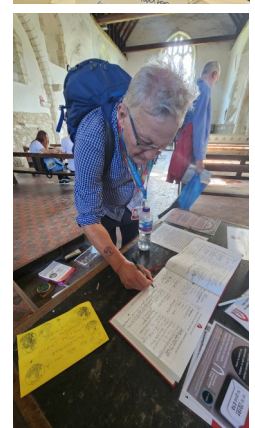




Awareness Foundation: building peace through education www.awareness-foundation.com



The Awareness Foundation is a registered charity in England & Wales (No 1099873)

The Executive Director The Revd Dr Nadim Nassar

Christmas and New Year Message

“No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.” John 1:18 what has the Son made known? In the mystery of the incarnation, the Son made known that the Father wanted to be involved in the life of his creation and the humans that he created. He also revealed that the Father wanted to send his Son on a mission to end the power of death and declare the eternal era of life. The Son uncovered the plan of the Father to send the Son down to us, so that he would lift us back to the Father. In the mystery of the incarnation joy replaced sorrows, hope replaced despair, peace replaced hostility, freedom replaced captivity and love replaced hate and enmity.



Our world today needs much more peacemakers who believe in the power of life to overcome the age of destruction and war which is engulfing so many peoples and countries. We need to unite in rejecting violence as a way to resolve our differences and conflicts and embracing love and reconciliation as a roadmap to our increasing wars and bloodshed which are prevailing at the moment. Join us to spread the light of the manger in the hearts that are filled of fear and darkness.

As we are coming to a closure of our celebration of 20 years of fruitful ministry, I would like to thank you all for believing in our goals and mission and for your love and support throughout the life of the Foundation. On behalf of the Awareness Team and family, I would like to renew our commitment to touching and transforming more lives for many years to come.

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to you and to your loved ones.

His Majesty King Charles III Coptic Cathedral, Stevenage

We were honoured to be invited by our Patron Angaelos, the Archbishop of Coptic church in London to attend the Christmas service and reception with, and in honour of His Majesty King Charles III.

Huda Nassar, Middle East Director and Reem Issa, CEO met HM the King at the reception after the service.

Huda was introduced to King Charles by Archbishop Angaelos and had the chance to talk with him.

He expressed his wish to visit Syria one day when the situation is better.



Little Heroes Christmas Gifts

Due to the current situation in the Middle East, we have not been able to carry on our Little Heroes programme in Syria. However, we continue to support our children through our Pen & Paper Campaign. This winter, we are giving a thousand children a gift of stationery and a pair of socks providing them with essential tools for their academic year and a touch of joy during Christmas and the festive season.

Your participation in this campaign can be a source of joy and encouragement in the lives of these children by donating and using the barcode on the right.



Awareness Foundation 5th International Conference Celebrating 20th Anniversary of Fruitful Ministry

“East Meets West”

Our 5th international conference took place at St Marylebone Church in the presence of our Royal Patron, **The Duchess of Edinburgh**, our Patron **Archbishop Angaelos**, the Vice Chairman of the International Board of Trustees **the Revd Alan Scotland**, our consultant in Jordan **the Revd Cannon Fa’eq Haddad** and a group of our International Trustees, friends and representatives of our partners.

The aim of the conference was to celebrate the fruitful ministry of the Foundation for the last 20 years.



Huda Nassar, The Director for the Middle East opened the conference by welcoming everyone and saying:

“It is with immense joy and gratitude that we gather here today to mark two decades of dedicated service and the remarkable journey of our ministry.

This conference stands as a testimony to the unwavering commitment and collective efforts of all those who have contributed to our growth and impact over the years. This conference is not only an opportunity to reflect on our past achievements but also a platform to envision a future filled with new possibilities and collaborations.”



The main speakers of the conference highlighted the fruits of the Awareness Foundation in the last 20 years East and West. They reflected the enormous faith they had in the ability of the Foundation to continue its ministry to build more bridges of peace and reconciliation wherever they are needed. The speakers expressed also their fear and concern that the Middle East as well as many other regions in the world face increasing amount of violence and they encouraged the Awareness Foundation to continue being the light in the darkness of our world.

