



2021 PEACEMAKERS IN ACTION ANNOUNCEMENT

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For Immediate Release

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Tanenbaum Welcomes Yeny Nolasco Quijada and Fatima al-Bahadly as its newest *Peacemakers In Action*.

New York, New York – On International Women's Day, Tanenbaum is honored to announce its two 2020 *Peacemakers In Action* award recipients - El Salvador's Yeny Nolasco Quijada, a Catholic woman with deep connections to the Mayan Cosmovision, and Iraq's Fatima al-Bahadly, a Muslim woman deeply embedded within her community.

Fatima and Yeny are two bright lights of hope working tirelessly for peace and embody what it means to be a *Peacemaker in Action*. Though Yeny and Fatima hold some anonymity globally, locally they are renown for their efforts in uplifting the most vulnerable in their communities.

Tanenbaum CEO Rev. Mark Fowler reflects, "Fatima defies extremists by working with families displaced due to ISIS, educating marginalized women and girls, building community cohesion between Iraq's minority groups, and de-radicalizing young men by visiting communities and providing basic needs and alternatives to joining groups like ISIS." Fatima's community-driven work is based in rural southern Iraq, where she also connects with clerics and community leaders to shift gender norms and empower women and girls.

"Yeny works to reduce the influence of criminal organizations in her home country of El Salvador, adopting preventative measures aimed at providing alternatives to gang recruitment," says Rev. Fowler. "Additionally, she forges partnerships within her community to address issues such as police violence." Yeny facilitates peacebuilding workshops focused on fighting the pull and dominance of criminal organizations in El Salvador through a preventative approach, reinstating alternatives to gang recruitment and prostitution. As a community builder, she meets with police precincts encouraging them to re-think their purpose and tendency toward violent enforcement.

"Both exemplify peace. Both are driven by their faith. Both risk their lives for the chance of peace in the world's worst conflicts," says Rev. Fowler. Yeny and Fatima will be joining a community of 30 religiously-motivated activists located across 23 conflict zones globally.

Fulfilling our mission to promote justice and build respect for religious difference, Tanenbaum recognizes Yeny and Fatima in not only imagining a world that respects difference, but furthering the essential work in building one.

Tanenbaum is a secular, non-sectarian nonprofit that builds justice and promotes respect for religious difference by transforming individuals and institutions to reduce prejudice, hatred and violence. More information about Tanenbaum's offerings can be found at, <https://tanenbaum.org/>

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