



# GLOBAL PLURALISM AWARD

**2025 LAUREATES** CHAMPIONS OF PLURALISM

[award.pluralism.ca](http://award.pluralism.ca)

## THE GLOBAL PLURALISM AWARD RECOGNIZES **PLURALISM IN ACTION.**

Presented every other year to individuals, organisations, governments and businesses from around the world, the Award celebrates the inspiring and brave work that is helping to build more inclusive societies where diversity is valued and protected.


The Award is conferred by the Global Centre for Pluralism, an independent, charitable organization founded by Prince Karim al-Hussaini Aga Khan IV and the Government of Canada, and is made possible in part by the generous support of TD Bank Group.

A PROGRAM OF:



WITH THE SUPPORT OF:





“...as we walk together on that road, the example set by others can be a powerful source of inspiration. That is why the Global Center for Pluralism has established this Award. Their essential purpose is to share the power of inspiring examples with an even wider community of pluralism all across our world. A community that will then create a growing momentum for inclusion as a way to respond to the changes of our world.”

*-His Late Highness Aga Khan IV*

## YEARBOOK CONTENTS

### p.04

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

At the Global Centre for Pluralism, we dedicate ourselves to advancing positive responses to diversity.

### p.06

#### MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL JURY

The laureates' work helps to give a living expression to the meaning of pluralism and we are proud to see their accomplishments being celebrated.

### p.08

#### AWARD SCULPTURE

The Global Pluralism Award sculpture intergrates the tréfoil motif of the Centre's headquarters in a dodecahedron.

### p.10

- » A Land for All (Israel and Palestine)
- » Colombia Diversa (Colombia)
- » Southern Africa Litigation Centre (Regional)

### p.19

- » Artistic Freedom Initiative (USA/Switzerland)
- » Cesta von (Slovakia)
- » Mais Diferenças (Brazil)
- » New Life Trust Organization (Afghanistan)
- » Nonviolent Peaceforce (International)
- » Coordinadora Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas (CONAMI) (Mexico)
- » Sudanese Youth Network for Ending the War and Establishing a Democratic Civil Transformation (Regional)



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

In a world consumed by vitriol and division, it's easy to view our differences as the problem – as something bound to divide us. Yet radically practical acts of bringing people together to solve big challenges are taking root. They are happening here in Canada and around the world.

Within these actions are the kernels of the collective will that we need to meet this moment. This may not seem like a moment of possibility - but it is. This is the time for pluralism.

The people creating these possibilities are practical problem-solvers who refuse to accept that challenges are too large to confront. Since 2017, the Global Pluralism Award has been an opportunity to seek out and celebrate these leaders. This year we introduce 10 new extraordinary laureates, who will join the last 4 cohorts for a total of 50 pluralism leaders recognized over the last 10 years.

» CREDIT: ALEX UNAI ARRIETA

## Message from the Secretary General

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05

The Global Pluralism Award, like all our work, is inspired by the legacy of our co-founder, His Late Highness Aga Khan IV. Over his lifetime, His Late Highness saw the transformative power of embracing diversity as a strength rather than something to be feared. He understood that valuing our shared humanity allows us to bridge even the deepest divides, and channel differences into progress and possibility, as demonstrated again by the 2025 Pluralism Award laureates.

We are grateful for the work of our esteemed international jury who selected these laureates from over 300 submissions from 64 countries. We would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Marwan Muasher who for the second year in a row has led this process as Chair of the jury.

I invite you to join us in congratulating and celebrating our extraordinary 2025 Global Pluralism Award laureates.

**Meredith Preston McGhie**

**Secretary General**



» CREDIT: ALEX UNAI ARRIETA | Meredith with Dr. Marwan Muasher and Dr. Comfort Ero, Chair and member of the Global Pluralism Award Jury.

## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL JURY

The Global Centre for Pluralism is pleased to announce the jury for its 2025 Global Pluralism Award, now entering its 5th cycle. Global Pluralism Award jurors are renowned experts in a range of disciplines related to pluralism, including policymaking, peacebuilding, human rights, foreign affairs, linguistic diversity and media.



**Antonio Zappulla**  
CEO, Thomson Reuters  
Foundation  
United Kingdom



**Comfort Ero**  
President and CEO,  
International Crisis Group  
United Kingdom / Nigeria



**Gam Shimray**  
Secretary General, Asia  
Indigenous Peoples Pact  
Thailand



**Stephen Toope**  
OC, FRSC, LLD  
President and CEO, CIFAR  
Canada



**Marwan Muasher**  
Vice President, Carnegie Endowment  
for International Peace, Chair  
Jordan



**Reeta Roy**  
President and CEO of the  
Mastercard Foundation  
Canada / Rwanda



**Yásnaya Aguilar Gil**  
Ayuujk (Mixe) linguist, writer, translator,  
and Indigenous rights activist  
Mexico

Along with my prestigious fellow members of the independent international jury for the 2025 Global Pluralism Awards, I would like to congratulate this year's laureates. We are united in our admiration of the organizations recognized this year for their extraordinary work reaching across difference to build prosperous, peaceful communities.

