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## 2016 INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKERS

Introducing leaders from our  
partner churches around the world



# MEET THE 2016 INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKERS



## **GLADYS LARIBA MAHAMA – GHANA**

Rev. Lariba serves as minister-in-charge of the Fumbisi congregation and as the coordinator for women's ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Upper Presbytery. Her ministry with women has been focused on an association for widows and a project working for the reintegration of women identified as "witches" back into their families.



## **AREEJ MURAD MASOUD – PALESTINE**

Ms. Masoud is a native of Bethlehem, Palestine and currently works as the Communication and Administrative Officer for Kairos Palestine. She has previously worked with Seeds of Hope in Jericho and as a religious studies teacher. She is a member of the Palestinian Youth Ecumenical Movement (PYEM).



## **RAMI AL MAQDASI – IRAQ**

Rev. Al Maqdasi has served with refugees in a variety of capacities: as Director of Syrian Refugees Ministry with Samaritans Purse, with Operation Blessing, the Alliance Church in Syria and Iraq, and Crisis Response International. He currently lives and works in the US supporting refugees in the Buffalo, New York area.



## **LUIS FERNANDO SANMIGUEL – COLOMBIA**

Rev. Sanmiguel has participated in peace talks between the Colombian government and guerilla groups and served as a pastoral accompanier to political prisoners. He helps lead a peace project in the Presbytery of Urabá, called "Urabá Territory of Peace," and in Bogotá he coordinates an interfaith movement called "Teusaquillo Territory of Peace."



## **DIANET DE LA CARIDAD MARTINEZ VALDÉS – CUBA**

Dianet is a lifelong Presbyterian who says that the church nurtured in her an awareness of exclusion, discrimination, poverty, and the desire to serve Christ and work for justice. She serves as chairperson of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) of Cuba and is currently engaged in theological studies at the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas.



## **ISSAKA MOUSSA – NIGER**

Judge Moussa is currently a magistrate in Niger, previously serving as the high officer in charge of reporting on the implementation of U.N. and other treaties on human rights in Niger. He also serves as secretary for global partnerships with the Evangelical Church in Niger (EERN), the oldest and the largest denomination in Niger.



## **TAMAR WASOIAN – ARMENIA AND SYRIA**

Dr. Wasoian is an Armenian educator and theologian from Syria. She served in the Armenian Evangelical Church in Syria and with the Armenian Missionary Association in the Republic of Armenia. She received an MTS from McCormick Theological Seminary and a doctorate from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. She currently lives in Chicago and teaches at both institutions.



## **DÓRA KANIZSAI-NAGY – HUNGARY**

Ms. Kanizsai-Nagy has served the Reformed Church in Hungary as the head of their Refugee Ministry. In 2014 she co-founded the Kalunba Social Services Association, an NGO that now actively serves refugees in Budapest, providing them with concrete and practical help.



## **VERONICA MUCHIRI – KENYA**

Ms. Muchiri serves as the organizer and secretary of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) National Women's Guild, an organization of approximately 120,000 members in the East African Countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. She is the recipient of several awards for her peace work on behalf of women and girls.



## **ARDA AGHAZARIAN – PALESTINE**

Ms. Aghazarian is currently a Fulbright Scholar, enrolled as a graduate student in Communication at Villanova University, Pennsylvania. Born and raised in Jerusalem, she worked previously at the YWCA of Palestine on projects that empower young women to take on decision-making roles. She served as an International Peacemaker with PC(USA) in 2011 and 2012.