

## Press Release

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### **Action for Hope launches Landscapes of Hope, an informal network of civil society actors working towards effective social change**

20 civil society organizations from different countries joined Landscapes of Hope Community, a new initiative launched by Action for Hope in October 2018 to establish a new platform for discussion and collaboration among civil society actors in different sectors such as human rights, arts and culture, development, urban planning and gender equality. This is the first cohort of Landscapes of Hope Community members, while another cohort will be announced in June.

The initiative explores ways to scale up and consolidate efforts among diverse civil society sectors to address some of the difficult problems currently challenging our world in areas such as freedom of expression, social and economic marginalization, forced displacement and migration, and gender inequality. It will also highlight the role the arts can play in addressing social change issues.

Landscapes of Hope community members bring diverse experiences of work towards effective social change in situations of distress, especially during and post armed conflict, or under volatile political or economic conditions; and have all achieved evident impact in their respective local, national or regional context.

Very soon, Landscapes of Hope will launch its ambitious program of activities that bring together civil society actors across different sectors called “Days of Hope”, with the aim of bringing the issue of cross sector collaboration to public attention.

Below is a list of the 20 civil society organizations and their profiles:

 <p>Arab Digital Expression Foundation</p>	<p>Arab Digital Expression Foundation - ADEF empowers youth through a diverse portfolio of programs and projects in the fields of digital empowerment, free expression and alternative media, knowledge production and management, learning and education, as well as arts and culture. ADEF records 13 years of experience in youth empowerment.</p>	<p><a href="https://arabdigitalexpression.org/wiki/الصفحة_الرئيسية">https://arabdigitalexpression.org/wiki/الصفحة_الرئيسية</a></p>
 <p>Freedom of Thought and Expression Law Firm</p>	<p>Association for the Freedom of Thought and Expression - AFTE AFTE is interested in issues related to the promotion and protection of freedom of thought and expression in Egypt. It focuses on research, monitoring, documentation and legal support in cases and files it works on, to defend freedom of expression in Egypt through a variety of programs: Freedom of Student Rights and Academic Freedom, Right to Knowledge, Digital Freedoms, Freedom of the Media, and the program of Conscience and Memory. In addition to a legal team that provides support in cases of freedom of expression and issues related to AFTE's various programs.</p>	<p><a href="https://afteegypt.org/">https://afteegypt.org/</a></p>
	<p>Ambulante is non-profit organization founded in 2005, devoted to supporting and promoting documentary cinema culture as a catalyst for social transformation. Each year, Ambulante carries out an ambitious traveling documentary film festival, which offers a unique exhibition space for a program of local and international documentaries. Ambulante's mission is to bring documentary films and training programs to underserved, rural, and remote places where they are rarely available, in order to procure new forms of expression and to encourage debate in Mexico and abroad.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.ambulante.org/en/">https://www.ambulante.org/en/</a></p>

 <p><b>artasfoundation</b> for peace.</p>	<p>The Swiss Foundation for Art in Regions of Conflict studies the contributions unrestricted art can offer to conflict mediation and the building of peace. established in 2011, artasfoundation is funded by donations from many members of civil society.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.artasfoundation.ch/en">http://www.artasfoundation.ch/en</a></p>
 <p><b>ARTS RIGHTS JUSTICE</b></p>	<p>The aim of the ARTS RIGHTS JUSTICE PROGRAM is to strengthen and expand structures for the promotion and protection of artistic freedom. The program was developed in cooperation with 30 international expert institutions. It encompasses an annual academy at Hildesheim Kulturcampus, Germany, accompanied by a public forum in Berlin; a series of satellite workshops (ARJ Laboratories) in partner regions; and an open access online library.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.uni-hildesheim.de/arts-rights-justice/">https://www.uni-hildesheim.de/arts-rights-justice/</a></p>
 <p><b>AUB</b> Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship معهد الأصفري للمجتمع المدني والوطنية www.aub.edu.lb/asfari</p>	<p>The Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship is a regional hub of a dynamic community of academics, practitioners, policymakers, activists, and members of the general public interested in exploring traditional and innovative forms of collective actions, locally-grounded policy debates and in advancing realistic solutions to the obstacles to effective civil society and citizenship in the Arab world.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.activearabvoices.org/">http://www.activearabvoices.org/</a></p>
 <p><b>CONARTE</b></p>	<p>The Council for Culture and the Arts of Nuevo León, Mexico was created in 1995. It is a decentralized public body of the State Government that aims to promote and stimulate artistic expressions, popular culture and the various manifestations that favor preservation and enrichment of the culture in Nuevo León; protect, conserve and disseminate the state's cultural heritage; and promote the cultural values of Nuevo León society.</p>	<p><a href="http://conarte.org.mx/">http://conarte.org.mx/</a></p>