The conference was indeed a gathering of beautiful mixture of peacemakers from East and West and from different faiths and backgrounds in our world city here in London.



Archbishop Angaelos, Patron



The Revd Alan Scotland, Vice Chair



The Revd Canon Fa'eq Haddad,
ME Consultant



The Revd Dr Nadim Nassar,
Executive Director



Our speakers at the conference spoke about the timely work of the Foundation in the Middle East. They expressed their full support for the crucial programmes which are changing lives of so many young people, women, and children.

Elza Nasra, the Middle East Coordinator, Syria, spoke about her role in the region.

Mohammad Chamout, the vice President of JCI, Syria, spoke about the impactful partnership between JCI and Awareness Foundation regarding the Pioneering Women programme.

Two of our partners (right pictures) gave their testimonies about their experiences with the Foundation and its important programmes in building peace through education. They also expressed their desire to continue the partnerships in the future.



Jamie Eyre
Embrace Middle East



Aliya Azam
Al-Khoei Foundation



Reem Issa, CEO, delivered a presentation highlighting the Foundation's achievements, commitment to mission and outlining our goals and objectives for the next three years. The presentation generated a wide discussion about the critical work of the Foundation in an exceedingly volatile region of the Middle East.

Dr Pierre Filfli, Lebanon, one of our main trainers on Ambassadors for Peace and Pioneering Women Programmes shared with the audience his views and vision of both programmes. He participated through zoom from Lebanon. He articulated the significant role that the programme plays in the lives of young men and women.



Additionally, insights were shared by both of our Chairmen, **James Appleyard**, from Canada, serving as the Chairman of our International Board of Trustees, and **Abe Kasbo**, from the USA, holding the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors of our sister organisation, Awareness Foundation America. They spoke about the international dimension of Awareness Foundation's work and how the Foundation ministry and vision build bridges between East and West.



We have been deeply blessed by our friends and volunteers who have been instrumental in our work East and West. Some of them were so generous to come and talk to the conference audience about how the Foundation affected their lives and the joy they have had in helping the staff over the years.



Magdalena Deneault said: "The Foundation was a new lifeline for me after I was deeply traumatised and depressed."



Carolyn Hallett said: "The Foundation gave me a new opportunity to visit the East and see it in a new light."



James Murdoch said: "If we had the resources and the structure, the potential seems to be bigger and bigger."



Christopher Williams said: "When the mind is stretched, it never goes back to its original shape. This is what the Foundation has done to me."



Thomas Roberts Said: "I am grateful that through the Foundation Nadim came along and started walking alongside me on my journey."

Conference Outcome

After two days of listening and discussions, the attendees were divided into groups and they discussed how they can support the Foundation in widening its network, raising its profile and reaching out for effective partnerships and fundraising opportunity.



Our outcome points, drawn up at the end of the conference by all of those participating, are:

1. Succession planning is crucial for the long-term sustainability of the Foundation.
2. The need to expand our fundraising possibilities and plans.
3. Improve our marketing and public relations.
4. Media is a powerful tool for reaching a wider audience and connecting with people and raising the profile of people.
5. Interfaith engagement and partnerships.
6. Continuing our East-West bridge-building through our activities and programmes.
7. Advocacy through all our programmes particularly when it comes to preparing young generations.
8. Expanding our activities in London.
9. The participants emphasised the importance of the work of Awareness Foundation in the present situation in the region of the Middle East.

Gala Dinner 6th November 2023



Our Gala Dinner this year marked a significant milestone in the life of Awareness Foundation. We celebrated our 20th anniversary in the presence of our Patron **Archbishop Angaelos**. During the Gala Dinner, we took the opportunity to express our deep gratitude and recognition by presenting a special award to our partner **Embrace the Middle East** represented by **Tim Livesey** that has stood by us through the years. We also gave a special award to Adrian Scotland our volunteer lawyer.



Additionally, we acknowledged **Alexandra Barbar** for her remarkable 24-hour streaming initiative, that successfully raised funds for victims of the February earthquake in Syria. We have the pleasure to welcome and acknowledge the great support of Middle East Airlines represented by its Manager, **Mr Houssam Weiss**. The Gala Dinner included a small exhibition of our **Little Heroes** paintings.

