



(Immediate Release)

HRH Prince Feisal: Power of sport can ease the plight of refugees

Call for action on International Day of Peace

21 September 2015 - Amman, Jordan: HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein, Founder and Chairman of Generations For Peace, today marked the International Day of Peace by calling on the international sport community to harness the unique power of sport to ease the plight of refugees and build sustainable peace in Jordan and in communities affected by conflict around the world.

With more than 1.4 million Syrian refugees currently in Jordan, of which 620,000 have registered to receive assistance, the great majority living outside refugee camps in host communities, and 51.6% of whom are under the age of 18 (UNHCR 2015), there has never been a more crucial time to utilise sport, art, advocacy, dialogue, and empowerment with youth in our communities to change lives.

HRH Prince Feisal, who is also a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Public Affairs and Social Development through Sport Commission, underlined the power of sport as an entry point to engage with children and youth to help tackle localised conflict, inequality and exclusion, and stimulate social development:

“The response from the International Olympic Committee and international sports clubs and federations is truly inspiring, and we welcome IOC President Bach’s pledge to donate two million dollars to National Olympic Committee programmes supporting migrants and refugees. Likewise, through the transformative power of sport, Generations For Peace activities can ease the plight of refugees and local youth in host communities under enormous pressures. But we must not stop there. We must continue to educate and promote the positive effects of sport and encourage the international sport community to build sustainable peace here in the Middle East, in Africa, Europe and around the world.”

In Jordan, with support from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Generations For Peace programmes are utilising sport and other peace-building tools to improve social cohesion between Syrian refugees and host community members, and with support from USAID and the Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to reduce violence in schools. These programmes are benefiting nearly 7,000 young people living in vulnerable communities in Jordan.

Generations For Peace efforts are proving to have a positive impact and have also attracted support from the Norwegian Government, Samsung, Orange and DHL.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Generations For Peace (GFP) is a Jordan-based global non-profit organisation founded by HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein and Sarah Kabbani, dedicated to sustainable peace building and conflict transformation through sport, arts, advocacy, dialogue and empowerment.

By providing unique training and continuous support and mentoring to volunteer leaders of youth, GFP empowers them to lead and cascade change in their communities, promoting active tolerance and responsible citizenship and working at the grass roots to address local issues of conflict and violence.

Different contexts include inter-tribal, inter-ethnic, and inter-religious violence; gender inequality; post-conflict trauma response, reconciliation and reintegration; exclusion of minorities including IDPs, refugees and people with a disability; and challenges of integration in multi-cultural societies. Conflict sensitivity, and the full participation and empowerment of girls and women, are integrated into GFP's approach.

GFP uses sport as an entry point to engage with children and youth, and our carefully-facilitated sport-based games provide a vehicle for integrated education and behaviour change. In addition to our sport-based approaches, GFP has also developed arts, advocacy, dialogue, and empowerment activities to support conflict transformation with children, youth and adults in different contexts.

In the last seven years, we have trained and mentored more than 8,500 volunteer leaders of youth in 50 countries and territories in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Europe. With our support, their ongoing programmes address local issues of conflict and violence, and have touched the lives of more than 216,000 children, youth and adults.

GFP is ranked 32nd in the "Top 500 NGOs in the World" for 2015 by *Global Geneva*. The ranking assesses non-governmental organisations according to innovation, impact, and sustainability.

GFP is also the only peace-through-sport organisation officially recognised by the International Olympic Committee.

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