



“Be the CHANGE that you want to see in the world”.  
GANDHI

## 1<sup>st</sup> academic University for the NON-VIOLENCE culture:

The **Academic University for Nonviolence & Human Rights - AUNOHR** was founded as an independent higher education for the Arab world, under the Lebanese law (Ministerial Decree no /487/ date 04.09.2014).

**The legacy of AUNOHR is based on 33 years of pioneering experience of its founders**, on theoretical and practical level, and is considered as a first-of-its-kind in Lebanon and the region and unique on international level.

The project of the University was launched in **2009**, with an objective to remain, for generations to come, a professional academic incubator and for constructive social change.

Teaching and disseminating the culture of peace and non-violence became **an existential need**, a horizon, in the Arab region as well as in the whole world, whereas there is a lack of specialists, educators, trainers and mediators, with high level of professionalism in these issues, in order to undertake this challenging work in the entire region at large, at the academic level in particular and in governmental and community decision making.

AUNOHR is indeed a reference in providing **specialized New Cadres**, and preparing innovative academic materials with translation into Arabic, to encourage schools and universities to implement them in their curricula.

### Founders of AUNOHR

#### Walid Slaybi and Ogarit Younan

Pioneers of non-violence in the region; Founders of Innovative Training in Lebanon; they provided ideas and alternatives for a change in spirit, education, laws and civil action...Thousands were affected and trained, hundreds of associations, cultural, academic, and social institutions benefited, in Lebanon and the Arab world, in an effort to enhance the culture of rights, freedom, justice and love.

Since 1983, with the onset of war and violent shifts in Lebanon and the region, they launched a realistic dream, a visionary project, which sought to build day after day, with the participation of many friends and of those committed to and influenced by their experience. Their dream was crowned by building institutions among which AUNOHR was launched.

**Walid Slaybi:** He is a non-violent thinker, writer, specialist in economy, civil engineer, researcher in philosophy, peace and war, roots of violence and social justice; human rights activist and strategist who contributed in the elaboration of new concepts for non-violent resistance and civil society.

**Ogarit Younan:** She is a non-violent pedagogic thinker, international expert trainer and innovator in training active methods, writer and researcher in sociology, education and citizenship; human rights activist and author of new alternatives & projects of laws for a new civil society and non-sectarian system in Lebanon.

### Board of Trustees of AUNOHR

*A local Board:* Mr. Musa Freiji, Dr. Abdel Hussain Shaban, Dr. Elham Kallab, Mrs Hanan N. Saab, Mrs Rima Shehadeh, Mr. Imad Fawaz, Mr. Camille Menassa, Dr. Kamal Dib, Dr. Elie Chammas, H.E. Wafaa Dikah Hamze, H.E. Ziad Baroud.

### International Advisory Council of AUNOHR

Philosopher Jean-Marie Muller, Arun Gandhi pedagogic thinker & grandson of Mahatma, H.E. Federico Mayor Former General Secretary of UNESCO, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Adolfo Esquivel, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Desmond Tutu, Sheikh Jawdat Saiid non-violent Muslim thinker, Claudette Werleigh peace activist former prime minister of Haiti, H.E. Ambassador Samira El-Daher senior consultant at UNESCO, historic Italian non-violent leader Marco Pannella, Dr. Rima Salah UN high representative for peace.

*Perhaps the culture of non-violence  
may in the end  
penetrate the thick cover  
of dark clouds  
besieging us in prison of anxiety,  
violence and absurdity,  
to restore the communication  
with a sun  
do not despair of calling us  
every morning...*

Walid Slaybi  
Founder of AUNOHR  
His first message to AUNOHR in 2009.



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## Who are the STUDENTS of AUNOHR?

- Educators, program coordinators and directors, especially those involved in civic education, conflict management, mediation, theater, arts, psychology, philosophy, extra-curricular activities.
- University professors in many fields.
- Directors of student affairs in universities, schools and training centers.
- Administrators of civil associations and regional and international organizations.
- Lawyers and jurists who wish to specialize in the legal mechanisms of criminal justice, legal mediation to solve conflicts, and mechanisms for defending human rights violations.
- Directors of civil campaigns management and planning.
- Managers of youth organizations and political activists.
- Media and directors of media programs and policies in different types of mass media. (ICT)
- Researchers in cultural centers seeking to disseminate this non-violent culture with modern methods.
- Religious and responsible figures in different institutions seeking to deepen the dissemination of nonviolence, dialogue and non-discrimination with modern active methods.
- Various individuals, who have a role and influence in society, wishing to expand their culture and disseminate and defend human rights and nonviolence with modern methodologies.
- Decision makers in the community, local and national level, and parliamentarians.

## Majors

AUNOHR offers three levels of formation: Master Degrees, university diplomas, BA in some majors; And Training certificates through its specialized Training and Development Center.

