

The background of the cover is a stylized landscape. At the top left, a large, bright yellow sun is partially obscured by a light blue mountain range. Below the mountains, a dark teal mountain range rises, followed by a large, vibrant red-orange mountain range. In the foreground, a greyish-blue path or river winds through the landscape. The overall style is modern and abstract, using flat colors and smooth gradients.

ANNUAL REPORT  
**EUPHRATES INSTITUTE**



# EUPHRATES

INSPIRING HUMANITY  
TO CHOOSE PEACE

# LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Reflecting on Euphrates' work over the past year, certain themes stand out: leadership, community, peace, together. These terms raise vital questions for our times—what is true leadership and who is modeling it? What role does community play in enabling humanity to navigate these troubled waters? How do we practice peace personally, and together, to end violence in all its forms?

This report highlights the profound work that moves forward when we center these questions and enable them to guide us. One Peace Practice Alliance alum described the program as "a healing balm," which has so far supported over 75 leaders from 34 countries now leading peace projects in their respective communities. Peace leaders in crisis receive ongoing support from our international community. Community calls continue to amply further learning and connection, and our Visionary of the Year models and inspires courageous leadership.

Another theme of Euphrates this year is how the work truly embodies the qualities of community at all levels, from the organizational partnerships to the decentralized staff leadership model to the funding sources, 88.9% of which come from **you**, our community of donors. You truly make this effort to equip and connect peace leaders worldwide possible!

Please enjoy the fruits of this past year's sowing and reaping that you've enabled. As we continue the support of global peacebuilders, may we each grow in our own capacity as peace leaders, in community, together.



JANESSA GANS WILDER

# PURPOSE

To inspire humanity  
to choose peace

# MISSION

To equip, connect, and uplift  
peacebuilders worldwide

# VISION

We envision a future in which all  
humanity lives from oneness with  
each other and the Earth



# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

When we practice personal peace, we carry those practices and inner awareness into our interpersonal relationships. As we build and engage healthy, peaceful relationships, we cultivate peaceful communities. As we cultivate and connect communities who choose peace, a critical mass of everyday peacebuilders will effect systemic change globally. These layers of personal, interpersonal, community, and global peace practice interconnect and together form our practice of peace leadership.

*We hold space, open avenues,  
and build capacity for everyday  
individuals to grow and live as  
peacebuilders and to be  
globally interconnected.*

Learn more about our theory of change and our practices of peace leadership by scanning the code below.



# OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Krista Acosta-Edzie, Director of Development**  
*Based in Guinea*



I'm heartened by examples of peace leadership I've witnessed across the Euphrates community this year. I'm grateful for the connections I've gained and am inspired by the work of leaders who embody peace in their daily lives and who advocate for the importance of caring deeply for ourselves while caring for our communities. These stories illuminate for me the widening circles of impact that individual peace practice can have in the world.

**Natalia Garvey, Administrative Director**  
*Based in the United States*



Peace is a choice, and for me to practice peace means making a constant, lifelong choice to ground oneself and not "bite the hook" when the urge to react and retaliate is strong. Euphrates's work with the Afghan peace builders is a beautiful example of the practice of peace. Witnessing their resilience, emotional self-control, and forgiveness in the face of insurmountable adversities is so humbling, such powerful practice of peace in action.

**Jigyasa Gulati, Program Manager**  
*Based in India*



The core concept of peace leadership applies everywhere in life. From probing your own realities to the realities of the world, it gives a frame to comprehend things from a multifaceted perspective. It also helps identify and develop links between different elements; for instance, how my inner self can be found with the community I exist in. It could simplify as well as complicate reality based on how you choose to see it. It's a step towards peace. So, choose peace!

**Katy Lunardelli, Executive Director**  
*Based in the United States*



During an alumni call, I was inspired when Zelda, an incredible peacebuilder from South Africa, shared, "we should not be looking at violence in silos because we are all connected. We need to learn from each other and come together." Euphrates strives to do just that: connect peacebuilders from around the globe to learn from each other so that cycles of violence are not repeated and communities of peacebuilders are cultivated. This work is vital. Our future depends on it.

## **sylvia murray, Head of Programs and Strategy**

*Based in the United States*

This past year has opened my heart to new realms and depths, sparking absolute awe in the power of community care and what is possible when we truly practice peace together. The evacuation of youth leaders from Afghanistan and the subsequent year of resettlement has gifted me with new chosen family - profound, heart-full relationships of boundless care, authenticity, and love. I am grateful for the opening of heart and soul to new depths of mutual support and connection.

