

DR. SAKENA YACOOBI

EDUCATION

Masters in Public Health (1981), Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California

Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences (1977), University of the Pacific, Stockton, California

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2007-PRESENT: FOUNDER, PROFESSOR SAKENA YACOOBI PRIVATE PROJECTS

- Founded four Professor Sakena Yacoobi Private Schools in Kabul and Herat, Afghanistan, each offering grades K-twelve.
- Founded the Professor Sakena Yacoobi Private Hospital and Clinic.
- Founded Radio Meraj 94.1FM, a radio station in Herat Afghanistan featuring educational programming as well as uplifting entertainment.

1995-PRESENT: PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFGHAN INSTITUTE OF LEARNING (AIL), PESHAWAR PAKISTAN AND KABUL AND HERAT, AFGHANISTAN

- Developed and implements the health and education programs of AIL as founder of this Afghan women's NGO that has provided education and health services to over 12 million Afghans and currently serves 350,000 Afghans, primarily women and children annually with a staff of 450 and an annual budget of approximately \$1.5 Million
- Oversees all of the operations of AIL, trains staff, develops training programs and manuals, fundraises, and meets with donors and government officials
- Represents AIL at international conferences

UNDER MY DIRECTION, THE AFGHAN INSTITUTE OF LEARNING:

- Developed a grass roots model for organizing and empowering Afghan women to secure their human rights, become leaders, improve their health, and advance their education;
- Provides quality educational opportunities through preschools, primary and secondary schools, enrichment classes, a university, Women's Learning Centers and Educational Learning Centers;
- Innovated Women's Learning Centers, which provide a place for women to meet, participate in educational, health, human rights and skills training classes and receive health services;
- Supports literacy classes and income-generation training projects for women with financial needs;
- Supported 80 underground home schools for girls in four provinces of Afghanistan during the Taliban time;

- Trains teachers at all levels and develops teacher training curricula which is used by the Afghan ministries;
- Provides leadership and human rights training for Afghan women;
- Provides health education and basic health services including midwifery, family planning, and pre-natal / post-natal care to thousands of women and children;
- Trains health educators, vaccinators and other health professionals;
- Provides advanced software and hardware computer training and management training.
- Publishes a health and education magazine in Dari.
- Provides alternative ways to encourage peace through conferences and workshops emphasizing the works of Afghan poets, including Rumi.
- Runs a legal aid clinic for poor Afghan women

1996-PRESENT VICE-PRESIDENT, CREATING HOPE INTERNATIONAL (CHI), DEARBORN, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

- Serves as Vice President on the Board of Directors
- Serves as advisor to CHI's nonprofit education, training, and health programs
- Makes strategic program and grant decisions
- Fund-raising and donor relations
- Represents CHI at international meetings and conferences.
- Worked as Director of Programs from 1996-2001, managing the implementation of all technical assistance programs in addition to responsibilities as Vice-President.

1993-1995 COORDINATOR, FEMALE EDUCATION PROGRAM, INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC), PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

- Managed five female programs serving 17,000 refugees with an annual budget of over \$650,000 and a staff of 680 persons. Project areas included primary education, health education, pre-school education, English language training and computer and office training.
- Raised funds and acted as donor liaison
- Prepared reports, budgets and proposals
- Trained staff, improved training programs, and improved overall financial management

- Served as the ACBAR education representative to UNORSA and worked on the Rehabilitation Strategy Plan for Afghanistan
- Represented IRC at two international conferences

UNDER MY DIRECTION, THE FEMALE EDUCATION PROGRAM

- Provided support to 25 girls' schools with over 14,500 students
- Trained 600 primary school teachers
- Developed five new seminars and eight teacher training manuals
- Revised one training manual
- Successfully introduced community participation in all programs
- Reorganized programs to reduce costs while increasing programs for refugees
- Centralized accounting and transportation

1992-1993 MANAGER, FEMALE EDUCATION AND TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM, INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC), PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

- Managed a program (with funding of \$240,000) that provided teacher training and assistance to 17 girls' schools.
- Trained 15 teacher trainers and designed teacher training curriculum
- Supervised 17 staff and oversaw supervision of 200 personnel in girls' schools
- Oversaw expenditures and purchasing and prepared reports, proposals and budgets.