Nowhere in the world today is immune from threats to human rights and security. And yet in the work of the 2025 laureates, some of whom are operating in the most difficult contexts in our world today, we see the transformation of hatred and violence into hope and belonging.

Pluralism—real, lived pluralism—is the antidote. It is the belief that people with radically different identities, histories, and traumas can live together without erasing one another.

These ten 2025 laureates are pushing boundaries for inclusion, forging partnerships with governments to expand the impact of their work, advocating in global forums to galvanize support, and creating partnerships and networks, sometimes with unexpected allies, to build the momentum of their work. Their impact and achievements illustrate the power of collective action in the fight for a more pluralistic world.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my esteemed colleagues on the jury for their commitment and wisdom, and to the Global Centre for Pluralism for facilitating this crucial opportunity to once again recognize pluralism in action.

The ten pluralism champions described in these pages inspire us deeply, and we hope will inspire all of you.

**Dr. Marwan Muasher**

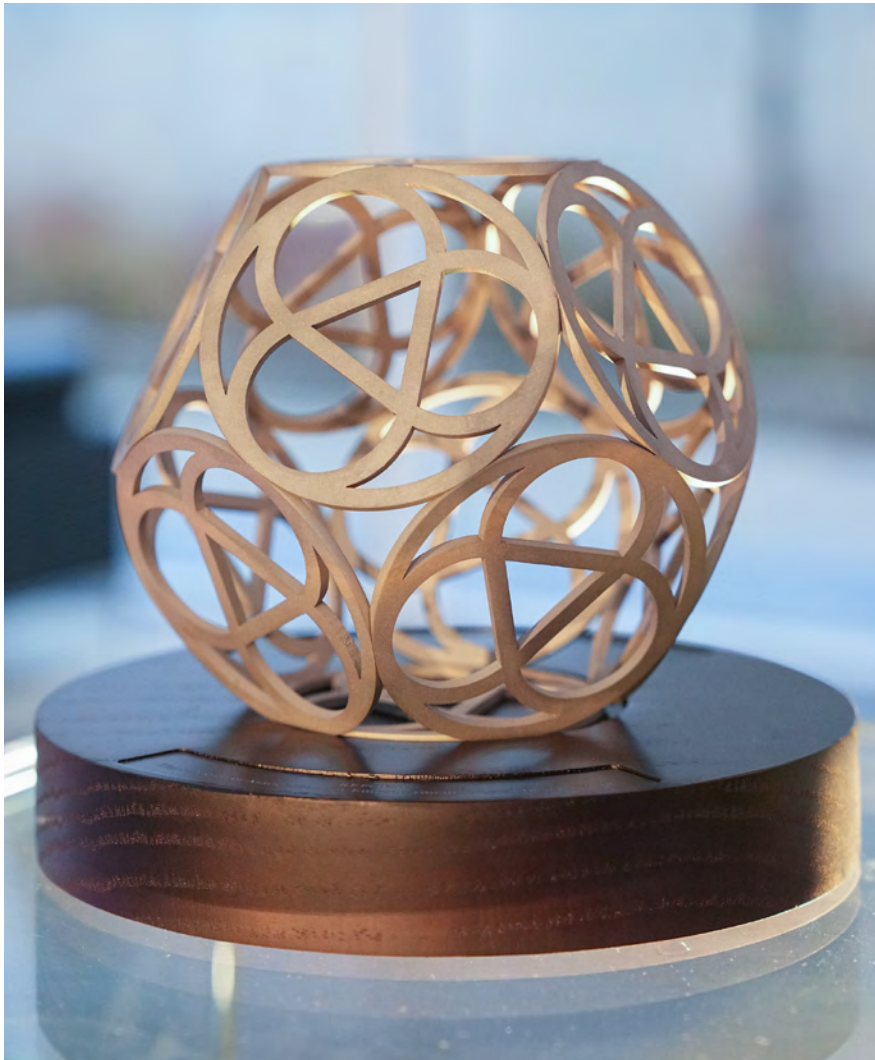
**Vice President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Jury Chair**

## Award Sculpture

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08



» CREDIT: ANDREA CARDIN

## AWARD SCULPTURE

Each winner will receive a commemorative sculpture designed by the late Karl Schlamming, a renowned German artist; handcrafted by Toronto-based art foundry and fabrication studio, Maker Technical Sculpture Services.

