

Dr Alaa Murabit Founder of the Voice of Libyan Women, Sustainable Development Goals Advocate



At the young age of 15 Alaa Murabit completed high school and moved from Saskatoon, Canada, to Zawia, Libya. It was there that she enrolled in medical school and driven by her desire to create inclusive processes and institutions founded The Voice of Libyan Women (VLW) in 2011 at the age of 21. With a strong focus on challenging societal and cultural norms and utilizing traditional and historical role models Murabit champions women's participation in peace processes and conflict mediation. Her programs, such as the groundbreaking "Noor Campaign" are replicated internationally.

Nicknamed "The Libyan Doogie Howser" by Jon Stewart and applauded by Oprah for her innovative approach to security, Murabit acts as advisor to numerous international security boards, think tanks and organizations. Most recently she was nominated to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (women, peace and security) Global Advisory Board, UN Women Global Advisory Board and Harvard University's "Everywoman, Everywhere" initiative. The first Ashoka Fellow elected from Libya, Murabit is the youngest recipient of the Marisa Bellisario International Humanitarian Award by the Italian Government, was named the "International Trust Women Hero 2014" by The New York Times and "One of 25 women under 25 to watch" by Newsweek. Most recently she was selected as a "100 Top Woman" by the BBC and the SAFE Global Hero. In March 2015 Murabit was selected as the inaugural civil society speaker at the official Commission on the Status of Women opening session. Murabit's TED Talk, released in July 2015, "What my religions really says about women" was selected as the TED Talk of the Day and one of four moving TED Talks you should watch right now by The New York Times.

In October 2015 Murabit was selected as the Security Council Civil Society Speaker during the 15th anniversary of Resolution 1325. In January of 2016 Dr. Murabit was selected as one of 17 Sustainable Development Goals Advocates by the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon. She is joined by heads of state, executives and thought leaders such as Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama and Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg, Nobel laureates Lemmyah Gbowee and Muhammad Yunus, CEOs Jack Ma of Alibaba, Shakira and Messi.