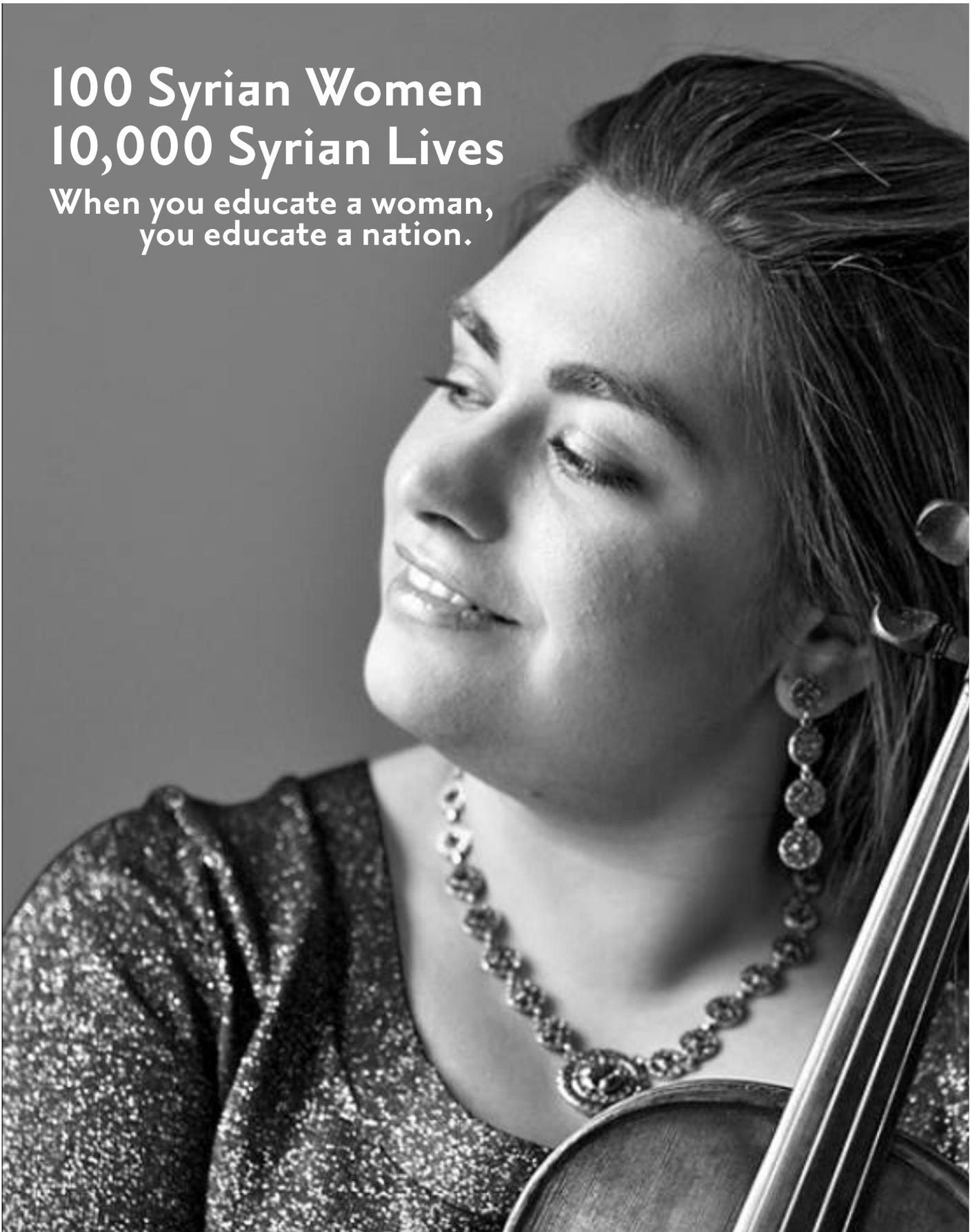


100 Syrian Women 10,000 Syrian Lives

When you educate a woman,
you educate a nation.



SETTING THE STAGE

More than half of Syria's university students have had to terminate their studies as a result of the ongoing crisis in Syria. The Institute of International Education (IIE) and the University of California Davis estimate that between 100,000 and 200,000 Syrian youth are currently displaced from higher education. In particular, the rate of participation by women, once close to 50%, has reached the single digits. For example, in Turkey less than 1% of Syrian women refugees are enrolled in higher education¹.

This represents a tragedy for Syrian youth. Having worked nearly their entire lives to make it to university, these promising young men and women suddenly find themselves stopped in their tracks, and unable to pursue successful careers. This also represents a profound risk to the future stability of Syria and the region: a lost generation increases and extends the turmoil Syria and the Arab world are facing. Additionally, this represents a serious security risk within the community of nations, with undirected and frustrated youth becoming targets for potential recruitment by terrorist organizations targeting this vulnerable group.

Universities and leaders in the United States and Canada have an opportunity now to play an important role in the lives of these young people by offering hope for the continuance of their university studies. More than 40 universities across the world have already united through the IIE Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis to provide partial and full scholarships to Syrian students. This program began in 2012; to date it has enabled more than 150 young people to continue their studies at colleges and universities.

