

adyan

**Adyan Foundation**  
2006-2013



7 Years of Building Mutual Understanding Between Religions,  
Fostering Diversity Management, and Promoting Peaceful Coexistence

# اختتام ندوة الدراسات الإسلامية من أجل السلام والعيش المشترك في العالم العربي

العالم العربي، عابر للمؤلف الإسلامية وأخذ بعين الاعتبار ما قدمه المشاركون من خبرات ونصائح.



عقد قسم الدراسات في التلاقي الثقافي في مؤسسة اديان ندوة تشاورية تحت عنوان «الدراسات الإسلامية من أجل السلام والعيش المشترك في العالم العربي» مع عدد من الخبراء وصانعي السياسات في مجال الدراسات الإسلامية الأكاديمية. وذلك بالشراكة مع مؤسسة كونراد آينباور، على مدار ثلاثة أيام (28-30

## NGOs laud benefits of cross-cultural education

By Willow Osgood  
The Daily Star

BEIRUT: Through cross-cultural education,

if taken seriously implies that you don't try to privilege your own group just because they share they your faith," said Beck. "Diversity is a strength and bring awareness of the diversity within their own societies."

## Carnet 7 La Fondation Adyan lance le curriculum d'éducation à la citoyenneté inclusive de la diversité religieuse

## Le dialogue, un éternel recommencement

Le dialogue islamo-chrétien est une nécessité politique, et une aventure humaine et culturelle. C'est le sens général d'une conférence à plusieurs voix de l'association Adyan à l'Université de Varsovie.

## Adyan, pour une meilleure compréhension des religions

Adyan est une ONG libanaise qui s'occupe principalement de la promotion d'une culture religieuse et interreligieuse aussi

est atteint par l'encouragement de l'Enseignement transculturel des questions religieuses (ETQR) parmi les jeunes. Un

coures pilotes et de formation de facilitateurs, et l'organisation d'une conférence finale sur le concept ET

## La Fondation « adyan » lance aujourd'hui sa campagne nationale contre le fanatisme

C'est aujourd'hui que la Fondation « adyan » lance officiellement sa campagne nationale contre le fanatisme religieux et pour la foi éclairée et la solidarité spirituelle. En avant-

garde, le film de 40 minutes parle aussi de deux vies chrétiennes exemplaires : celle de Evryma

sera marquée, avant la projection du film, d'un mot du fondateur de « adyan », le P. Fadi Daou. Le ministre de l'Intérieur, Ziyad Baroud, prendra la parole après le film. La remise du prix 2011

## « اديان » تطلق النسخة العربية لفيلم «الإمام والقس» متري: الإرتقاء بالإعلام وتجنب الإفراط بالإثارة

متري

تم التقي متري بكلمة بعنوان: الإعلام في خدمة المصالحة اللبنانية، وقال: «التي يسهم الإعلام في تعزيز روح

شده وزير الإعلام متري على «ضرورة تغليب التبرير لعوام أيا كانت الإحصائيات السياسية، حماية للتقدم بالمصالحة وقبول الإختلاف والتخمس بضرورة التغيير من إرتقاء الدين، شرط الإستماع عن تلك كل ما يثير الفجوات

## Lebanon youth initiative aims to combat sectarianism

When speaking of Islamic-Christian coexistence in Arab societies, or even of the coexistence between Islamic sects themselves, the idea sounds like a nice slogan or an unrealistic poem, with all the sectarian conceptions currently happening in numerous Arab countries. However, accepting this

## La Fondation Adyan : quand citoyenneté rime avec diversité

Société À qui appartenons-nous ? À un pays, une religion ou une culture ? Depuis 2006, la Fondation Adyan tente de prouver que la question ne se pose pas vraiment.

Adyan est une ONG libanaise qui s'occupe principalement de la promotion d'une culture religieuse et interreligieuse aussi

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# Forward



**Rev. Prof. Fadi Daou**  
Chairperson of the Foundation

Seven years have gone by and we did not even feel them pass, like parents who do not notice the passage of time or that their children have grown until they see them through the eyes of others. Adyan has grown up just like a child does, peacefully and rapidly in the shadow of blessings. What began as a humble and unique initiative has evolved into a pioneering, model institution which responds to various sectors related to dialogue, education, solidarity, and diversity management. Adyan was established in 2006 and relied on the determination of its founders to forge an intellectual, spiritual and professional path together, one that was centered on the other, and aimed at creating a solidarity based on awareness, transparency, responsibility and faith in universal fraternity and divine hospitality. Today, Adyan oversees a professional team of 12 members, dozens of volunteers and hundreds of youth. Its programs stretch

across all regions of Lebanon and a number of Arab and Western countries. In spite of this, we still feel that we remain in a foundational phase as to what Adyan will or can become in the future. Our horizons are wide open, the breadth of which grows in proportion to the borderless needs of our world for unity, solidarity and peace based on the recognition of difference. Our gratitude and our prayers extend to all those who have contributed to the success and achievements on this path over the past years. We promise that we will continue on this same road, together with all those who want to adopt this message and commit themselves to its service, always opening up to the mysteries of life, with an unwavering determination in the face of difficulties, with a professionalism that ensures the achievement of objectives, and with an authenticity that keeps us in harmony with ourselves and with Adyan's message that unites us.

## Table of Contents

Profile	2	Contribution to International Dialogue	20
Education on Living Together	6	Human and Spiritual Solidarity	24
Diversity Management in Public Life	14	Partnership with Media	31

## Profile

Adyan (meaning "Religions" in Arabic) was founded on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 by a group of Lebanese individuals from Christian and Muslim backgrounds.

Adyan is an independent organization, open to all religious faiths, registered in Lebanon as a non-profit and non-governmental organization (NGO), under registration number 1103 by a ministerial decree dated September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Adyan works to spread its message in Lebanon, in the Arab World and Internationally, in educational, cultural, social and spiritual domains, through the commitment of its members, the support of its Networks of volunteers, youth, friends and honorary members, and the dedication of its qualified professional team.

## Vision

Adyan envisions a world where diversity between individuals and communities is lived as an enrichment, generating mutual understanding, intercultural citizenship, creative development, sustainable peace and spiritual solidarity.

