

Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) Bi-Yearly Report

January ,2024

Current TWLA UN Relations Committee

Executive Committee

Berna Gürdal-TWLA President

Esra Doğru-TWLA Vice President

Fatma Aldaş-TWLA Auditing Committee member

Ece Yenigün-TWLA Youth Representative

Yasemin Knott-TWLA Youth Representative

Boards Members Auditing Committee Members

Mine Yenigün Sermin Ozcilingir

Filiz Pınar Fatma Aldas

Gülcan Demiröz Olcay Secilmis

Belgin Ekinci Board of Discipline Members

Burçin Rutherford Gonul Dinlenc

Işılay Baran Banu T. Ozaman

Demet Görür Kubra Yalbir

Devrim Alparslan

Nevin Sari

Kübra Karalok

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The Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) was officially associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications as of December 10, 2021. Our association was announced in the United Nations Department of Global Communications Civil Society press release on December 21, 2021. Shortly thereafter, The Turkish Women's League of America's UN Relations Committee was formed.

Within short period of time our Executive committee:

- Identified volunteers to work on the committee.
- Developed operational guidelines.
- Identified projects.
- Agreed with partner organizations to work together.

TWLA Expectations

The purpose of the TWLA Committee on UN Relations is to identify and implement UN projects within TWLA collectively with the Associate Organizations. Be the liaison between TWLA-UN-DGC relations and take an active part in promoting our projects and issues that concern Turkish Americans in UN-DGC.

Committee's Vision:

- Engage with the United Nations, on issues of global concern and in line with UN priorities.
- Empowered as the voice of Turkish American's in the UN .
- Communicate, educate, and find solutions to the problems impacting our community and sustain.

Committee's Mission:

- Turkish Women's League of America's mission is to unite the Turkish
 Women living in the United States of America under one roof to provide
 solidarity and strength among them. To establish strong relationships
 between the Turkish People and the American people with the belief in
 mind that all people are equal and brotherly regardless of religion,
 language, or race. By organizing cultural and art events, our goal is to share
 Turkish customs and traditions with various other cultures to establish
 friendships.
- Identify inspiring projects to implement that relative to our community members from 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Identify and collaborate with other CSO organizations within the UN.

Committee's Operational Guidelines

- Identify following year's projects to be implemented, leaders and communicate to members in December of each year.
- Each project details are posted on the website under the UN page.
- Each project announcement to be submitted to UN to be published in the Newsletter.
- Inform members about the project via email and on social media platforms.
- Ensure TWLA Partners and Community youth are involved in projects.
- Provide links to recorded programs on website UN page.

TWLA Partner Organizations are:

- Assembly of Turkish American Associations. (ATAA)
- The Light Millennium. (LM)
- Empowering the Turkish American Community. (ETAC)
- Consortium for sustainable urbanization. (CSU)

2022 Projects Completed

• 2/20/2022 International Mother Language Day (ARES-56-262)-Webinar

Topic: Learning Turkish and Turkic Languages on Digital Environment in the United States

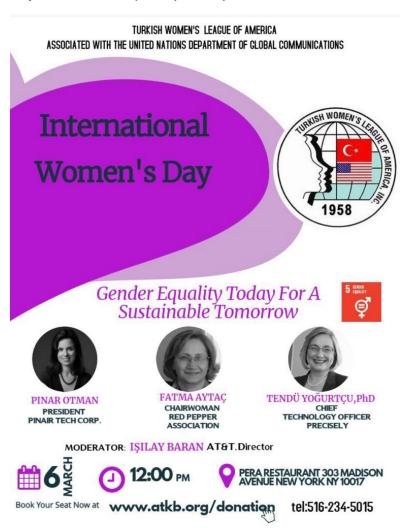
With: ATAA, The Light Millennium



<u>Learning Turkish and Turkic Languages on Digital Environment in the US: Challenges and Opportunities</u> (youtube.com)

• 3/6/2022 International Women Day

Topic: Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Njmgn_TpKvQ

4/23/2022 National Sovereignty and Children's Day, UNESCO World Art Day

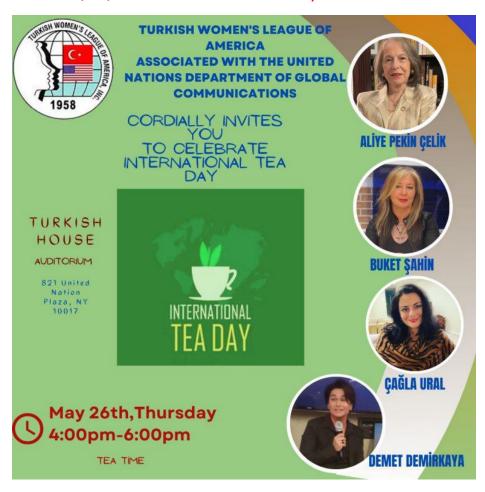


On April 23, 2022, we celebrated 102nd. anniversary of the April 23rd. National Sovereignty and Children's Day, Commemorating the foundation of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The day was proclaimed a national holiday in 1921. April 23 was celebrated as Children's Day for the first time in 1927 under the auspices of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. The Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) and New York Atatürk School organized a painting contest across the United States to celebrate April 23rd. National Sovereignty and Children's Day and to contribute to the UNESCOS World Art Day. The Theme of the contest was "World Peace" based on the Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's foreign policy vision of "Peace at Home, Peace in the World." The contest was held among the students of New York Ataturk School and the children living in the USA, between the ages of 6-11 years old. The shortlisted paintings were exhibited at the Turkish House in April 2022. On November 20, 2022. Due to the special occasion of UN World Children's Day, we Exhibited Children's paintings at the United Nations Headquarters. The exhibition was continued for a week starting November 14th to November 21st.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSu1IDA53AQUNHeadquarters