1989-1992 PROFESSOR, D'ETRE UNIVERSITY, GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN, U.S.A.

- Taught biology, mathematics and psychology.

1982-1991 HEALTH CONSULTANT

- Provided counseling and assistance with physician and hospital selection, patient-physician coordination, nutrition, exercise, and hygiene

- Provided family therapy and behavioral adaptation for private patients in the areas of prenatal care, postnatal care for mother and newborn, geriatrics, cerebrovascular disease, hypertension, hepatitis, blindness, and kidney disease
- Assisted in health-related research projects.

DELEGATIONS

- NGO delegate to the United Nations Population Fund Conference on Gender Violence, Bratislava, Slovakia (2002)
- Delegate to the Afghan Women’s Summit for Democracy sponsored by UNIFEM and partnering NGOs, Brussels, Belgium (2001)
- Delegate to the Roundtable on Women’s Leadership in Rebuilding Afghanistan sponsored by UNIFEM and the Belgian government, Brussels, Belgium (2001)
- Delegate to the United Nations Millennium Forum for NGOs, New York City, United States (2000)
- NGO Delegate through Women’s Learning Partnership to UN Commission on the Status of Women. (2011)
- Delegate to Davos World Economic Forum (2011)

PUBLICATIONS

- “It was with a mission” in The Steve Sinnott Foundation Engage Magazine Issue 14, 2016.
- “Changing assumptions about women in the Islamic world by working with communities”, in Markaz, The Brookings Institution’s Middle East Politics and Policy Blog, June 2, 2015
- “In Afghanistan, teaching men that education is not a threat” in The Christian Science Monitor online, February 19, 2015
- “In an Afghan Refugee Camp, She Looked to Universal Principles of Law” in The Christian Science Monitor online, August 21, 2013
- “Literacy and Networking for Afghan Women Through Texting” on The Huffington Post, June 2013
- “Education is the Way to a Healthier Country” on The Huffington Post, May 2013
- “A Quiet Transformation: Afghan Women’s Networking Movement” on The Huffington Post, May 2013
- “Unlocking the Quiet Courage of Afghans” in On The Issues Magazine Online, 2010
- “Empowering Women Through Education” in Vancouver Peace Summit: Selected Writings, Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education, 2009
- “Disaster Relief Efforts of Native Women’s Organizations” in Conscience Magazine Vol. XXVII, No. 2, Washington DC, Summer 2006.
- “Teaching Women to Care for Themselves in Afghanistan” in UN Chronicle Vol. XLII, No. 4, Outreach Division of the United Nations Department of Public Information, New York, December 2005 – February 2006.

- “The Afghan Institute of Learning: Bringing Human Rights Education to Afghan Women” in [Human Rights Education in Asian Schools](#). No. 7 Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center, Japan. 2004.
- “Women Educating Women in the Afghan Diaspora: Why and How” in *Religious Fundamentalisms and the Human Rights of Women*, edited by Courtney W. Howland. New York, NY: Palgrave, 2001.
- Eight Dari-language teacher training guides developed between 1993 and 1995

RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- [January 2017](#) Panelist at Raisina Dialogue, New Delhi, India
- [November 2016](#) Keynote Speaker at New England International Donors Annual Dinner, Boston
- [November 2016](#) Panelist at World Forum for Democracy, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France
- [October 2016](#) Speaker at Nordic Ecommerce Summit, Malmo, Sweden
- [September 2016](#) Panelist at SPIN2016, Santiago De Compostela, Spain
- [September 2016](#) Speaker at Wise event, Brussels, Belgium
- [September 2016](#) Speaker at Wise Event, Paris, France
- [September 2016](#) Panelist at UNESCO GEM Report Launch, London, England
- [July 2016](#) Keynote speaker at Teach First’s Impact Conference, Leeds, United Kingdom
- [July 2016](#) Panelist at Tanenbaum Retreat, NY
- [May 2016](#) Speaker at WISE Tunis Forum, Tunis, Tunisia
- [May 2016](#) Speaker at World Humanitarian Summit, Istanbul, Turkey
- [May 2016](#) Panelist at Women Deliver 2016 Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark
- [May 2016](#) Speaker at House of Lords, Palace of Westminster, London
- [April 2016](#) Keynote Speaker at RM Education REAL Conference, London, UK
- [April 2016](#) Speaker at Fulbright Afghanistan Reentry Seminar, Fayetteville, AR
- [April 2016](#) Panelist at Skoll World Forum, Oxford, UK
- [March 2016](#) Keynote Speaker and Panelist at ASKwith Forum, Harvard University,
- [March 2016](#) Speaker at WISE- Event at Newseum, Washington D.C.
- [March 2016](#) Panelist at International Government Communication Forum, Sharjah, UAE
- [March 2016](#) Keynote Speaker at SXSWedu, Austin, TX
- [March 2016](#) Keynote Speaker at UOCSA UNICEF **Symposium, Fife, Scotland**
- [March 2016](#) Keynote Speaker and Panelist at Schools Now-British Council, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- [January 2016](#) Speaker at The Sheika Salama bint Hamdan Foundation’s Muntada event, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- [October 2015](#) Panelist at World Humanitarian Summit, Geneva, Switzerland
- [September 2015](#) Panelist at the World Humanitarian Summit: Humanitarian Action: A Forward-Looking Agenda event, UN-NY
- [August 2015](#) Keynote Speaker at Millennium Campus Conference , NYC
- [July 2015](#) Panelist at IIPE, Toledo, OH
- [June 2015](#) Panelist at the US-Islamic World Forum *Advancing Women’s Role in an Unstable Middle East*
- [May 2015](#) Speaker at TEDWomen, Monterey, CA

April 2015 Keynote Speaker at the Kaiser Permanente Mid Atlantic Medical Group's 2015 Women in Leadership Conference

February 2015 Panelist at the Global Innovation Summit, San Jose, CA

December 2014 Keynote Speaker at the Gender and Education Association Biennial Interim Conference, Melbourne, Australia

November 2014 Panelist at the WISE Summit, Doha, Qatar
Keynote speaker at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

October 2014 Speaker at the University of St. Joseph, Hartford, CT
Speaker at the *Connecther* Annual Meeting, Austin, TX

May 2014 Commencement Speaker at the University of St. Joseph, Hartford, CT

April 2014 Panelist at Contemplative Alliance & Naropa University, *Awakening the Heart's Wisdom to Guide the Future: Protecting and Caring for Earth's Community of Life* in Boulder, CO

March 2014 Speaker at Maggie Walker Governor's School Model United Nations, Richmond, VA

February 2014 Speaker at Boston College, Boston, MA
Speaker at Harvard, Boston, MA
Speaker at University of California – Davis, Afghan Student Association, Sacramento, CA

November 2013 Speaker at Good Deals Conference in London
Speaker at Opus Prize Events, Georgetown University, Washington DC
Speaker at University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA
Keynote Panelist at the Millennium Campus Conference, Boston, MA

October 2013 Chapel Speaker at Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA
Speaker at Mills College, Oakland, CA

July 2013 Keynote Panelist at World Justice Forum in The Hague on Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Importance of the Rule of Law to Various Sectors

May 2013 Speaker at the New York Theological Seminary Conference, *Nurturing Peace in Contexts of Global Violence*, New York, NY

Featured Speaker for the National Council for Accreditation of Teachers Annual Meeting, Charleston, SC