## Mission

Adyan works on valuing religious diversity in its conceptual and practical dimensions, and on promoting coexistence and diversity management among individuals and communities, on the social, political, educational and spiritual levels.

## Founders

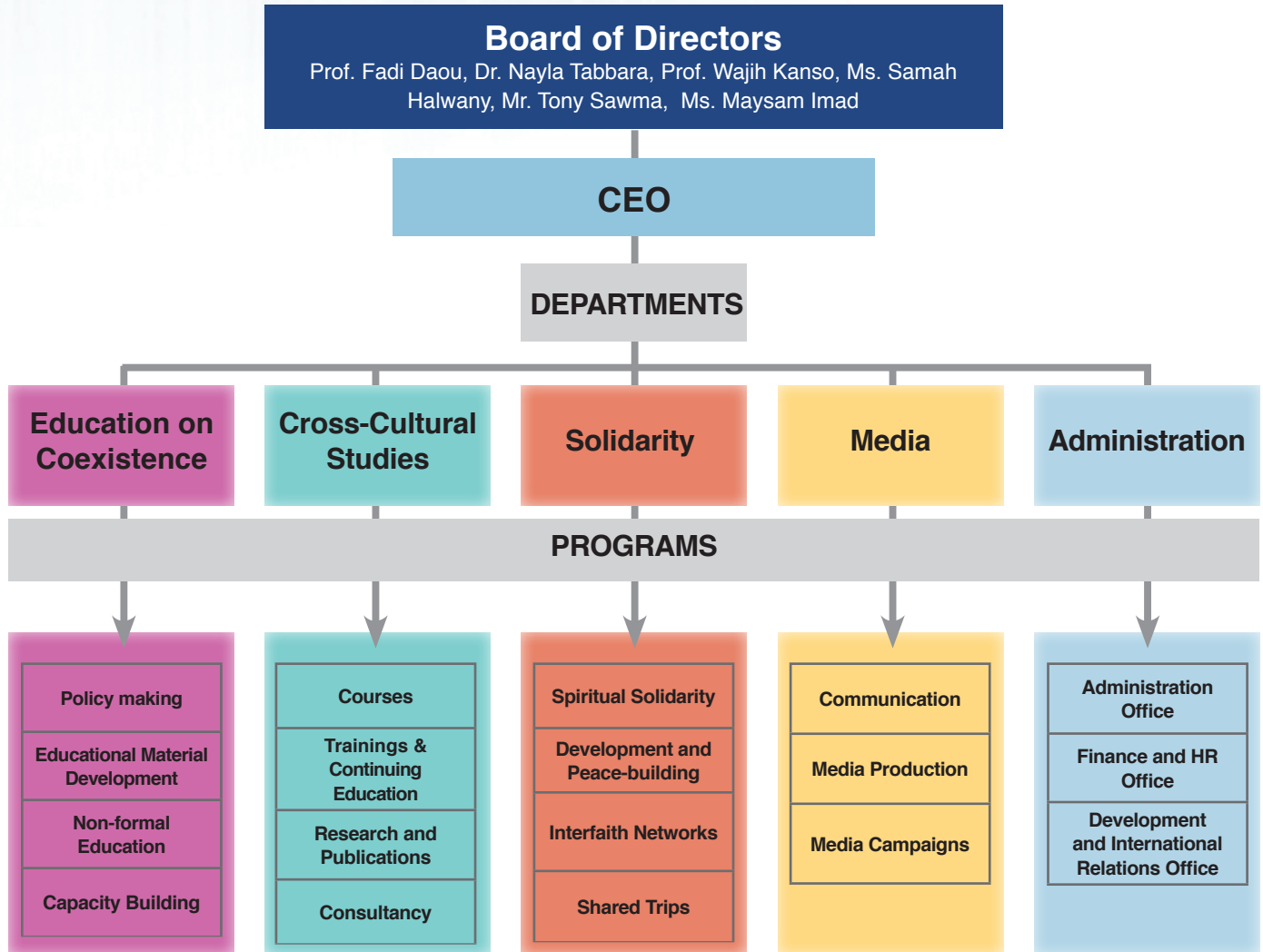
From left: Mr. Tony Sawma, Ms. Mireille Matar, Prof. Fadi Daou, Ms. Samah Halwany, Dr. Nayla Tabbara



