



**Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA)  
Annual Activity Report January 2024– February 2026**

**Current TWLA UN Relations Committee**

**Executive Committee**

Berna Gürdal-TWLA President                      Yasemin Knott-TWLA Youth Rep.(Former)  
Esra Doğru-TWLA Vice President                      Ece Ozaman-TWLA Youth Rep(Former)  
Fatma Aldaş-TWLA (A.C.member)                      Eda Algur -TWLA Youth Rep(Former)  
Ece Yenigün-TWLA member  
Simla Ozcilingir-TWLA Youth Representative  
Gozde Pinar TWLA Youth Representative

**Boards Members**

Mine Yenigün  
Filiz Pınar  
Gülcan Demiröz  
Belgin Ekinci  
Işılray Baran  
Demet Görür  
Devrim Alparslan  
Nevin Sari,  
Ceyla Cubukcu  
Kübra Karalok  
Burcin Rutherford

**Auditing Committee Members**

Sermin Ozcilingir  
Fatma Aldas  
Olçay Secilmis

**Board of Discipline Members**

Banu T. Ozaman  
Gonul Dinlenc  
Yasemin Levine

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.
- I 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 Americans 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 are 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)
- The Red Pepper Association.
- Bridge of Türkiye Foundation (BTF)

## 2024 Projects Completed



### 1-International Day of Education – Learning for Lasting Peace (January 27, 2024)

In celebration of the United Nations International Day of Education, the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) organized a program on 27 January 2024 in New York, under the theme "*Learning for Lasting Peace*." The event featured a presentation by Selçuk Şirin, Lecturer, highlighting the role of inclusive and equitable education in promoting peace, development, and lifelong learning opportunities.

TWLA's youth representative, Yasemin Knott, actively participated, contributing to intergenerational dialogue and emphasizing youth engagement in education and peace initiatives. The program fostered awareness on adapting education systems to modern challenges and preparing future generations for equitable and peaceful societies. The initiative aligns with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). Event flyer included as supporting documentation

Reference: [https://mailchi.mp/un/announcements-for-civil-society-22january2024-306142?fbclid=PARIRTSAQI4vBleHRuA2FlbQIxmABzcnRjBmFwcF9pZA8xMjQwMjQ1NzQyODc0MTQAAadKxSNDCE6kaHgrjpQi0KlspBxepD67gfnKN0w lnSFzslh9GvlewCQ0OM7g aem\\_05G1OX3zL85X1zhfVsngHA](https://mailchi.mp/un/announcements-for-civil-society-22january2024-306142?fbclid=PARIRTSAQI4vBleHRuA2FlbQIxmABzcnRjBmFwcF9pZA8xMjQwMjQ1NzQyODc0MTQAAadKxSNDCE6kaHgrjpQi0KlspBxepD67gfnKN0w lnSFzslh9GvlewCQ0OM7g aem_05G1OX3zL85X1zhfVsngHA)



ASSEMBLY OF  
TURKISH AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATIONS

ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS



In Support of the “International Mother Language Day (21 February)”  
Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and Turkish Women League of America (TWLA)  
Jointly Organize and Present a Webinar on

## MOTHER LANGUAGE AS THE SECOND LANGUAGE



**Keynote Speakers**

SUNAY AKIN

PROF. DR. BELMA HAZNEDAR



**Speakers**

DR. ESRA TAŞDELEN

MAR DENİZ GOMEZ-KOLDEMİR

EMRE MURAT BOZER



**Youth Speakers**

YASEMİN KNOTT

ECE YENİGÜN

ARDEN EGE VAN WICKLE



**Moderator**

YASEMİN ÜNLÜSOY



*“Turkish is one of the richest  
languages as long as it is  
cultivated with consciousness.”*

MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024**

1pm ET, 12pm CT, 10am PT, 21:00 TR

Online Registration:

[www.ataa.org](http://www.ataa.org)

## 2-International Mother Language Day – “Mother Language as the Second Language” ( February 25,2024)

In observance of International Mother Language Day (A/RES/56/262), the Turkish Women’s League of America (TWLA), in collaboration with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), co-organized a virtual program titled “*Mother Language as the Second Language.*”

The event highlighted the importance of multilingual education, particularly in early schooling, and promoted the preservation of mother languages alongside integration into host-country cultures. Participants explored how maintaining one’s native language fosters cultural identity, intergenerational connections, and psychological resilience, while multilingualism supports collaboration, exchange of ideas, and professional and scientific engagement.