- April 2013 Speaker for the Chicago Council on Global Affairs in Chicago
Speaker at the Council on Foundations for Global Fund for Children in Chicago
- March 2013 Presenter for the Basic Education Coalition for Women Thrive Worldwide in Washington D.C.
- February 2013 Presenter at the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C.
Panelist at the International Women's Day Breakfast for Women Thrive Worldwide in Washington D.C.
Speaker at UNESCO's World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) for Mobile Learning in Paris
Panelist at UNESCO's WSIS in Paris
Speaker at the Festival of Ideas in Goa, India
- December 2012 Presenter at the World Congress of Religions on Women's Empowerment in Washington D.C.
Speaker and Panelist at Novartis in Basel, Switzerland
Keynote Speaker at Global Washington Conference in Seattle, Washington
- November 2012 Keynote Speaker and Panelist at UNESCO Conference in Seoul, South Korea
Speaker for the Alliance of Artisan Enterprise in Washington D.C.
- October 2012 Speaker at Give2Asia Conference in San Francisco, California
Participant and panelist at IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in Tokyo, Japan
Speaker at World Affairs Council of Northern California
Speaker at Opportunity Collaboration in Ixtapa, Mexico
- September 2012 Participant in a Round Table Discussion at Fetzer Conference in Assisi, Italy
- June 2012 Panelist for The Asia Foundation at the Lotus Leadership Awards in New York
- May 2012 Presenter at Women's Refugee Commission in New York
Speaker at the World's Children's Prize Conference in Stockholm, Sweden
- March 2012 Speaker at Global Peace Initiative of Women in Nairobi, Kenya
- February 2012 Speaker at the German Media Awards in Baden-Baden, Germany
- October 2011 Participant in Round Table Discussion for Opportunity Collaboration in Ixtapa, Mexico
Speaker for American Jewish World Services Conference in Los Angeles, California
- September 2011 Presenter for Gruber Prize at Yale Club in New York
Presenter for Georgetown University's Afghan Women's Council
- June 2011 Keynote speaker at Canadian Women for Afghan Women in Toronto, Canada
- May 2011 Speaker at World Forum Foundation conference in Hawaii
Speaker at Global 50 conference London
- March 2011 Presenter at World Forum of Muslim Philanthropists in Dubai
- February 2011 Presented at Women's Learning Partnership side event during UN CSW55 in New York
- January 2011 Presented at World Economic Forum in Davos Switzerland
- November 2010 Speaker at Stanford University

Speaker at event for American Jewish World Services in San Francisco, California

October 2010 Presenter at Opportunity Collaboration in Ixtapa, Mexico
Speaker at Adventure Travel World Summit in Aviemore, Scotland

September 2010 Presented Commitment at Clinton Global Initiative in New York
Speaker at GFW's Women Hold the Solutions in Chicago, IL

August 2010 Served on Roundtable Discussion at UN DPI/NGO Summit and presented at the Just One World forum on Global Health in Australia

July 2010 Presented on subject of Women of the Middle East at the Chautauqua Institution and its related Chagrin Falls

June 2010 Presented the commencement speech for graduates at Santa Clara University
Dialogue for Action Education, Health Care Asia and Middle East
Served on IEEW Peace through Economic Development Panel

May 2010 Speaker for Deloitte Accounting Firm throughout Canada for Betty Ann Heggie Womentorship Program
Spoke on a panel discussing the Dali Lama's new book "Saint John the Divine" in New York
Keynote address for Global Fund for Children in New York

April 2010 Invited delegate to the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship, Washington, DC
Invited delegate to the Skoll World Forum in Oxford, England
World Movement for Democracy Inclusive Democracy: women and men working to ensure the promises of Democracy.

March 2010 Presenter on panel of Adult Literacy at the US Afghan Women's Council conference on Education and Literacy presented by the coordinated by the George W. Bush Institute

December 2009 Participated in 2 panel discussions and lit the Peace Candle at 'Addressing Climate Change by Awakening to Oneness' at COP15, Copenhagen, Denmark (organized by the Global Peace Initiative for Women) a parallel event of the Copenhagen Climate Conference
Opening Plenary Speaker for Parliament of World Religions, Melbourne, Australia

November 2009 Speaker and Panelist for the Government of Canada's Democracy Dialogue, Ottawa, Canada

October 2009 Speaker for American Jewish World Service event, San Francisco, California
Participant at Global Peace Initiative for Women, Washington D.C.
Speaker for Direct Relief event, San Francisco, California
Speaker at Lake Forest Academy, Chicago, Illinois
Presenter at Opportunity Collaboration, Ixtapa, Mexico

September 2009 Presenter and panelist, Clinton Global Initiative, New York, New York
Participant in Strategic Retreat, Vancouver Peace Summit, Vancouver, Canada
Speaker at Omega Institute for Holistic Studies, Rhinebeck, New York

August 2009 VIP Delegate at Global Peace Initiative of Women, Assisi, Italy

July, 2009 Speaker at International Institute on Peace Education, Budapest, Hungary
Participant at Aflatoun Conference, Egypt

May, 2009 Plenary Speaker at Institute for Health and Social Policy, Montreal, Canada
Participant at Women’s Learning Partnership for Global Health, Amman, Jordan

April 2009 Group Leader at Global Peace Initiative of Women’s Afghan Young Leaders Dialogue, Dharamsala, India
Speaker at the World Learning Partnership’s 6th Assembly in Jakarta, Indonesia
Participant at the Global Philanthropic Forum, Washington D.C.