# Adyan's Values

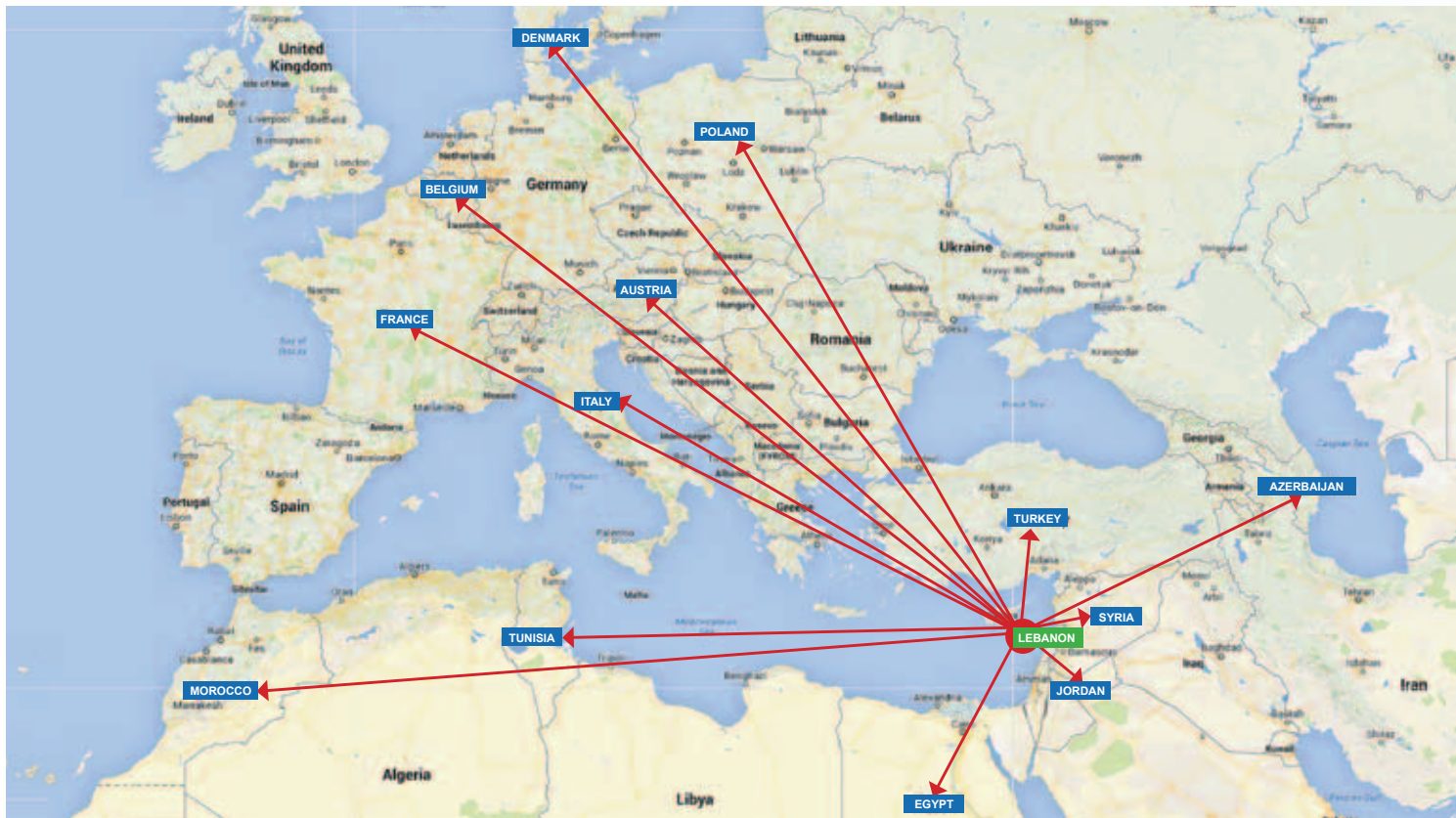


# Adyan's Organizational Chart



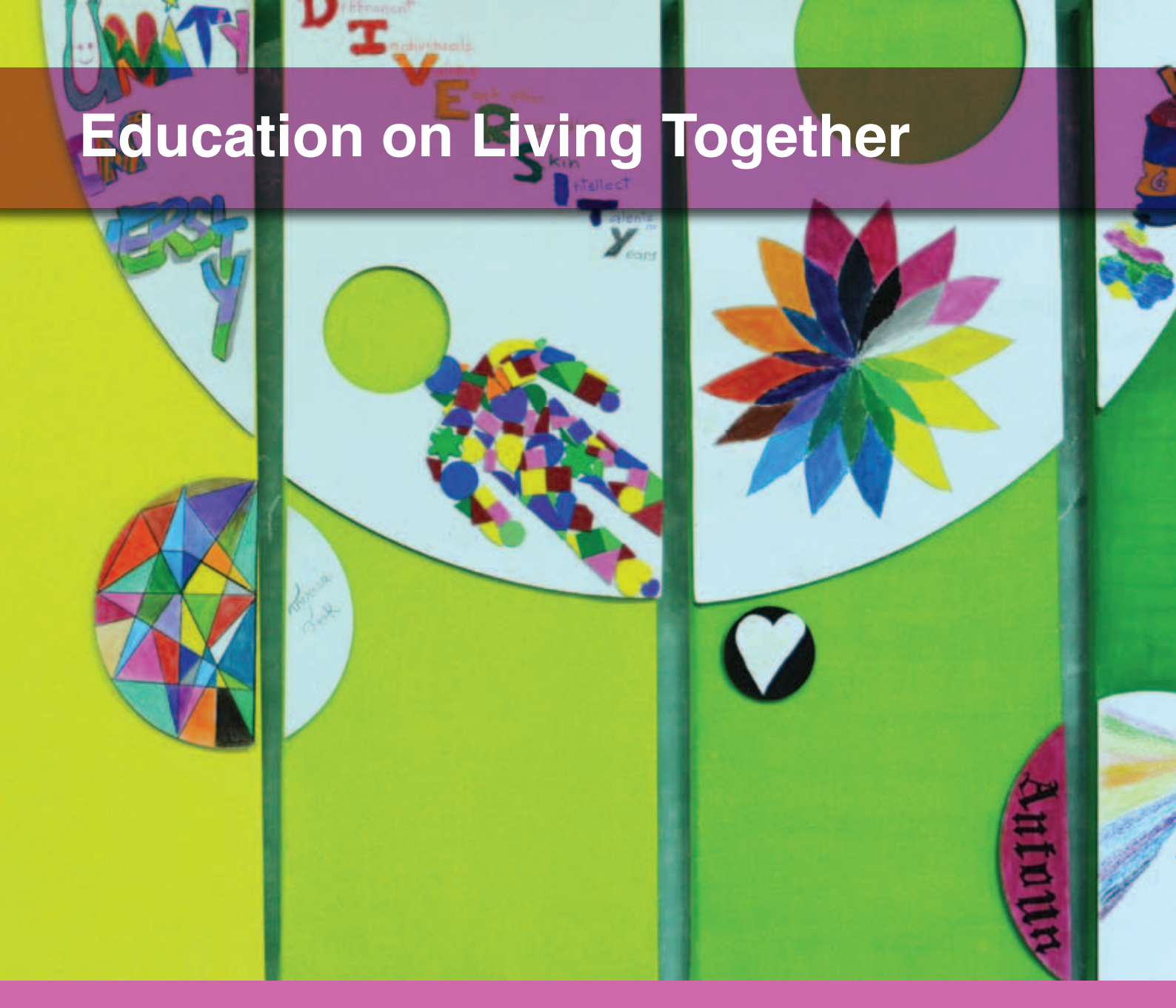
# From “Lebanon – Message of Coexistence”, to the Arab and European Worlds, towards the Whole World

Adyan began implementing its message in 2006 with a group of homeless youth and another group of 12 students in one of Beirut’s schools. Its work developed gradually and its programs now reach (at the end of 2013) 30,000 direct beneficiaries from 25 different countries. During these first seven years, Adyan has implemented projects and activities in Lebanon and 13 other countries from the Arab world, Asia and Europe (Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Tunis, Morocco, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Poland, Denmark, Austria, Italy, Belgium, France).