The Award sculpture is made of noble materials: sandblasted stainless steel for the sphere, black oak for the plinth and anodized aluminum for the name plates.

### THE PRIZE

Award winners each received \$50,000 (CAD) to support their efforts to advance pluralism.

The Centre also works with the awardees on engagement and awareness-raising activities to bring an international profile to their work.

## Award Sculpture

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The Global Pluralism Award sculpture integrates the lattice motif of the Centre's headquarters at 330 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Canada: a geometric dodecahedron.

By extracting 12 units from that lattice and recombining them into a dodecahedron, Schlamminger's design reinforces the idea of a global perspective. The filigree allows the viewer to look through the object, having a total view of the inside and outside. When pointed to the light, the intersected harmony of aspects integrated within the three-dimensional artwork becomes apparent at the resulting interplay of light sections, shadow, and ever-new vantage points, symbolizing pluralism.



» CREDIT: ANDREA CARDIN

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## 2025 AWARD WINNER

# A LAND FOR ALL

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

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An Israeli-Palestinian movement promoting a visionary future where two states exist within a shared homeland, prioritizing reconciliation and a shared belonging despite current polarization.

[www.2s1h.org](http://www.2s1h.org) | [@2states1homeland](https://twitter.com/2states1homeland)

» CREDIT: YAM GAL | Rula Hardal.  
Co- Executive Director, A Land for All.

On October 10, 2023, just three days after the outbreak of the most devastating violence in the region in decades, the board of A Land for All—seven Israeli and seven Palestinian members—met for the first time as a formal body.

This was more than a meeting; it marked a turning point. After years as a decentralized network of activists, the binational movement had just transitioned into a more structured organization - committed to making its vision more impactful and resilient.

The timing could not have been more difficult. The Hamas-led attack on southern Israel had shattered lives and cast deep doubt on the future of any shared political project. Amid shock, grief and uncertainty—even about the continued existence of its own movement—the newly formed board came together. Not in denial of reality, but in defiance of despair.

Even in the shadow of catastrophe, the board affirmed that despair could not be the final word. A Land for All would carry on—with more clarity, more urgency, and a deeper commitment than ever. Under the joint leadership of May Pundak and Rula Hardal—one Israeli, one Palestinian—A Land for All puts forward a bold vision: two sovereign states, living side by side in one shared homeland.

This new political paradigm is centred on the idea that each national group needs and has a right to self-determination as an independent state with a separate representative government.

At the same time, the confederation model recognizes the right of all the land's people to visit, study, work and live as permanent residents across the shared homeland. These rights would go hand in hand with shared responsibility—on public health, climate change policies, and land and water use.

A Land for All's political approach dares to imagine a political future built on interdependence—not as a compromise, but as a moral commitment. A Land for All is grounded in the belief that all people deserve the fundamental freedom to live in safety, dignity, and self-determination.

## Award Winner: A Land For All

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12

### The organization is rooted in five core values:

**Diversity:** A Land for All is made up of people from both communities and a range of political, religious and cultural identities and perspectives.

**Respect for differences:** The group's work is based on the acknowledgement of each other's experiences and grievances.

**Shared goals:** A Land for All is dedicated to ending conflict, achieving reconciliation, and building a shared future of peace, respect and mutual recognition.

**Collaboration:** The group's work begins with the desire of both Israelis and Palestinians for a political solution that reflects their collective needs. Together, they have developed a vision that moves beyond segregation toward a future rooted in shared interests, mutual recognition, and deepening integration.

**Inclusivity:** A Land for All ensures that all voices are heard so the needs and aspirations of people throughout the region are recognized and reflected.

A Land for All's commitment to pluralism has inspired the group to strengthen its internal organization and governance processes, to forge greater and broader connections in support of its confederation model, and to carry out policy research and development that translates the model into a functional reality. Above all, from that first board meeting, pluralism has fuelled the group's belief that hope is a powerful action and that a land for all Israelis and Palestinians is a hope whose time has come.



» CREDIT: YAM GAL | May Pundak and Rula Hardal. Co- Executive Directors, A Land for All.

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## 2025 AWARD WINNER

# COLOMBIA DIVERSA

COLOMBIA

Advances justice and inclusion for LGBTIQ+ people through strategic litigation and unprecedented dialogue with oppositional groups, including evangelical leaders and former combatants.

[www.colombiadiversa.org](http://www.colombiadiversa.org) | [@colombiadiversa](https://twitter.com/colombiadiversa)



» CREDIT: ESTEVAN PADILLA | Marcela Sánchez.  
Co-Founder and Executive Director of  
Colombia Diversa.

