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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **GLOBAL CENTRE FOR PLURALISM AWARDS ALICE WAIRIMU NDERITU OF KENYA WITH THE 2017 GLOBAL PLURALISM AWARD**

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCES KENYAN WOMAN A WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S INAUGURAL AWARD FOR HER SUCCESSFUL APPROACH TO PEACEMAKING THROUGH MEDIATION IN AFRICA**

**OTTAWA – October 3, 2017** – Alice Wairimu Nderitu of Kenya is a leader in preventing and transforming hostilities – brokering peace throughout Africa. The [Global Centre for Pluralism](http://WWW.PLURALISM.CA/EN/), an international research and education organization dedicated to advancing respect for diversity around the world, is celebrating Nderitu's outstanding achievements by selecting her as a winner of the inaugural [Global Pluralism Award](#).

“Throughout her career, Alice Nderitu has worked to promote pluralism at all levels of mediation and conflict prevention,” said Joe Clark, former Prime Minister of Canada and Chair of the Jury. “Her values-based approach helps parties to envision a viable alternative to conflict. She has led them to appreciate diversity, allowing the interests, values and participation of different groups to be respected. Her example offers a much-needed path forward for the many ongoing conflicts around the world.”

Nderitu is a peacemaker, conflict mediator and gender equality advocate. Using both traditional and modern approaches to peacebuilding, she negotiates behind the scenes with African leaders at the highest levels to prevent violence, particularly leading up to elections. In 2015, she mediated an armed conflict among 29 ethnic communities in Southern Kaduna Nigeria and successfully advocated for women and youth to be included in the process. In 2016, she was the lead mediator of an inclusive dialogue among 56 ethnic communities in Nigeria's Southern Plateau.

Leading up to her most recent achievements, Nderitu, as one of three mediators, steered an impressive 16-month peace process in Kenya's Rift valley as Commissioner of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission, which led to the region's first peaceful elections in 20 years. She was the only female mediator at the peace table with 100 elders from ten ethnic communities.

Alice was also a founder and co-chairperson of the Uwiano Platform for Peace, a conflict prevention agency that was the first to link early warning to early response in Kenya and is largely credited with leading efforts to ensure peaceful processes during the 2010 Constitutional referendum and 2013 elections.

The Global Centre for Pluralism, founded by His Highness the Aga Khan and the Government of Canada, will recognize Alice Wairimu Nderitu's and two other Global Pluralism Award winners, Daniel Webb of Australia and Leyner Palacios Asprilla of Colombia, for their extraordinary and innovative work to advance respect for diversity at the inaugural award ceremony on November 15, 2017 in Ottawa, Canada. Each winner will receive \$50,000 CAD to further their work.

### **About the Global Centre for Pluralism**

Founded in Ottawa by His Highness the Aga Khan in partnership with the Government of Canada, the Global Centre for Pluralism is an independent, charitable organization. Inspired by Canada's experience as a diverse and inclusive country, the Centre was created to advance positive responses to the challenge of living peacefully and productively together in diverse societies.

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### **Award Winners:**

[Leyner Palacios Asprilla](#), Comité por los Derechos de las Víctimas de Bojayá, Colombia [Alice Wairimu Nderitu](#), Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Kenya  
[Daniel Webb](#), Human Rights Law Centre, Australia

### **Honourable Mentions:**

[ATD Quart Monde](#), France  
[BeAnotherLab](#), Spain  
[Fundación Construir](#), Bolivia  
[Hand Talk](#), Brazil  
[Sawa for Development and Aid](#), Lebanon  
[Wapikoni Mobile](#), Canada

[Welcoming America](#), United States