

# Peace Prize Nomination

**Organisation's Name:** Daughters for Life Foundation  
**Organisation Location:** Toronto, Canada  
**Organisation's Website:** <http://www.daughtersforlife.com>

## **Description of specific project, practice, or technique:**

The Daughters for Life Foundation believes that lasting peace in the Middle East depends on empowering girls and young women through education to develop strong voices for the betterment of life throughout the Middle East. To that end, it provides scholarships and awards for aspiring young women that enable them to pursue studies otherwise inaccessible to them. Awards are offered to students in Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria, as well as scholarships at the graduate and undergraduate level to study in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom.

## **Information on organisation or agency including history and scope of its work:**

On January 2009, an Israeli tank shelled the home of Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish in the Gaza Strip killing three of his daughters, Bessan, 21, Mayar, 15, and Aya, 13. That heart-breaking tragedy came minutes before Dr. Abuelaish spoke live on an Israeli TV program. His anguished cries for help captured hearts and headlines in Israel and around the world. Instead of seeking revenge or sinking into despair and hatred, Dr. Abuelaish has called for the people of the Middle East to stop the bloodshed and start talking to each other. His deepest hope is that his daughters will be the last sacrifice on the road to peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

## **Describe the context in which the organisation works, analyse the conflict, and indicate how this analysis has influenced the peacebuilding work of the organisation:**

Daughters For Life works for supporting the education of women from the Middle East. Fraught with years of ongoing political, religious, and social conflict, the Middle East desperately needs a different approach.

I strongly believe that through his story and charisma, and through his Daughters For Life Foundation, Dr. Abuelaish can allow mindsets to change within the Israeli and Palestinian public opinions. Given the engulfing of the conflict, the toughening of certain trends of opinion, we must break the vicious circle of indifference, of non-dialogue and violence. Dr Abuelaish can be this Ambassador of renewed dialogue, this Peace Messenger needed by the region. Change your words, change your world is the philosophy behind his message.

## **Impact of the organisation or agency's work, including credible policy and advocacy influence that contributes toward peace:**

Daughters for Life is a philanthropy that educates women from Middle eastern nations - irrespective of nationality, ethnic background, or religious affiliation - in the belief that they can improve their communities and help bring peace to the region.

## **Tell us a story about this organisation or agency's peace work:**

Educate for Change is an initiative of New College of Florida, Daughters for Life and the community. Young women from across the Middle East will come to New College for a transformational education that will help them become the future leaders their homelands desperately need.

Through Educate for Change, as many as 10 women a year from Middle Eastern countries will attend New College on scholarships that will cover the full cost of tuition, room, board and other academic and living expenses.

The Daughters for Life Scholars will be full immersed in the New College experience, living and taking classes on the Sarasota campus in pursuit of a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree. The first Scholars are expected to begin their New College studies in the fall of 2014. Daughters for Life will identify academically qualified candidates from throughout the Middle East, including Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, Egyptian, Syrian and Lebanese women.