

Newsroom

Articles written about AIL and Sakena Yacoobi

2017

Sri Sathya Sai Awards for Human Excellence in Education 2017 [Press release](#)

Sunhak Peace Prize Laureate 2017 [News coverage](#)

[Washington Times Article](#)

[Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#)

[Blogspot.co.uk](#)

2016

[REAL article](#) also on Medium by Peace is Loud

[News Deeply article](#)

[Tunis Forum WISE](#) attended by Dr. Yacoobi

Dr. Yacoobi receives Honorary Doctorate from [Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey](#)

Dr. Yacoobi speaks at [Women Deliver](#) and [World Humanitarian Summit](#)

[Daily Mail article](#)

Wise honors [Dr. Yacoobi at Newseum lunch](#)

Dr. Yacoobi at [Harvard University](#) - spotlight on educating girls. [Article link.](#)

[Speaking to students at University of St. Andrews, Scotland - Unicef on Campus](#)

Dr. Yacoobi on [Politico Women Rule - Power and Purpose](#) - Yacoobi on panel [Fora TV](#)

[SouthxSouthwest, Austin Texas - Yacoobi featured speaker](#)

Yacoobi speaks at British Council International "Schools Now Conference" Abu Dhabi, March 1-2 [Khaleej Times article](#) Sakena named as recipient of [2016 Harold W. McGraw, Jr Prize in Education \(International\)](#)

November 2015

Sakena awarded 2015 WISE Prize for Education

September 2015

Sakena on [UN TV World Humanitarian Action panel](#)

[TedWomen talk by Sakena](#)

July 2015

[Huffington Post article about Sakena](#)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lila-igram/muslim-women-superheroes_b_7849236.html

June 2015

Brookings article written by Sakena

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/markaz/posts/2015/06/02-women-islamic-world-yacoobi#.VW73XSnKuAY.email>

[Kravis Prize article](#) about AIL staff visit

December 2014

Skoll World Forum Article by Sakena

<http://skollworldforum.org/2014/12/26/afghanistan-teach-men-that-education-is-not-a-threat/>

Commendation for AIL from Herat Ministry of Education

Advisor from the Ministry of Education said, “Professor Sakena Yacoobi not only provides people with the best educational services through her high schools, but she also provides great educational services for thousands of people through the Afghan Institute of Learning organization every year as well. On behalf of the President of Afghanistan and the Minister of Education, we are all very appreciative all the services which are being provided by this honorable and hardworking lady, Professor Sakena Yacoobi and all her staff.

October 2014

Dr. Yacoobi speaks at [The Monterey Institute of International Studies](#)

April 2014

AIL receives **commendation** from the Ministry of Women's Affairs for its education efforts.

March 2014

Dr. Yacoobi attends **Model UN** at the Maggie L. Walker Governor School for Government and International Studies, Richmond, Virginia. \$12,000 raised by students for AIL!!

Google Cultural Institute references Dr. Yacoobi

United Nations Girls Education Initiative article about Dr. Yacoobi including podcast

Huffington Post 50 Powerful religious women includes Dr. Yacoobi

February 2014

Three articles reference Dr. Yacoobi's work in the **Stanford Social Innovation Review**
[Fundamentals, not Fads](#)
[Mission matters most](#)
[Striking a balance](#)

January 2014

New York Times article about Dr. Yacoobi - [A more humanist and empowering education](#)

December 2013

AIL mentioned in **New York Times** - Nicholas Kristof article - [Gifts that reflect the spirit of the season](#)

November 2013

Afghan Institute of Learning's Dr. Sakena Yacoobi wins the 2013 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: <http://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/opusprize>.

Articles about Opus Prize: George W Bush Institute * Huffington Post Religion * Huffington Post * International Business Times

November 2013

Dr. Yacoobi on [Peace is Loud](#) site

Peace is Loud inspires action through media and live events that spotlight women leaders on the frontline of peacebuilding worldwide.

November 2013 Sakena interviewed on [BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour](#) and receives **the Pioneer Award**

November 2013 **Millennium Campus Conference at NU** article in [Boston Globe](#)

October 2013 Article on [Politico.com](#)

August 2013 [Christian Science Monitor](#) article

July 2013

New article about Dr. Yacoobi - [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

“Girls were forbidden from getting an education (under the Taliban),” she added. “But when we started offering education to women and girls as well, and people saw that we were creating a safe environment for them and we weren’t imposing anything ... they came.”

June 2013 Dr. Yacoobi delighted to receive honorary doctoral degree from [Princeton University](#)

April 2013 [Fetzer Institute](#) article about AIL Conference on Love and Forgiveness.

