

Mothers Without Borders:

Steering Youth Away from Violent Extremism

Radcliffe Institute & Harvard University

July 13th-17th, 2018

*“You never change things by fighting the existing reality.
To change something, build a new model that makes
the existing model obsolete.” –R. Buckminster Fuller*



Lida Sherafatmand, “Rock Of Love,” 2018

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Welcome!

Dear distinguished friends,

We are excited to welcome you to Boston from July 13th-17th for our conversation “Mothers Without Borders: Steering Youth Away from Violent Extremism” at Harvard University. Our conversation will focus on community action for peace involving cross sections of youth. We hope to learn from one another’s experiences so that we may help each other grow and transform communities around the world. Our success will depend on you and your willingness to share and engage with our extended family of innovators. We believe that youths, mothers, policymakers, media, and other voices who advocate for change hold the highest promise for finding solutions that work, because they will be by and for us.

We will spend five days exploring alternatives to violence by learning from each other and generating ideas that you will be excited to champion when you return home. An essential goal of this program is to foster a powerful, global community of change-makers. To actualize it, the program creates opportunities to meet and connect on your own initiative.

We await your open hearts and minds, your experiences, and your questions that we can begin to address together at this event. Our spirit is that of creative hope for a future that allows youths to build communities they will feel invested in. We see youths’ engagement and leadership, coupled with your guidance as mothers, larger families, and community leaders, as essential to our success. We aim to offer an experience as productive as possible to fruitful outcomes.

With much admiration and respect,

Hauwa Ibrahim Esq.

The Conversation Begins

Mothers as well as fathers shape youth through family and community connections based on nurture modeling, storytelling, and conversations. Our event will explore how mothers and broader family contexts may build on experience and cultural values to encourage youths to contribute to stronger communities.

Beyond the family, communities and society at large have the responsibility to provide them with opportunities for personal growth. We look forward to imagining with you development avenues that engage youths’ hearts and minds through the affirmation of their inherent worth and the realization of their potential in community and work life.

We believe that youths’ engagement and sense of belonging within their communities are strengthened when their voices have the power to shape their own futures. Our engagement will seek ways to empower youths as the community-builders of today and tomorrow, especially through emotional connection, technology, and collective brainpower. We are here to listen and co-create exciting possibilities.

Welcome to Boston

Friday, July 13th

- 8:00am **Tour of Harvard University**
1 Oxford St, Cambridge
Campus history, academic information, and hidden gems
- 11:00am **Welcome Address at Wellesley Centers for Women**
828 Washington Street, Wellesley 02482
- 11:20pm **Wellesley Centers for Women Program Highlights and Q&A**
Presented by Linda Williams, Linda Charmaraman, Kamilah
Drummond Forrester
- 12:20pm **Break for Prayers and Lunch, Overview of International Admissions**
828 Washington St, Wellesley 02482
Special area will be designated for Al'Azha'r prayer
- 1:00pm **Wellesley College Campus Visit**
Karen Pabon, Director of Slater International Center/International Student & Scholar Advisor
Rachel Kiskin, Student at Wellesley College
Brief tour of campus
- 3:00pm **Visit to Massachusetts State House**
24 Beacon St, Boston, MA 02133
- 7:00pm **Dinner**
Diana Smith's house: 8 Trapelo Road, Lincoln

Day 1: What Will Change Look Like?

Saturday, July 14th

- 8:00am Breakfast
Wasserstein Hall Room 2009, Harvard Law School, 1585 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge
- 8:15am Welcome
Hauwa Ibrahim
- 8:20am Quiet Moment
Amy Post
- 8:25am What Is This About?
Introductions led by Cleopatra Zagrean
- 9:00am Video About Mothers Without Borders Work in Germany
Professor Katharina Al-Shamery
- 9:10am Speeches by Elders
Sharing and hopes for the event
- 9:20am **Conversations on Mothers, Game-Changers, Tradition, Storytelling**
Members of this group will guide the discussion, speaking to the theme of the day; for example, the soft power of the mother's influence, reclaiming storytelling, women as game changers and role models.
- 10:50am Break for Tea/Coffee
- 11:00am **Conversations on Youth, Culture, and Mentorship**
Members of this group will guide the discussion, speaking to the theme of the day; for example, alternative use of social media, mentorship (youth to youth or older to younger).
- 12:30pm Break for Lunch and Prayer at Venue
Special area will be designated for Al'Azh'r prayer
- 2:00pm Combating Youth Violence
Professor Ahmadu Baba-Singhri
- 4:00pm Duck Tour of Boston
Leave for the tour at 3:00pm
- 7:00pm Barbeque
Hauwa Ibrahim's House, 77 Water Row, Sudbury