Awareness Sunday 3 September 2023

At our annual Awareness Sunday, our Patron, **Archbishop Angaelos** hosted the event in his Cathedral in Stevenage. Together, we expressed our gratitude to the Lord for the ministry and the dedicated work of Awareness Foundation. We were delighted to have with us some of our Trustees and a representative of our partner Embrace the Middle East.



Peace Walk 2nd September 2023



We have every reason to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ministry of Awareness Foundation. We continue to commit ourselves to engage with young people, children & women in war zones like Syria to empower them and train them to be **Ambassadors for Peace** in their devastated communities. We have been able to do that only through the support and love of our friends.

We are grateful to our friend and previous Trustee **Richard Smart** for preparing and leading this walk. We are also blessed to have a wonderful group who walked with us to raise fund for our Ambassadors for Peace Programme.



Our annual **Peace Walk** this year was between Aylesford Priory & Rochester Cathedral.



We were extremely kindly received at the Aylesford Priory by **Brother Francis** and also the Dean of Rochester Cathedral the Very Revd Dr **Philip Hesketh**.

The Executive Director Visit to Canada & USA

The Revd Dr Nadim Nassar

The Revd Dr Fr. Nadim was invited by **Huda Kandalajt**, Congregational Designated Minister for Youth and Families, to preach, teach and sign his new book **iJesus** at **Parkdale united Church** in Ottawa. The Director spoke to the youth in Canada about the challenges that the young people in the Middle East faced and how the Foundation is transforming their lives.



Our International Chairman, James Appleyard joined Fr. Nadim in Ottawa from Toronto.

Fr. Nadim & Abe Kasbo, the Chairman of Awareness Foundation America, met the **Metropolitan Saba Isper**, Archbishop of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America and he was accompanied by our USA Chairman Abe Kasbo.



Fr. Nadim was invited by Pastor **David Prince** at the "**Living Word Church**" in Lancing, Illinois near Chicago. Fr. Nadim was generously welcomed by the church. He preached, taught and signed his new book.





During his visit to New York, **Fr. Nadim**, was the guest of **Rev. Donald Wareing** at Grace Church Lower Manhattan, New York. He preached and singed his new book iJesus.



Fr. Nadim visited also Dearborn, Detroit. He was hosted by **Revd Halim Shukair**, the rector of Christ Church and also the Arabic speaking church the Mother of Our Saviour. Fr. Halim organised an evening for Fr. Nadim to give a talk for both churches and also to sign his new book iJesus.

Why we need your support:

Please play your part in supporting our young **Ambassadors for Peace** in Syria & Iraq to enable them to develop their own creative peace-building activities and initiatives so that they promote peace and reconciliation in their diverse and wounded communities.



You can also support our ground-breaking children's programme, **Little Heroes**, in Syria which builds the children's sense of well-being, self-esteem, resilience, and emotional health.



Support our brand new programme **Pioneers**. The programme aims to care for teenagers to take them on a journey through building up their mental and physical wellbeing, self-confidence, resilience, competence, identity and human relationships.



We are infinitely grateful for those who have been already blessing us with their gifts of care and love to keep these two programmes running.

Thank you

We are endlessly grateful to all our friends around the world, without whom we would never be able to carry out our mission and help thousands of young people and children in the Middle East. Your support and donations, large and small, help us to keep going so that we can continue the ministry that God entrusted to us. Please visit our website and make a donation to any programme you choose and let us together make a difference in the lives of the people who are under privileged.

How to donate:

You can donate through our website: <https://www.awareness-foundation.com/donate>

Or send cheques, made payable to:

In UK: Awareness Foundation, 134C London Road, SM6 7HF.

In US: TFCC America, Amin Al-Laty, Secretary

3240 Dovecote Drive, Quakertown PA 18951

We are a registered charity in the UK, (No: 1099873), we have the 501(c3) status in the US, and we are partners with CAF Canada so we can give donors tax receipts in all those countries if they choose to have them.