# Education on Living Together





# Alwan Program: Chosen by the United Nations as an International Model for “Living Together Peacefully in a Diverse World”

Adyan’s work on Education on Coexistence began in 2007 with the launching of the Alwan program (meaning colors in Arabic). The program started through a partnership with one school and now, after 7 years, is present in 32 schools, both public and private, in many different areas of Lebanon which reach all of Lebanon’s religious traditions.

Alwan is a national initiative that is based on a comprehensive educational program, which brings together activities and training sessions in the framework of youth clubs for secondary level students, with the aim of building the capacities of the youth to foster their role as active citizens, inclusive of religious diversity and human and social solidarity.

Instead of being the victims of religious isolation and fragmented memory, students become, together with Alwan, a cross-religious and cross-regional network of youth carrying within them a message of national belonging enriched by religious and cultural diversity.

1256 young girls and boys (15-18 years old) have been members of Alwan Clubs. They come from the different faith traditions and regions of Lebanon. In addition, 189 educators have been trained by Adyan on the foundations of Non-Formal Education on Citizenship, religious diversity and living-together.

The success of Alwan went beyond its wide dissemination in Lebanon, found its place on the world map in 2013 through its recognition by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations as a model for education on “Living together peacefully in a diverse world”, and through its being awarded the second place prize worldwide.



# Adyan Builds the Capacities of Educators Who Build Tomorrow



75 hours of training, 2 academic years, regularly held training sessions, continuous technical and educational assistance... this is the training program on the essentials of non-formal education, of citizenship inclusive of religious diversity and on living together that Adyan has organized since 2007 for educators in charge of Alwan clubs. There are now 189 educators from 45 private and public schools. Through this training program, Adyan was able to provide a comprehensive education for educators which developed their knowledge, educational skills, and values and built their capacities in regards to the approach of individual and communal identity, religious diversity and issues related to history, memory and citizenship.

## The Educator's Handbook

The Educator's Handbook for education on Inclusive Citizenship of religious diversity and living together for secondary level students (high school) was published by the School Education on Coexistence Department at Adyan in 2012. The Handbook includes a year-long educational program based on non-formal education techniques and diverse resources (activities, texts and films), that are implemented through Alwan clubs' training and awareness sessions, as well as cultural activities inside and outside the classroom, and inter-club activities that join together clubs from different schools. The Handbook is the reference resource for educators who adopt the program.



# From Their Experience With Us



## Angela Faraj

Educator in the Greek Orthodox National School for Girls (Tripoli)

A fundamental change has affected my life and my relation to things around me. Before taking part in the Alwan program, my positions were based on avoiding communication with other religions and avoiding getting to know about them, thinking that this position would protect me and my children from being shaken in our faith. But Alwan represented a turning point in my life, as I discovered that hesitation is not the solution and that objective knowledge is the basis of liberation from fear of the other.



## Talal Dandashli

Educator at Ali Ben Abi Taleb High School- Makassed Philanthropic Association (Beirut)

In spite of my participation in many social service projects, Alwan program has given me a multitude of new necessary tools for both my educational expertise and my social experience. I have gained through this program new educational concepts and techniques, and social relations with colleagues from diverse backgrounds that have helped me acquire a liberation vis-à-vis stereotypes, those stereotypes that stick in our minds because we do not know the other.



## Diana Al Harake

Student in Burj International School, Bourj al Barajneh- (Beirut Southern Suburb)

Following this amazing experience, I have realized how insane and nonsensical the conflicts happening in our country are, and how they have no foundations. We have seen the call of both Christianity and Islam to love the others and respect them. I hope from the bottom of my heart that everyone understands the meaning of living together as we have experienced it through the Alwan program.



# Adyan Introduces the Concept of Inclusive Citizenship in National Education



Following its work with educators and students in schools to foster education on living together, Adyan pushed further and began work on the process of including concepts related to Inclusive Citizenship of religious diversity in the national Lebanese curricula. Adyan's experience, thus, turned into an educational curriculum, through which education on Inclusive Citizenship of religious diversity and living together is included in national Lebanese educational programs, so that these concepts would reach all the students of Lebanon.

The school Education on Coexistence Department in Adyan began, thus, working on the project of

Education on Inclusive Citizenship, in partnership with the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Pedagogical Center for Research and Development in 2012, with the end of its first phase in 2015. During this first phase, the program undertook field studies and research and comprehensive consultations which were aimed at pinpointing the educational needs related to the concept of Inclusive Citizenship in Lebanon and in order to gain the support of policy makers in public and private educational institutions. The program accomplished its first major public achievement with the launch of the National Charter for Education on Living Together on March

15<sup>th</sup> 2013 and the signature of this charter by the Minister of Education and Higher Education, the President of the Pedagogical Center for Research and Development, the Coordinator of Private Educational Institutions League, and Adyan's Chairperson.

Following the launch of the charter and its adoption as a reference in the development of educational policies aimed at fostering the concept of Inclusive Citizenship of religious diversity, Adyan worked with its partners on the development of a curriculum related to this concept with the aim of integrating it, as a second phase, in the national educational programs and textbooks.

## Article 14 of the Charter: Projected Educational Objectives

Education on Living Together aims at forming a citizen who is:

- Committed to citizenship values that embrace diversity, encompass more than the school environment, help overcome sectarian mentalities and narrow fanaticism, and promote the individual's belonging to a unifying national entity.
- Capable of objectively approaching religious diversity, understanding and respecting every religion's specificity, and aware of the common spiritual and ethical grounds that strengthen their shared social and national responsibilities.
- Working through their acquired educational skills on adopting values and attitudes in favor of diversity and contributing to the promotion of social coherence and positive change within society.
- Cultivating a critical mind capable of responsibly dealing with any conflict related to religious slogans, turning it into an opportunity to raise awareness on the risks of exploiting religion in political discourse and conflicts as well as on the consequences of fanaticism and discrimination.
- Proud of their adherence to a national, cross communitarian network.