## **James Offuh, Program Facilitator**

*Based in Côte d'Ivoire*

Peace practice is an attitude, action, language, and behavior with self and others in real life. This year, I experienced a “widening circle” of my community of practice. From being a facilitator of the Peace Practice Alliance and Culturing Peace project, to participating in new courses and fellowships at UPEACE and Goldin Institute, to developing a Kids Peace Library, my vision of community has expanded through these integral leadership experiences. This year offered beautiful and creative opportunities to meet new, vibrant, and likeminded peacebuilders from diverse spectrums of life.

## **Hollister Thomas, Head of Community Engagement**

*Based in the United States*


Twentieth century American scientist Luna Leopold said, “We must let the river teach us. Not just a few of us. Let the river teach all of us.” The work of peace leadership, like a river, provides rich sediment, depositing stories of deep transformation and widening channels to find new inspiration. We are a growing community of leaders dedicated to practicing peace together and watching the ripples of this work expand exponentially. I’m so grateful to swim in this river!

*Euphrates Institute has reached and touched so many lives through its programs and humanitarian efforts, namely for Afghan people both inside and outside the country after the fall of the government on August 15, 2021.*

*I've been blessed to receive Euphrates support and generosity. Funds I received contributed to my safe evacuation and resettlement in a new country. The funds and care offered to Afghan refugees have been a great source of relief in a time of much struggle and uncertainty. I am truly grateful to Euphrates, it's inspiring, kind, encouraging, and dedicated team, and also to the generous people who donated and supported us over the past year.*

Ahmad Shah Karimi

Founder of AYEPO, 2021 Visionary of the Year



# OUR IMPACT

This past year we embraced **practicing peace together**. By centering this intention and practice, we witnessed and experienced our circles of community widen, our community care deepen, and ripples of community love, power, and action extend further. From peace leader in-person meet ups, to new community-based and led projects, to practicing monthly Personal Peace Days, to catalyzing international support for peace leaders in crisis, this year has highlighted and blossomed new depths of compassion, innovation, and possibility when we practice peace together.

**9** scholarships provided to Peace Practice Alliance participants to access the program

**20+** individuals supported in evacuation from Afghanistan

**34** countries represented in the Euphrates alumni network

**35** grants provided to support peace practice events and projects in 14 countries

**500+** participants in community calls and workshops

# YEAR IN REVIEW

*Graduating cohort from a youth peace camp in Cameroon led by PPA alum Emmanuel Fuhbang*



*Euphrates team visited twelve youth Afghan peace leaders in Germany who evacuated from Kabul, Afghanistan*



*Celebration for an entrepreneurship and peacebuilding workshop in Uganda led by PPA alumni Etyak Emmanuel and Mariam Nakiryowa*



*Euphrates Board met in-person and virtually with the global team*







*PPA 2020 alumna Maria Nalumansi led a peace project addressing violence against women in Uganda*

*PPA 2021 alumni, Radia Bakkouch and Imaad Abrahams, met in-person in South Africa*



*Euphrates team member James Offuh founded a new peace library for children in Côte d'Ivoire*

*PPA 2022 alumnae Muda Tariq, Huma Nasir, and Euphrates team member Jigyasa Gulati met in India*



# PEACE PRACTICE ALLIANCE

## *2022 Cohort*



The Peace Practice Alliance (PPA) is a 6-month virtual peace leadership program that provides connection, resources, and certification to peace leaders 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). The program guides participants through personal, interpersonal, community, and global peace, learning the practices of each while understanding the integration of them together.

From January to June 2022, 30 peace leaders from 17 countries formed an inclusive, supportive, nourishing, courageous, and deeply loving community to learn and practice together the theories and actions of peace leadership. These leaders explored theories and practices to lead peace within ourselves, our relationships, our communities, and our global systems at this moment in time in our interconnected world. After June, participants continue to implement peace projects in their respective communities.