## Behind closed doors, members of the Afro-Colombian LGBTIQ+ community meet with faith leaders. There is tension here.

Colombia is considered to have one of Latin America's strongest legal frameworks in defending LGBTIQ+ rights. Unfortunately, protections are not often enforced, and the church, a core centre of community for many Colombians, has not always been welcoming.

The meeting is one of a series hosted through Colombia Diversa's Building Bridges for Peacebuilding initiative. The aim is to create safe spaces where LGBTIQ+ community members and Christian leaders from different denominations can find collective understanding. The initiative has encouraged some pastors to welcome the participation of marginalized congregations for the first time. For some other church leaders, the initiative builds on their opposition to violence against LGBTQ+ communities as a step toward embracing same-sex marriage.



**Award Winner: Colombia Diversa**

2025 // Laureates: Champions of Pluralism

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The largest organization of its kind in the country, Colombia Diversa is founded on recognition of our common humanity as the first step toward understanding. The organization believes democracy is strengthened by differences, and pluralism urges people to go beyond mere tolerance to real inclusion. Its research, advocacy and litigation work has defended the rights of LGBTIQ+ people since 2004. And the organization has helped secure landmark judicial victories, such as the historic decision to include LGBTIQ+ victims in the 2016 Colombian peace agreement, which has helped ensure the testimonies of LGBTIQ+ survivors were heard before the Special Jurisdiction for Peace—the transitional justice mechanism through which combatants who participated in the Colombian armed conflict were investigated and tried.

Partnerships are another way Colombia Diversa increases the participation of marginalized groups in the legal system. The organization has found solidarity in coalitions such as the GPAZ Alliance (Gender in Peace Working Group), which advocates to include gender perspective in peace agreements, and the 1325 Resolution Coalition, which promotes the women, peace and security agenda in Colombia.

Regionally, Colombia Diversa led the building of the LGBTI+ Litigants Network of the Americas to connect communities for co-operation in human rights. On the global stage, the organization has appeared before the United Nations Security Council to shed light on the impact of war on LGBTIQ+ people—the first Security Council briefing on LGBTIQ+ issues in a conflict setting.

For Colombia Diversa, it was just one more step toward its ultimate goal of a pluralist Colombia where diversity is valued and protected, and everyone can live freely and authentically without fear of discrimination or persecution.



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2025 AWARD WINNER

# SOUTHERN AFRICA LITIGATION CENTRE

REGIONAL

Supports marginalized populations across 12 African countries through landmark litigation to overcome systemic barriers to full legal, social, and environmental participation.

[www.southernafricalitigationcentre.org](http://www.southernafricalitigationcentre.org) | @SALC



» CREDIT: DJEHA ELOGE | SALC partner leads session at the SALC's Regional Activists' Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In a crowded conference room in Johannesburg, parliamentarians from across the region have been invited by the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) to develop standards for legal reform related to prisons.

What is clear, is that most individuals in the room have very little experience with the challenges facing prisoners in crowded jails, some of whom have been incarcerated for the crime of being poor and resorting to actions such as begging or sex work. Listening to a former prisoner share their story, some in the room begin to realize that with one bad stroke of luck, they too could have found themselves in a similar situation. And suddenly the idea of raising minimum standards in prisons, or decriminalizing poverty, becomes more compelling.



» CREDIT: DJEHA ELOGE | Partners from SALC's network discuss approaches during a s SALC's Regional Activists' Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa.

**Award Winner: Southern Africa Litigation Centre**

2025 // Laureates: Champions of Pluralism

[award.pluralism.ca](http://award.pluralism.ca)

The Southern Africa Litigation Centre promotes and advances human rights and the rule of law in Southern Africa, primarily through strategic litigation and capacity-strengthening support to lawyers and grassroots organisations. SALC has brought forward more than 100 cases which have helped eliminate discriminatory laws in Malawi, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Eswatini and other countries in the Southern African states. Based in South Africa and active in 12 countries in the region, SALC works to ensure that the rule of law and human rights are respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled.



Engagement with marginalized communities is key. Marginalized people often struggle to be heard and assert their rights—and the courts can be an effective way to shift norms as you can't protect rights systemically without legislative change.

However legal changes are not enough if they are disconnected from what is happening on the ground—the messaging and follow-up are important. That's why SALC mobilizes and unites individuals and groups, building capacity at the grass roots level and recognizing that fostering community-level support.

In addition, SALC creates opportunities for judges and state representatives—even with those who are on opposite sides of an issue—to hear directly from individuals most impacted by legal discrimination and exclusion as part of their deliberations to create standards for the region. This profound commitment stems from SALC's abiding faith in people, rooted in evidence that hearing from people firsthand is the greatest way to change mindsets.

