

Awards for AIL and Dr. Sakena Yacoobi Since 2001

2017

2017 Sunhak Peace Prize Laureate

2016

Dr. Yacoobi receives Honorary Doctorate from Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey

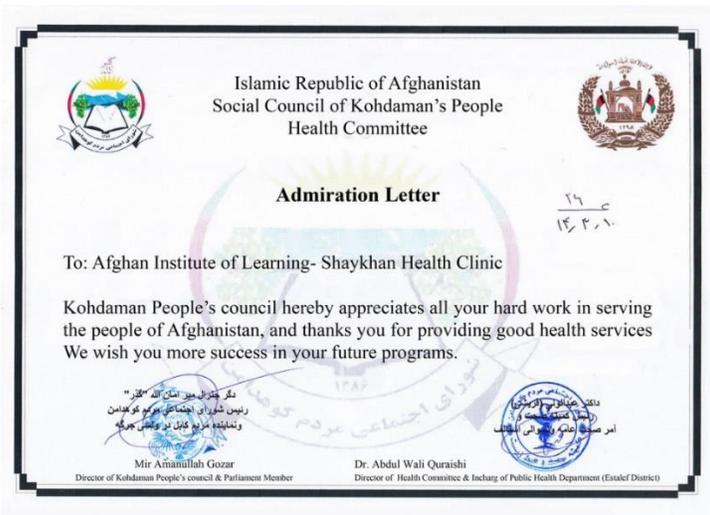
Dr. Yacoobi awarded 2016 Harold W. McGraw, Jr Prize in Education (International)

2015

WISE Prize for Education awarded to Dr. Yacoobi

The WISE Prize for Education Laureates are inspiring role models for all those concerned with building the future of education as the foundation for a more secure, prosperous, and sustainable world.

2014



Commendation

AIL's General Academic Advisor - Mr. Ehsan Sahel

One of 10 chosen to receive a commendation from the Department of Justice, Herat out of a pool of 1,000 nominees. The Department commends Mr. Sahel for his "civil and humanitarian activities and positive goals and ideas".

Dr. Yacoobi receives Honorary Doctorate from University of St. Joseph, CT

Dr. Yacoobi receives the 2014 Champion of Women's Health Award from Direct Relief

Afghan Institute of Learning's Dr. Sakena Yacoobi

Wins Million Dollar Opus Prize

Award to further education, health work for women and children in Afghanistan

Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, founder and president of the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL), an Afghan women-led NGO dedicated to promoting education, health and culture among women and families in Afghanistan is the recipient of the 2013 Opus Prize. The announcement was made at a ceremony hosted by Georgetown University.

This year's other two finalists, Fahmina Institute of Cirebon, Indonesia, and Sister Carol Keehan, president of the Catholic Health Association of the United States each are receiving \$75,000 to advance their work. Fahmina is being recognized for its promotion of an understanding of the Islamic faith dedicated to justice and gender equity; and Sr. Carol for her relentless advocacy in providing affordable healthcare for the poor.

The Afghan Institute of Learning is Afghanistan's largest women-led NGO. With offices in Kabul and Herat, the organization runs dozens of centers that provide literacy programs, higher education, arts and culture, healthcare and income generating activities. Since 1996, they have supported 342 schools and learning centers. One of the organization's core programs continues to be teacher training. AIL also recently began supporting of two government-run orphanages in Afghanistan.

In awarding the prize, Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia said:

"Dr. Sakena Yacoobi has demonstrated an inspiring commitment to the promotion of education and health services for women and children in Afghanistan. She is an eminently deserving recipient of this faith-based humanitarian award—for her disproportionate contributions to the betterment of our global family."

Each year, the Opus Prize honors unsung heroes of any faith tradition with a \$1 million award for efforts to solve today's most persistent and pressing global issues, including poverty, illiteracy, hunger, disease, and injustice. The main prize and awards for the two other finalists are collectively considered one of the largest faith-based humanitarian awards recognizing social innovation in the world. More information about this year's winner and finalists is available at [this link](#).

Global Generations Award

The Global Generation Awards is an exclusive gathering that celebrates campus activism and honors global leaders who champion sustainable international development.

