

The background features several overlapping circles in muted colors: a large yellow circle on the left, a large green circle on the right, and a large orange circle at the bottom. A thin blue line winds across the page, starting from the top right, looping around the top and left, and ending in a drawing of two hands shaking at the bottom center. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

EUPHRATES

INSTITUTE

Annual Report
2020-2021



EUPHRATES



INSPIRING HUMANITY
TO CHOOSE PEACE

Letter from the Founder

Twenty years ago, in the hectic weeks following 9/11, I was assigned to a CIA task force to support the impending operations in Afghanistan. Like most Americans, I didn't know much about the country, only that the Taliban had provided safe harbor for terrorists, and subscribed to a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam that included banning kite-flying, music, and basic rights and education for girls. And like most Americans, I watched with horror as we spent twenty years fighting a war only to see the Taliban once more ensconced in power.

The 2021 Visionary of the Year, Afghanistan Youth Empowerment and Peacebuilding Organization (AYEPO), was founded by an individual who was just eleven years old when the Taliban fell in 2001. The founder envisioned a country where diversity and peace flourished, and started an organization to empower youth, including women and girls and people of all ethnicities, to become leaders of change in Afghanistan. In recent months, the AYEPO team experienced the harrowing and violent change of life under Taliban rule, and continue to endure the traumatic impacts within themselves, their families, communities, and country. Yet, rather than losing hope, the Afghan team is digging deeper to choose peace and to find it within, even as their outside world crumbles. They are committed to continuing to serve the youth of Afghanistan and see peace realized.

Reflecting on the vision of Euphrates—a future in which all humanity lives from oneness with each other and the earth—takes my breath away. The AYEPO team and so many of the inspiring peacebuilders in the Euphrates family are not waiting for the future to choose peace and to live from oneness with each other and the earth. They are living it now—even amidst war, climate change, global pandemics, dysfunctional politics, or the daily grind of stress.

We are so inspired by AYEPO who shows us there is hope even with the uncertain future of Afghanistan. And we are grateful for you and the vital contributions each of you makes to this community—as supporters and peacebuilders—and for each time you choose peace and act from a recognition of oneness—the interconnected harmony of all life.





Purpose

*Inspiring humanity to
choose peace*

Vision

*Envision a future in which
all humanity lives from
oneness with each other
and the earth*

Mission

*We equip, connect,
and uplift emerging
peacebuilders worldwide*

Our Leadership Team



Natalia Garvey, Administrative Director

This has been a year of transformation, healing, and growth. Without change and transformation, there is no growth. I've been involved with Euphrates for years now and I can see how our transformation has led to our growth, to where we are today. It's been so inspiring to see the growing community of peace leaders through our programs. If you can change one person, you can change a village. If you can change a village, you can change the world. With our growing community, I can't wait to see how many more communities will be transformed.



Katy Lunardelli, Executive Director

The highlights of the year, for me, are the moments when Euphrates community members reach across borders to uplift one another, often in a quiet way, behind the scenes...when a PPA alum in Turkey offered trauma counseling to Afghan peacebuilders; when peace leaders sent messages of support to a Ugandan community member fearing for his life; when peacebuilders in India and Pakistan collaborated on program ideas, and there are so many more. These points of connection are threads weaving together and strengthening our global community.



Sylvia Murray, Head of Programs & Strategy

On a Peace Practice Alliance call, someone noticed another person wearing a hat. That person then found a hat to wear to match, and spontaneously more participants followed. With each hat added, laughter and joy exuded from the screen - seeing how hats reflected personalities, the weather in their location, or a glimpse of their style. This spark brought levity, humor, and unexpected connection to our international cohort. A small yet significant moment. A moment highlighting that laughter, joy, and fun are essential components of community and peace leadership.



James Offuh, Programs Facilitator

The Peace Practice Alliance program sessions have served as a great booster of deeper knowledge, awareness, and skill on Peace Leadership. My memorable moments are mentoring participants which opened me to a new world of understanding through conscious listening, compassionate communication, and empathy as I connected with them through their individual wisdom and reflections. My biggest takeaway is being flexible, patient, mindful, and learning from others' stories which open me to a new world of connectedness, networking, and emergence to community.



Hollister Thomas, Head of Community Engagement

Year after year I see the depth and breadth of the work of this incredible community of peace leaders. This year I witnessed the deep value of a strong community. From our Peace Practice Alliance to our Community Calls, we come together to know each other at the heart level. This breaks down barriers, heals divisions, and turns the other into a sister or brother. We are truly cultivating a network of global leaders who learn from and uplift each other, understanding that together we are creating stronger ripples of good throughout the world.