March 2009 Speaker at Skoll World Forum, Oxford, England
Keynote Speaker at Americans for UNFPA, United States tour
Honorary Speaker at Fulbright Pre-Departure Orientation at U.S. Embassy, Kabul, Afghanistan

February 2009 Keynote Speaker at Sacred Circles Celebration of Women’s Spirituality, Washington, D.C.
Keynote speaker at Seekers Church, Washington D. C.
Participant at UN Economic & Social Council’s Philanthropy and Global Public Health Agenda, New York

December 2008 Speaker at Chatham Kent Health Alliance, Chatham, ON, Canada.

November 2008 Participant at Global Peace Initiative for Women Gathering Spiritual Voices of America, Aspen, Colorado.

June 2008 Participant in Selection Committee at the Gruber Women’s Rights Prize, New York, NY.
Honoree at Loma Linda Honorary Doctorate Event, Loma Linda, CA.
Featured Partner at the Global Fund for Women Gala, New York, NY.
Presenter at Fulbright Enhancing Future Leadership in Afghanistan, Chicago, IL.

May 2008 Speaker at Chatham Kent Health Alliance, Chatham, Ontario, Canada.
Panelist at Global Health Council conference, Washington, D.C.

April 2008 Panelist at Global Philanthropy Forum conference, San Francisco, CA.
Participant at World Movement of Democracy, Kyiv, Ukraine.
Participant at Women’s Learning Partnership’s Transitional Partners, Potomac, MD.

March 2008 Panelist at the Global Peace Initiative of Women Summit, Jaipur, India.

February 2008 Participant at the U.S. Islamic Forum, Doha, Qatar.

December 2007 Panelist for “The Kite Runner” movie screening in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco.

October 2007 Panelist at Tanenbaum Peacemaker Awards Ceremony with Bosnian Presidency, Bosnia-Herzegovina.
World Bank HDN Symposium on Education: A Critical Path to Gender Equality and Empowerment:
Presenter and Panelist, “Strategy to Empower and Educate Afghan Women”, Washington, D.C.
Panelist at Gruber Women’s Human Rights Award Symposium, New York.

September 2007 Clinton Global Initiative Education Session: Panelist for “Beyond Primary Education: Strategies of Girls and Secondary Education”, New York.

- May 2007 World Affairs Council of Northern California. Speaker on Women's Rights in Afghanistan in San Francisco, California.
- March 2007 Skoll World Forum. "Innovators in Action" panelist at Oxford.
- Aug. 2006 International Institute on Peace Education. Speaker and Panelist, in Costa Rica.
- April 2006 National Endowment for Democracy World Movement for Democracy 4th Assembly, Panelist "Barriers and Breakthroughs: Using Technology to Empower Women's Participation" in Istanbul, Turkey.
- March 2006 Center for Disease Control, Guest Speaker, "Strategies Used by the Afghan Institute of Learning for Improving Health Literacy Among Afghan Women and Children," in Atlanta, Georgia, United States
Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs 75th Anniversary, Panelist, "Challenging Fundamentalism: Women's As Agents of Change" in San Francisco, California, United States.
University of the Pacific, College of the Pacific, Jacoby Center for Community and Regional Studies, Guest Lecturer, Stockton, California, United States
- February 2006 50th Commission on the Status of Women Parallel Events, Panelist "Empowering Women for Leadership Roles" and "Funding Development to Enhance Women's Participation in Health, Education, and Work" Church Center of the United Nations, New York, United States
- January 2006 One World Forum, Panelist, "The Trade of Tears: Human Trafficking in the 21st Century" University of Warwick in Coventry, United Kingdom.
- October 2005 Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition, Guest Speaker, "Dialogue on Women in the Service of Peace," Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States.
- October 2005 Association for Women in Development, Panelist, "Women, Leadership, Change: Using the Empowering Education Model for Transformation" in Bangkok, Thailand.
- July 2005 International Institute on Peace Education. Panelist, "The Art of Peace Education in On-going Conflicts: Diverse Regional Perspectives" in Rhodes, Greece.
- March 2005 Fletcher Conference on Innovative Approaches. Panelist, "Women in Decision Making Roles: Leadership and Gender Equity in the Move Towards Democracy" at Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts.
- March 2005 Women's Learning Partnership International Symposium: Leading to Change—Eliminating Violence against Women in Muslim Societies. Panelist, "Breaking the Silence: Culture, Conflict, & Extremism" New York, New York
- December 2004 California Governor's Conference on Women and Families: Women as Architects of Change. Panelist. "Global Architects of Change" in Long Beach, California

