UN Zahir Tanin delivered the opening speech with the JWF Vice President Hüseyn Hurmalı. Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN Marten Grunditz and the UNICEF gender equality expert Anju Malhotra delivered a speech as well. Dr. Semiha Topal, who made a presentation about her field research about Afghan-Turkish schools in Afghanistan was the last panelist. Topal stated that she observed in her studies in Kabul that the Afghan-Turkish schools fill the gap for 'quality education' which is high in demand in Afghanistan.

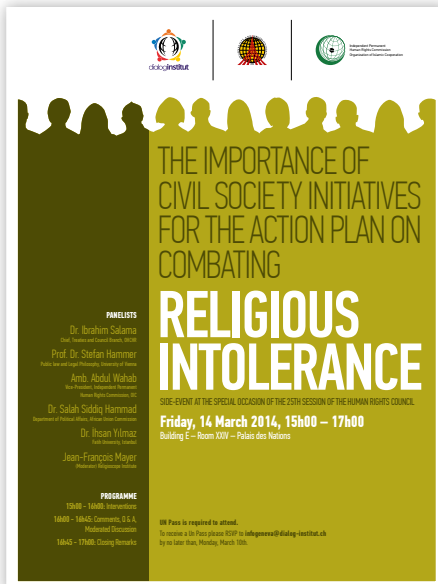


The Importance of Civil Society Initiatives for the Action Plan on Combating Religious Intolerance

25th session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

MARCH 14, 2014 / GENEVA

The JWF held a panel on “The Importance of Civil Society Initiatives for Combating Religious Intolerance” together with the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) and Dialog-Institut at the United Nations Office in Geneva. Academics and diplomats attended the panel, which was organized as a side event during the 25th session of the UNHRC. During the event, academics and diplomats came to an agreement that freedom of expression must be defended, but they also recognized the fact that this freedom should not be abused to justify hate speech. In this context, the panel discussion on universal respect for sacred values emphasized the importance of freedom of expression and thought.



THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVES FOR THE ACTION PLAN ON COMBATING RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

PANELISTS

- Dr. Ibrahim Sabano
Chief, Department of Islamic Law, UNHRC
- Prof. Dr. Stefan Hammer
Professor and Chair of Islamic Law, University of Vienna
- Amb. Abdul Wahab
Ambassador, Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Dr. Salah Sadiq Hamed
Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN
- Dr. Hasan Yilmaz
Ambassador, Turkey
- Jean-François Mayer
Ambassador, Switzerland

Friday, 14 March 2014, 15h00 – 17h00
Building E – Room XXIV – Palais des Nations

PROGRAMME

- 15h00 – 15h10: Introduction
- 15h10 – 15h20: Welcome, I.A.A. Medals
- 15h20 – 15h30: Opening Remarks

UN Pass is required to attend.
No entrance fee. Free of charge. RSVP to info@jwfglobal.org or info@dialog-institut.ch
by no later than Monday, March 10th.





The 32nd Abant Platform Forum Freedom of Expression and Respect to Sacred

MARCH 8-9, 2014 / ADDIS ABABA

In a joint meeting with the African Union Commission's Department of Political Affairs, the Abant Platform hosted 155 distinguished participants from 15 countries in the capital of Ethiopia. A common talking point at the forum was the United Nations Human Rights Council's (UNHRC) Resolution 16/18, which was adopted in 2011 and focuses on the struggle against intolerance toward different religions. Abant participants agreed that the resolution provides common ground for the international community to promote both the freedom of expression and respect for the sacred. They also agreed that because these two values are complementary, the freedom of expression cannot be equated with the freedom to attack sacred values. The 32nd Abant Platform was held in line with recommendations from the 29th Abant Platform in June 2013, titled "Africa: Between Experience and Inspiration."

"The Abant Forum... considering the social and legal aspects of FoE [freedom of expression] and RfS [respect for the sacred], emphasizing that FoE is not to destroy societies but to build them ... calls upon international and regional organizations to take policy measures in line with the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Resolution 16/18."