Our Impact

The Euphrates team has been awe-struck by the deep power of community. As we work towards our mission with ever greater clarity and passion, we witness immense courage, generosity, open-heartedness, and presence within our global community. The personal, interpersonal, community, and global impact that is made when we all support and live into our individual and collective capacity for peace is profound. This past year we have experienced the power of these community connections as program participants support each other across continents, as peace leaders persist through pandemic hardships to meet the needs of their communities, as individuals share their untold stories to a global audience, and as a global community overflows with love and care to support peace leaders fleeing violence. It has been an honor to hold space for such community to flourish, and we look forward to where these deep roots continue to grow and blossom.

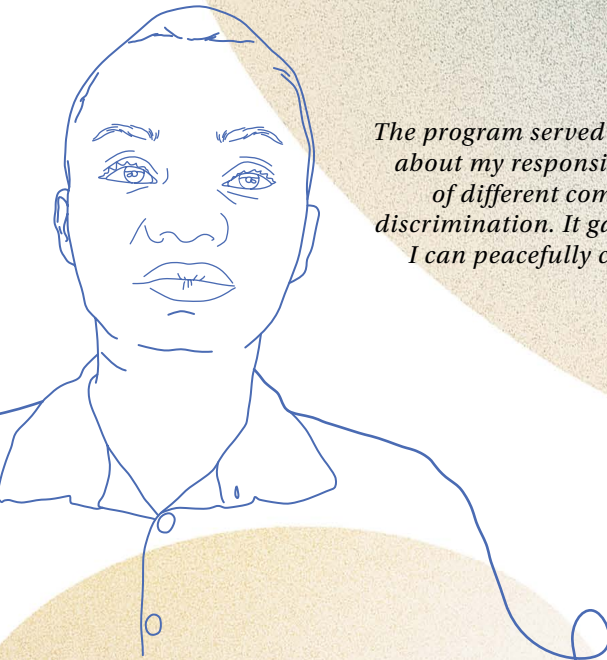
12 New countries represented in the Peace Practice Alliance

13 Peace practice initiatives implemented in 9 countries

35 Grants provided to support peace practice events and projects

500+ Attendees to the Community Calls

93% Of program participants expressed confidence in both knowledge and practice of peace leadership

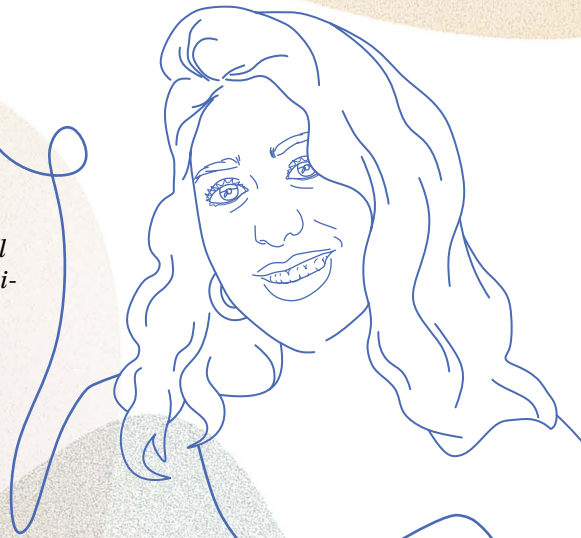


The program served me by developing my understanding about my responsibility to act and interact with people of different communities without hate, violence and discrimination. It gave me the understanding about how I can peacefully connect, engage and collaborate with people.

- Victor, Liberia, PPA 2020 alum

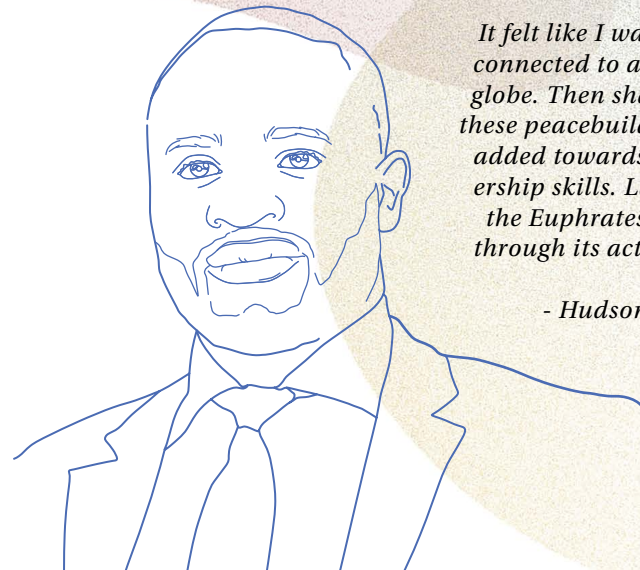
I learned a lot about my own self and my fellow human beings. How personal and interpersonal peace shape you individually, [and how] that contributes to one's growth at a larger level.