» CREDIT: ESTEVAN PADILLA | Mayeso Gwanda.



## HONOURABLE MENTION ARTISTIC FREEDOM INITIATIVE

UNITED STATES/SWITZERLAND

Provides critical legal and resettlement services to persecuted artists from over 60 countries, preserving cultural memories, languages and identities despite repression in their home countries.

[www.artisticfreedominitiative.org](http://www.artisticfreedominitiative.org) | @ArtisticFreedomInitiative

» CREDIT: NOSRAT TARIGH | Noura Mint Seymali performs at Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, November 2019.

**Honourable Mention: Artistic Freedom Initiative**

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[award.pluralism.ca](http://award.pluralism.ca)

“Lawyers are not always the most empathetic people in the world, but that was very different with AFI”, said Margarita Kuleva a Russian interdisciplinary artist. “I found lawyers who were very interested in my work.”

After becoming a vocal critic of the war in Ukraine, Margarita needed to leave Russia. Now, Margarita is a practicing artist in the NYC area and teaches at NYU Arts & Science and Steinhardt. She is just one of the thousands of artists from more than 60 countries and in more than 40 disciplines who have been supported by Artistic Freedom Initiative (AFI). Since its inception in 2017, AFI has provided pro bono support to over 4000 at-risk artists and family members.

» **CREDIT: GEOFFREY TAYLOR** | A visual artist and Artistic Freedom Initiative beneficiary stands in front of her work in her NYC studio.



## Honourable Mention: Artistic Freedom Initiative

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AFI's mission is to uphold artistic expression as a core pillar of democracy and artistic freedom as a means for artists to continue to shape, celebrate and preserve the cultural narratives of silenced and marginalized groups. Although there are plenty of organizations that support human rights and free expression, AFI provides a holistic mix of direct legal, immigration and resettlement services to artists at risk of persecution or censorship, combined with in-depth reports to strengthen rights protection mechanisms and actionable policy recommendations to support advocacy.

AFI also amplifies the work of artists in exile. Its Artists for Social Change public arts program, for example, helps artists raise their voices against racism, xenophobia and patriarchy. Artists for Social Change, alongside their Legal and Resettlement programs, work in tandem to open doors for artists to collaborate with US and Europe-based artistic partners.

The organization's Global Policy & Advocacy team builds on evidence gathered during case work. It publishes country-specific human rights reports that examine how legal mechanisms, funding control and ideological appointments are used to deny artists the opportunity to participate as cultural contributors in their home countries. AFI's advocacy campaigns deliver actionable policy recommendations for national governments and international bodies, such as the United Nations, that have the power to improve conditions for artists in their home countries.

In a time when it is increasingly risky in many parts of the world to publicly express different viewpoints, AFI protects the vital role of art and artists and works to safeguard the universal right to free creative expression.





## HONOURABLE MENTION

# CESTA VON

SLOVAKIA

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Empowers the Roma community to find a way out of systemic poverty to participate more fully in their broader society.

[www.cestavon.sk](http://www.cestavon.sk) | @cestavon

» CREDIT: DANIEL DULHY | Young mother and child participating in Cesta von's OMAMA program.

**Honourable Mention: Cesta Von**

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[award.pluralism.ca](http://award.pluralism.ca)

In a small room inside a caravan, a mother sits on the floor holding her child, not yet old enough to walk. Across from them a woman wearing a shirt that reads “OMAMA” (an old German word for grandmother) and smiling encouragingly, leads them through a series of exercises to look at different colours and shapes. She then offers the mother a book which she opens up and reads to her child, enjoying this moment of shared learning and engagement.

The Roma population in Slovakia face levels of discrimination and social exclusion that are difficult to imagine in Europe in 2025. More than one third of the community’s children do not complete elementary school. Almost 70 percent rely on social assistance. And it can be difficult, especially for women, to find work outside of the settlement.

In this context Cesta Von, Slovakian for Way Out, works alongside Roma communities to help break the cycle of poverty that keeps many Roma from participating fully in broader Slovak society. Cesta Von’s work is perhaps best exemplified in its OMAMA initiative, where Roma women who often have no formal education themselves, are employed as mentors to mothers in their communities to support with children’s learning and development. It has shown such success that the Ministry of Social Affairs has approved a groundbreaking early childhood development strategy based on the OMAMA model.



» CREDIT: DANIEL DULHY | An OMAMA working with Cesta von.