Good Deals Pioneers Award from Good Deals 13. "To celebrate the impact individuals have in making social change happen across the world, Good Deals, the annual UK social investment conference, has today (Thursday 7 November) presented Pioneers Awards to three leading social entrepreneurs who are delivering educational change in Afghanistan, positive Fairtrade impacts in Ghana, and social investment market developments in the UK and abroad". Good Deals, the annual social investment conference is delivered by Matter&Co. Matter&co works with inspiring organisations across business and society to create positive social change through innovation and enterprise.

Dr. Yacoobi delighted to receive **Honorary Doctorate from Princeton University**

The official citation reads: *With a profound reverence for the well-being of others, this visionary leader devotes her life to the empowerment of poor Afghan women and children. With an unwavering commitment to social justice, against all odds, and often at great personal risk, she built and sustains an institute that makes healthcare and education possible for the most vulnerable. It owes its success in establishing clinics, teaching children, and training educators and caregivers to the deep and lasting ties she has forged with the people she serves and with global communities of care. After decades of work, she is still creating hope, in her home country and throughout the world.*

2012

Yacoobi awarded **The Economic Opportunity Achievement Award** from Opportunity Collaborative.

"This is an international award presented to an individual or institution that has consistently demonstrated a commitment to collaboration, knowledge and resource sharing, and active cooperation in the service of ending poverty. The Collaboration honors exceptional champions who freely share a big idea, an innovation or a groundbreaking model with others in order to further economic opportunity. Award recipients are individuals who, through a lifetime of accomplishment, leverage their roles, responsibilities and resources to create coalitions, nurture creative competition and craft new solutions for poverty alleviation. "

Yacoobi also honored as one of one hundred to receive **TIAW World of Difference 100 Awards 2012** from The International Alliance for Women.

Sakena Yacoobi honored with the World Children's Prize Honorary Award presented in Sweden at Gripsholm Castle on May 23, 2012 by HRM Queen Silvia of Sweden.

“This prize breaks the isolation of the children of Afghanistan and connects them to other children in the world. Many people only know that Afghanistan has war, not that there are children living their lives and getting education for making a change.” says Sakena Yacoobi. Sakena was thrilled to be 1 of 3 nominees for the prize. Congratulations to winner Anna Mollel, of Tanzania, for her more than 20-year struggle for Maasai children with disabilities.

The World's Children's Prize contributes toward a more humane world in support of the rights of the child; it is the world's largest annual educational program teaching young people about the rights of the child, democracy, the environment, and global friendship.

More than 57,450 schools with 27 million students in 102 countries registered as Global Friend schools of the World's Children's Prize. The program empowers children to demand respect for their rights while inspiring them to have faith in a better future. It also provides children with a platform to voice their concerns. In the annual Global Vote, participating children select who will receive their prestigious prize, the World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child, which recognizes exceptional efforts to protect the rights of the child. The annual Global Vote has attracted as many as 7.1 million voting children in a given year. The two candidates that do not receive the World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child are awarded the World's Children's Honorary Award in recognition of their hard work.

Lotus Leadership Awards

The Asia Foundation. The Lotus Leadership Awards recognize outstanding individuals and organizations that have made major contributions to the well-being of women and their communities in Asia.

The Asia Foundation's Lotus Circle celebrated its 10-year partnership with the National Geographic Society and honored Asia Foundation partner Dr. Sakena Yacoobi." We are also proud to honor Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, Founder and Executive Director of the Afghan Institute of Learning and an Asia Foundation partner, for her groundbreaking and visionary work empowering communities to bring education and health services to disenfranchised Afghan women and girls." Of the battle to educate women, Dr. Yacoobi said: "This fight is not finished."

From The Asia Foundation announcement

*Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, founder of the Afghan Institute of Learning, received a **Lotus Leadership Award** for her critical contributions to the education and health of Afghan women and children. Professor Yacoobi is a world-renowned teacher, leader, and advocate: She launched the first learning centers inside refugee camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan; risked her life to run illegal home schools for girls during the Taliban reign; pioneered student-centered learning and teacher training in Afghanistan; and created first-of-their-kind specialized health clinics for women, enabling many women and their families to see a doctor for the first time ever.*

In addition to the award, The Asia Foundation and National Geographic Society presented Dr. Yacoobi and the Afghan Institute of Learning with a \$20,000 unrestricted gift to be used to address the organization's most urgent programmatic needs. To make this grant possible, the National Geographic Society generously matched funds raised by The Lotus Circle.

