

“Honoring International Commitments to Unlock the Potential of all Migrants for Development”

All GFMD 2018 Summit delegates are invited to attend the following side events, to be held at the Palmeira Conference Center on 6 to 7 December 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco. These side events will be held upon the initiative of their respective organizers. While the topics to be discussed may be relevant to GFMD themes and roundtable discussions, the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs and Taskforce, as well as the GFMD Support Unit, are not directly involved in the organization of these side events.

For registration and/or any question, please contact the organizers directly.

Date and time: 7 December 2018, 8h30 to 09h45, Palmeraie Room

Title of side event

“Mind Your Language: Promoting Ethics in Public Discourse and Reshaping the Migration Media Narrative Through Innovative Ways”

Organizers

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in collaboration with: the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Ethical Journalism Network (EJN), and the Journalism and Mass Communication Department of the American University in Cairo

Contact person(s) / email address(es)

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Background materials

- Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration – Middle East Edition: <https://www.unaoc.org/resource/media-friendly-glossary-for-migration-middle-east-edition/>

- Media Friendly Glossary for Migration: <https://www.unaoc.org/resource/media-friendly-glossary-for-migration/>

- Glossary of Hate Speech in Egyptian Media: <https://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/%D8%AF%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%84-%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%A8-%D8%AE%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%A9-1-1.pdf>

- PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival on Migration, Diversity, Social Inclusion, and the Prevention of Xenophobia: <https://pluralplus.unaoc.org/>

Logistical Requirements

- Podium with table, 5 chairs and one lectern
- Screen that can be hooked to a Mac laptop (for presentations, screening of a short film, and live social media coverage)

Brief description

“Mind Your Language: Promoting Ethics in Public Discourse and Reshaping the Migration Media Narrative Through Innovative Ways”

In the wake of the migration crisis and a string of violent incidents across the world, some communities have fallen victims to hostility. The rising far right in several European countries, and anti-Islam messages by some politicians are just a few examples of this phenomenon. Extreme voices have increasingly been striking a chord with citizens by voicing fears that migrant and refugee communities are threatening their cultures and economies.

Too often, in times of crisis – terrorist attacks, migration crisis – the media tend to mix together important terms and concepts, such as extremists and Muslims, immigrants and refugees, etc. Those amalgams, along with sensationalist images, alarmist headlines and commentary, have contributed to feed people’s anxieties.

A number of international organizations, politicians and media organizations have called for the need to build a “counter narrative” in order to combat and counter hateful and extremist messages that are sent around against certain communities. For journalists, formulating and communicating effective counter-narratives consists in debunking certain myths, and responding to misrepresentations of facts. But beyond doing accurate reporting and careful research, it is sometimes unclear how impactful this media counter narrative can be against hateful propaganda.

This side event will look at various creative initiatives that are used to efficiently combat extremist and hateful language. At a time when journalists have to constantly reinvent themselves and find new ways to create appealing content, this session will discuss the value of transversal and multidisciplinary approaches in order to build strong counter narratives that can reach a large number of people.

Format:

- Intro by moderator: 5 min
- Presentation by 4 speakers: 20 minutes
- Rest of the event: interactive discussion with audience and people on social media (UNAOC will cover side event live on social media and will take questions from people online).

Provisional Programme / Panelists

- UNAOC representative
- Representative of ILO Regional Fair Migration Project in the Middle East (FAIRWAY) project
- Representative of Journalism and Mass Communication Department at The American University in Cairo
- Recipient of UNAOC PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival Special Award on the Prevention of Xenophobia
- Representative of IOM