This collaborative program strengthened awareness of language as a cultural bridge and promoted inclusive educational practices, contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Reference: [Mother Language as the Second Language](#)

### 3-International Women's Day 2024 – TWLA Programs (8–9 March 2024)

In observance of **International Women's Day (8 March 2024)** under the theme “*Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress*,” the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) organized two consecutive events to celebrate and empower women.



**TURKISH  
WOMEN'S  
LEAGUE OF  
AMERICA**



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



**BTF**  
BRIDGE TO TURKIYE FUND

**ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**In Support of International Women's Day (8th March)**  
**TURKISH WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA (TWLA) and BRIDGE TO TURKIYE FUND (BTF)**  
**Jointly Organize and Present a in person Meeting at Turkish House Auditorium**

***Invest in women: Accelerate progress***



**Everything we see in the world is the creative work of women”**  
Mustafa Kemal ATATÜRK



**Speakers**

**Gamze ATEŞ**  
Founder & CEO at My Beachy Side

**Seda BİLGİNER**  
Founder of Esas Beauty

**Hande Turan Page**  
Educator, Author

**Dr. Funda Süer**  
Executive VP Clinical Diagnostic and  
CLIA Laboratory Director

**Dr. Ahu Yıldırım**  
President and CEO Coleridge  
Initiative

**Moderator**  
İşlay Baran

**Friday, March 8, 2024 Time: 4.30pm (EST)**  
-Refreshments will be served-

**RSVP required: <https://forms.gle/5DUzJUyKXH5UA88v6>**

#### March 8,2024 – Inspirational Women Panel:

TWLA highlighted the achievements and contributions of inspiring women, fostering dialogue on leadership, empowerment, and gender equality. The event emphasized the role of women in driving societal progress and encouraged participants to take action toward gender equity.

Reference: [Women's day On March8, International Women's Day ,we held our first program at the TurkEvi.](#)



**TURKISH WOMEN'S LEAGUE  
OF  
AMERICA**



ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

In Support of International Women's Day (8th March)  
TURKISH WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA (TWLA) Present a in person Meeting at  
NY Atatürk School Auditorium

**Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse**



**Speakers**

**Arzu Gürçan**  
Lawyer

**Dr. Burçin Öğrenir**  
Psychologist

**Burcu Sağıroğlu**  
Joyful Heart Foundation

**Moderator**

**Burçin Rutherford**

**"Everything we see in the world is the creative work of women"**  
Mustafa Kemal ATATÜRK

**Saturday, March 9th, 2024 Time:1 pm (EST)**

**March 9, 2024 – Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Panel:**

The second-day panel addressed critical issues related to gender-based violence, including financial, psychological, physical, and sexual violence. The program provided guidance on legal protections, self-empowerment, and seeking help despite language barriers.

Participants received information on civil society organizations, helplines, and resources to support survivors. This session aimed to raise awareness, provide practical solutions, and strengthen community support mechanisms for women facing violence.

Both programs engaged youth and community participants in dialogue and education, contributing to **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)** and **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**.

Second program reference : [Amerika Turk Kadınlar Birligi 8 Mart Dünya Kadınlr gunu 2.programi Amerika da ki Kadın Haklarımız](#)

23 NİSAN ULUSAL EGEMENLİK VE ÇOCUK BAYRAMI  
& UNESCO DÜNYA SANAT GÜNÜ

3. RESİM YARIŞMASI 2024

**barış**

Jüri Başkanı:  
**Bedri Baykam**

4. ENİKLİK  
5. ENİKLİK  
6. SUDA HAYAT  
15. HAYAT  
16. HAYAT

YARIŞMA TAKVİMİ

Son Başvuru Tarihi : 10 Mart 2024  
Sonuçların Açıklanması : 5 Nisan 2024  
Ödül Töreni : 23 Nisan 2024  
Başvuru için: [www.atkb.org/resimyarismasi](http://www.atkb.org/resimyarismasi)

ÖDÜLLER

6-8 Yaş Grubu  
Birincilik Ödülü : TABLET  
İkincilik Ödülü : 250 \$  
Üçüncülük Ödülü : 100 \$  
Mansiyon : 50 \$