The Minister of Education handing to Adyan's Youth the signed Charter

## Partnership with the Public Sector



# From Lebanon to the Arab World Training Educators to Foster Intercultural Citizenship

In connection with the current transformations in a number of Arab countries and what accompanies their quest for new social foundations and a new sense of citizenship, Adyan engaged the broader Arab world hoping to take part in the development of educational policies and practices related to citizenship and cultural diversity, and to help achieve the transition towards a sustainable democracy that encompasses all social components. The first step came with the Dawrak project (2013-2014) for education on intercultural citizenship, in partnership with the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean foundation for dialogue between cultures. This project created a space for the capacity building of 60 young leaders in education, for sharing best practices and for

networking among them. These 60 educators and educational policy makers represented 10 Arab countries: Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania.

Adyan provided training for these Arab educators on issues related to citizenship, the public sphere, religious and cultural diversity, values of public life, dialogue and conflict transformation, all topics that help foster education on citizenship and living together. Adyan is also working with a group of Arab experts on the development of a toolkit for education on intercultural citizenship, aimed specifically for the Arab world and its current educational and social challenges.



**Meryem Narimen Noumar**  
Assistant professor in communication at  
Batna University (Algeria)

That you reflect deeper on yourself and your identity, that you stand on the shores of the illusory limits of your rights and responsibilities and extend from there to encompass all the world, this is the moment where you discover your deep freedom, and that true understanding of the depth of the self only comes with the discovery of difference with the other, of living together, this beautiful coexistence that makes us savor a new taste to life, as citizens accepting the other. Thank you for this amazing and fruitful training.





# Religious Education on Shared Values of Citizenship between Christianity and Islam



Because citizenship requires the respect of Public life values and their implementation by citizens in their relations among each other and their relation to the public order, Adyan foundation believes that religious discourse can naturally contribute to an awareness and public practice of shared citizenship. This is why Adyan launched its project of interreligious education on intercultural citizenship in 2013 and the values of citizenship shared among Christianity and Islam, in collaboration with Lebanese national religious institutions, and in partnership with Danmission. This common religious approach to the values of citizenship helps society to

overcome irreconcilable polarities in some of its mentalities between citizenship and religion, or politics and faith, or Christianity and Islam, or East and West, and to build the foundations for a fruitful and promising cooperation on religious, cultural and national levels. The network of experts that work within this project and that represent national religious institutions has become a laboratory and an example of constructive cooperation that will soon result in the production of an educational toolkit designed for the development of religious education and discourse, both Christian and Muslim, in regards to citizenship and partnership with the other in public life.



**Father Gabriel Hachem**  
Expert in the Project

What Magic lies in Adyan, making it galvanize the person that gets introduced to it until he/she starts to talk in its name, considering him/herself as part of it and belonging to it? Adyan foundation helps transcend the Lebanese reality, where religions drown in the hardship of crises, by sketching a future where religions are above small and closed interests. It aims for the service of the human being, in his/her totality, taking into consideration each person's national, religious and cultural belongings. This is what happened clearly throughout our trip to Denmark where emotions of dialogue embraced the richness of the diverse cultures in a rare harmony, opening all doors and windows to God's will. The question is not that of a project or partnership with an institution. It is a commitment to the values of humanity in its quest for justice and absolute good.



# Diversity Management in Public Life



## Academic Program on Religion and Public Affairs in Lebanon



Since 2011, more than 160 students have enrolled in Adyan's academic program on Religion and public life in Lebanon. Included among them are university students, civil society activists, young professionals, religious leaders, and many others interested in the issues of religious diversity and living together in Lebanon.

Over the course of an academic year, this program covers, with renowned specialists, issues related to religious diversity and its management, an introduction to world religions with an emphasis on Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the study of religious texts and their interpretation, the relationship of religion to law, politics and citizenship, in addition to an exploration of the history of modern Lebanon and the relationship between diversity, identity and citizenship.

This program presents to its graduates an added value in their professional or academic careers, and in their relations with others, through building their capacity for an active and positive participation in a mixed and religiously diverse society such as Lebanon.

## Awareness sessions in Lebanon and Abroad on Understanding Diversity and its Management for More than 25,000 Beneficiaries

From its foundation to the present, Adyan has been able to gain the confidence of the different sectors of Lebanese society, and to become a reference on the Arab and international scene on issues related to dialogue, interreligious relations and peace building, in addition to questions related to religion and politics.

For this reason, over the years Adyan has responded to the requests of hundreds of institutions, civil society organizations and religious communities to organize awareness sessions for their members and networks, enabling Adyan to reach 25,000 beneficiaries through these sessions.

Adyan adopts a variety of approaches for these sessions, depending on the audience: conferences, discussion groups, workshops, in addition to testimonies presented especially by Adyan's volunteers.



Spreading awareness about these issues on the grassroots level, and among youth specifically, is one of the Adyan's main strategic objectives.



# A New National Covenant by Lebanese Youth from Diverse Political Parties and Regions

With the aim of transforming Lebanese youth into an active and effective power in the process of building the future of the country on clear common grounds, more than one hundred young men and women of different communities, parties and regions met within Adyan's project entitled "Many Communities, One Nationality".

Training and workshops were organized for these young men and women; they took place within various Lebanese regions, in partnership with the Antonine University, the Lebanese International University, Al Jinan University and Haigazian University. Prior to these trainings, Adyan carried out, in cooperation with a group of experts, the elaboration of an educational toolkit containing resources and exercises designed to clarify both citizenship and national identity concepts, in the context of a plurality of cultural and religious belongings.

This program gave a unique opportunity for young people to meet, dialogue and express ideas and concerns about Lebanese national identity in relation to their diverse political and religious affiliations. It also contributed to build their capacity in approaching national issues in an objective way, free from sectarianism, which helped build a productive dialogue among them and to understand each other's positions.

