

The 42nd Niwano Peace Prize awarded to
Musawah: For Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family

Reasons for Selection

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The 42nd Niwano Peace Prize shall be awarded to Musawah in recognition of its immense efforts to strengthen citizenship and peaceful coexistence in diverse societies, and to create contexts and platforms for interfaith dialogue and spiritual solidarity. Musawah nurtures and values relationships based on trust, respect, care, equity, and reciprocity. It is addressing the gender biased socio-economic, legal and political discrimination in human history. Its goal is to uncover the voices of women that have long been silenced in cultural and religious societies. Its international network includes hundreds of advocates from Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Global North in over 40 countries, who are campaigning for positive changes in attitudes, practices, laws, and policies supporting women and girls' human rights in Muslim countries. The credit of creating Musawah goes to its founders who are intellectually grounded, spiritually strong, and experienced in interfaith network, these women include Zainah Anwar from Malaysia and Ziba Mir-Hosseini from Iran. The Niwano Peace Prize Committee members documented Musawah's deep and profound commitment inspiring women leadership in social, legal, spiritual activism promoting civic engagement, human rights and peaceful living in our world and as such the Committee members are honored to recognize its work.

Musawah came into being in 2009. It is an international, non-profit, non-governmental organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Its partner groups and advocates in its network are autonomous, but they share a common vision for women's advancement, human rights, and peace. Majority of these partners are from Afghanistan, Egypt, The Gambia, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Sudan, Uganda among other countries. Local advocates in the Musawah movement collaborate throughout the year to strengthen their partnership and improve state of woman in the world.

Musawah's educational network has been engaged to increase the participation of women in leadership roles in Muslim contexts. It promotes a leadership methodology that is participatory, ethical, and compassionate. Its range of training workshops and networking opportunities bring an awareness to women in our world to stand for justice in getting involved in political processes and civic engagement for the benefit of humanity. Its approach is very inclusive. It raises awareness through education about human rights, and influence policies leading to gender justice and equality. For this purpose, they collaborate with social service organizations, legal advocates, government officials, and religious leaders. It is supporting locally led research on reforming family laws to provide them with a road map for local and international advocacy.

Musawah is promoting an approach to human security which is inclusive of social, economic, cultural, civil, and human rights.

Musawah's partners are also engaged to eradicate gender-based violence. For this purpose, they are conducting workshops and training for women to advocate against gender-based violence and to increase resources to protect women in their societies. It is educating youth to use technology, social media, and to advocate for social change.

Musawah is producing and disseminating hundreds of multilingual materials pertaining to the global women movements for peace, human rights and gender equality. It is spreading and preserving the stories relating to women's rights activists from Africa, Asia, the Middle East who left their mark in history on women's rights and advancement.

To conclude, Musawah is a women's movement, committed to social, religious, spiritual, and racial justice in protecting women's human rights through faith and interfaith values. Musawah has trained over 700 activists, academics and policy makers from 40 countries across the four regions on gender equality and justice training programs. Its long-term vision is to establish a global institute that would offer a variety of online and in-person workshops and certificate courses on gender equality, human rights and peaceful coexistence. In this way, Musawah is contributing immensely to the cause of women's leadership in interfaith dialogue human rights and peaceful coexistence which are in congruence with the mission of the Niwano Peace Prize.

It is for these reasons that the Niwano Peace Prize Committee selected Musawah to receive the 42nd Niwano Peace Prize.