9-11 Yaş Grubu  
Birincilik Ödülü : TABLET  
İkincilik Ödülü : 250 \$  
Üçüncülük Ödülü : 100 \$  
Mansiyon : 50 \$

#### 4- April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day – UNESCO ART DAY

( April 23, 2024)

In April 2024, the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA), in collaboration with the New York Atatürk School, organized a nationwide youth painting competition in the United States to celebrate the 102nd anniversary of April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day. Held in connection with UNESCO World Art Day, the initiative engaged children aged 6–14 under the theme “World Peace,” promoting cultural dialogue and peace education through artistic expression. Selected artworks were exhibited at the Turkish House (Türkevi Center) in New York, providing young participants with an international platform and supporting SDGs 4, 16, and 17



ASSEMBLY OF  
TURKISH AMERICAN  
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ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

ETAC  
EMPOWERING  
THE TURKISH-AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY



## PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR ALL THROUGH MULTILATERAL DIALOGUE



### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

LINCOLN MCCURDY  
UĞUR KARA

### YOUTH PERSPECTIVE SPEAKERS

CİHAN KEPENEK  
BORA ÖZALP  
SEAN ÖZALPAŞAN  
MEHMET TAŞÇIOĞLU  
ARAL TOLAN  
ARDEN EGE VAN WINKLE  
ECE YENİGÜN



SUNDAY, 4/28/2024, 12pm EDT | Online Registration [www.ataa.org](http://www.ataa.org)

### 5. International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace – Webinar Report (April 28, 2024)

In support of the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace (A/RES/73/127), the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA), in collaboration with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), Empowering the Turkish American Community (ETAC-USA), and the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan (TACAM), participated in the virtual webinar titled *"Prosperous Future for All Through Multilateral Dialogue"* on April 28, 2024.

The program highlighted the importance of multilateral cooperation, inclusive dialogue, and civic engagement in advancing sustainable peace and global cooperation. TWLA contributed collaboratively to the event, with a UN Youth Representative participating as a speaker, emphasizing youth engagement, community awareness, and the role of informed participation in promoting peaceful and sustainable societies, supporting SDGs 4, 16, and 17.

Reference: [Prosperous Future for All Through Multilateral Dialogue](#)

**Program**  
**How Can We Prevent Harmful Consequences from ICTs, and Move Towards a Sustainable Future?**

**WHEN: ON TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024 | TIME: 11:00 EST | 20:30 IND | INTL. PANEL (VIRTUAL)**  
**LMGlobal.Org supports the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference, and the #WTISD (May 17)**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**  
 DR. AKILA MUTHURAMALINGAM  
 DR. SHRIRAM VASUDEVAN (PIE, PIETE, @MIEE)

**PANELISTS**  
 DR. S. ANANDHI, ASSOC. PROF.  
 DR. SOHAN LAL GANDHI  
 DR. P. EZHILARASI  
 PROF. ROBERT HARARI  
 PROF. AYSEGUL DUBAKOGLU, PHD  
 MR. AARON CORTADO  
 MS. JULIE MARDIN

**YOUTH SECTION**  
 MR. KADIR OĞUZ TÜRKAN  
 MS. SELEN YILDIRIM  
 MS. MELİS ATAÇÜN  
 MS. ELİF DÖRTKARDEŞ  
 MR. EMRE TEZİÇİ

**MODERATOR / PRESENTER**  
 MS. BIRCAN ÜNVER, MA.

**Logos:** The Light Millennium, Ben, KSR Educational Institutions, ANIVISHA, Dr. M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute, ETAC, Shanti Fund, Stevens, and others.

**The Light Millennium, Charitable, Global Human Advancement Org. - Associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (since 2005)**  
 WWW.LMGLOBAL.ORG | #2023UNCSC | #WTISD | #WECOMMIT | #SOTF | #LIGHTMILLENNIUM | #UNWITHCIVILSOCIETY

**6.May 7,2024 How Can We Prevent Harmful Consequences from Information Communication Technologies (ICTs), and Move Towards a Sustainable Future?** In connection with the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference themes on *Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation* and *Youth and Future Generations*, the Turkish Women’s League of America (TWLA) collaboratively participated in the virtual panel titled “*How Can We Prevent Harmful Consequences from ICTs, and Move Towards a Sustainable Future?*” held on May 7, 2024, organized by The Light Millennium.

