



US Federation for Middle East Peace

Connecting Continents for Peace

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Press Release

Mrs. Sally Kader Statement, USFMEP President, U.N. High Level Meeting on Youth

(New York, NY) July 25, 2011 The USFMEP is pleased to announce that it will be holding a **‘Youth Interfaith Dialogue for Peace and Mutual Understanding’** at the significant United Nations high level meeting on youth, which will take place on July 25th and 26th as part of the International Youth Year. The high-level meeting will have as its overarching theme “Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding.” USFMEP President and prominent peace activist Mrs. Sally Kader will host this much anticipated discussion, where youth representing the world’s major religions will come together for an open, comprehensive, respectful, and educational panel discussion on the role of religious tolerance in contributing to lasting international peace.

Since its inception in 2001, the USFMEP has been devoted to bridging continents for peace by using education and discourse as practical tools in the creation of positive understanding between the peoples of the world. The Federation strives to produce opportunities for safe and open interchange in order to minimize misunderstandings, while simultaneously generating a forum for accurate information exchange. Mrs. Kader has sponsored and hosted numerous successful interfaith dialogues at the United Nations involving the Hindu, Muslim, Christian, and Jewish communities, and her work has been lauded around the world. As stated by the Dubai newspaper, the Khaleej Times, the work that Mrs. Kader and Tony Blair did in the UAE set important precedents regarding, **“promoting the idea of getting youth of different faiths to talk as a first step to re-establishing global religious tolerance and respect.”** Dialogue is a vital component of Mrs. Kader’s activism. She explains, **“It is just plain common sense that we need to talk to each other on an individual basis and on a human level.”**

The USFMEP believes that the youth of the world are an untapped resource for change that can be mobilized to contribute to the establishment of a lasting global peace. In April 2011, Mrs. Kader hosted 1600 students from the world renowned Montessori schools for a model UN conference. She remarked, **“We believe that we should educate the youth because they are our future leaders and our hope for a peaceful world.”** Interfaith dialogues that include the next generation of world leaders are crucial if religion is to play a role in contributing to international cooperation. This interfaith dialogue will provide a platform for further communication and collaboration between people of various religious and cultural backgrounds. This type of cooperation, in today’s world, is a necessity and there needs to be more groundbreaking dialogues in order to develop a path of tolerance for our youth to follow. It is essential for today’s youth to be included in our international dialogues. Their shared ideas, experiences, and hopes need to be heard. These youth are tomorrow’s leaders and only through cooperation can we achieve a sustainable universal peace. Mrs. Sally Kader and the USFMEP are highly anticipating this upcoming dialogue, and are pleased to be a part of a movement that empowers youth to stand up, get their voices heard, and make a difference.