



15 April 2025

**Amman**

## **Report from the second MMP online session: Intergenerational Dialogue in Practice**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Swedish Dialogue Institute for the Middle East and North Africa held the second online session of its Mutual Mentorship Program.

Director Ann Måwe opened the session by highlighting participant's feedback from the previous meeting's Lytti-evaluation, noting that more interactive activities, and a larger focus on participants of the MMP had been requested. Program officer Aseel Sha'ban then moderated the session, which started with a check-in of two intergenerational mentorship pairs who shared their experiences of their bilateral meetings so far.

Erike Tanghøj, senior specialist on inclusive peace processes at Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) then gave an interactive presentation of the FBA and SDI-produced guidance note on intergenerational dialogue, *Connecting Generations: A Guidance Note on Inclusive Intergenerational Dialogue* (Attachment 1).

Following the presentation, program officer Omran Khasawneh led an interactive activity using Zoom Polls, where participants were invited to reflect on generational biases and common misconceptions about their own generations (see Attachment 2 for the results of the Zoom Poll). Discussing the questions, participants shared their thoughts and highlighted multiple and diverse perspectives, with a resurging topic being the intersection of technology and influence across generations.

### **Reflections on Intergenerational Dialogue and How to Practice it**

Three speakers were then invited to share their reflections on intergenerational dialogue and how to practice it:

**Noura Berouba**, Chief of Staff at Daniel Sachs Foundation and member of the Advisory Committee of SDI.

**Charles Petrie**, former senior UN official, author, MMP-participant.

**Ahmed Alawami**, Strategy Director Perpetual Peace Foundation,  
MENA Coalition on Youth, Peace & Security.

Noura highlighted the need for intergenerational dialogue, arguing that acting across generations is a necessity which provides depth and longevity to policy and movements. Beyond this, Noura provided seven pointers on intergenerational dialogue:

1. Assume commonality, not conflict.
2. Be specific about what you are building together.
3. Don't let age be shorthand for knowledge, move beyond boundaries.
4. Make space for grief and gratitude.
5. Use storytelling to reach beyond formality.
6. Aim for longevity, build trust over time and foster genuine connections.
7. Use curiosity! Be curious and ask questions. Dialogue is not only about making change, but also about being open to changing yourself.

Charles observed that social media enabled leaderless and resilient movements as well as allowed youth to transcend ethnic divides as they had more in common with peers from other regions and movements than their parents. Social media was pointed out as reshaping governance and fostering decentralized and active engagement at local levels.

Ahmed underscored that intergenerational dialogue requires real participation of youth, not just presence. He urged older generations to take responsibility of the systems they created, and to let younger generations critique the system. Beyond this, Ahmed called for centring justice in intergenerational dialogue and pointed out that intergenerational dialogue is a tool for conversation which needs time and trust.

### **Program and logistical information for the in-person meeting in May**

The session concluded with logistical information ahead of the in-person meeting in May (see Attachment 3 for the presentation which also includes a preliminary program for the meeting).