Final Declaration of the 32nd Abant Platform Forum





1914-Peace-2014 Series

FIRST PANEL ON 28 FEBRUARY, 2014 / VIENNA

1914-Peace-2014 is an inter-religious and intercultural series of events marking the centennial anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. The series kicked off its first event with a lecture by Dr. Fuat Sanac, President of the Islamic Religious Community in Austria, on February 28, 2014. The 1914-Peace-2014 series was jointly organized by the Friede-Institut für Dialog ("Peace Institute for Dialogue") and the Institut für Religion und Frieden ("Institute for Religion and Peace") of the Catholic Military Diocese of Austria. Additional partners included the Vienna-based Forum für Weltreligionen ("Forum for World Religions") and the Journalists and Writers Foundation. The first event took place at the Jakob-Kern-House of the Austrian Military Diocese.



Ambassadors Series Africa Panel: African Solutions to African Problems

FIRST PANEL ON FEBRUARY 12, 2014 / NEW YORK



JWF and Peace Islands Institute in New York (PIINY) held the first panel in the African Ambassadors Series in New York on February 12, 2014. The series aims to create a space for United Nations diplomats, academics, experts, and civil society to discuss global issues and exchange multiple perspectives. Last panel, Ambassadors Series Africa Panel #3: African Solutions to African Problems, brought United Nations diplomats from Botswana, Chad, and Burundi together with academics, experts, and civil society to discuss global issues and exchange multiple perspectives. The event was held on May 14, 2014.



Peace and Sustainable Development: A Two Way Relationship

Panel discussion during the United Nations Open Working Group's 8th Session

FEBRUARY 7, 2014 / NEW YORK

The JWF co-organized a panel on the relationship between peace and sustainable development with the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the UN and with Peace Islands Institute at the United Nations (UN). Without underestimating international and national efforts, NGOs must be considered as an essential part of the implementation and monitoring of UN development goals due to their ability to work with locals. The allocation of resources needs to be implemented efficiently without failing to include all essential stakeholders.



The JWF Representative Selected for UN Open Working Group's Steering Committee

NOVEMBER 2013 / NEW YORK

Galymzhan Kirbassov, JWF's New York representative to the United Nations (UN), has been selected as a member of a steering committee that will coordinate a discussion panel during the Fifth Session of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The committee is tasked with selecting two panelists and a number of speakers from the floor during the OWG's morning session. JWF is a member of a major group within the UN and has been contributing to policies on peacebuilding, education, the empowerment of women, and sustainable development.

United Nations High-Level Forum on Culture of Peace

SEPTEMBER 6, 2013/ NEW YORK

The Vice President of Journalist and Writers Foundation, Huseyin Hurmalı delivered a speech on "The Role of Interfaith Cooperation in Promoting a Global Culture of Peace" at the High-Level Forum, in which Vuk Jeremic, the President of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly, made the opening speech.



High Level Segment of the ECOSOC 2013 Substantive Session

Annual Ministerial Review

JULY 1-26, 2013/ GENEVA



In its **written declaration** at the Annual Ministerial Review themed “**Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals**”, the Journalists and Writers Foundation highlighted the significance of scholarly education in sustainable development, and recommended that Turkish schools across the world be acknowledged as a success model for its contributions to global peace and national education.



Sustainable Women's Rights

57th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

MARCH 5, 2013 / NEW YORK

The JWF Women's Platform delegation carried out the "Sustainable Women's Rights" panel which was the first activity within the framework of the United Nations at which the Republic of Turkey Permanent Delegation of the United Nations was present on the 5th March 2013. Fatma Sahin, Minister of Family and Social Policy, made the opening speech on the panel, "Present and Future of Women and Girls, the adaptability of the Turkish Coordination Model for Other Countries".



Oral Statement

57th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW57)

MARCH 6, 2013 / NEW YORK

The JWF Women's Platform, in its statement at the CSW57, highlighted the fact that domestic violence and the increasing violence against women in Turkey should be prevented through the activities of the government and non-governmental organizations. The statement concluded by saying that education and awareness can only turn into action by trusting governmental and nongovernmental institutions and by encouraging women's socioeconomic development.



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