- Ankita, India, PPA 2020 alumna



It felt like I was everywhere in the world, being connected to all these peace builders across the globe. Then sharing all the experiences from all these peacebuilders and from the Euphrates team added towards developing my own peace leadership skills. Lastly, during this entire program the Euphrates team has given me motivation through its activities and mentorship for me as an agent of peace.

- Hudson, Uganda, PPA 2020 alum



Peace Practice Alliance 2021 Cohort

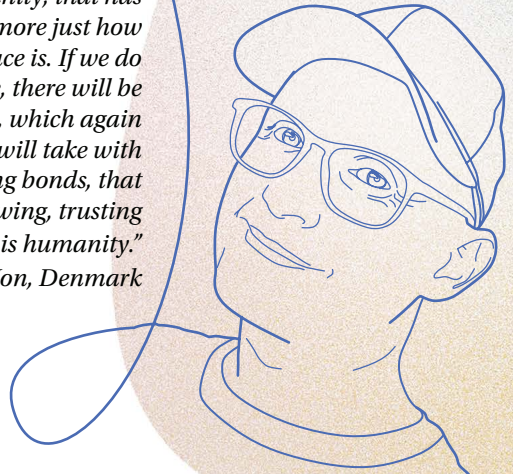


The Peace Practice Alliance (PPA) is a 6-month virtual peace leadership program that provides connection, resources, and certification to peacebuilders worldwide. The program is grounded in peace leadership, “the intersection of individual and collective capacity to challenge aggression and violence and build positive, inclusive social systems and structures” (McIntyre Miller, 2016). Using a peace leadership lens, the program guides participants through personal, interpersonal, community, and global peace, learning the practices of each while understanding the integration of them together.

In March 2021, 31 peace leaders from 21 countries formed the second cohort of the Peace Practice Alliance. Each month, participants connected on an online learning platform and on bi-weekly calls to learn peace leadership theory and practice from each other and from organizational partners in the field including United Religions Initiative, Newark Community Street Team, Catalyst for Peace, Fambul Tok International, and Youth for Peace. Together the cohort learned about radical self-care, nonviolent communication, community reconciliation and healing, systems thinking, and more. Peace leaders deepened their personal, interpersonal, community, and global peace practices, and how to practice peace leadership in their daily work and lives.

"I have seen sides of this community, that has only made me understand even more just how important the community peace is. If we do not care for our personal Peace, there will be difficulties in the interpersonal peace, which again will weaken the community peace. I will take with me the importance of those strong bonds, that makes us grow as one, in the knowing, trusting and loving nature that is humanity."

- Jon, Denmark



"Before this course, I had lots of self-doubts, confusion, and much more. This course gives more clarity to the purpose of my life. It equipped me with skills, confidence and courage."

- Greshma, India



"I found so many stories, so many case studies of projects and people, of peacemakers and community leaders that have inspired me and have made me more resilient. Doing this work where I live can feel very lonely. But that has changed in my case after going through this program. I have had ideas and I'm motivated to implement them."

- Simran, Kashmir



Peace Practice Alliance 2020 Projects



At the conclusion of the 2020 Peace Practice Alliance program, in partnership with The Pollination Project, 13 participants across 9 countries received grants to either deepen existing peace practice work or launch a new peace initiative. Over the past year, participants have designed and implemented projects in their communities, applying peace leadership to address conflicts and cultivate positive peace.

“Peace leadership is being able to see and work with the interconnectedness of all beings and all things, in order to build a more just, resilient, and compassionate society.”

- Sarah, South Africa, PPA 2020 alumna



Culturing Peace

Rebecca Hoskyn created a virtual cross-cultural exchange program for youth from the United States, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Afghanistan to build personal, interpersonal, community, and global peacebuilding skills. The project hosts monthly online sessions to develop intercultural awareness, listening, storytelling, and community.