AUNOHR offers the following Majors, with %60 of the **curricula** are new and innovative courses:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ▪ Non-violence Education & School Management Skills    | ▪ Non-Violence Communication & Media Skills     |
| ▪ Social Training and Teaching Active Methods          | ▪ Human Rights Culture & Teaching               |
| ▪ Conflict Prevention, Mediation & Positive Management | ▪ Arts, Design and Non-violence skills          |
| ▪ International Affairs & Diplomatic Mediation         | ▪ Civic Education, Citizenship & Social Policy  |
| ▪ Development & Civil Society Skills                   | ▪ Philosophy & Strategies of Non-violent Action |
| ▪ Educational Non-Violence Theater                     | ▪ Religions & Non-violence                      |

AUNOHR is also a specialized **International Center for Training & Development**, that provides academic training, grassroots training for all social categories including decision makers, based on the pioneer expertise of its founders, professors, lecturers and trainers from around the world. AUNOHR founders are themselves the initiators and authors of the active modern Training in Lebanon since 30 years.

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## Job opportunities

- University students’ affairs
- University instructors and assistants in human rights, conflict prevention and resolution, legal mediation, civic education, economic and political incentives, environment, social studies
- School teachers, directors, pedagogic coordinators and coordinators of non-formal activities
- Teachers and Trainers with art and theater methods, and art therapy
- Trainers in organizations, foundations and syndicates
- Trainers and program managers of children’ associations, women’ associations, youth’ movement
- Managers of civic campaigns
- Experts in new active methods in the public sector
- Company public relations and mediators
- Trainer experts for companies and banks
- Experts in reconciliation and diplomatic mediation
- Media experts and trainers in non-violent media
- Lawyers specialized in human rights and legal mediation and mechanisms of prevention
- Representatives in community, municipal, and national decision making or parliament
- Leaders of non-violent religious action.

## Some of AUNOHR success stories: Pilot classes since 2009



- Rola, mother of three children and Chairperson of the Commission of parents at school. Started new courses in conflict management and nonviolent-communication and non-sectarian discrimination. Parents felt the difference and contacted the school for congratulations. The school asked AUNOHR to

help introducing nonviolent education in their curricula. One AUNOHR student made a change in the school, only in few months, for the benefit of more than 900 students and teachers, parents and administrators.

- Tanya was chosen by one of the major private banks in Lebanon to train senior managers on nonviolence communication skills. In their assessment, trainees voted unanimously that the sessions were new, vibrant and deep and a good basis for business management. The bank set the program in its annual training schedule. Shortly after, she received a call from major companies in Lebanon and many Arab countries, and the university started a discussion with the Central Bank of Lebanon to conduct the same training.
- Sheikh Zuhair, AUNOHR trainee for many years, former Director of Awqaf and Religious Affairs in Nablus - Palestine, oversees 60 mosques and hundreds of Imams. He has organized training workshops for Imams and principles in mosques, on the concepts of human rights and non-violence in religions. That was a new phenomenon that drew the attention and influenced clerics who have followed the training. And by virtue of his religious responsibility, he oversaw the speeches and words on Friday prayers while seeking to amend the vocabulary and content to become nonviolent and respect human rights.

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- University professors, also AUNOHR students, started to introduce to their universities the idea of new courses. Six universities took the decision to introduce materials on education, philosophy of non-violence, religions, human rights and theatre.  
New kind of activities for students through the Department of Student Affairs...  
The first university books of their kind in the Arab world will be adopted by these universities with syllabi, in these topics.
- Coordinators and directors of associations and activists of civil campaigns also specialized at AUNOHR. Consequently, associations and campaigns developed immediately new means of working with people owing to the new highly skilled and professional trainers.  
Some students are working in international organizations deployed in Lebanon and the region (UNICEF, UNESCO, International Labor Organization, United Nations programs, UNRWA, IRC...) where they developed and introduced their valuable skills.

**“A University for Non-Violence... I see no doubt a new dawn overlooking the Arab world;  
I am overwhelmed by great joy that I am in the heart of this exciting adventure...”**  
**Jean-Marie Muller, non-violent philosopher, member of the International Advisory Board of AUNOHR.**  
*His first comment when he knew about the founding of the university earlier 2009...*

## The Campus

This building will be the first non-violent university campus in Lebanon and the region, a ‘house’ for students, teachers, researchers, and international partners.



This AUNOHR University 1<sup>st</sup> campus is located on a 5,000 square meters’ site, on the main road at the entrance of Dhour Choueir in Mount-Lebanon, about 28 kilometers away from Beirut. Its surrounding environment fits right with the nature of AUNOHR and the human values it diffuses.  
This old stones building, topped with a red tiles roof, is partially renovated, one half still requiring restoration from the damages caused by the civil war in Lebanon (1975-1990).

### Our gratitude to everyone who supported the launching of AUNOHR:

#### 2009-2015

Norwegian Embassy in Lebanon,  
Mr. Musa Freiji – Lebanon,  
PAX Christi – Netherlands,  
Swiss Embassy in Lebanon,  
PNA – Norway & SIDA - Sweden  
Lebanese Association for Civil Rights (LACR),  
The Trustees, local individuals,  
And the Founders