The discussion addressed the risks and societal impacts of information and communication technologies (ICTs), including misinformation, cybercrime, online safety, and the ethical use of emerging technologies. The event brought together academics, NGO representatives, and youth voices to promote responsible digital practices, digital literacy, and policy awareness, contributing to safer digital environments and a sustainable future, in alignment with SDGs 4, 9, 16, and 17.

Reference: [LMGlobal.Org's Virtual Panel: How Can We Prevent Harmful Consequences from ICTs, and Move Towards a Sustainable Future? On May 7, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. EST - The Light Millennium, Inc. Charitable](#)





**8. In support of January 24 th International Day of Education Day** the Turkish Women’s League of America (TWLA) organized a panel discussion accompanied by a collaborative webinar involving youth representatives. The program was implemented in partnership with The Light Millennium Global Organization, strengthening intergenerational dialogue and youth engagement in education and peace-focused initiatives.

Youth participants actively contributed to discussions through a joint online session, promoting knowledge exchange and cross-organizational collaboration. Following the coalition meeting, the President of The Light Millennium Global Organization joined TWLA’s program as a guest contributor, further supporting dialogue on education, global citizenship, and collaborative action.

This joint initiative demonstrated multi-stakeholder cooperation and youth participation aligned with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Reference: <https://mailchi.mp/lightmillennium/light-millennium-january23-2025-newsletter-13>

<https://www.lmglobal.org/2025/01/15/educationday-compulsory-peace-education-through-icts-virtual-intl-panel-on-jan-25-2025-at-1100-a-m-est/>

<https://mailchi.mp/lightmillennium/light-millennium-february12-2025-newsletter14>

ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AATT

ETAC  
EMPOWERING TURKISH AMERICAN COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

# WHY I AM SPEAKING TURKISH

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: PROF. DR. SALİH M. ARÇIN | SAADET EBRU ERGUL | DR. ROZA EYNULA

YOUTH SPEAKERS: SEAN ÖZALPAŞAN | ECE YENİGÜN | ALIN GURDIKYAN | RESUL HUSEYNZADE | ALPARSLAN KAVAKLI

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY DR. JAMILA J. SPITZBERG

INTERVIEW BY NY ATATÜRK SCHOOL

VIDEO PERFORMANCE BY ETAC CHILDREN'S CHOIR

INTERPRETERS İREM G. JACOBSEN & EZGI COHEN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025  
12:00PM ET, 11:00AM CT, 9:00AM PT, 20:00 TR

ONLINE REGISTRATION [www.ataa.org](http://www.ataa.org)

**9- In support of *International Mother Language Day (A/RES/56/262)*, the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) collaboratively participated in a virtual program titled "**Why I Am Speaking Turkish**" on February 23, 2025.**

The event highlighted the importance of preserving mother languages as a fundamental element of cultural identity, intergenerational connection, and multilingual education. Through personal reflections and community dialogue, participants emphasized the role of language in strengthening cultural heritage, social inclusion, and mutual understanding within multicultural societies, contributing to the promotion of linguistic diversity and lifelong learning in alignment with the United Nations' educational and cultural objectives.

Reference: [Why I am Speaking Turkish](#)

**1958** TURKISH WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
**1971** ATATÜRK OKULU NEW YORK  
Collaboration with **BTF** BRIDGE TO TÜRKİYE FUND

Associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications

In Support March 8th

# International Women's Day

All women and girls:  
Rights, Equality, Empowerment

**Turkish House**  
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**Saturday**  
8 March, 2025

**Moderator : Işıl Baran**

Please RSVP until March 7th by  
(516) 234-5015,  
twlanewyork@gmail.com or with  
QR Code

**Ümran Beba**  
Beba Foundation

**Tülin Erdem**  
Leonard N. Stern Professor of Business  
NYU

**Derya Taşkın**  
Entrepreneur

**10. In support International Women Day On March 8, 2025**, the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA), in collaboration with The Bridge of Turkey, successfully organized an International Women's Day program under the theme *"For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."* The event brought together leaders and participants to promote gender equality, women's leadership, and advocacy for women's rights, contributing to dialogue and awareness aligned with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

# GENDER EMPOWERMENT AND EQUALITY

## Breaking Free from Gender Stereotypes and Expectations

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

Alev WIELAND, Sema BAŞOL

**YOUTH SPEAKERS**

Mehmet TAŞCIOĞLU, İlayda YENİ, Sean ÖZALPAŞAN, Yasemin A. KNOTT

Ece YENİGÜN, Nazrin İSKANDAROVA, Sanem KARA

**MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

Lal BEŞİR

5 GENDER EQUALITY

And also On March 9, 2025, the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA), in collaboration with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), Empowering the Turkish American Community (ETAC-USA), and partner organizations formally associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications, co-organized a virtual program titled "Gender Empowerment and Equality – Breaking Free from Gender Stereotypes and Expectations" in support of International Women's Day.