## Honourable Mention: Cesta Von

2025 // Laureates: Champions of Pluralism

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24

The program helps more than 1,100 children and their families across 40 communities in Slovakia. Widely respected, OMAMA is lauded as a best practice for early childhood development. It is now being implemented in Czechia, and various organizations from other countries have also expressed interest in the model.

In addition, Cesta Von runs an afterschool program for Roma young people, called Zebra, where they can engage in music lessons, dance classes and find mentoring support with their homework. Its FILIP initiative engages social workers who work in partnership with families to tackle the financial challenges they would most like assistance in overcoming. And the organization's

Amal ("friend") volunteer online program connects Roma and non-Roma through mentorship and language practice sessions—providing a window into each other's lives and building a foundation of friendship and understanding. Building connections is Cesta Von's goal—to create a society without the exclusion of Roma people where all can prosper, belong and dream beyond the boundaries of poverty and discrimination.

» CREDIT: DANIEL DULHY | OMAMA participating in a training.





## HONOURABLE MENTION

# MAIS DIFERENÇAS

BRAZIL

Unites Brazilians with and without disabilities to co-create tools that enable all students to experience meaningful learning together.

[www.maisdiferencas.org.br](http://www.maisdiferencas.org.br) | @maisdiferencas

» CREDIT: ALICIA PERES | Guacyara Labonia Guerreiro, Pedagogical Coordinator, and Carla Mauch, General Coordinator, at Casa Mais Diferenças.

“We’re not strengthening teachers’ inclusion skills only for children living with disabilities,” says Zirlene Ferreira, a pedagogical coordinator with Mais Diferenças (More Differences). “We’re doing it for the benefit of other children as well, because they will become adults who are free from ableist thinking, and ready to welcome everyone as capable human beings.”

Zirlene is speaking about Mais Diferenças’s Play Project. Play is a partnership with the São Paulo Municipal Department of Education to integrate inclusive pedagogical practices into early childhood education. The aim is to eliminate barriers of exclusion at an early age by establishing play as a way for children of all abilities to interact. Since Brazil has implemented laws requiring schools to mainstream students with disabilities, more than 17,000 São Paulo educators have been trained on Play’s approach, and nearly 400,000 students have benefited from its inclusive focus.

Mais Diferenças is a civil society organization that promotes the rights of persons with disabilities. By bringing together individuals with diverse disabilities, rather than focusing on a single impairment, Mais Diferenças fosters mutual learning and a sense of solidarity. In education, Mais Diferenças develops accessible materials to help ensure that educational networks and schools seek to equalize learning opportunities for all.

» CREDIT: ALICIA PERES | Guacyara Labonia Guerreiro, Pedagogical Coordinator, and Thais Martins, Research and Advocacy Coordinator, at municipal school Mailson Delane.



The organization's cultural work includes the production of books in multiple accessible formats. Book designers use simple language, image descriptions, Brazilian sign language and other tools to democratize access and introduce thousands of new readers to the joys of reading. Mais Diferenças also helped draft laws that pluralize education rights to include students with disabilities.

Through advocacy, Mais Diferenças influences public policies and legislation that promote the rights of people with disabilities so they can participate fully. The organization participates in forums and rights councils, working closely with public administrators and politicians to create a more inclusive society. For example, it contributed to incorporating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into the Brazilian Constitution. Since its launch in 2005, Mais Diferenças has developed more than 200 projects in inclusive education and culture and made accessible more than 4,000 products, publications and materials. Mais Diferenças' broad collaborations create space in which to unite people of various abilities. Its ongoing success in reducing societal barriers ensures that increasing numbers of people have equitable opportunities to participate fully in social, cultural and economic life and contribute to a more inclusive society.



» CREDIT: ALICIA PERES | Accessible book created at Mais Diferenças' reading group.



## HONOURABLE MENTION

# NEW LIFE TRUST ORGANIZATION

AFGHANISTAN

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Fosters women's entrepreneurship and inter-ethnic solidarity through skills training and artistic expression in one of the world's most challenging contexts for gender equality.

[www.zindaginow.org](http://www.zindaginow.org)

» Woman working in New Life Trust Organization's jewelry workshop in Afghanistan.

Women sit around the table, focusing intently on the delicate pieces of metal and gemstones in their hands. A few women discuss a concept for a new design, comparing different traditions from their diverse regions of Afghanistan and the merits of different approaches.

Ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian instability in Afghanistan has severely reduced women's abilities to earn income and find employment. For many of these women, their engagement with the New Life Trust Organization (NLTO) provides them with a much needed sense of meaning and an opportunity to participate in supporting their families, while simultaneously connecting with and building friendships with others from across the country.

NLTO is one of the few organizations of its kind to operate effectively in Afghanistan. With sensitivity to social and political challenges, NLTO helps diverse women from different parts of the country find meaningful work producing local handcrafted jewelry, improving social and economic prospects for themselves, their children and families while at the same time making friendships across ethnic lines.

