



Building Virtual Communities for Human Rights

Hosted by the Middle East and North Africa Sites of Conscience Network

October 19-21, 23, 2020

The destruction of physical sites where human rights abuses occurred is an urgent issue facing many Sites of Conscience throughout the world. In this three-day meeting, Coalition members and staff with deep experience in documenting these sites through digital mapping and online archives will lead training sessions for Sites of Conscience interested in creating such maps and other virtual programs. In addition to learning how to build scalable and sustainable digital maps, attendees will develop new skills to launch effective and safe civic engagement and advocacy campaigns around digital programming for the betterment of their local contexts and communities.

For technical assistance during the meeting, please contact:

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For non-urgent, program assistant, please contact Linda Norris at:

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Workshop Times

15:00-18:00 Beirut/Sanaa/Istanbul/Baghdad

13:00-16:00 Rabat/Algiers/Tunis

14:00-17:00 Cairo

8:00-11:00 NY/Washington

Simultaneous translation will be available in English, Arabic and Spanish.

Monday, October 19, 2020 (all times EST) – Documentation and Mapping

7:30-8:00 Informal Drop-In and Conversation
Steering Committee will serve as hosts

8:00-8:15 Meeting Launch

Linda Norris, Director of Global Networks, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

8:15-9:00 Keynote Address

Zeynep Tufekci, Ph.D., Author of *Twitter and Tear Gas: The Power and Fragility of Networked Protest*

9:00-9:15 Break

Drop-in Conversations
MENA Member videos available for viewing

9:15-9:20 Welcome

Elizabeth Silkes, Executive Director, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

9:20-10:00 MENA Sites of Conscience Regional Network's Digital Mapping and Documentation Project

Presenters

- Mohamed El-Khamlichi, MENA Regional Coordinator
- Menna El-Masry, Mapping Project Coordinator

This project brought together Sites of Conscience from seven countries to create a pioneering digital map identifying sites of human rights violations in the region. Given that access to physical sites in the region is so limited, the digital map aims to document the violations that occurred at the sites, preserve the stories associated with them, and create tools for historical education, advocacy and peace-building. In this presentation, the philosophical approach and the specific methodology will be discussed.

10:00-11:00 Supporting Advocacy Efforts Through Documentation

Panelists

- Stepan Cernousek, Gulag.cz, Czech Republic
- Monika Borgmann, UMAM, Lebanon
- Gustavo Meoño, Museo Internacional para la Democracia, Argentina
- Ahmed Karoud, Mediterranean Forum for Memory, Tunisia (Facilitator)

Documentation can include archival records, testimonies, photographs, maps and much more. In this panel, presenters from Sites of Conscience will share experiences, best practices and design protocols for the submission and online use of a range of documentation materials, which can be vital to pursuing accountability and launching effective advocacy initiatives. Particular attention will be paid to the safety and security of victims and survivors during online documentation efforts.

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 – Moving from Documentation to Advocacy

7:30-8:00 Informal Drop-In and Conversation

Steering Committee will serve as hosts

Special Focus of Drop-In: Women of Conscience

8:00-8:15 Welcome and Introduction to the Day

Linda Norris, Director of Global Networks, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

8:15-9:15 Launching Points for Effective Advocacy

Panelists

- Sabine Saliba, Act for the Disappeared, Lebanon
- Daniel Ganza, Hopelantenn, Rwanda
- Melinda Hunt, The Hart Island Project, USA
- Nayat Karaköse, Hrant Dink Foundation, Istanbul (Facilitator)

In this session, panelists will share models for innovative online documentation and memorialization programs that can serve as springboards for effective advocacy efforts. Presenters will share their experiences moving from online documentation and memorialization initiatives to effective, community-driven advocacy campaigns targeted to policy makers and other key influencers.

9:15-9:30 Break

Drop-in Conversations

MENA Member videos available for viewing

9:30-11:00 Members Only Capacity Building Workshops

A. [Building Online Advocacy Platforms](#)

Workshop Leaders

Morana Starcevic and Branka Viera, Youth-Initiative for Human Rights

In this workshop, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, a Site of Conscience in Croatia, will share the ways in which transitional justice, memorialization and reconciliation activities can shift from in-person work to virtual activities, particularly in the context of the ongoing pandemic. Participants will explore the many issues - from security to victims' rights - that must be considered when building online advocacy platforms.

B. [Developing Digital Maps](#)

Workshop Leaders

Linda Norris, Menna El-Masry and other MENA members

Creating a digital map does not require an extensive set of equipment, but it does require a set of procedures and commitments. Participants in the MENA Digital Mapping Project will provide participants with the specific steps to undertake a digital mapping project - from using GIS coordinates to reviewing supporting documentation. Participants will also receive a copy of the toolkit, *Shining a Light on Sites of Atrocity: Digital Mapping and Documentation in the Middle East and North Africa*.

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 – Developing Cross-National Digital Projects

7:30-8:00 Informal Drop-In and Conversation

Steering Committee will serve as hosts

8:00-8:15 Welcome and Introduction to the Day

Linda Norris, Director of Global Networks, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

8:15-9:15 Moving from Regional to Global Impact

Panelists

- Amer Doko, Enab Baladi, Syria
- Honore Gatera, Kigali Genocide Memorial, Rwanda

- Amina Krvavec, War Childhood Museum, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Since its founding in 1999, Sites of Conscience have been providing platforms for victims and survivors to document their experiences, share their stories and advocate for change. This panel will share strategies for creating cross-national projects to amplify regional issues in a global setting using digital tools. The following questions will be explored: How can digital tools most effectively use documentation of human rights violations to engage national and international stakeholders as well as key influencers outside of their region? And how can digital maps and similar tools help to address the shrinking space for advocacy in support of civil and political rights in many regions?

9:15-9:30

Break

Drop-in Conversations

MENA Member videos available for viewing

9:30-11:00

Members Only Capacity Building Workshops

A. [Social Media for Advocacy](#)

Workshop Leader

Ashley Nelson, Director of Communications, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

From Black Lives Matter in the United States to protests in Beirut, social media platforms have demonstrated their power to shape movements. How can these platforms be used for effective advocacy campaigns? In this workshop, participants will be introduced to different platforms and their global audiences and have the opportunity to develop their own collaborative ideas for global advocacy campaigns.

B. [Audio: Advocacy Through Podcasts and Radio](#)

Workshop Leaders

Joan Crimmins and Callie Hawkins, Lincoln's Cottage, United States, Denis Ngala, Manene Cultural Trust, Kenya

For many communities around the world, access to the web is limited by both technology and by, in some cases, repressive governments. Audio - whether a podcast or a radio show - provides important tools for reaching citizens everywhere. In this workshop, participants will learn the basics of audio production and the ways in which podcasts and radio shows can share stories of Sites of Conscience broadly in the quest for accountability and knowledge.

11:15-12:00 Women of Conscience: Reflection and Action

Facilitated by Linda Norris, Director of Global Programs

All women participants are invited to join this conversation to share ideas and reflections from the meeting, and to consider how they might collaborate to more effectively center women's voices in civic engagement and advocacy efforts.

Friday, October 23, 2020

8:00-12:00 MENA Regional Meeting – MENA Members Only

- Strategic Plan Review and Adoption
- Regional Coordinator Responsibilities
- Steering Committee Nominations
- Action Plans for 2021
- Meeting Evaluation