The event engaged youth and community leaders in dialogue addressing gender stereotypes, their societal impact, and practical actions to advance gender equality and empower young women and girls, contributing to awareness-raising aligned with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Reference: First programmed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cb7eXCXtMI>

Second Programmed : [Gender Empowerment and Equality: Breaking Free from Gender Stereotypes and Expectations](#)

LMGlobal.Org & IşıkBinyılı.Org Proudly Present, *in collaboration with*, ADDP & TWLA/NYAtaturk School  
 Celebrating the 85th Anniversary of the

# TURKISH VILLAGE INSTITUTES: A Unique Educational Model












**Keynote Speaker**  
CENGİZ ÖKSÜZ

**Opening Remarks/Moderator**  
BİRCAN ÜNVER

**Opening Remarks**  
KADRIYE A. BAYRAŞA

**Closing Remarks**  
B. YASEMİN ÜNLÜSOY

**Music: Opening&Closing**  
ALİ TUNA ÖZER

**Register (required):** <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/CDjJeCwRsm3ChTSAYIVJw>







**Date: APRIL 19, 2025**  
**Time: 12:00 PM (EST) | 19:00 TR**  
**Language: TURKISH**

[WWW.LMGLOBAL.ORG](http://WWW.LMGLOBAL.ORG) | [WWW.ISIKBINYILI.ORG](http://WWW.ISIKBINYILI.ORG)

**11. On April 19, 2025, the Turkish Women’s League of America (TWLA) participated as a collaborating organization in a United Nations–aligned educational webinar organized by The Light Millennium Global Organization, commemorating the 85th Anniversary of the Turkish Village Institutes. The program highlighted the Village Institutes as a unique educational model and explored their relevance to contemporary discussions on compulsory peace education and the integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in education.**

The session brought together educators and civil society stakeholders to promote dialogue on inclusive, peace-oriented education and lifelong learning, contributing to awareness and knowledge-sharing aligned with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Reference: [Outcome: CONTEMPORARY VILLAGE AND CITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE - The Light Millennium, Inc. Charitable](#)

APRIL 23rd, NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND CHILDREN'S DAY  
& UNESCO WORLD ART DAY

4rd ANNUAL PAINTING CONTEST  
2025

**Climate Action**

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Chairman of the Jury  
**Bedri Baykam**

DATES		PRIZES					
		AGES 6-8		AGES 9-11		AGES 12-14	
Application Deadline:-----	March 10, 2025	Grand Prize	: TABLET	Grand Prize	: TABLET	Grand Prize	: TABLET
Announcement of the result:---	April 5, 2025	Second Prize	: 100 \$	Second Prize	: 100 \$	Second Prize	: 100 \$
Exhibition Date : -----	April 21-26, 2025	Third Prize	: 50 \$	Third Prize	: 50 \$	Third Prize	: 50 \$
		Honorable Mention	: Art Kit	Honorable Mention	: Art Kit	Honorable Mention	: Art Kit

**12. In celebration of April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day and in recognition of UNESCO World Art Day, the Turkish Women's League of America (ATKB/TWLA), a member of the United Nations Department of Global Communications, in collaboration with the New York Atatürk School, organized an international youth painting competition focused on Climate Action.**

The initiative engaged children aged 6–14 living in the United States and Canada, encouraging young participants to express themes of peace, environmental responsibility, and sustainability through art, inspired by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's vision of harmony between humanity and nature. The competition aimed to raise awareness of climate change, protection of natural resources, and sustainable environmental practices, contributing to the promotion of SDG 13 (Climate Action) while fostering creativity and global citizenship among youth.