	<p>Dejusticia is a think-do tank based in Bogotá, Colombia known for its leadership in public debates, research work that is often cited by academia and government, and its norm-changing litigation cases in Colombia. Its unique trait--being a combination of a think tank that undertakes rigorous academic research and an activist NGO that leads high-impact litigation, advocacy and training of key actors in the social change field--has made it an important reference point and expert voice both within Colombia and also internationally, with a distinct Global South perspective.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.dejusticia.org/">https://www.dejusticia.org/</a></p>
	<p>Based in London and New York, Doc Society works with filmmakers and partners all over the world to unleash the transformational power of documentary film. Doc Society stands in solidarity with filmmakers and work to unite them with new friends and allies, building new models globally.</p>	<p><a href="https://docsociety.org/">https://docsociety.org/</a></p>
	<p>Ettijahat- Independent Culture is a Syrian cultural organization founded in the end of 2011. Ettijahat seeks to activate and render the role of independent culture and arts more positive, in the process of cultural and social change. Ettijahat tries to achieve that by supporting artists and undertakers of cultural initiatives, enabling young researchers, working to build consensus and alliances between individuals and cultural institutions, promoting the arts and artists through regional and international platforms, and helping Syrian communities wherever they have access to culture and arts.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.ettijahat.org/">https://www.ettijahat.org/</a></p>
	<p><b>Fanni Raghman Anni Association (FRA)</b> is a youth-driven cultural nongovernmental Tunisian organization. It works on promoting innovative youth activism, defending Human rights culture and democracy and enhancing social cohesion.</p>	<p><a href="http://fanniraghmananni.org/en/">http://fanniraghmananni.org/en/</a></p>

	<p>Established in 2008, IbdAA supports, develops and exposes the talented unfortunate youth all over Jordan. By working on their creativity and critical thinking IbdAA introduces the youth to the latest technology methods and supports them with the tools for that.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ibdaajo.org/">http://www.ibdaajo.org/</a></p>
	<p>In Place of War is a global organization that uses artistic creativity in places of conflict as a tool for positive change. It enables grassroots change-makers in music, theatre and across the arts to transform cultures of violence and suffering into hope, opportunity and freedom.</p> <p><a href="https://www.inplaceofwar.net/">https://www.inplaceofwar.net/</a></p>
	<p>Al-Jumhuriya is a platform for Syrians to speak in their own voice about the myriad political, social, cultural, and other questions thrown up by the revolution and ensuing conflict in their country. Through a distinct blend of commentaries, reportage, long-form essays, interviews, podcasts, translations, and short fiction, Al-Jumhuriya seeks to illuminate in full and vivid color the Syrian picture too often viewed in disparate versions of monochrome, while aspiring fervently to a democratic and just future for Syria.</p> <p><a href="https://www.aljumhuriya.net/en">https://www.aljumhuriya.net/en</a></p>
	<p>Kirkelig Kulturverksted (KKV) is Norway's largest independent record label with a catalogue of more than 380 titles. For over 40 years KKV have collaborated with Norwegian and international artists from all over the world. Well known for the extremely high quality of its releases, KKV projects address liberation, dialogue and unrest.</p> <p><a href="http://kkv.no/en/">http://kkv.no/en/</a></p>
	<p>MEGAWRA is an architectural hub for young students and architects that is also coming to the public. It is a platform for holistic debate on architecture and urbanism with a focus on it as art, theory, praxis and cultural heritage and its role in promoting sustainability and social responsibility in the built environment.</p> <p><a href="http://megawra.com/">http://megawra.com/</a></p>

	<p>Ruwwad Al-Tanmeya is a non-profit community development organization that works with disenfranchised communities through education, youth volunteerism and grassroots organizing. Ruwwad's approach encompasses an array of programs and initiatives that, together, strengthen agency and facilitate redress to problems prioritized by members of the community.</p> <p><a href="https://ruwwad.ngo/">https://ruwwad.ngo/</a></p>
	<p>Sawa for Development and Aid is a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) initially founded in December 2011 as a spontaneous response to the arrival of the first 40 Syrian families displaced from Syria into the North of Lebanon. This initiative then grew to include both local and international activists who worked together (Sawa in Arabic), united by their belief in Syrians' right to live in dignity and freedom, and to be active individuals in their communities, and wherever they are.</p> <p><a href="http://www.sdaid.org/">http://www.sdaid.org/</a></p>
	<p>The TADAMUN Initiative believes that all citizens have an equal right to their city, as well as a shared responsibility towards it. TADAMUN also believes that solidarity among citizens is the only way to achieve social justice and a decent standard of living, particularly for many who have been ignored for too long. TADAMUN builds alliances and coalitions to encourage change and introduces realistic alternatives and solutions for existing urban problems.</p> <p><a href="http://www.tadamun.co/">http://www.tadamun.co/</a></p>
	<p>War Child Sweden works to improve the resilience and wellbeing of children living with violence and armed conflict. War Child delivers vital child protection, education and psychosocial support and is present in countries where violence and armed conflict are a fact of life. It works with music, art, sports and other creative activities to strengthen the resilience and psychosocial wellbeing of conflict-affected children.</p> <p><a href="http://www.warchild.se/">http://www.warchild.se/</a></p>



For more information and interviews, please contact: [g.alazroni@act4hope.org](mailto:g.alazroni@act4hope.org)

Landline: +961- 01 739243