Dialogue and Nonviolent Communication

Victor Garpulee led nonviolent communication training and intercultural dialogues for community members in Monrovia, Liberia. Participants held dialogues on root causes and experiences of marginalization and discrimination in the community, and encouraged stakeholders from youth organizations, local government, religious communities, and civil society organizations to work together to transform it.

Interfaith Dialogue

Farah Naj Jahan developed training to encourage interfaith dialogue and uplift women religious leaders in the peacebuilding process in Bangladesh. The training includes digital media literacy to address conflicts, promotes diversity, and teaches nonviolent communication. The training has reached over 250 community members to date.

Peace Education

Jeremia Makula held weekly peace education seminars for teachers, parents, and guardians to support peace education in schools for children in Mwanza, Tanzania. Through training and home visitations, the project reached 4 teachers and 100 youth, sharing peace leadership lessons for the classroom and beyond.

Youth Peace Camp

Emmanuel Bafandjo Tanifum organized three-month long peace camps in Cameroon training internally displaced youth on personal, interpersonal, community, and global peace practices. Emmanuel has led one session and will continue new camps every three months reaching up to 500 youth.



Visionary of the Year



Euphrates recognizes grassroots changemakers doing extraordinary work, striving to make the idealistic realistic and the impossible possible. Visionaries are those whose fearless and indomitable spirit allows them to transform the hearts, minds, and actions of those around them and reveal solutions where others see despair.

The 2021 Visionary of the Year is Afghanistan Youth Empowerment and Peace-building Organization (AYEPO), an Afghan youth-led nonprofit organization that aims to build the next generation of Afghans to lead progressive social reform and sustainable peace in Afghanistan. AYEPO is committed to supporting youth, particularly women and girls, in developing knowledge, skills, confidence, and vision to become leaders of change in their communities.

AYEPO works towards this mission through peace and capacity building programs on leadership, conflict transformation, and creative project development. AYEPO has led numerous programs across Afghanistan that have sparked personal transformation for youth and activated them to be conscious, multicultural leaders committed to breaking cycles of violence and facilitating change in their country. AYEPO has designed and led virtual and in-person peace camps, peace leadership training, and more for the youth of Afghanistan.

AYEPO's vision is multifold. Growing up through decades of political turmoil and violence, the Founder had the vision of a new reality; a reality defined and built by youth, a reality that embodied the values of equality, inclusion, compassion, and social responsibility, a reality in which the diversity of Afghanistan flourished and coexisted. As the AYEPO team formed, the vision of what is possible when youth step into leadership expanded and deepened. Their collective vision for peace in Afghanistan has shaped AYEPO's growth and offerings, and has made it the inspiring model they lead today.

Even amongst immense recent upheaval and crisis, the AYEPO team does not give up hope. Their vision remains as strong as ever, and deepens as a vision of hope for the future of Afghanistan. The AYEPO team commits to safely continuing their operations. Their commitment to sustainable peace in Afghanistan is profound and awe-inspiring, and they are fully in it together.



Community Calls

Community deepens and widens through the stories that connect us. Euphrates strongly believes that story, community, and heart to heart listening are cornerstones in the work of peacebuilding. Community Calls are monthly online public gatherings dedicated to uplifting stories, nurturing community, deepening empathic listening, and highlighting the presence of and opportunity for peacebuilding in our lives.

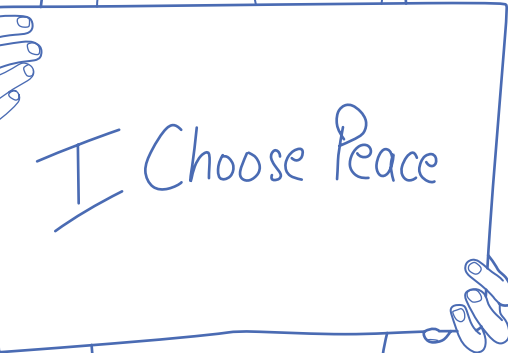
This year's Community Call season focused on the theme Untold Stories, centering around the need to hold space for unheard voices of peace and to build a greater capacity for empathy and compassion.

We heard from storytellers, human rights advocates, bridge builders, nonviolent communication facilitators, authors, artists, lifetime activists, and compassionate space-holders. We learned about peacebuilding in the context of indigenous rights, LGBTQ rights, dialogue and storytelling, interpersonal communication, elders activism, and more.