## Proclamation of the Youth National Covenant on Independence Day

Participants elaborated a new youth national covenant, on the basis of their own analysis of the current situation and its paradoxes and on their prospects for the future with all of their hopes and ambitions. Despite their deep political differences, these young leaders were able to reach a common understanding of the new social contract that binds them, based on a set of positive principles

that found a shared national life and a common Lebanese identity inclusive of cultural and religious diversity. The young leaders proclaimed the new national covenant at a press conference held in the Independence House in Bchamoun, after having presented it to the Lebanese President Michel Suleiman on the National Independence Day, on November 22, 2012.



## From Trainees to Champions of a Nation Wide Message

The following phase of the program included an advertising and media awareness campaign under the slogan “Lebanon is You and I”. Through this campaign, young people attempted to highlight the importance of their active role in the reconstruction of the country on the belief that our religious, social and cultural diversity enriches Lebanon, contrary to what many think. Most of the Lebanese media, television programs and press, participated in this campaign and followed its activities, especially the magazine “Shou’oun Janoubiyya”.

Youth also bore their responsibilities as carriers of the new covenant and of a message of citizenship and living together by training their peers, in various regions and among diverse political youth groups. They organized awareness workshops that provided a vivid example of Lebanese youth aware and willing to carry out their responsibilities in order to move out of the labyrinth of sectarianism that can only kill their hopes and future.



In 2011 Adyan Received the Civil Peace Award from the Lebanese CSO Coalition «Wahdatouna Khalasouna»



## From the Articles of the Youth National Covenant

- Loyalty and defense of Lebanon - the 10,452km<sup>2</sup>, as a final home for all its citizens, on the basis of equality of all citizens in rights and duties and on the defense of freedoms, social justice, equal opportunities, and a balanced and sustainable development for all regions.
- Purification of shared national memory from the effects of wars and conflicts through the achievement of true national reconciliation, the recognition of historical mistakes, the return of the displaced to their villages, the development of a dynamic trans-communal civil society, the activation of the role of education on a common history, citizenship and civil service, and by making education free and obligatory up to secondary school.
- Strengthening the role of youth in the public sphere and involving them in elaborating and implementing strategies to raise the country at all levels.

# Training on Diversity Management in the Global Context Denmark, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon

## European and Arab Youth for Interreligious Understanding

64 leaders from different sectors, including the media, religion, politics, education and civil society from 4 Arab and European countries (Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Denmark) contribute today to dialogue between religions and to peace building after having received a training to become certified “Leaders for Interreligious Understanding.” This project, launched by Adyan in 2012 in partnership with Danmission (Denmark), Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services – CEOSS (Egypt) and the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue – FDCD (Lebanon), consists of a professional training on interreligious dialogue and the role of religions in achieving social cohesion and peace building on both local and international levels. The project tackles topics related to the relationship between religion and social integration,



political participation, conflict and reconciliation, in European and Arab contexts. Each year 30 to 40 leaders graduate from the program after attending workshops in Europe and the Arab world, following academic online courses, and applying the learned concepts through implementing local initiatives within their professional and social networks.



[www.liuprogram.net](http://www.liuprogram.net)



# Shared Online Courses between European and Arab Universities

In 2010, Adyan launched an innovative and unique experience, in partnership with European and Arab Universities, called the Adyan Understanding Program that aims to foster mutual understanding on cultural and religious issues between Arab and Western societies through online courses. These shared online courses present a space for communication and dialogue between students, allowing them to understand issues related to cultural and religious diversity through cross-cultural analysis and dialogue.



The program began with 18 students from 5 European and Arab Universities, who enrolled in the online course "Diversity and intercultural dialogue" during the

academic year 2010-2011. They then met face to face in a seminar held in Italy that was aimed at developing their cross-cultural communication and experience sharing. Following the success of this first experience, Adyan launched a new online course with 18

students from 3 European and Arab Universities in 2012/2013, in addition to some independent students that joined in this innovative experience, in a course on "Religious Minorities and Public Life in Europe and the Arab World". This program has set the foundations for a new paradigm in academic cross-cultural collaboration through the pedagogical use of ICT, making online learning an opportunity for the promotion of cooperation and collaborative learning between facilitators and learners from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds.



[www.adyanonline.net](http://www.adyanonline.net)

## Partner Universities in Adyan's Academic Programs





# Contribution to International Dialogue



# From Lebanon and the Arab World to the International Academic Dialogue

## The international Conference on Cross-Cultural Education

With the aim of contributing to the refinement of the concept of Cross-Cultural Education and the mechanisms for its implementation on the one hand, and of promoting expertise sharing and academic partnerships on the other, in June of 2011 Adyan brought together in Lebanon, 50 academics and experts in educational policies from 24 Arab and Western countries, for a conference on Cross-Cultural Education in collaboration with Notre Dame University-Louaize. The conference shed light on the current pedagogical challenges in the framework of globalization and the proliferation of cultural pluralism within societies. It ended with recommendations on the



part of participants directed at policy makers within governments, international organizations dealing with education and dialogue and academic institutions. These recommendations were integrated in a Report on the conference that was published in several languages and in the Published Acts of the conference.

## The International Conference on Religion and Democracy in Europe and the Arab World

Following the transformations occurring after the “Arab Spring” in national political processes, in the management of the public

domain, and in the relationship of these changes with religion, Adyan organized an International Conference on Religion and Democracy in Europe and the Arab world, in partnership with the Lebanese American University. The conference aimed at studying the different models and experiences related to this problematic issue in the Arab World, the Middle East and Europe.

The conference was held in November 2012, with the participation of academicians, experts and politicians belonging to diverse Islamic and liberal movements, and with representatives of civil society. Participants came from Egypt, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Austria, Italy, Germany and the USA. The conference represented a unique occasion for dialogue between different intellectual and ideological streams in the Arab world, as well as an occasion to re-read the European experience in building its relationship between religion and the public domain, and a comparison between this experience and what is happening today in a number of countries in the Middle East and North Africa.