These students have thrived despite incredibly challenging circumstances - transferring midway through their programs to new academic systems, leaving families behind in war-torn conditions, studying in a new language, working to make ends meet. Despite having little work experience when they began to look for internships and jobs, their achievements today are impressive. These students have:

- Consulted for the UN on the future of Syria as researchers in their fields
- Found jobs and internships at the world's top companies, including Goldman Sachs, Intel, Google, IBM, Apple, Nokia, ITW, Motorola, Deutsche Bank, JP Morgan Chase, and Larson Engineering
- Started non-profit organizations to serve Syrian refugees
- Took leadership roles within student organizations, advancing philanthropic projects for Syrian refugees and other populations in distress as a result of conflict or natural disaster
- Become finalists in the "It's Up to US" competition and were honored by President Clinton
- Delivered the student commencement addresses and TEDx talks
- Won numerous hackathons on campus
- Served in student government
- Were honored at the White House
- Received Dean's List honors

These students took the little they were given and made extraordinary things happen. They constitute Syria's future leadership. They have the potential to one day be ranked among the world's great leaders.

¹ "We Will Stop Here and Go No Further: Syrian University Student and Scholars in Turkey" by "Keith David Watenpaugh, Adrienne L. Fricke, and James R. King with Chris Gratien and Seçil Yılmaz. Institute of International Education and University of California, Davis; 2014.

Our Goal

We will build a coalition of colleges, universities and private and corporate donors to support Syrian women while they complete their university studies. Our goal is to bring 100 Syrian women to study at U.S. and Canadian colleges and universities over the next three academic years (2016-17 through 2018-19). We intend to raise \$5 million from foundations, governments, and philanthropists for this program. These funds will be matched by scholarships awarded by college and university partners.

We believe our results will be exponential in impact. The 100 women who will be enabled to earn their degree through this initiative will in turn become leaders: we anticipate that they will positively affect the lives of more than 10,000 Syrians over their lifetimes. These women will help to stabilize Syria's future. Many will be among the world's leaders. The first step toward this end is the organization of support enabling these Syrian women to complete their college or graduate degree.

“Women are the best drivers of growth, the best hope for reconciliation in a conflict and the best buffer against the radicalization of youth and the repetition of cycles of violence.”

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director

Despite gender parity at Syria's universities prior to the conflict, Syrian young women are approximately three times less likely to access higher education in exile than their male counterparts. The consequences of women losing access to education include vulnerability to economically strategic marriages, dis-empowerment within their communities, and loss of professional and economic opportunities. The 100 Syrian Women project will result in women's empowerment and professional success. These women will have the chance to become leaders in their many fields of interest and will help stabilize Syria's future. Through this program, Syrian women have the opportunity to become participants in:

- Peace negotiations
- Recovery Programs
- Monitoring & implementation of peace agreements
- Governments & parliaments
- Security & Justice sectors
- Post-conflict planning
- Administration of public services
- Peacekeeping missions
- Transitional justice
- Science and technology sectors

PROGRAM SUMMARY

This scholarship is open to Syrian women who have demonstrated exemplary social service with leadership, academic excellence, and civic responsibility, who have characteristics reflecting the importance of empathy, humility, courage and resilience, and who have potential to serve as global leaders. It is led by Jusoor and administered as part of the IIE-led Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis. Key partners are Jusoor, the Institute for International Education (IIE), Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), EducationUSA, and Monmouth College.

This scholarship is open to students who are:

- Admitted to university in the U.S. or Canada but are not enrolled yet.
- Planning for their future studies and careers, and interested in studying at universities in the U.S. and Canada, but have not started their applications yet.

The scholarship amount is up to \$50,000 per student, which will be awarded on a needs-basis. The funding will contribute towards tuition and fees, living expenses, and fees related to university applications, required tests, and the visa application. Students who get to the final rounds of selections will be asked to fill in a financial assessment form to determine their ability to contribute financially to their studies. The scholarship will cover the remaining expenses up to \$50,000 per student. Applicants who have not started applying to universities yet and who get the scholarship will be supported during the application process, including in identifying institutions that will provide complementary funding. Scholarship recipients will be required to participate in leadership and career development workshops during their studies.

Eligibility Criteria

- Nationality: Applicants must be Syrian, or Palestinian with a Syrian Travel Document (Palestinian Refugees in Syria)
- Degree level: This scholarship is open to undergraduate and graduate students
- Transfer students are eligible only if they are currently studying in Syria or one of its neighboring countries
- Dossiers: Only students having a very strong academic background, demonstrated by their transcripts, and at least one letter of recommendation from a professor or teacher will be considered
- Proficiency in the English Language: All candidates are required to speak and understand English at a level that would allow them to pursue a higher education program in English
- Financial need: Students must demonstrate financial need to be eligible for the scholarship
- The final scholarship award is conditional upon admission into a higher education institute and getting a visa as needed
- All disciplines and academic fields of study are available under this program, with the exception of medicine, pharmacy, and dentistry. Law is only available at graduate level.