Reference: [TWLA -NY ATATURK SCHOOL 2025 4 TH ANNUAL PAINTING CONTEST EXHIBITION IN TURKISH HOUSE NEWYORK](#)



ASSEMBLY OF  
TURKISH AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATIONS



ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

# FOSTERING PEACEFUL DIALOGUE

## Historical Reflection and Youth Collaboration

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Burcu P.  
ALAKOÇ



Dr. Ali  
ASKEROV

### YOUTH SPEAKERS



Aylin  
AKMAN



Sean  
ÖZALPAŞAN



Nazrin  
MAMMADOVA

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025**  
12:00PM ET, 11:00AM CT, 9:00AM PT, 20:00 TR

**ONLINE REGISTRATION** [www.ataa.org](http://www.ataa.org)

### 13. International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace – Collaborative Webinar

On April 27, 2025, the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA), in collaboration with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), Turkish Youth Club in Southern California (AKM), and the Azerbaijan Center of Midwest America (ACMA), co-supported a virtual webinar titled "*Fostering Peaceful Dialogue: Historical Reflection and Youth Collaboration*" in observance of the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace (A/RES/73/127).

The program brought together experts and youth participants to promote dialogue, historical reflection, and community engagement aimed at strengthening peaceful communication and mutual understanding. The initiative contributed to awareness-raising on multilateral cooperation and peaceful conflict resolution, aligning with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Reference: <https://mailchi.mp/un/announcements-for-civil-society-21april2025x2-13675128?e=e738ff578a>

[Fostering Peaceful Dialogue: Historical Reflection and Youth Collaboration](#)

 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS** In Support of May 21st World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

Associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications

**A DAY WHERE ART AND WORDS COME TOGETHER**

*A Day of Books and Art:  
Book Signing & Tile Art-Patchwork Exhibition*

*Çağla Ural*  
*"Mira'nun Kırmızı Defteri"*  
*Book Signing*

*Almula İdil Kılıç's*  
*Tile Art Exhibition*

*Olcaay Seçilmiş's*  
*Patchwork Exhibition*

**May 9th  
Friday  
4 pm-7 pm  
Turkish House**

To register, please contact us at  
twlanewyork@gmail.com or  
(516) 234-5015

## 14. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – Program Report (May 9–12, 2025)

In observance of the United Nations World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, the Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA), in collaboration with the Türkevi Center, organized the cultural program **"A Day Where Art Meets the Word"** in New York from May 9–12, 2025.

The event promoted intercultural dialogue and social cohesion through art and literature, featuring contemporary Turkish tile art by State Artist Almula İdil Kılıç, textile works by Olcaay Seçilmiş, and a book signing by author Çağla Ural. The program fostered cultural exchange and mutual understanding among diverse audiences, contributing to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

# DİL KÜLTÜRÜN TAŞIYICISIDIR

## LANGUAGE CARRIES CULTURAL IDENTITY

**Keynote Speakers**

H.E. AHMET YILDIZ

H.E. MALAHAT İBRAHİMGİZİ

**UNESCO Türkiye Speakers**

PROF. DR. M. ÖCAL OĞUZ

PROF. DR. MEHMET A. KİREÇÇİ

**Expert Speaker**

PROF. DR. EMİNE G. NASKALI

**Youth Speakers**

FATİMA M. ASKEROV

NURBIKE BOSTANOĞLU

SEAN ÖZALPAŞAN

İREM G. JAKOBSEN

EZGİ KOHEN

**Interpreters**

**Türk Dil Bayramı**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025**

12:00pm ET. 11:00am CT. 9:00am PT. 19:00 TR

**ONLINE REGISTRATION** [www.ataa.org](http://www.ataa.org)

### 15. Language as Cultural Heritage – Turkish Language Day Webinar

On September 7, 2025, the Turkish Women’s League of America (TWLA), in collaboration with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and Empowering the Turkish American Community (ETAC-USA), co-organized a bilingual virtual webinar titled “*Dil Kültürün Taşıyıcısıdır (Language Carries Cultural Identity)*” in celebration of Turkish Language Day and in support of UNESCO’s Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The program highlighted the role of language as a carrier of cultural identity, traditional knowledge, and shared heritage within multilingual and multicultural societies. Speakers emphasized the importance of preserving linguistic diversity as a means of strengthening intercultural dialogue, cultural continuity, and mutual understanding among communities.

