



GLOBAL  
PLURALISM  
AWARD

PRIX  
MONDIAL DU  
PLURALISME

## DEEYAH KHAN OF NORWAY SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR GLOBAL PLURALISM AWARD

### *Documentary filmmaker selected for transformative work to counter extremism*

**OTTAWA, CANADA, Sept. XX, 2023** – Responding to the urgent need to support positive responses to diversity, the Global Centre for Pluralism today announced 10 finalists for the 2023 Global Pluralism Award. Selected from among 200 nominations from 60 countries, Deeyah Khan—born in Norway to Muslim immigrant parents—was shortlisted for her transformational approach to documentary filmmaking, which exposes and counters extremism with empathy.

“The creativity, courage and commitment shown by this year’s finalists is so important at this moment,” said Meredith Preston McGhie, Secretary General of the Global Centre for Pluralism. “At a time of increasing polarization globally, it is critical to magnify the impacts of pluralism leaders who are creating more inclusive and peaceful societies where diversity is valued. I hope these examples spur us all to follow their example and take action.”

Nominees for the Award undergo rigorous review and finalists are selected by an independent, international jury of experts.

According to jury chair Dr. Marwan Muasher of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and a former foreign minister and deputy prime minister of Jordan: “The Award finalists have made outstanding contributions to fostering pluralism in some of the world’s most challenging contexts. They are strengthening their communities by helping to build a foundation of mutual respect, cooperation and shared purpose.”

Deeyah Khan’s critically acclaimed documentary films challenge stereotypes and encourage dialogue on some of today’s most polarizing issues. Through seven documentary films and Fuuse, a production company she founded in 2010, Ms Khan has explored—and sometimes defused—many facets of extremism. She has facilitated dialogue with jihadists, members of armed militia groups, American domestic terrorists, white supremacists, anti-abortion activists, perpetrators of intimate partner violence and even murderers. Along with her profound courage, Ms Khan’s approach relies on listening with curiosity and empathy to locate the humanity behind hateful rhetoric and to find common ground.

From among these 10 finalists, three winners and seven honourable mention recipients will be announced in October and recognized at a ceremony to be held in November in Ottawa, Canada. Each winner will receive a prize of \$50,000 (CAD) to further their work in support of pluralism.

**Meet the 2023 Global Pluralism Award finalists (alphabetical):**

**Build Up (Kenya/United States/Global)** works with peacebuilding institutions and a network of peace innovators to tackle polarization and make peacebuilding processes more inclusive of diverse voices and perspectives.

**Deeyah Khan (Norway/United States)** is a documentary filmmaker and activist countering extremism and fostering understanding and empathy across ideological, religious and racial divides.

**Esther Omam (Cameroon)** is a peacebuilder, mediator and human rights defender mobilizing women and youth from across Cameroon to advocate for an end to conflict and hostilities.

**The Global Interfaith Network for People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Expressions - GIN-SSOGIE (South Africa/Global)** supports LGBTIQ+ people of faith from the Global South and East to advocate for an end to violence and persecution against sexual and gender minorities.

**India Love Project (India)** challenges exclusion and prejudice in India by sharing love stories of non-traditional unions between interfaith, inter-caste and LGBTQ+ couples on social media.

**Lea Baroudi (Lebanon)** is a peace mediator using art, culture and social enterprise to provide Lebanese youth with the rare opportunity to build a future outside of violent extremism and sectarianism.

**Politize! Civic Education Institute (Brazil)** is a non-partisan and non-profit organization tackling polarization in Brazil by producing free and unbiased political education, training civic leaders to solve public policy problems and training teachers to educate youth to become engaged citizens.

**Red de Intérpretes y Promotores Interculturales Asociación Civil (Mexico)** is an Indigenous youth collective in Oaxaca, Mexico tackling exclusion by providing otherwise unavailable Indigenous language interpretation to those involved in legal proceedings.

**REFORM: The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development (Palestine)** is a non-governmental organization building solidarity between groups in Palestine by empowering them to get involved in social life and influence decision-making.

**Touché (Belgium)** is a social enterprise providing support to current and former prisoners and at-risk youth and, in the process, advancing a positive view of anger and aggression.

**ABOUT THE GLOBAL PLURALISM AWARD**

The Global Pluralism Award recognizes pluralism in action. Presented every other year to individuals, organisations, governments and businesses from around the world, the Award celebrates the inspiring and brave work that is helping to build more inclusive societies where diversity is valued and protected.

The Award is conferred by the Global Centre for Pluralism, an independent, charitable

organization founded by His Highness the Aga Khan and the Government of Canada, and is made possible in part by the generous support of TD Bank Group. For more information about the Award, visit <https://award.pluralism.ca/>.

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