

BIOs speakers International Children's Peace Prize Award Ceremony 2016

Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi - United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi is the first-ever United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. He was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in January 2013 as the youngest senior official in the history of the United Nations.

Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi is a youth expert and advocate at the national, regional and international levels. As the Envoy on Youth Mr. Alhendawi is mandated with the task of harmonizing the efforts of the United Nations on youth issues and to bring the voices of young people to the United Nations System.

Professor Mohammad Yunus – Nobel Peace Prize Winner 2006

Muhammad Yunus is Professor of Economics, pioneer of microcredit and microfinance, and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize 2006. Prof. Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize together with the Grameen Bank for advancing economic and social opportunities for the underprivileged, especially women, through their leading microcredit work that started in Bangladesh.

Prof. Yunus first got involved in fighting poverty during the famine in Bangladesh in 1974 when he established a rural economic program as a research project. In 1976 he discovered that a small loan could make all the difference in the world when he visited the poorest households in Jobra, Bangladesh. Banks would not risk lending to the less privileged nor could they be bothered with small loans. However, loans as small as \$20 can enable a man or woman living in poverty to build a livelihood by for instance, buying a cow or a sewing machine. The rules of lending would have to be based on trust instead of financial capacity. And so Prof. Yunus founded the Grameen bank that would do just that: facilitating microcredits.

Since the Grameen Bank was established formally in 1983, it has enabled \$16.37 billion worth of small loans 8.64 million individuals and it has become profitable in doing so, with a recovery rate higher than any other banking system. Furthermore, 96% of the borrowers are women. When women borrow children become immediate beneficiaries.

Prof. Yunus has received 55 honorary degrees from universities across 20 countries and has received 112 awards from 26 countries, including the Sydney Peace Prize in 1998, the Seoul Peace Prize in 2006, the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom and the United States Congressional Gold Medal.

Prof. Yunus continues to fight poverty worldwide. He is a member of the board of United Nations Foundations and was one of the founding members of the Elders in 2007. In 2011 he

co-founded Yunus Social Business – Global Initiatives (YSB). YSB empowers and finances (local) social businesses to solve social problems around the world. YSB implements Prof. Yunus' vision of a new 'human capitalism', by managing funds for social businesses in developing countries and by advising companies, governments and NGOs.

Mr. Marc Dullaert – Founder and Chair KidsRights Foundation, Founder of the International Children's Peace Prize

Together with children as changemakers, KidsRights inspires and empowers a global movement for children's rights. KidsRights aims to realize child participation as described in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child for as many children as possible.

As Chairman of KidsRights, Mr. Dullaert founded the International Children's Peace Prize. This prestigious prize provides a strong international platform for children to speak their minds and contribute to sustainable peace. Mr. Dullaert also initiated the KidsRights Index, ranking how countries adhere to and are equipped to improve children's rights. Mr. Dullaert was the first Children's Ombudsman of the Netherlands, a position he held from April 2011 to April 2016. Mr. Dullaert also served as the Chairperson of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children.

Mr. Abraham M. Keita – Winner International Children's Peace Prize 2015

Advocates for the right for justice for children who have become victims of violence

At the age of 9, Keita heard of the brutal rape and murder of a 13-year-old girl in his neighborhood and how the perpetrators were not held responsible. Keita then joined a child-organized demonstration demanding legal action. He impressed the organizers of the protest and since has become a passionate advocate for children's rights.

He became part of the Liberian Children's Parliament and was largely responsible for the adoption of the Children's Law by the Liberian government. This made Liberia one of the first African countries to have such domestic legislation. Up until today, Keita is still demonstrating, protesting and writing petitions for justice for children who have become victims of violence.

On November 9th 2015 17- year old Abraham M. Keita from Liberia won the International Children's Peace Prize 2015. He was presented with the prize for demanding justice for children who are victims of physical or sexual violence, and for successfully campaigning for the Liberian parliament to adopt the Children's Law. Keita organized several peaceful marches and wrote petitions to plead with the Liberian government to respect the rights of children. In his pursuit of justice for children, Keita has demonstrated his ability to identify children's rights violations, take action on the accountability of perpetrators, and above all, to do so in a peaceful manner.

Master of Ceremony

Ms. Christina Lamb – Leading foreign correspondent and bestselling author

Christina Lamb is one of Britain's leading foreign correspondents and a bestselling author.

She has reported from most of the world's hotspots but her particular passions are Afghanistan and Pakistan which she has covered since an unexpected wedding invitation led her to Karachi in 1987 when she was just 21. Within two years she had been named Young Journalist of the Year. Since then she has won numerous awards including five times being named Foreign Correspondent of the Year and Europe's top war reporting prize, the Prix Bayeux. She was made an OBE in 2013. Last year she won Amnesty International's Newspaper Journalist of the Year for reporting from inside Libyan detention centres. Currently Chief Foreign Correspondent for the Sunday Times of London, her postings have included South Africa, Pakistan, Brazil and Washington and she has recently reported on the refugee crisis across Europe and camps for women enslaved by Boko Haram in Nigeria and ISIS in Iraq.

She has written eight books including the bestselling *The Africa House* and *I Am Malala* and is a patron of Afghan Connection and on the board of the Institute of War and Peace Reporting. Her latest books are *Farewell Kabul*; *From Afghanistan to a More Dangerous World* and *Nujeen; One Girl's Incredible Journey from War-torn Syria in a Wheelchair*.