Scan here for more information  
about the PPA program



*PPA is like a healing balm to me. With the understanding of positivity of inner peace and all it brings...I have realised that I need a lot of balance in body, soul, and spirit to be the next peace builder for a better world...Personal peace and inner readiness are the trigger for peace leadership anywhere, anytime, and any day.*

**Henry, Nigeria, 2022 Alum**

*I have a new way of seeing community that integrates Ubuntu alongside how we see relationship building. For me the lightbulb is beginning to glow as to how the linkages between personal, interpersonal, and community are interconnected and not to be looked at in silos.*

**Amjad, Switzerland, 2022 Alum**

*I've learned about collective leadership - diverse and inclusive leadership at all levels of the ecosystem...about leadership as a collective process, where network leadership is collective, distributed, bottom-up, facilitative, emergent...versus the conventional, organisational leadership, which is position-based, authority, individual, directive, top-down.*

**Daisy, Vietnam, 2022 Alumna**

# PEACE PRACTICE ALLIANCE

## 2021 Alumni Projects

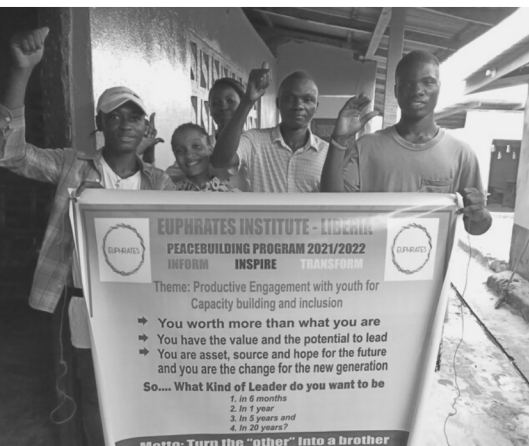
At the conclusion of the 2021 Peace Practice Alliance program, in partnership with The Pollination Project, 20 participants across 12 countries received grants to either deepen existing peace practice work or launch a new peace initiative. Over the past year, participants have designed and implemented projects in their communities, applying peace leadership to transform conflict and uplift community healing and nourishment. Here are a few of our 2021 alumni projects.

### Peacebuilding Academy for Children

Oluchi Achi Uzodimma began the Peacebuilding Academy for Children in Nigeria to offer reconciliation services for girls affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. The academy mitigates the threat of emotional and physical effects of Boko Haram members, and support girls' healing.

### Nonviolence with IDPs

San Htoi Pan Pausa works with internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Myanmar, particularly youth, to practice nonviolent communication and inner peace practices. Workshops focus on healing trauma through deep listening, artistic expression, and experiential learning.



## **Ecopeace Teen Cafe**

Ecopeace Teen Cafe is an online education and dialogue platform for youth founded by Greshma Raju. Ecopeace educates and empowers the young generation to lead a sustainable lifestyle. It is essential to give hope and encourage youth to protect and restore the ecosystem for a better tomorrow. Learning sessions include dialogues, storytelling, and mini-projects. Ecopeace Teen Cafe launched in India, and has since expanded to Latin America.

## **Community Through Entrepreneurship**

Gulu District in Uganda is an area populated mostly by individuals who resettled from camps during the LRA resistance era. Poverty levels have risen, and with them domestic violence levels. Etyak Emmanuel and Mariam Nakiryowa began Community Through Entrepreneurship to provide training to community members on peacebuilding and conflict transformation, and to women on entrepreneurial skills, to improve economic independence and stability, and offer sustainable practices to community members and leaders.

## **Peace Education for Peaceful Coexistence**

Faisal Ilyas created a book [Peace Education for Peaceful Co-existence](#) and complementary workshop with teachers and religious leaders to equip teachers with peace education knowledge and practices to incorporate into their classrooms. The project began in Pakistan with the hopes of extended collaboration in India and Bangladesh.



# VISIONARY OF THE YEAR

## MUNA LUQMAN

*A Vision and Practice for Inclusive, Holistic Leadership*

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. We are honored to have Muna Luqman as the 2022 Visionary of the Year.



“

*It wasn't about food or humanitarian aid, it's about valuing humanity. I was seeing people becoming more entrenched in violence everyday. By restoring their feeling of humanity, we could bring people together.*

”

Hailing from South Yemen, Muna Luqman is a Yemeni peace activist and advocate for human rights. Muna serves as the co-founder of the Women's Solidarity Network, Chairperson of Food For Humanity, and member of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership. Understanding the necessity of having women at the negotiating and decision-making tables for peace, she advocates for peace and women's rights in Yemen.

Practicing a holistic approach to transforming conflict, Muna sees possibility, emergence, and generative solutions where others see despair. Muna's vision began with access to one lifeline resource: water. "Many armed conflicts are just about resources. People cannot get the resources." Muna has forged pathways to make water, food, and healthcare accessible. She worked at the frontlines to de-escalate community tension around water, and helped build the infrastructure and systems to increase access.