» Woman working in New Life Trust Organization's jewelry workshop in Afghanistan.



### Honourable Mention: New Life Trust Organization

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[award.pluralism.ca](http://award.pluralism.ca)

Established in 2023, NLTO empowers women through skills development, entrepreneurship and artistic expression. The organization provides vocational training in goldsmithing, gem-cutting and jewelry design and helps women develop business, English language and basic computer skills. Training and mentoring sessions are conducted in workshop spaces, and childcare is provided.

In a country that is home to 14 ethnic groups, tribal divisions are difficult to bridge. NLTO does it by welcoming women into its programs from a range of ethnicities, including Pashtun, Uzbek, Turkmen, Sayed, Hazara and Tajik. The organization also makes room for women with disabilities. The organization has helped forge powerful connections among program participants since 2023, and more than 60 percent of these women are now active in local markets or managing their own business. Through its social enterprise model, NLTO collaborates with international retail partners to organize exhibitions and provide market access.

Produced using traditional techniques and local resources—such as lapis lazuli—the jewelry helps preserve Afghani culture locally and around the world. Thanks to the opportunities that NLTO provides to participate in the economy, women are transformed into entrepreneurs and community leaders, rekindling the hope and independence they yearn for.



» Woman working in New Life Trust Organization's jewelry workshop in Afghanistan.



## HONOURABLE MENTION NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE

### INTERNATIONAL

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Undertakes peacebuilding activities that build trust among all parties to conflict in countries from Ukraine to South Sudan, centering the voices of those on the peripheries to participate in building solutions.

[www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org) | @nonviolentpeaceforce



» CREDIT: WILLIAM S. SOLANO JR. | Women participating in Nonviolent Peaceforce's early warning program.

In Mindanao Philippines, men from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, who once fought on opposite sides, are meeting for an afternoon of scuba diving. They will undergo skills training, followed by a joint dive, in a hard-won show of trust. Once unimaginable, this has become a reality due in part to the trust-building initiative of the Nonviolent Peaceforce, an international NGO that champions unarmed civilian protection.

Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) works with local communities in some of the most challenging environments in the world such as Ukraine, Iraq, Myanmar, and the Mindanao region of the Philippines, to co-create peacebuilding and intervention strategies that foster trust, nonviolence and inclusion. The organization's trust-building work begins with the creation of local teams that deliberately bring together diverse actors who reach out to different segments of local society, including groups that have lacked a voice in the conflict previously.

Currently operating in nine countries, NP trains volunteers in civilian protection, relationship-building, and monitoring and reporting skills. In the Philippines, the organization has empowered former female combatants to become peace facilitators, shifting their roles from armed resistance to community peacebuilding. In South Sudan, they bridge ethnicities to strengthen the advocacy skills of women and promote their integration into the peace process. In Iraq, NP works across ethno-religious divisions and uses common activities like sport to build relationships between Sunni Arab and Yazidi communities.



NP's nonviolent intervention projects have included several strategic international partnerships, such as in Aceh, Indonesia. Since 2023, NP and six partner organizations have been promoting a holistic approach to transitional justice and strengthening the truth and reconciliation process. Working together, they are advancing women's and children's rights and bringing leaders together to address past conflicts and foster a sustainable peace.



» CREDIT: WILLIAM S. SOLANO JR. | Women participating in Nonviolent Peaceforce's early warning program.



» CREDIT: WILLIAM S. SOLANO JR. | Macy Sally Daproza, Philippines Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Nonviolent Peaceforce.

Globally, NP is rooted in solidarity and witnessing, not force, helping people reach across long-standing historical divides, cooperate and build meaningful personal ties. In addition, it stands up for unprotected civilians and works to dismantle systemic political and socioeconomic power imbalances that underpin so much of the violence in the world today. Its neutral and non-judgmental approach upholds our common humanity and reaches across differences.



## HONOURABLE MENTION

# COORDINADORA NACIONAL DE MUJERES INDÍGENAS

MEXICO

A network of Indigenous women increasing Indigenous women's participation in decision-making in Mexico and tackling gender-based violence and land rights by centering traditional knowledge in national activism.

[@conami\\_mexico](https://twitter.com/conami_mexico)

» CREDIT: YAREMI GUADALUPE CHAN PADILLA |  
Members of CONAMI and member organization  
Coordinadora Maya de Mujeres (COMAYA).

Scrolling through Facebook, a post comes up that another Indigenous woman has been murdered in her community in Mexico. This notice is devastating, and a national organisation of volunteers is determined to let this life be more than a number. One of their projects aims to humanize the victims, recording their names, their family and stories about their life to emphasize their right to justice.