Selection Criteria

- Academic achievement
- Personal achievement
- Solid academic plans for degree
- Solid plans for future, beyond academic degree
- Social responsibility
- Extraordinary strength of character (leadership and overcoming major obstacles)
- Interest in and commitment towards helping Syria

Donors

We seek support from foundations, governments, and individual donors. We welcome public/private partnerships who share our goal of empowering Syria's next generation of women leaders.

We seek:

- Foundations commitment of \$500,000 or above
- Government support of \$500,000 or above
- At least 25 individual donors at the \$100,000 commitment level or above

Educational Partners

We are pursuing partnerships with universities and academic institutes which seek to internationalize their campuses and help Syria through capacity building for its emerging leaders. We seek full and partial scholarships and a commitment to continue supporting the scholars beyond the completion of their programs.

Impact

Donor funds will be matched by our university partners. Each participating university will provide at least half of the resources required for the scholars to complete their education. Often, our university partners will contribute more than the match via scholarship awards (tuition waivers), waivers for room and board, work study programs, and access to community resources that strengthen and empower women leaders.

We anticipate that every woman who receives a scholarship will positively affect the lives of at least 1,000 Syrians following her graduation. Research shows that educated Syrian women go on to help their families and communities in many different ways. They support the education of their family members, particularly other women, provide income to their families, and mentor and assist their fellow students and refugees. Many lead community-based organizations and contribute positively as doctors, engineers, lawyers, public servants, and educators.

“Protecting and empowering women during and after conflicts is one of the most important challenges of our time.”

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General

SUCCESS STORIES

Our initiative to educate Syrian women is heightened when we witness the successes that young Syrian women have achieved through education. From joining Goldman Sachs to speaking at the White House to performing at the Kennedy Center, these resilient young women offer eloquent testimony to the value of the education each has received.

Education is the Most Powerful Weapon

“On September 1, 2012, I said goodbye to my family to take my flight to the U.S. It was my first flight ever. I was transferring to Illinois Institute of Technology from my beloved mother country, Syria.

“Almost 19 months later, so much has happened! I interviewed and earned an internship at Goldman Sachs for Summer 2013; applied for and received a RISE (Research in Science and Engineering) fellowship in Germany; and developed friendships with students from throughout Chicago and from all over the world – many of whom I know will be life-long friends and colleagues.

“I have lived the international experience, and last but not least, I GRADUATED!

“I cannot begin to describe how happy I am to be among the first four Syrians to graduate under the Jusoor-IIT scholarship with high academic achievements. I have definitely changed a lot during the last two years, broadening and deepening my perspective of the world in all of its diversity, and complexity. I still have a great deal to learn and explore about myself and my place in this world – as well as my contributions and service – but it definitely feels awesome to have that BSc degree while doing that.

“None of this would have been possible without the help of IIT and Jusoor. The way they cooperated is beyond inspiring. We will be forever thankful for IIT’s effort to help students from countries of conflict, and Jusoor’s effort to help Syrians of all ages to continue their education and build their dreams wherever they find themselves in the world.

“What’s going on in my country breaks my heart – every moment of everyday. With so many Syrians losing their chance at education, it’s our responsibility as Syrians to help each other as much as we can. Let’s bring the smiles back to our Syria and guarantee a better future, one educated Syrian at a time.” - *Nour Daoud*

Nour Daoud is currently a Technology Analyst at Goldman Sachs. She graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology in May 2014 with a bachelor’s in electrical engineering. Nour is now actively working on the #RunForSyria initiative, a marathon to raise funds for the education of Syrian refugee children.

Women in Power

“If you want to destroy a country, start with the woman. She is half of the society and she raises the other half. Deprive her from education and keep her away from studying and learning and you will get an ignorant society.’ I came across this quote and spent the whole day thinking about how true it is. Unfortunately this is not what many women see. They underestimate themselves and don’t believe in their ability to affect this world.

“What we really need is a change in the way the woman is looked at. This change is not only from men’s perspective but also from the perspective of the woman herself. I think our role is to raise awareness of how educating women is the key to a well-structured society that offers equal opportunities to its people regardless of their gender.” - Zeina Abdul Samad

Zeina Abdul Samad was one of the first Syrian students who received a scholarship from Jusoor to attend Illinois Institute of Technology. She graduated in December 2014 with a Bachelor Degree in Information Technology and Management and is now a Software Developer at Goldman Sachs.

On the Cover Page

Mariela Shaker, born in 1990 in Aleppo, Syria, started playing the violin at the age of ten when she joined the Arabic Institute of Music in Aleppo. In 2013, Mariela received scholarships from Monmouth College (Illinois) and Jusoor, with additional support from a private donor, to study Music Performance at Monmouth College. She graduated in May 2015. In June, 2015, Mariela performed at the UNHCR event commemorating World Refugee Day and was selected as a White House 2015 Champion of Change for World Refugees. She is now a graduate student at DePaul University in Chicago.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

– Nelson Mandela



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For more information please visit www.jusoorsyria.com/100-syrian-women
or email us at info@jusoorsyria.com