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## **GLOBAL CENTRE FOR PLURALISM NAMES SAWA FOR DEVELOPMENT AND AID AS AN HONOURABLE MENTION OF THE 2017 GLOBAL PLURALISM AWARD**

### **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZES YOUTH-LED LEBANESE ORGANIZATION FOR ITS RELIEF EFFORTS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES**

**OTTAWA– October 3, 2017** – Youth-led organization, [SAWA for Development and Aid \(SDAID\)](#) of Lebanon has successfully worked with Syrian refugees to not only provide humanitarian support but also to build their capacities as contributors to their new society. The [Global Centre for Pluralism](#), an international research and education organization dedicated to advancing respect for diversity around the world, has recognized SDAID with an honourable mention for the [2017 Global Pluralism Award](#).

“As refugees enter a new society, they encounter a number of new challenges,” said John McNee, Secretary General of the Global Centre for Pluralism. “The work of SAWA for Development and Aid goes beyond offering the basic humanitarian support of food and shelter. Their work helps to reduce tensions between the host society and refugees and provides educational and work opportunities so that the refugees can be active participants in the community.”

SDAID offers a multi-faceted relief system for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and, now, in the United Kingdom. Not only does SDAID provide traditional humanitarian relief with 16 tented camps that hold thousands of refugees, the organization also provides education and livelihood programs to help refugees become financially independent. Led by Syrian and Lebanese volunteers, SDAID feeds more than 4,000 people on a daily basis, while also preparing Syrian children for Lebanese schools at their educational centre. SDAID also incorporates cash-for-work into their programs, employing around 50 refugees at any one time. All of SDAID’s

programming is conceived, designed and implemented by refugees, which ensures that its work is directed at the issues that matter most.

The Global Centre for Pluralism, founded by His Highness the Aga Khan and the Government of Canada, will recognize SDAID, along with six other honourable mentions and three winners, Daniel Webb of Australia, Alice Wairimu Nderitu of Kenya and Leyner Palacios Asprilla of Colombia, for their commitment to building more inclusive societies on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Global Pluralism Award Ceremony in Ottawa, Canada.

### **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