

## Salwa (Sally) Kader



Mrs. Sally (Salwa) Kader is the President and Founder of the United States Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP), a dynamic non-profit organization which promotes the United Nations commitment to Human Rights, international peace and justice. USFMEP has established liaison offices in New York, Europe, Asia, and across the Middle East, to promote the principles of the United Nations through seminars, workshops, roundtables, and public forums.

Mrs. Kader has spoken before the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, and the United Nations Pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo in China. She has also spoken at the University of Wollongong in Dubai, Georgetown University, American University, George Washington University, Drew University, Saint Mary University, Cairo University, and the Stevens Institute of Technology.

A recipient of the United Nations Millennium Goal Award in 2012, Mrs. Kader has also received numerous awards from monarchs, heads of states, governments, and worldwide organizations. These awards include the Senate Award for Promoting Peace and Interfaith Understanding, the Empowerment of Women Award, and the Youth Empowerment Award.

Mrs. Kader is regularly featured by media sources worldwide. Her appearances include Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya, Dubai TV, UAE TV, Turkish TV, LBC, US TV, Abu Dhabi TV, and Kuwait TV. Mrs. Kader also sits on a number of boards with a wide range of advocacy groups and committees including the Gandhi Forum for Peace and Justice, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the NGO Committee on Racism, and the NGO Committee on Human Rights, and Human Rights for Peace. She also served as the Director of the United Nations Women's Guild and helped establish their chapter in Lebanon. She has also established the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee in New Jersey.

Mrs. Kader, born in Beirut Lebanon, holds a bachelor's degree in History and Archeology from the University of Lebanon and a master's degree in History from Central Missouri State University. She also pursued extensive coursework in comparative religion, communications and conflict resolution at Harvard University, the University of Baghdad and Lebanese University.

### **Woman Empowerment**

Mrs. Kader is a leading advocate on women's issues regarding interfaith dialogue between different religious women, raising awareness on the trafficking of young girls, promoting women's role in the media, and supporting refugee Palestinian women.

- Mrs. Kader recently organized and hosted the First Lady High Level Forum on Education at the United Nations General Assembly 70th Session (September 24, 2015). Education for a Sustainable Planet became the topic of the Forum, as the world leaders gathered in the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- Mrs. Kader seeks to ensure that women's roles and participation are fully integrated in the formulation of peace policies. As a result, she hosted the international conference concerning the Role of Immigrant Women towards International Peace in Stockholm, Sweden, and has been invited to confer

with heads of governments, such as the Prime Minister of Bahrain, as well as with humanitarian leaders in Dubai, Qatar, Jordan, and Lebanon.

- Mrs. Kader also serves as an advisor to the US State Department for the Empowerment of Businesswomen in the MENA region, in order to promote stability and development of women around the world.
- Mrs. Kader has organized numerous side-events for the United Nations Sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (“CSW”) on a variety of topics including: Women in Islam: East Meets West (March 4, 2005), Rights of Muslim Women: Islam and Tradition (March 8, 2005), The Role of Women in Creating a Counter-Balance to Extremism (February 2007), The Role of Women in the Media Coverage of Peace-Building between the Middle East and the West (February 28, 2007), Empowering Women in Politics and Decision-Making in Muslim Countries (March 6, 2007), Empowerment of Women through Media Exposure for Building Peace (February 25, 2008), Violence against the Working Mother (March 1, 2010) and Muslim, Jewish and Christian Women Who Share the Vision of Understanding (March 12, 2009) among many others. USFMEP has further submitted statements for the CSW sessions including a recent one on Rural Women and Girls in Conflict and Post-Conflict Areas.

### **Youth**

- To achieve a peaceful world, it is crucial that the rights of children and young people be respected. Mrs. Kader has served as Ambassador for the 21st Century Campaign of Children in Slavery, and has worked closely with Virtual Global Task Force, the first international operational law enforcement task force to protect children worldwide over the internet.
- Mrs. Kader has also taken the initiative to lead the Sports for Peace Walk and the International Youth Sports Program in order to bring young Muslims and Christians together to foster peace and cross-cultural understanding among young people.
- Mrs. Kader has played a prominent role in generating aspirations in orphanages and youth centers located in Egypt, Kenya, and Morocco, by empowering the population as the world’s future leaders.

### **Interfaith Dialogue**

Mrs. Kader has pioneered movements of Interfaith Dialogue at the United Nations Headquarters to promote a better understanding of the religious philosophies and encourage sustainable peace.

- Mrs. Kader organizes the annual event of Interfaith Dialogue with young people which draws students from various religious and cultural backgrounds. The event is organized with the purpose to promote non-violence, religious tolerance, mutual respect, and camaraderie.
- Mrs. Kader has also served as key speaker at the 10th Dialogue for the United Nations Buddhist-Muslim Dialogue Series and a Hindu-Muslim interfaith discussion hosted by UFMEP. These events among others serve to reinforce one of the Federation’s primary objectives to build bridges of understanding between different groups of people to achieve peace.
- Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, and Buddhists have united in this event to support an open dialogue and achieve the common goal of securing peace.

- Mrs. Kader also achieved a remarkable success by hosting a seminar to discuss peace initiatives. The interfaith dialogue that was attended by an unprecedented delegation of thirty Rabbis and Imams, who traveled from eleven European countries.

### **Human Trafficking**

Mrs. Kader has consistently prescribed comprehensive and effective actions against human trafficking.

- Mrs. Kader organized the panel Human Trafficking: A Crime That Shames Us All (February 29, 2012) in order to raise awareness of the efforts that have been made by both the governmental and non-governmental sectors to reduce human trafficking. The prominent activist specifically addressed the problems related to sex trafficking, domestic servitude, and forced labor, but also

provided proactive alternatives that included anti trafficking coalition building, educational outreach, direct service to victims, and the protection of the vulnerable population.

- Mrs. Kader was engaged in the panel Human Trafficking Beijing +15 Lessons Learned (March 1, 2010) which analyzed the history of human trafficking and identified lessons learned from the experience of numerous countries in their fight against human trafficking.
- An extensive effort was made by Mrs. Kader when she organized the forum The Trafficking of Young Girls in the 21st Century (February 26, 2007). Speakers offered their expertise in combating illegal trafficking and provided preventive measures in order to move closer to a more secure world.
- Mrs. Salwa Kader emphasized the dangerous ramifications of human trafficking around the world during the panel discussion Human Trafficking in the 21st Century. The event took place during the 50th session for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and with the participation of H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, President of the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly (February 2006).
- At Georgetown University, Mrs. Kader participated as a panelist at the Children in Slavery – The 21st Century Summit (November 14, 2005). The event addressed human trafficking in the areas sex, war, labor slavery, sex tourism, child pornography, ritual abuse, and torture.

### **Building Peace**

Mrs. Kader has contributed to the development of international peace.

- She is Chairman of the Intergovernmental International Organization for Justice, Peace and Security

### **Children's Rights**

- She has promoted youth empowerment through events such as the Montessori Model United Nations Conferences,

### **Global Causes**

- Founder and President of the Sam Kader Memorial Foundation for the Conquest of MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus)

Universal Family Day