May 2013

AIL featured on [Huffington Post](#)

Under Impact - [Women networking](#) and [Mobile Literacy](#)
Under Global Motherhood - [Education=Healthier country](#)

February 2013

Dr. Yacoobi was one of the speakers at the [DD Kosambi Festival of Ideas](#) in Goa, India. She talked about working with youth to bring change to society through education and teaching them core values. See Goa News article:

December 2012 Isobel Coleman - (Council on Foreign Relations) praise for Sakena Yacoobi

Hear Dr. Yacoobi on [National Public Radio](#)

Interesting article at [Poverty Cure](#) about Yacoobi

New article about Yacoobi and AIL on the [Take Part](#) website

Half the Sky on PBS

AIL is featured in the book and we are delighted to see this project expand to other media. A landmark transmedia project featuring a four-hour PBS primetime national and international broadcast event inspired by inspired by Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, the widely acclaimed book by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. AIL and other partners of the Half the Sky Movement aim to help empower women and turn oppression into opportunity. Changing one woman's life, changes her family, changes her village and changes society and nation. We believe: Women are not the problem, women are the solution. Education is the ladder out of poverty. Even the smallest amount of economic empowerment is transformative.

See Dr. Yacoobi talking about the vital importance of education to the development of women and society: [You Tube](#) .

[Half the Sky movement - Solutions](#) See this short clip that features Dr. Yacoobi. She has always promoted education for women as the key to improving society. Her work with AIL has centered on the fact that by educating a girl, you not only change her life but you change the life of her family, and her community. Through education, women are less vulnerable to abuse, have fewer children and have more opportunities for jobs and to start small business.

Global Citizen and Global Poverty Project

Music Festival stunning result!!

AIL is a partner with Half the Sky in this exciting movement and a associate partner of the

Global Citizen Campaign. The Global Citizen music festival in New York was a huge success with 1 million people around the world tuning in and resulted in new commitments of \$1.3 billion for the cause see link to [video](#). AIL is proud to be a part of this stunning effort through Half the Sky see this [Link to GCP Half the Sky](#).

AIL is also in the [press release](#) from Global Citizen as an associate partner.

Isobel Coleman of the Council on Foreign Relations wrote about Sakena on her Democracy in Development blog. Coleman also called Sakena an "Afghan national hero" in an interview with the Asia Foundation. Click : [Yacoobi courage article](#) and [Women's fragile gains article](#).

World Children's Prize Honorary Award recipient

Sakena was thrilled to be 1 of 3 nominees for the World Children's prize. Congratulations to winner Anna Mollel, of Tanzania, for her more than 20-year struggle for Maasai children with disabilities. Sakena received the Honorary Award, see our [Awards page](#).

[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 have 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.

May 2012 [The Daily Muse](#) features AIL's work

October 2011 [Women, War and Peace](#) -excellent PBS series- take the time to learn about courageous women around the world.

Yacoobi profiled in Jennifer Heath book **Land of the Unconquerable - The lives of contemporary Afghan women**

September 2011 [Forbes](#) article about Yacoobi

September 2011 Article about Yacoobi in the [Huffington Post](#)

June 2011 [ABC news article about Yacoobi](#) - "Pragmatic woman educates thousands"

June 2011 [Business Week](#) article from Skoll Foundation

[Marcia Yerman](#) article about Yacoobi

[Rabia Povich](#) article "A Fearless Woman" about Yacoobi

Article about Yacoobi in [The Atlantic 2012](#)

September 2010 [The Lancet](#) magazine features Yacoobi article

September 2010 [Schwab Foundation](#) names Yacoobi as one of three Social Entrepreneurs in Asia

June 2010

Sakena Yacoobi honored for her work in education and health. Sakena Yacoobi, urged the advanced degree graduates of **Santa Clara University**, Santa Clara, California to "reach out to others and give a gift to yourself in the process" in her 2010 Commencement speech. She has been a model of such action since 1995. In appreciation of her work, SCU honored her with an honorary Doctor of Education Honoris Causa degree. "Health and literacy are keys to human rights, empowerment and self sufficiency," says Dr Yacoobi,

June 17 2010

Global Health Conference in Washington, DC Dr. Yacoobi received the **2010 Jonathan Mann Award** for Global Health and Human Rights established to honor the late Jonathan Mann and to call attention to the vital links between health and human rights. The Award is bestowed annually on an individual who shows an overwhelming commitment to health and human rights, often at great personal danger.

[YouTube video](#) of AIL produced by [The Skoll Foundation](#)

Spring 2010 Sakena Yacoobi featured in [Stanford Social Innovation Review](#)

Speech by Dr. Yacoobi at the **Omega Institute for Holistic Studies 2009**

00:00

00:00

00:00

The Omega Institute for Holistic Studies - Dr. Yacoobi

September 2009

Sakena Yacoobi featured in book by Kristof/DuWunn

Half The Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

There's a new focus on women worldwide. The New York Times magazine dedicated an entire issue one week in August to women in the developing world. Of particular focus was a newly launched book written by the well-known Pulitzer prize winning couple Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl DuWunn titled: Half The Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide.

For more information go to this link : [Half the sky](#)

2006 National Geographic AIL and CHI mentioned under "grants awarded in [National Geographic's Afghan Girls Fund Stewardship Report 2006](#)

February 2008 Christian Science Monitor, article including Sakena Yacoobi