"Water has always been my focus, but we have so many issues. How can we be holistic in humanitarian work?" Muna witnesses how the systems are not working as is, and seeks to make new sustainable models with more impact on the ground. "I see all the connections...So water, peacebuilding, and women are the main focuses - also youth."

Muna's call for holistic, bottom-up approaches creates just the space for this change. Her work in community has enabled the rehabilitation of schools, development of greenhouse projects to generate income, and water mediators to bring calm to an area. Her work uplifts the intricate and interconnected grassroots social change that happens in local communities, and demonstrates the powerful change that can ripple to our systems when we ensure these communities are funded, supported, and heard.

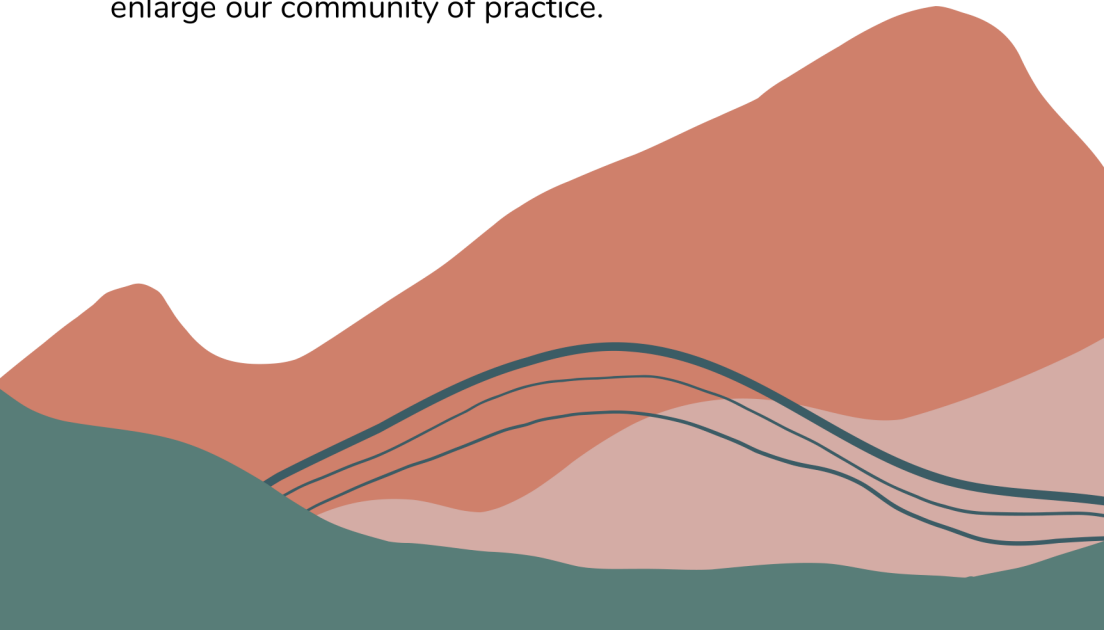
We can no longer address conflict in silos and expect sustainable transformation. We need visionaries and leaders who recognize the deep interconnectedness of root causes of conflict, who approach solutions to conflict holistically, and who prioritize community-created possibilities and strategies. Muna Luqman embodies this peace leadership practice; and in a context that devalues women and is fraught with conflict, her vision to rise above is an inspiration.

# COMMUNITY CALLS

Community calls are monthly online gatherings dedicated to uplifting voices, nurturing community, and deepening empathic listening. These calls aim to uplift the idea that we are all peacebuilders and leaders, and no matter our choice of work, study, or life direction, each day presents abundant opportunities for us to choose peace. Community Calls are open to the public for all to partake in.

This year's Community Call season focused on the theme **Practicing Peace Together**, exploring what it means to practice peace individually and collectively. We heard from peace practitioners and leaders in the fields of human rights, trauma healing, environmental sustainability, and community activism. Through the work of individual peace leaders, we envisioned the possibility for healing, transformation, and resolution in Ukraine, Nigeria, Israel and Palestine, Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa.

Bringing these thought leaders and their examples to the forefront of conversation exercises our empathy and compassion more deeply, and enables us to find ways to enlarge our community of practice.





