



## The Andi Leadership Institute for Young Women Announces PARTICIPANTS FOR 2014 PROGRAM

*Eight Women from Israel, Pakistan, India, Yemen, Ethiopia, Kosovo & the U.S. Selected  
for Peacebuilding Training in Washington*

WASHINGTON, D.C.-July 10, 2014-The Andi Leadership Institute for Young Women (ALI) announced today that it has selected 8 participants from Israel, Pakistan, India, Yemen, Ethiopia, Kosovo, Israel and the U.S. for its second seminar to be held August 4-22<sup>nd</sup> at The School for Ethics and Global Leadership (SEGL) in Washington, D.C.

The Institute focuses on providing young women with the necessary skills to mediate, negotiate, and transform conflict; bridge cultural divides by forging relationships with other participants; and lead peacebuilding initiatives in their countries of origin and beyond. ALI participants are mentored throughout the seminar and post-graduation in order to expand the global network of women equipped to enter into leadership positions and contribute to non-violent resolution of conflict.

The young women selected for the 2014 program are:

- **Heni**, age 22, a native of **Holon, Israel**, is a basketball player and coach with a background in using sports for bridging divides between communities in conflict. She plans to spread the skills she learns at ALI to teammates and those she coaches and to continue bridging divides between Palestinian and Israeli youth.
- **Jamie**, age 19, is a rising senior at **Mississippi State University's (MSU) Shackouls Honors College**, with a double major in Political Science and Mathematics. She is looking forward to the intercultural experience of the ALI program and bringing the learning back to her community to help advocate for positive change around issues such as teen pregnancy and segregation.
- **Lila**, age 21, is from **Gettysburg, PA** and is about to begin her senior year at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, PA, where she is studying Political Science and Gender and Sexuality. She is interested in studying how women's rights are affected by conflict and how to address gender inequalities in societies facing violent conflict.
- **Yanet**, age 23, is from **Addis Ababa** and is currently the Product Flow Manager and Website Monitor for a horticultural organization. Yanet was drawn to ALI by the program's focus on networking between like-minded international young people, courses on mediation and conflict resolution, and the ability to hone leadership skills.
- **Minahil**, age 22, is from **Lahore, Pakistan** and is currently working on a project for the Punjabi government that seeks to streamline priorities for various social sectors including health, education and population welfare etc. Minahil aims to understand her society better by being able to interact with females from other parts of the world who will be participating in the ALI program.
- **Fjolla**, age 21, is from **Pristina, Kosovo**. Ms. Bajraktari is an active student and citizen of one of the newest countries in Europe. She is passionate about peacebuilding and expanding her skill-set and knowledge to find solutions for the development of society.

- **Lamya**, age 27, is a **Yemeni-American** citizen. She recently graduated from UC Sacramento where she studied Intercultural and International Communication. Lamya plans to take the skills she will acquire from ALI and apply them to Partners Yemen – Partners for Democratic Change in Yemen where she hopes to attain a monitoring and evaluation intern position.
- **Sarah**, age 27, comes to ALI from **Karbi Anglong district, Assam, India**. Stoked by ethnic conflict, Sarah's district became the site of intense violence since the beginning of the new millennium. Through ALI, Sarah intends to strengthen her skills by working with others and bringing back to her home an enhanced understanding of peace practices and a sense of solidarity with her fellow participants.

ALI held its inaugural program in August 2013 with 8 young women from Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and the U.S.

"When half the population is underrepresented in high-level peace processes around the world, the outcomes are less sustainable because they lack the vital perspective of women," said Advisory Council Member and MSNBC host Rachel Maddow. "Now in its second year, The Andi Leadership Institute is addressing this problem by building the next generation of female peacebuilders. The world needs these young women, and ALI is giving them the skills to succeed."

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**The Andi Leadership Institute for Young Women** seeks to equip the next generation of female peacebuilders, both international and domestic, to be future leaders and peacebuilders in their communities. Its goal is to provide young women with conflict transformation and leadership skills during their young adult years; bridge cultural divides; and offer support and mentorship. Partners include: The Alliance for Peacebuilding; The Institute for Inclusive Security, National Democratic Institute, Partners for Democratic Change; and The School for Ethics and Global Leadership. The organization was named after Andi Parhamovich who was killed in 2007 while working for the National Democratic Institute.

For more information please visit our website: <http://www.andileadership.org>