"Dr. Yacoobi is a trailblazer and a great role model for girls and women everywhere," said Carol Yost, director of the Women's Empowerment Program at The Asia Foundation.

"Her belief—that if you can empower one woman, you empower her family and her community—is the basic premise of The Asia Foundation's Women's Empowerment Program. The members of the Lotus Circle, which is hosting its annual awards event in New York today, make it possible for us to reach girls and women across Asia to 'Tell Her She Can.'"

See video: [ICNN report](#)

Dr. Yacoobi honored with the [German Media Award](#)

Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, founder of the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL), was recognized for her

leadership and humanitarianism with the German Media Prize in February. The annual event seeks to honor outstanding personalities for exceptional performance, leadership, and visionary qualities. This year, the prize chose to focus on “quiet peacemakers,” those visionaries whose media profile lacks the scale of their impact. Former winners include Nelson Mandela, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Kofi Annan, the Dalai Lama, and Angela Merkel.

From the German Media Prize Announcement “The prevention of war and terror is the dedicated life of Dr. Sakena Yacoobi. Her tools are education and knowledge. Founded by Dr. Yacoobi, the Afghan Institute of Learning works with thousands of war-torn people especially disadvantaged girls and women, who are given a new perspective on life. In the midst of terror and war, Dr. Yacoobi has established numerous places in Afghanistan where people are provided with a formal education and support where they can get help against oppression and hatred. The tireless efforts of Dr. Yacoobi, to many people, have become a ray of light on the horizon of a future Afghanistan.”

2011

2011 brought the honor of being awarded the National Peace Award by Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

Yacoobi is inducted into Enterprising Women Hall of Fame

2010

Yacoobi receives Global Heroes Award from University of the Pacific. The Global Heroes Award is the highest honor the Global Center for Social Entrepreneurship at the University of the Pacific can bestow upon an individual. This program aims to recognize the "heroes" of social entrepreneurship or philanthropy who work tirelessly to combat inequality, injustice and poverty around the world. Global Heroes address large scale problems with ingenious solutions that are replicable, and sustainable.

Yacoobi is named Schwab Social Entrepreneur in Asia by Schwab Foundation "Social entrepreneurs emphasize long-term sustainability instead of short-term gain. Their primary focus is to maximize benefits for society and the environment through innovative and effective business models. Their approach to entrepreneurship is one of sustainable economic growth across sectors and industries, from renewable energy and education to waste management, health

and rural development

Yacoobi receives the Jonathan Mann Award

Yacoobi receives Honorary Doctorate from Santa Clara University

2009

The Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership is to be awarded to Dr. Sakena Yacoobi

Americans for UNFPA Advocates Award given to Sakena Yacoobi

2008

Shining World Compassion Award is given to Sakena Yacoobi. The award was presented to her for her "courageous, noble and gracious humanitarianism and peace-loving efforts to improve our world." The award is given "to show gratitude and to magnify a shining example of goodness for others to follow...."

Sakena Yacoobi awarded Honorary Doctorate by Loma Linda University.

2007

Gleitsman International Activist Award recipient for 2007 is Dr. Sakena Yacoobi as announced by Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Sakena Yacoobi received a National Role Model Award from the Eighth National Role Model Conference administered by Minority Access, Inc. The conference sited Yacoobi as one who "selflessly motivates and inspires others".

Sakena Yacoobi awarded Honorary Doctorate by University of the Pacific

2006

Sakena Yacoobi elected Ashoka Fellow
Yacoobi is a Skoll Social Entrepreneur

2005

Sakena Yacoobi among 1000 women nominated for Nobel Prize
Sakena Yacoobi honored with the Democracy Award from the National Endowment for Democracy

2004

Women's Rights Prize of the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation

2003

AIL and Dr. Yacoobi are co-recipients of the 2003 Peacemakers in Action Award of the Tanenbaum Center for Inter-religious Understanding

2001

Sakena was awarded the Bill Graham award from the Rex Foundation in recognition of the efforts of the Afghan Institute of Learning to assist children who are victims of political oppression and human rights violations.

Sakena and AIL have received recognition of service awards from the Ministry of Education in Herat, Afghanistan, the district governments of Mir Bacha Kot, Shakardara, Kalakan, Farza, and sixth district Kabul Afghanistan and from numerous Afghan organizations.