- October 2004 The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. Guest speaker. “Afghanistan: Women’s Roles in Peace building and Reconstruction” at the Church Center for the United Nations, New York.
- August 2004 International Institute on Peace Education. Workshop facilitator & plenary panelist. “Human Security: Building a Culture of Peace” in Istanbul, Turkey
- May 2004 Open Society Institute Network Women’s Program. Workshop Facilitator “Empowering Education” Baku, Kyrgyzstan
- April 2004 United Nations Population Fund, Gender Workshop Keynote Speaker. Kabul, Afghanistan
- Nov. 2003 Culture and Development Studies Program of the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Guest Lecturer. Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium
- Oct. 2003 Women’s Learning Partnership: Clash or Consensus? Gender and Human Security in a Globalized World. Discussant, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Washington, DC United States
- October 2003 Central Eurasian Studies Society Fourth Annual Conference. Paper presenter, “Empowering and Educating Afghan Women.” Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts United States
- August 2003 International Institute on Peace Education: Educating for Peace in Divided Societies. Panelist and workshop facilitator, “Women’s Actions toward a Just Peace—Local and Global Perspectives” in Seoul, South Korea.

AWARDS

- 2016 Honorary Doctorate Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey
- 2016 Harold W. McGraw, Jr Prize in Education (International)
- 2015 WISE Prize for Education
- Honorary Doctor of Human Letters from University of St. Joseph (2014)
- Champion for Women’s Health Award from Direct Relief (2014)
- Opus Prize (2013)
- Good Deals Pioneer Award (2013)
- Global Generation Award from the Millennium Campus Network (2013)
- Honorary Doctor of Laws from Princeton University (2013)
- Kosambi Award (2013)
- Economic Opportunity Achievement Award (2012)
- TIAW World of Difference Award (2012)

- Lotus Leadership Award (2012)
- World’s Children’s Prize (2012)
- German Media Award (2012)
- Peace Award of Afghanistan (2011)
- Global Women’s Hall of Fame Award from *Enterprising Women* magazine (2011)
- Global Hero Award from University of the Pacific Global Center for Social Entrepreneurship (2010)
- Honorary doctorate from Santa Clara University (2010)
- Asia Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award given by Schwab foundation (2010)
- Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health and Human Rights (2010)
- Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership (2009)
- Americans for UNFPA Board of Advocates Award for the Health and Dignity of Women (2009)
- Honorary doctorate of Humanitarian Service degree from Loma Linda University (2008)
- Gleitsman International Activist Award (2007)
- National Role Models Project Role Model Award (2007)
- Honorary doctorate of laws from the University of the Pacific for her leadership and human rights work for women and children (2007)
- Senior Ashoka Fellow—first Ashoka Fellow from Afghanistan (2006)
- Citizen Leader Award from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California (2006)
- Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship (2006)
- Democracy Award of the National Endowment for Democracy (2005)
- Global Giving / Global Philanthropy Forum Innovation Marketplace Winner (2005)
- 1,000 Peace Women for the Nobel Peace Prize Nominee (2005)
- Women’s Rights Prize of the Peter Gruber Foundation (2004)
- Recognition of Service awards from various Afghan ministries and district governments (2003-2015)
- Peacemakers in Action Award from the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding (2002)
- 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 (2001)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Afghan Institute of Learning, Founder and Executive Director *Afghan National Coordinating Body * Afghan Women’s Law Group * Afghan Women’s Network * Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief, Member & Former Steering Committee Member * AWID * Creating Hope International, Vice