The initiative contributed to awareness-raising on cultural heritage preservation and intercultural dialogue, aligning with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Reference: [Dil Kültürün Taşıyıcısıdır \(Language Carries Cultural Identity\)](#)

The Light Millennium PROUDLY Presents in collaboration with the COALITION for the #CompulsoryPeaceICTEducation #6

# COMPULSORY PEACE & ICT EDUCATION

*In support of the International Day of Democracy* (15 September)

**SPEAKERS**  
**CHAIR OF THE SESSION & KEYNOTE**  
 AMB. MR. RODRIGO A. CARAZO

**OPENING REMARKS**  
 AMB. MR. RAMU DAMODARAN  
 MR. BRUCE FEIN, ESQ.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESSES BY**  
 H.E. MR. STAN ODUMA SMITH  
 H.E. MR. TEBURORO TITO

**SPEAKER** MS. ŞAHANE SULTAN  
 BEDENLIER, M.A.

**CONCEPT/WELCOMING/CO-CHAIR**  
 MS. BİRCAN ÜNVER, M.A.

**INTERACTIVE SESSION**  
 CLOSING REMARKS

**YOUTH SECTION**  
 MR. ONUR BARAN  
 MISS. EYLÜL DEMİRÖZ  
 MR. EFE ERGİŞİ  
 MISS. ELANUR ÖZSİRKINTI

• Link to REGISTER (Required): [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/FDYMKQCS-EMCWMFUIVGEA](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/fdymkqcs-emcwmfuiVGEA)

EVENT DATE (VIRTUAL):  
**SAT..13 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
 TIME: 11:00 A.M. (EST) | 18:00 (TR)

WWW.LMGLOBAL.ORG | #LIGHTMILLENNIUM | #DEMOCRACYDAY | #OURCOMMONAGENDA | #PACTFORTHEFUTURE | #SDG16 | #UNWITHCIVILSOCIETY

## 16.International Day of Democracy – Compulsory Peace & ICT Education Webinar

On September 13, 2025, the Turkish Women’s League of America (TWLA), in collaboration with The Light Millennium, participated in a virtual program titled “Compulsory Peace & ICT Education” in observance of the International Day of Democracy. The initiative brought together experts and youth voices to discuss the role of peace education and digital learning in strengthening democratic participation and inclusive societies.

TWLA contributed to the program through the participation of three youth representatives, supporting intergenerational dialogue and youth engagement in global discussions on education, peace, and digital transformation. The event promoted awareness aligned with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Reference: <https://www.lmglobal.org/2025/09/19/the-outcome-of-the-compulsory-peace-ict-education-democracy-day-towards-human-centered-democracy/>  
<https://mailchi.mp/un/announcements-for-civil-society-8dec2025x2-13676541?e=6063b9e641>



ASSEMBLY OF  
TURKISH AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATIONS



# DİL KÜLTÜRÜN TAŞIYICISIDIR LANGUAGE CARRIES CULTURAL IDENTITY



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025 | 5:00PM - 7:00PM  
TURKISH HOUSE | 821 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NEW YORK, NY 10017

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE EVENT  
HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/GSYCOJ5CNME2AU7C7

WWW.ATAA.ORG

## 17. December/4//2025 TWLA Collaboration – World Turkic Language Family Day

The Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA), in collaboration with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and Empowering the Turkish American Community (ETAC-USA), co-hosted the virtual program “*Language Carries Cultural Identity*” in celebration of World Turkic Language Family Day.

The event highlighted the unifying role of Turkic languages as carriers of cultural heritage, shared values, and identity across borders. TWLA's participation strengthened intercultural dialogue, youth engagement, and awareness of the importance of preserving linguistic and cultural diversity in multicultural societies.

Reference: <https://mailchi.mp/un/announcements-for-civil-society-24nov2025x2-13676421?e=aac67617ea>

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0Uv4kuLCzzuncR1c7mZjY1thEvsTNJ31a7Tx1gv287QcEpgB6fgmoVBwwYs4225RZl&id=100064504517658&mibextid=wwXlfr](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0Uv4kuLCzzuncR1c7mZjY1thEvsTNJ31a7Tx1gv287QcEpgB6fgmoVBwwYs4225RZl&id=100064504517658&mibextid=wwXlfr)

[Celebrating December 15 World Turkic Language Family Day 12/4/2025 \(Turkish House\)](#)