# Islamic Studies for Peace and Coexistence in the Arab World

As a result of the challenges currently facing Muslim societies, specifically in the Arab World, with respect to peace building, stability, social cohesion and citizenship, and convinced of the essential role that Muslim individuals play

in this process, Adyan foundation organized a series of seminars under the title of “Islamic Studies for Peace and Coexistence in the Arab World”. Scholars and experts from Lebanon, Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Turkey,

Bosnia, Germany, United Kingdom and Indonesia have participated in these seminars that were launched at the end of 2012. They have unanimously reached the conclusion that working on capacity building of Muslim

young leaders is fundamental, through training and educational programs and resources, so that they, in turn, would become leaders of change in their societies and builders of peace and living together.

## Adyan’s participation and contribution to International Dialogue Fora

Adyan participates yearly in a large number of international fora, conferences and encounters on interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and through these international occasions it collaborates on the organization and implementation of workshops, labs, lectures and discussions, and presents its experience and scientific approach to diversity management, social cohesion and peace building.



# Among Adyan's Publications





# Human & Spiritual Solidarity



# Honorary Membership in Adyan for people who have given their lives to the service of dialogue and peace building, and for the recipients of Adyan's Spiritual Solidarity Award



**Judge Abbas Halabi**



**Fr. Rafic Khoury**



**Mrs. Rabab as-Sadr**



**Bishop Chucrallah Nabil al Hage**



**Prof. Adel Theodore Khoury**



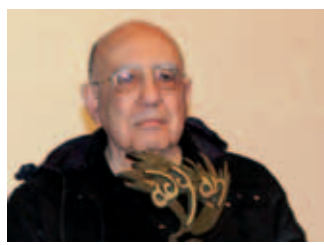
**Shaykh Mohammad Nokkari  
(2008)**



**Imam Mohammad Ashafa and  
Pastor James Wuye (2009)**



**Bishop Salim Ghazal  
(2010)**



**Fr. Makram Kozah  
(2011)**



**Mr. Melhem Khalaf  
(2012)**



**Fr. Ziad Hilal  
(2013)**

# The Spiritual Solidarity Day from Assisi to Lebanon

## We Travel Together the Regions of Lebanon to Celebrate Common Spiritual Values and Commit Ourselves to Them

Based on its commitment to emphasize our shared spiritual values and to consolidate the solidarity that binds Christian and Muslim believers, Adyan Foundation created an annual national day dedicated to spiritual solidarity. Beginning in 2007, the initiative has taken place each year in a different Lebanese region, with the blessings of the national and local religious authorities and with a wide participation of hundreds of believers from Lebanon and other countries.

Following the paradigm of the historic 1986 Assisi Interfaith Gathering for Peace, Adyan has chosen a shared spiritual value every year for its guiding theme. Around this theme it has then organized a national, spiritual interfaith encounter that emphasizes solidarity among believers in their commitment to live these values in the difficult social and national conditions

in which they live, in order to contribute to reconciliation and living peacefully together. The encounter consists of a time of prayer in which Muslims

and Christians pray separately according to their own traditions, but joined together by a common intention of prayer. The prayer is then followed by a common

encounter where shared values and spiritual solidarity are celebrated and a common statement expressing the spirit of the gathering is proclaimed.





- **Our Lady of Lebanon – Harissa, 2007**  
"Together for unity and peace"
- **Makassed School – Beirut, 2008**  
"Together for Repentance and Reconciliation"
- **Mar Maroun and Safadi Foundation – Tripoli, 2009**  
"Brothers together before God"
- **Imam Sadr Foundation – Tyre, 2010**  
"Together in consolidating trust in ourselves, God and the other"
- **Liqaa' Center- Rabweh, 2011**  
Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Assisi interfaith Encounter for Peace  
"Together we remain constant in perseverance on the path of dialogue and spiritual solidarity"
- **Sayyid Abdallah al Tanukhi Sanctuary and Capuchins Convent – Abey, 2012**  
"Together on the path of return to God, to ourselves, and to the land"
- **Makassed Philanthropic Islamic Association and Greek Melkite Catholic Patriarcate – Saida, 2013**  
"Together we are renewed through God's mercy, and through it we renew our solidarity"

## From the Message of the 2011 Encounter

"Our encounter is a sign, even an anticipation, of what God wants to see achieved in the history of humanity : a brotherly journey where we mutually accompany each other towards a transcendent objective that he prepares for us". It is with those words that Pope John Paul II concluded the Encounter of Religions for Peace that took place for the first time in Assisi on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October of 1986.

We are gathered here today, Muslims and Christians from diverse Lebanese regions, from Egypt, Syria, Iraq and from Austria, to confirm our constant perseverance on this common path of dialogue and spiritual solidarity, despite all obstacles, because we trust that this path is a clear expression of our faith and a vital necessity for our society and our countries.





# Together for Inclusive Social Development

In order to foster social solidarity between followers of different religious traditions and develop a feeling of shared national responsibility rooted in local realities, Adyan launched a project entitled “One Community” in 2012 in partnership with IREX. The project specifically targets faith based organizations and communities who have received training from Adyan on shared social responsibility and funding for projects for local development based on collaboration between organizations affiliated with

different religious communities. Several achievements of the program included the rehabilitation of a shared playground in Tyre, the production and dissemination of a film on child labor and children’s rights in Saida, the establishment of the «Salim Ghazal Center for Dialogue» in Mashghara, initiatives for information on cultural and religious sites in Akkar, a campaign for replacing plastic bags with ecological ones in the Baalback, and the promotion of academic exchange between institutes of higher religious learning.



# Discovering Together the Rich Diversity of Spiritual Heritage



With the aim of fostering knowledge on the diverse religious heritages that are considered part of the shared civilizational heritage of humanity, and with the objective of promoting openness to an objective approach to religious diversity and the capacity to value the richness of spiritual heritage in all of its diversity, Adyan organizes regular study trips related to specific religious topics. These trips represent a space for encounter and knowledge between participants from different religious and cultural backgrounds. The participants are accompanied on the trips by experts that explain the historical and spiritual meanings related to the places visited, in addition to encounters with people from these places who present a vivid testimony to the heritage being discovered. Adyan has organized a number of study trips within Lebanon on the Druze heritage and the Armenian heritage in Lebanon, as well as a study trip to Turkey on Christian iconography and Islamic Sufism.