President * Fetzer Institute Advisory Council for Non-Governmental Organizations * Global Fund for Women, Former Board Member * Global Peace Initiative for Women, member of Contemplative Alliance * Henry J. Kravis Prize in Leadership, Nomination Advisor * Member of 1000 Peace Women Organization * Monterey Institute of International Studies at Middlebury College, Center for Social Impact Advisory Council Member * The Muslims Women’s Fund, member Global Advisory Network * New Global Citizens, Board Member * Global Fund for Women Advisor*Opportunity Collaboration Steering Committee * The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation, Advisor on the Women’s Rights Prize committee * Policy Council on Afghan Women, Steering Committee Member * Sisterhood Is Global Institute *United States Afghan Women’s Council Member * University of the Pacific, Global Center Former Advisory Board member * Vital Voices * Women’s Refugee Commission, Commissioner * World Affairs Council of Northern California

SELECTED WRITINGS ABOUT DR. YACOobi AND AIL

50 Powerful Women Religious Leaders to Celebrate on International Women’s Day, Huffington Post, 2014

Afghan NGO plans curriculum to empower women, Oheraldo, Team Herald, 2013

Rights for Afghan Women Improving, But Fragile, NPR, Rachel Martin, 2012

The Power of Education: Sakena Yacoobi’s Hopes for the Women of Afghanistan, GlobalWA, Nina Carduner, 2012

Sakena Yacoobi – Fighting for Education Amidst Violence, Poverty Cure, 2012

Sakena Yacoobi’s Courage and the Future of Afghan Women, Council on Foreign Relations, Isobel Coleman, 2012

Afghanistan: Update from Sakena Yacoobi, Stanford Social Innovation Review, Regina Ridley, 2011

Dr. Sakena Yacoobi: A Case Study in Leadership, Courage, and Conviction, Forbes, Rahim Kanani, 2011

Land of the Unconquerable: The Lives of Contemporary Afghan Women, Jennifer Heath, 2011

Paradise Beneath Her Feet – How Women are Transforming the Middle East, Isobel Coleman, 2010

Stanford Social Innovation Review, Spring 2010, Stanford University, “Lessons in Courage” by Suzie Boss, pgs. 57-58

Half the Sky-Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, “The Afghan Insurgent,” pgs. 161-165, 2009

Peacemakers in Action- Profiles of Religion in Conflict Resolution, Tanenbaum Center, “Underground Woman,” pgs. 382-401, 2007

VIDEOS ABOUT DR. YACOobi AND AIL

Dr. Yacoobi speaking at Wayne State University - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkMQ1-4KBHg>

Dr. Yacoobi speaking at Boston College - <https://vimeo.com/92663120>

Video created for the Opus Prize - <https://vimeo.com/85378946>

“Courage and Compassion” - <https://vimeo.com/69640974>

“The Spiritual Journey of Sakena Yacoobi” - <https://vimeo.com/36786934>

“Skoll Uncommon Heroes – Sakena Yacoobi” - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7t1Xu_MwHg

"Half the Sky Movement - Afghanistan - Sakena Yacoobi" - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJ2s5LfkpbU>

LANGUAGES

Dari/Farsi, English, Pushto

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<http://www.creatinghope.org/afghan-institute-of-learning.html>
<http://www.creatinghope.org/afghan-development.html>

Twitter: @ail_education

LinkedIn: <https://af.linkedin.com/pub/sakena-yacoobi/73/295/56>

Facebook:

Afghan Institute of Learning: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Afghan-Institute-of-Learning/862771017122597?fref=ts>

Radio Meraj: https://www.facebook.com/pages/%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AF%DB%8C%D9%88-%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AC/1706837462874205?fref=pb&hc_location=profile_browser

PSY High Schools <https://www.facebook.com/Pro.sakena/?fref=nf>