*Peace at the end of the day is action, taking from your own personal story of sadness, grief, loss and trying to do something about it...and then coming to the realization that it's beyond you, actually. Peace is a scale and order that requires collective action.*

**Amanuel Melles, March Speaker**



*Practices like meditation, mindfulness, compassionate care, empathy, loving yourself is key to reducing violence in the community. It's fundamental to bring people together to learn how to care for themselves.*

**Wazieh Offuh, March Speaker**



*It takes experiencing something at the personal level and then you decide to make a change and be an agent of that change for the whole community.*

**Caroline Odessa, May Speaker**



*What I'm describing is really servant leadership - you have to preach water and take water, not preach water and take wine.*

**Dr. Tecla Namachanja Wanjala, June Speaker**



*Without healing our trauma and transforming our life to see the reality in the different level, different way, we cannot live together.*

**Elias D'eis, July Speaker**



# SUPPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN

In August 2021, the Taliban took over Kabul, Afghanistan and Euphrates sprang into action to evacuate and provide humanitarian support for over a dozen youth peace leaders. We are deeply grateful to you, our community, for generously supporting this work. Your contributions enabled Euphrates to:

- provide humanitarian assistance to evacuees and those still in Afghanistan;
- fund passports and visas for Afghans trying to leave the country;
- support the Afghanistan Youth Empowerment and Peacebuilding Organization (AYEPO) with funding and program support;
- facilitate virtual workshops and training to young women and girls in Afghanistan;
- provide technical support in the form of devices and data for evacuees and those who remain in Afghanistan—this support has been critical for communication with loved ones and participation in Euphrates events;
- provide care packages of clothing, gift cards, and messages of hope to evacuees;
- welcome three members of AYEPO to the Peace Practice Alliance program;
- extend emotional support for young evacuees away from home and their families for the first time.

We continue to work and to listen for ways to expand and deepen our work with these Afghan peace leaders, and other peace leaders in conflict zones, as they persevere in their paths of resettlement or as agents of change in their homeland.





# WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

Euphrates offers workshops, events, and speaking engagements aimed to inform, inspire, and transform individuals and communities. Our workshops are interactive, experiential learning opportunities that offer a deep dive into peace leadership, interconnectedness, and stories of visionaries. Euphrates hosts online and in-person events for our global network and anyone interested in expanding their capacity as a leader and peacebuilder.

This year our team engaged with students, academics, and youth organizations. In the world of virtual connection, we met students in the United States, shared ideas on peace leadership with academic researchers and professors from Iraq, and explored the application of peace leadership in various local contexts at the Parliament of the World's Religions. In the coming year we look forward to meeting with individuals and communities in-person to further the work of peace leadership globally.

*If you are interested in hosting a workshop  
in your community, please be in touch with  
us at [info@euphrates.org](mailto:info@euphrates.org)*

# PERSONAL PEACE DAY

We recognize personal peace to be the foundation of our peace leadership practice. We each intentionally practice our own forms of personal peace in the presence and spirit of community, acknowledging and understanding our personal peace is intertwined with our collective care.

The first Monday of each month we deem **Personal Peace Day**. This serves as a day to pause, to nourish, to listen, and to practice peace within. While this is an everyday practice for our individual selves, we honor the importance of such a practice for our entire team and community by taking a day each month to reflect upon, tend to, and honor our inner selves.

*We invite you to join us in this ongoing practice.*





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 totals of \$2,400 or more. To seed Euphrates's sustainability, we invite a three-year commitment.

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Thank you to our community of individuals, organizations, and foundations who contributed to Euphrates in 2022. Your investment helps magnify the courageous and ambitious work of peacebuilders worldwide and inspires countless communities to choose peace.

## In-Kind Program Contributors

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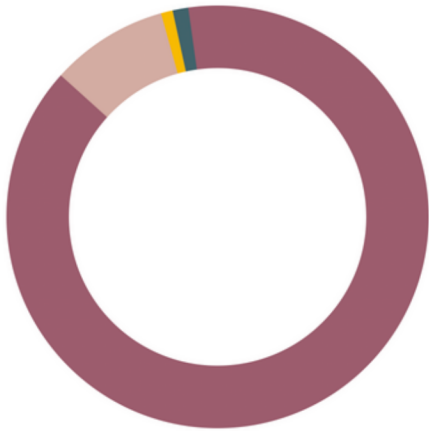
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# FINANCIAL REPORT

## 2022

Total Sources of Funds: \$409,507



- Individual Giving | 88.9%
- Foundation Grants | 9%
- Other | 1.2%
- Pro Bono | 0.9%

Total Expenses: \$353,328



- Peace Practice Alliance | 30%
- Afghan Support | 15%
- Community Calls and Workshops | 15%
- Visionary of the Year | 12%
- Management General | 11%
- Community Engagement and Grants | 9%
- Fundraising | 8%

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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