Day 2: Activating Change

Sunday, July 15th

- 8:00am **Breakfast**
Wasserstein Hall Room 2009, Harvard Law School, 1585 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge
- 8:15am **Quiet moment**
Amy Post
- 8:20am **Activating Change: How I Did It**
Prashan De Visser
- 9:10am **Break**
- 9:30am **Social Enterprise Session**
Mijo Cantier
- 10:15am **Breakout in Three Groups: Youth Group, Fathers Group, and Mothers Group**
Drawing from your experiences, consider these questions for discussion:
- *What have we done right and how can we make it better?*
 - *What have we done wrong and how can we make it different?*
 - *Imagine that you are belonging to each of the other two groups. What will you do? How do you engage with the environment in this identity?*
- 12:30pm **Break for Lunch and Prayer**
- 3:00pm **Session at Boston Museum of Science**
Program will be provided
- 7:30pm **Dinner**
Crazy Stone: 1009, Boston Post Road East, Marlborough

Day 3: Efficient Solutions to Social Issues

Monday, July 16th

- 8:00am **Breakfast**
Wasserstein Hall Room 2009, Harvard Law School, 1585 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge
- 8:30am **Quiet Moment**
Amy Post
- 8:35am **Conversations on Innovation and Technology**
Members of this group will guide the discussion, speaking to the theme of the day; for example, what drives youth to violence.
- 10:05am **Break**
- 10:15am **Conversations on Social Media and Creativity**
Members of this group will guide the discussion, speaking to the theme of the day; for example, marketable skills, entrepreneurship.
- 12:30pm **Break for Lunch and Prayer**
- 2:00pm **MIT Enterprise Session: Innovation to Impact**
*Karen Golmer, Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation
Georgina Campbell, Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship
The power of technology and innovation*
- 4:30pm **Tour of MIT campus**
Sohan Dsouza, doctoral student at MIT
- 7:00pm **Dinner**
Diana Smith's house: 8 Trapelo Road, Lincoln
- 8:30pm **Evening at the Movies**

Day 4: Going Home to Do Good

Tuesday, July 17th

- 8:00am Breakfast
Wasserstein Hall Room 4063, Harvard Law School, 1585 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge
- 8:30am Quiet Moment
Amy Post
- 8:35am Quiet Power of Mother, Wife, Sister, Grandmother... The Nana Asma'u Yan Taru
- 9:15am Conversations on Education and Agriculture
Members of this group will guide the discussion, speaking to the theme of the day; for example, migration & immigration, what can you do to change your immediate environment.
- 10:30am Break
- 10:45am Social Enterprise Session
Stacy Scott
- 12:30pm Break for Lunch and Prayer
Harvard University, catering service, Cambridge and Prayer room
- 2:00pm Conversations on Entrepreneurship
Members of this group will guide the discussion, speaking to the theme of the day; for example, cult-like mindset from ideology (groupthink–positive or negative?).
- 3:00pm Break
- 3:15pm What Good?
Participants sharing reflections
- 5:30pm Thank You
- 8:30pm Dinner at Top of the Hub
Boston's best skyline view: 800 Boylston St, Boston

Acknowledgments

This event would not be possible without your initiative, kindness, and engagement. Some of you have truly gone above and beyond to make this program a reality. We express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to:

Our unsung heroes

Participants

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Donna Tambascio

Katy Walker

Museum of Science

Massachusetts State House

Russell Holmes

Sohan Dsouza

Steven Trothen