**TURKISH WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA**  
1958

**Kırmızı Biber Derneđi**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

*16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence*

**INT' AGREEMENTS ON COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Perspectives from Türkiye and the United States**

**Nazan Morođlu, LL.M.**  
MEF University  
Faculty of Law

**Arzu Gürcan Esq., LL.M.**

**Burcu Sađırođlu**  
Moderator  
Policy & Advocacy Manager  
Joyful Heart Foundation

**SATURDAY**  
DECEMBER 13, 2025

**12.00 PM (EST)**  
**20.00 (TST)**

**ZOOM PANEL** Meeting ID: 886 4236 7457 Passcode: 463272

## 18.16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence – Panel on Legal Protections for Women

In observance of the United Nations' *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* (November 25 – December 10, 2025), the American Turkish Women's Association and Red Pepper Association jointly organized a panel addressing legal mechanisms to prevent and combat violence against women.

The event brought together legal professionals and experts from Turkey and the United States to examine international frameworks, including CEDAW, the Istanbul Convention, and related UN Security Council resolutions, as well as national practices, implementation challenges, and opportunities for strengthening protection measures.

The panel highlighted the shared and distinct dynamics of gender-based violence across contexts, fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange to advance awareness, advocacy, and practical solutions aligned with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Reference: [Haklarimi Biliyorum Zoom video1240492555.mp4 - Google Drive](#)

## 2026 PROJECT COMPLETED

The Light Millennium Proudly Presents, in collaboration with, the COALITION

# COMPULSORY PEACE ICTS EDUCATION CAMPAIGN #7

In support of the International Day of Education  
#EducationDay | 24 January

"The power of youth in co-creating education"

WWW.LMGLOBAL.ORG

Time: 11:00 a.m. (EST) | Link to REGISTER (required):  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/7\\_wNfhgQbCCVBeTb639KA](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/7_wNfhgQbCCVBeTb639KA)

**ON SAT., JAN. 24, 2026**  
**TIME: 11:00 A.M. EST**

Common Agency | Dr. M.G.R. | ISE | The Institution of | Bons-A | IEEE | ETAC

#LIGHTMILLENNIUM | #EDUCATIONDAY2026 | #OURCOMMONFUTURE | #FACTFOR THE FUTURE | #SDG4 | #UNWITHCIVILSOCIETY

### 19. International Day of Education – Collaborative Participation (January 24, 2026)

In observance of the International Day of Education, the Turkish Women’s League of America (TWLA) collaboratively participated in a virtual session organized by The Light Millennium Global Organization (LMGlobal.Org) under the UNESCO 2026 theme, “*The Power of Youth in Co-Creating Education.*” TWLA contributed to the program through the participation of its youth representatives, supporting intergenerational dialogue and youth engagement in shaping inclusive and future-oriented education systems. The initiative promoted global cooperation and knowledge exchange aligned with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

Reference: <https://www.lmglobal.org/2026/01/28/the-outcome-seeds-of-future-education-planted-through-compulsory-peace-icts-education-campaign-7/>



## POWER OF MOTHER LANGUAGE & MULTILINGUALISM

**Emre M. Bozer**  
UW-Madison

**Deniz Seçilmiş**  
Assoc., Dattner Architects

**Sean Özalpaşan**  
Tufts

**Simla Özçilingir**  
Binghamton

**Ece Yenigün**  
Moderator, M.S., NYU

**Ayça Ergisi**  
Prin., NY Atatürk School

**Dr. Nâlán Erbil**  
UW-Madison

**Gözde Pınar**  
Binghamton

**Elanur Sönmez**  
Penn State

**Online WEBINAR** | FEB. 22, 2026, 12:00 PM ET | [Register Online  
www.ataa.org](https://www.ataa.org)

20. *In support of International Mother Language Day (A/RES/56/262)*, this initiative explores the role of the mother tongue in shaping individual identity, academic development, and cultural continuity through a multi-stakeholder perspective involving children, youth, academics, and parents. Within the diaspora context, the program addresses the preservation and development of the Turkish language while highlighting the benefits of multilingualism. Through academic discussions, artistic expression, and field-based experiences, the project promotes intercultural dialogue, inclusive education, and cultural sustainability, contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

REFERENCE: <https://mailchi.mp/un/announcements-for-civil-society-16feb2026x2-13676922>