



Lutfia Rabbani Foundation

Lutfia Rabbani Foundation Activities 2019 – 2020

During the past year the Foundation has expanded its activities in order to further its objective, namely to promote Euro-Arab dialogue and understanding through education and cultural exchange. In 2019 we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Foundation, which culminated in a Memorial Lecture held on November 21st at the Academy Building of Leiden University, to commemorate the founder of the Foundation and celebrate his legacy.

We have been able to support 18 students and travel grantees in furthering their educational ambitions in 2019-2020. This support was realized not only through the [various scholarship programmes](#) that the Foundation offers to both Dutch and Arab students throughout the MENA region but also through dialogue activities and [cooperation](#) with other organizations, enabling the Foundation to bring people from different backgrounds together in the most efficient and effective manner.

Activities implemented 2019 – 2020

- Overall, 18 **scholarships and travel grants** were awarded to various scholars for the 2019-2020 academic year:
 - The **Mahmoud Rabbani Scholarship** – a fully financed Master or PhD scholarship at a Dutch university or other institute for higher learning;
 - The **Vreede Scholarship for International Law** – for Arab students in international law, offered at the International Court of Justice in the Hague;
 - The **Travel Scholarship** – offered to Dutch and Arab students and professionals seeking experience in the Netherlands or the Arab World;
 - The **Leiden University Fund** – a fully financed Master scholarship at Leiden University for students from the Arab World
- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation developed a strategic partnership with the **A.M. Qattan Foundation** to bring the **Palestine Youth Orchestra** (PYO) for the first time to the Netherlands in the Summer of 2019. The PYO programme celebrated love in an eclectic mix of high energy symphonic and Arabic music. The PYO tour in the Netherlands comprised a performance in the Amsterdam Museum for a short chamber music concert on August 14th, a performance at the Orpheus Theatre in Apeldoorn on August 15th alongside the Dutch Youth Orchestra (NJO) and concluded with a concert in the famous Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.
- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation supported the **exhibition HALTE: Here Art Liberty There Equality**. This exhibition at TAC (Temporary Art Centre) Eindhoven brought together 10 Dutch and Palestinian emerging artists with a focus on the theme of (post)colonialism. A total of 3000 visitors visited the exhibition from August 31st to September 28th.
- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation supported **Musicians Without Borders** in organizing their annual staff training and **Training of Trainers** in the Netherlands. Musicians Without Borders uses music as a means to address the needs of societies divided and affected by conflict. In October 2019, a Palestinian nonviolence trainer and the project manager and music workshop leader for Musicians Without Borders' partner program Sounds of Palestine were invited to

attend this training which was made possible due to the travel scholarship programme of LRF. The training was an in-depth course to gain skills in training community music leaders based on Musicians Without Borders' principles and methodology, exploring concepts related to nonviolence and trauma awareness.

- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation supported the documentary 'Show Us Your Smile' by **Copper Views Film Production** to realize the post production phase. **Show Us Your Smile** is a short observing and poetic documentary about the encounter of Arab and Western tourists in a European booming holiday destination. The film shows what happens when people with totally different backgrounds meet each other in an idyllic Austrian village to celebrate their holiday.
- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation continued its **informal dialogue sessions**. The Foundation seeks to create a dynamic platform for mutual understanding, discussion and networking between Europe and the Arab region by bringing together students and professionals of different backgrounds in these informal dialogue sessions. In the second half of 2019 we welcomed Free Press Unlimited and Kianoosh Motallebi (travel scholar) to address a topic related to Euro-Arab dialogue. In total 7 informal dialogue sessions have been held so far.
- On November 21st, the Foundation celebrated its **40th Anniversary with a Memorial Lecture** to commemorate its founder: Mahmoud S. Rabbani (1934-2002). The memorial lecture was delivered by Dr. Mustafa Barghouti in the Academy Building of Leiden University and addressed the topic "Palestine: Strategic Challenges of the Future and the Role of Europe". The discussants Mouin Rabbani and prof. Josette Dijkhuizen focused on the role of Europe and entrepreneurship when it comes to the Palestinian cause. The memorial lecture was moderated by Safiyeh Salehi Mobarakeh. The anniversary event brought together members of the diplomatic community, students from different backgrounds, friends of the Foundation, academics and journalists.
- The Foundation's **Alumni Network Platform** was officially launched. This network group connects alumni of the Lutfia Rabbani Foundation to exchange opportunities and experiences.
- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation supported for the second time the **International Documentary Film festival Amsterdam (IDFA)** in November 2019 by enabling 5 young Arab film talents from Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Syria to attend IDFAcademy during IDFA. **IDFAcademy** is an intensive four-day training program that takes place during the festival, offering emerging documentary filmmakers and producers the opportunity to meet a broad spectrum of esteemed documentary professionals who share their knowledge of the industry. The aim of the support of LRF is to contribute to make IDFA more inclusive, by bringing a rich source of young Arab talents including their ideas and expertise to enrich these discussions, offering different perspectives and valuable insights.
- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation continued its support for the **Nour Project**, initiated by the Leiden branch of AIESEC the Netherlands. The Nour Project sends a group of both Dutch and international students to the MENA region for 6 weeks over the Summer and Winter seasons to work in various projects and internships in their destination country of choice.
- LRF supported the **Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten** (Amsterdam) with a travel scholarship to support an Arab artist in residence. The Rijksakademie is one of the most renowned artist residency programme's in the world, specialized in supporting emerging artists at a transformative moment in their career. The Rijksakademie offer artists of diverse ages, disciplines and backgrounds, to access mentorship, studio space and access to a wide range of workshops and facilities. The travel scholarship enabled the Arab artist to start his first residency-period in January 2020.

- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation organized an informal meeting with the **Vreede scholars** in January 2020, who attended the 2020 Winter course at The Hague Academy of International Law. The Winter Programme course not only broadens the scholar's knowledge on International Law but also helps them in their professional and academic journey.
- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation hosted a table at the 11th **Middle East North Africa (MENA) Trade Dinner** in the Hague in January 2020, inviting representatives from some of the Foundation's strategic partners and supporters. The Foundation's participation at this event stems from its belief that the business community has a key role to play in supporting its mission of increasing cultural and educational exchanges aimed at strengthening Euro-Arab dialogue and understanding. The Foundation's MSR 2020 scholar Mohammed Almezaeni and Vice President of the Nour Project, Jasmin de Leeuw, delivered short speeches on their projects and perspectives on Euro-Arab relations.
- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation supported the **United World College in Maastricht** for the sixth consecutive year in organizing the 2020 International Peace Conference. Over three days, the students participated in discussions and workshops around the theme "The Eyeland". The Foundation's alumnus, Ahmed Abofoul, joined the workshop "Fragments of Conflict" as one of the speakers, held on the last day of the IPC. The goal of this session was to address complex and contentious issues by sharing the deeply personal and small-scale stories that often get lost in the midst of conflict.
- In May 2020, the Lutfia Rabbani Foundation and **KIT Royal Tropical Institute** signed a Memorandum of Understanding to officially establish a longstanding cooperation and joint scholarship: **the KIT-LRF scholarship**. The joint scholarship aims at contributing towards intercultural exchange and cooperation, a primary objective of both LRF and KIT. The MOU marks the strengthening of cooperation in LRF and KIT's shared aims in the domains of public health, Euro-Arab dialogue and sustainable cultural development.



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