# Adyan Responds to the Syrian Crisis with Education on Peace and Reconciliation

In 2013, as the crisis in Syria escalated, Adyan launched a new project entitled, "Syria Solidarity Project: Building resilience and reconciliation through peace education". The project builds on Adyan's belief in the importance of child education on peace as a path to breaking the vicious circle of violence and revenge. With the aim of protecting childhood from a culture of

violence, Adyan offers psychological and educational support to more than 500 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon and 1000 Syrian children within Syria, aged between 6 and 15 in partnership with local and Syrian associations active in this field.



In collaboration with pedagogical and psychological experts from Lebanon and Syria, Adyan has developed a comprehensive program for peace education and psycho-social support according to age groups: 6-9 years, 10-12 years, and 13-15 years. 38 Educators have now been trained, and are implementing the program in the following places: Al Iman School (Saida), Chatila and Bourj al Barajneh Camps

(Beirut), Qalamoun centre (Tripoli), Al Mukhalles center and affiliated centers in Homs in Syria. Apart from this program, Adyan has also begun working with a group of religious leaders and other persons who impact public religious discourse in order to research the mechanisms for countering fanaticism and violence in the name of religion. Adyan's goal is to protect Syria's diverse social framework and its culture of living together among different religious faiths. Adyan has done this by consolidating their pioneering role in achieving reconciliation and peace keeping, and in building their capacity in dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution.

# Expansion of Adyan's Youth Base

## Adyan's Interfaith Networks

### **The Volunteers' Network, An active Lebanese model inspiring living together**

The volunteers' network was founded in 2007 to accompany Adyan's work, support the foundation in programs that need volunteering, and to spread Adyan's message in daily life and in society.

The network is composed today of 35 volunteers from different religious backgrounds and regions, gathered by Adyan to be, in their own words, "the custodians of its message and the advocates of its causes in society, as an active Lebanese model, inspirational for living together, embracing religious and cultural diversity".

The Volunteers achieve their mission by empowering the youth from different communities in their role as leaders in peace building, social cohesion and spiritual solidarity.

### **The Adyan Club for Dialogue and Citizenship in Universities**

The project of founding University clubs for dialogue and citizenship was launched together with Volunteers' network in 2012. The first club was founded in Beirut Arab University in 2012 in collaboration with the Human Rights Center at the University and it consists of 25 members who meet on a monthly basis and who organize activities within the University and beyond its walls. These activities are designed to help students acquire the essential concepts and skills that will allow them to be peace builders in Lebanon, and to strengthen communication and solidarity between the youth among different sectors of society. Adyan is now seeking to widen this network to reach out to other universities and to organize common activities between university clubs.

### **Adyan's Youth Network, a new Youth Base in the Foundation**

In 2013 Adyan witnessed a major change in its youth base with the launch of the "Adyan youth network." This new youth network is composed of more than 100 youth from the different religious communities and regions of Lebanon, aged between 16 and 21. The network was launched with the alumni of the Alwan schools clubs who wanted to carry on their commitment in Adyan, continue building their capacities and participate actively in spreading the foundation's message among their peers and within their families and communities. This network aims to be the natural gathering space for the members of the 30 Alwan clubs who graduate each year (now over 400 annually) enabling them to continue their commitment within this network and widen the scope of their positive impact on society.





# Partnership with the Media

Since its establishment, Adyan has given a key role to the media, designating one of its four departments to media relations and media production, thus inviting media to play an important role in the dissemination of the foundation's message, through its coverage of Adyan activities, conferences and awareness campaigns. Adyan has also helped to activate the role of media in the sphere of dialogue, religious pluralism and peace building, through its production of documentary films and its awareness campaigns.

Adyan has gained credibility among Lebanon's different media institutions including newspapers, radios, television programs, websites and social media pages, gaining active coverage for its



activities on the Lebanese, Arab and International scenes. In 2013, more than 200 articles were published about Adyan in 45 newspapers, journals and media websites, in addition to dozens of radio and TV interviews. TV screens have presented

Adyan's members and volunteers occasions to address people during Lebanon's hardest of times, based on their conviction in the message of Adyan and its achievements as testimonies of the possibility of living together in Lebanon.

## Media Campaigns



2011: Fanaticism Blinds Us, Faith Enlightens Us



2013: Our Diversity Enriches Us, it Is the Beauty in Us



# Adyan's Media Productions

## Documentary Films



The film Aks al Sayr (Against the current) was awarded the Golden Hawk prize at the Rotterdam Arab film festival and the Interreligious Dialogue Prize of the Trento Religious film festival.

The Awards  
of Aks al Sayr  
film



RELIGION TODAY  
FILMFESTIVAL

## Social Media

### YouTube



### Twitter



### Facebook



/adyanvillage

# Gratitude to Adyan's Partners that Support its Mission and Programs



By presenting each religion as a source of spiritual, human and social values on the one hand, and by protecting religion from politicization and political manipulation on the other, Adyan Foundation answers an urgent need in our Levantine societies. Hence Adyan contributes to maintaining religion as a factor in building a society where fraternity, solidarity and peace prevail.

**Maronite Patriarch  
Mar Bechara Botros Al-Rai**

The significance of Adyan Foundation is that it works towards a vision that promotes the acceptance of diversity and co-existence in public life. In these challenging times, this pioneering organization emphasizes fundamental principles and shared values that contribute to elevating human dignity and strengthen the concepts of citizenship, solidarity and mutual-understanding.

**HRH Prince  
El Hassan bin Talal**

As there are so many grudges and grievances within and between our societies and violence remains a threat to the life of individuals and peoples, in particular in the Middle East, the work on education at large on living together peacefully in a diverse world developed by the Adyan Foundation is more necessary than ever. It should be extended, strengthened and further supported...

Thank you for your inspirational example!

**Jorge Sampaio**

Former President of the Portuguese Republic  
and United Nations Former High Representative for  
the Alliance of Civilizations

معاً في سبيل العودة إلى الله والذات والأرض...

[www.adyanvillage.net](http://www.adyanvillage.net)

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