It is a gift to hold space for this incredible community to come together, nourishing closeness despite the distance.



“Community has been important because it helped me to probe and discover myself. To achieve something such as peace, I believe efforts at the community level are required with a sense of ownership and responsibility.”
- Jigyasa Gulati



I Choose Peace



“Everyone has endless untold stories, every moment is a fleeting untold story, and every story has a lesson to offer.”
-sylvia murray



Clintel Steed painted this art piece inspired by the conversation of our May Community Call. As the conversation unfolded, so did his **masterpeace**. Clintel described his creation as reflecting self love, the idea of reaching for maturity and a clear voice, and letting the light come from you.

Circle of Hope

The Circle of Hope is a community of committed donors who have significantly invested in Euphrates's work. We are grateful to these contributors who enable Euphrates to equip, connect, and uplift emerging peacebuilders around the world.

Circle of Hope members have annual giving (June 30 - July 1, 2021) totals of \$2400 or more. To seed Euphrates's sustainability, we invite a three-year commitment.

Anonymous

Vincent Campos

Penelope and Edward Glassmeyer

Joan and Theodore Hoffman

Susan and Jay Jostyn

Carol and Ken Rawie

Joy and Robert Schwentker

The Shift Network

Donors

Euphrates is an independent nonprofit organization that is sustained by individual financial and in-kind donations. Your investment enables this work of peacemaking and local and global transformation to continue and grow.

*three years or more of giving

**matching donor

~recurring donor

In-Kind Program Contributors

Amy Potter Czajkowski, Catalyst for Peace
Aqeela Sherrills, Newark Community Street Team
Carmen Rubin, Children's Book Author & Literacy Advocate
Clintel Steed, American artist
Crew 2030
Dr. Whitney McIntyre Miller, Chapman University
Emmanuel Mansaray, Fambul Tok International
George Freeman, The Pollination Project
Ilarion (Kuuyux) Mercurieff, Wisdom Weavers of the World
James Offuh, United for Peace Against Conflict International
Janessa Gans Wilder, Euphrates Founder
Jon Rasmussen, Online Circle of Compassion
Julia Hollis, Peacebeam
Ken Anno, Certified Nonviolent Communication Trainer
Lejla Hasandedic-Dapo, Youth for Peace, United Religions Initiative
Libby Traubman, Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue
Lisa Hilt, Oxfam
Sally Mahé, United Religions Initiative
Samira Baručija-Homoras, United Religions Initiative
Sarah Oliver, United Religions Initiative
Shabana Anwar, Umeed Academy
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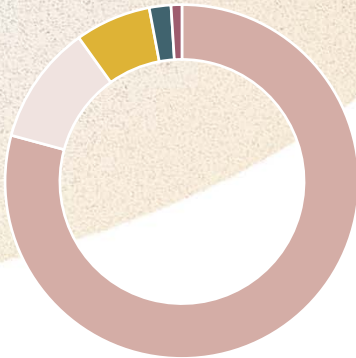
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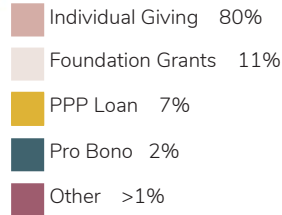


Financial Report 2021

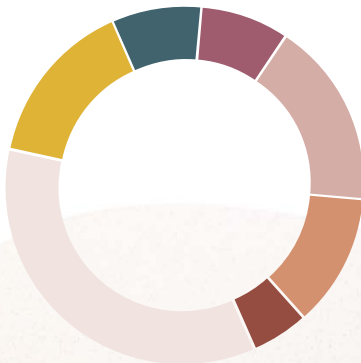
Total Sources of Funds: \$359,402.73



Area of Income



Total Expenses: \$315,524.49



Note: Euphrates received \$25,000 in a government issued loan as part of the Payment Protection Program, established by the CARES Act. In accordance with regulations, this loan was forgiven as part of the PPP and was used for payroll.

Acknowledgments

Euphrates is led by a team who has a heart for greater peace and understanding in our world. We are grateful to our leadership team for their commitment to the Euphrates mission and community.

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INTERNS

Rolande Ayinkamiye
Lima Sarhadi
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www.euphrates.org



info@euphrates.org

Euphrates Institute
PO Box 990924
Redding, CA 96099
+1 530 255 4025

Artwork and Design by Nadine Zaza
nadinezaza.com