This is a grassroots project of Coordinadora Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas de México (National Coordinating Committee of Indigenous Women, CONAMI) called Community Gender Emergency (ECG). ECG compiles data on the various forms of violence against Indigenous girls and women in Mexico and goes beyond collecting names and numbers. It contextualizes events with narratives about a victim's experience, then publishes the information on Facebook. ECG is a powerful means to make space for victims of violence, celebrate their lives and identify the factors and patterns that expose them to extreme violence.

ECG is typical of CONAMI's work, combining current academic approaches and a wealth of ancestral community knowledge to promote local and national Indigenous welfare. CONAMI is the only organization of its kind in Mexico—a network of more than 20 community groups across 17 states of the republic. Formed in 1997, CONAMI coordinates and strengthens community spaces in which women play active and leading roles. The network advocates to eradicate all racism and enable Indigenous Peoples to achieve self-determination, autonomy, justice and full political participation.





Over two decades of activism, CONAMI has been instrumental in amplifying Indigenous women's voices and addressing the systemic challenges they face. The Casas de las Mujeres Indígenas (Houses for Indigenous Women, CAMI) project is a fine example. It provides culturally responsive legal, medical and psychological care to Indigenous women in 35 communities across Mexico. Now supported by public policy and funded by the federal government, CAMIS is the realization of CONAMI's work to influence state policies, integrate intercultural perspectives and show Indigenous women as agents of change.

CONAMI also partners internationally with organizations such as Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Americas (Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas, ECMIA), which advocates for the application of Indigenous practices to inform social change. CONAMI also collaborates with the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI), which has supported CONAMI with funding and human resources development.

By advancing legal rights and strengthening grassroots networks, CONAMI is a leading force in promoting the social, political and economic empowerment of Indigenous communities in Mexico.



## HONOURABLE MENTION

# SUDANESE YOUTH NETWORK FOR ENDING THE WAR AND ESTABLISHING A DEMOCRATIC CIVIL TRANSFORMATION

### REGIONAL

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Unites diverse Sudanese youth within Sudan and across 6 other countries around a common vision to end the war and transition to a civilian government.

@SYN

» CREDIT: ALTAYEB MUSA | Mohamed Adam Jr,  
member of Sudanese Youth Network Kenya Chapter.

**Honourable Mention: Sudanese Youth Network for Ending the War and Establishing a Democratic Civil Transformation**

2025// Laureates: Champions of Pluralism

[award.pluralism.ca](http://award.pluralism.ca)

At a community meeting space in Nairobi, young Sudanese men and women, along with children and families, listen to guest speakers talk about their ideas around moving to a ceasefire and opening humanitarian corridors. “Until now, my whole life has been war,” says a member of Sudanese Youth Network for Ending the War and Establishing a Democratic Civil Transformation (SYN).

A woman comes to the mic, warning the group about the uphill challenge they face and how difficult it will be to achieve their goals. She implies they are overly idealistic and do not have a large enough support base or leverage to influence the actions of Sudanese militia leaders and political elite. But rather than get frustrated, the youth leading the session welcome the criticism and say they will use it to strengthen their advocacy campaigns.

The war in Sudan has forced more than 11 million people from their homes since 2023, making it the largest displacement crisis in the world. SYN has been a leading youth voice against the war since its founding in 2023. It is led entirely by young people, all volunteers, with more than 400 members in chapters in Sudan and neighbouring countries.



## Honourable Mention: Sudanese Youth Network for Ending the War and Establishing a Democratic Civil Transformation

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Members of SYN include youth from different ethnic, political, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Each chapter elects one male and one female representative, setting a level of engagement by women that is rarely seen in Sudanese society. While diverse, the group shares a joint mission to bring about a ceasefire, end to the war and transition to a civilian government.

SYN maintains political and ideological neutrality. The organization actively engages with political officials and organizations to have a voice in peacebuilding efforts, and develop campaigns that galvanize the views of Sudanese youth around key topics such as the ceasefire, or transitional government.

To strengthen the skills of its members and other Sudanese youth, it hosts trainings and workshops on topics such as mediation, negotiation and advocacy skills. Its work has caught the attention of important international and regional bodies. For example, SYN members have been invited to a number of consultations and dialogues organized by the African Union on resolving the conflict in Sudan. SYN has participated and continue to take opportunities to advocate for greater youth inclusion in Sudanese peace talks. Recognition like this helps affirm SYN's efforts to advance social and political change.



» CREDIT: ALTAYEB MUSA | Rawia Alhag, member of Sudanese Youth Network Kenya Chapter.