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6RfHrBd1P4&t=7s Turkish House

• 5/26/2022 International Tea Day



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Olpk1n-powA&t=73s

• 9/20 September 2022 UN World Habitat Day

Topic: Urban and Arch October on Women and Sustainable Urbanization

With: CSU



You can reach to UN World Habitat Day reach out to speaker video:

https://youtu.be/5SLVd1-sA94 you reach press

 $\frac{https://atkb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/5-Ekim-women-sustainable-urbanization-press-last1-\\ \underline{1.pdf}$

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December 5 /2022 We celebrated Unesco World Heritage Turk Coffee Day at Times Square.



In December 2013, Turkish coffee was recognized as a "cultural heritage in need of protection" on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Together with the Turkish Coffee Lady Foundation, the world's first coffee diplomacy platform, and the Turkish American Federation and TWLA organized the introduction of Turkish Coffee in New York with the students of the NY Ataturk School, which is part of our association, performing our local dances in NY Times Square.

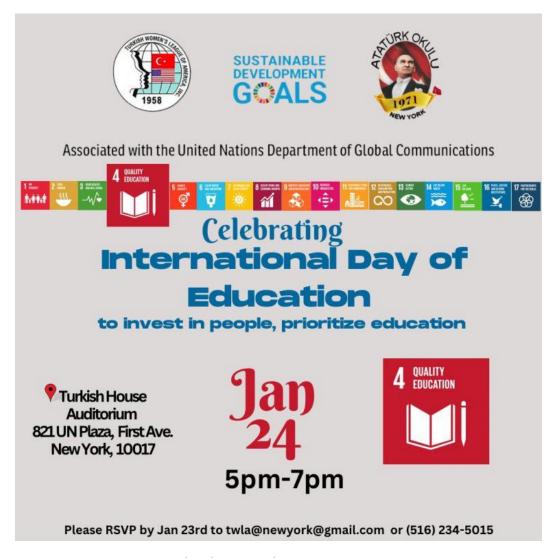
https://youtu.be/VWe4azJanOw

https://youtu.be/bFzPrFBRwaQ

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2023 Projects Completed

• 1/24/2023 International Day of Education



Our program was announced with Un newsletter.

https://mailchi.mp/e35c39301a8f/announcements-for-civil-society-16-january-304218?e=%5BUNIQID%5D

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RSitry2HuE

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• 3/11/2023 International Women Day



Our lives depend on strong technological integration: attending a course, calling loved ones, making a bank transaction, or booking a medical appointment. Everything currently goes through a digital process. However, 37% of women do not use the internet. 259 million fewer women have access to the Internet than men, even though they account for nearly half the world's population. Bringing women into technology results in more creative solutions and has greater potential for innovations that meet women's needs and promote gender equality. Their lack of inclusion, by contrast, comes with massive costs. The United Nations Observance of IWD, under the theme "Digit ALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality", recognizes and celebrates the women and girls who are championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SXOZDaiPAk (introduction)

https://youtu.be/NGWrbg-uKE4 9 (all program)

• 3/23/2023 UN Water conference



Our side event for Un Water conference has been published in UN newsletter.

https://mailchi.mp/un/announcements-for-civil-society-20march2023-304526?e=461c8e47e9

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BUHjQHxkiE

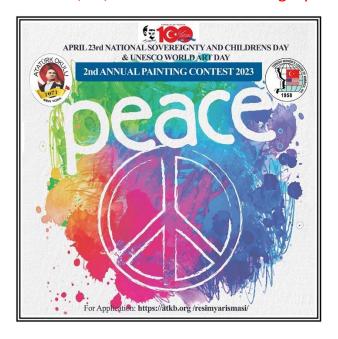
4/16/2023 International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy



The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and the Turkish Women's League of America, in official conjunction with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), presented a virtual event entitled International Multilateralism Day and Diplomacy for Peace Webinar. This program was organized in support of four of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development goals #3 Good Health and Wellbeing, #4 Quality Education, #6 Clean Water and Sanitation, #16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace on April 24th. Our young representative Ece Yenigun represented our association at the webinar.

April 24, International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace Webinar - YouTube

4/23/2023 National Sovereignty and Children's Day, UNESCO World Art Day



On April 23rd. National Sovereignty and Children's Day, the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) and New York Atatürk School organized the 2nd annual painting contest across the United States to contribute to UNESCO World Art Day. The theme of the contest was "World Peace" based on the vision of Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, "Peace at Home, Peace in the World". The contest was held among the students of New York Ataturk School and the children living in the USA, between the ages of 6-11 years old. The shortlisted paintings were exhibited at the Turkish House in April 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jcEn1GTt5Jw

12/9/2023 what is the commitment Human right 75?



The our event for Un Human Right 75 has been published in UN newsletter. https://mailchi.mp/un/announcements-for-civil-society-4december2023-305870 Un young leaders gave a speech at the program. In addition, graduates of our school chose an article from the Declaration of Human Rights and commented on it in the program.

https://www.youtube.com/live/zB8YDCSva5U?si=QvYCueaFleJvSJVW

