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Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Tanenbaum Announces Two New *Peacemakers in Action*

New York, NY, November 13, 2025: The Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding announces its two newest recipients of the *Peacemakers in Action* Award to join the *Peacemakers in Action Network*: **Amira Musallam from Bethlehem** and **Ufra Mir from Kashmir**.

Tanenbaum's *Peacemakers in Action* are a *Network* of religiously and spiritually motivated peace activists from more than 23 conflict zones. Many of the *Peacemakers* have worked in isolation, and the *Network* provides opportunities for them to discover kindred spirits and knowledgeable colleagues. Amira and Ufra embody Tanenbaum's awardee criteria: religious/spiritual motivation, working in an area of armed conflict, risking their lives and/or liberty as they pursue peace, are closely connected to the conflict at the local level, and are relatively unknown.

"Amira and Ufra come from two different regions and religions, sharing a vocation to promote nonviolence and solidarity across divides — Amira in the West Bank and Ufra in Kashmir," shared **Rev. Mark Fowler, Tanenbaum CEO**. "They exemplify how interfaith collaboration, mediation, and community healing persist behind the scenes of ongoing conflict. It's an honor to welcome them into the *Network*."

Amira Musallam shared, "Standing together makes us unbreakable. I believe in the power of humanity, in people choosing to protect one another across every border, faith, and difference. I do this work for my son, Ramzi, so he will not have to live the same injustice I did and for all the children of Palestine, so they may grow up knowing safety, dignity, freedom, and peace."

Ufra Mir said, "Peace without justice and recognition of basic human rights is not peace. We live in an interconnected world, so if there's injustice, conflict, war, genocide or occupation happening in one part of the world, it's bound to impact all of us. It's our responsibility to be better allies, raise our voices more consciously, and if nothing else, bear witness with more care and empathy. When the world is falling apart with ongoing genocides and wars, if our hearts still have the capability to break and feel hurt at the pain and tragedies of others, and our souls have the humility to acknowledge the magnanimous power of cosmos and stars - that's what gives me hope."

Amira Musallam is a Palestinian Catholic peace activist and the Head of Mission for Unarmed Civilian Protection in Palestine; an initiative she co-founded to deploy and coordinate unarmed protective presence teams in high-risk Palestinian communities. Born and based in Bethlehem, Amira has worked with B'Tselem, Holy Land Trust, and several international networks advocating for civilian protection, human rights, and accountability. At age twelve, Amira and her family were provided with a protective presence as their house was shelled during the second Intifada. She has since dedicated her life to protecting communities under threat, resisting land confiscation, and building cross-border solidarity circles that connect Palestinians, Israelis, and international citizens. UCPiP has become a model for grassroots protection and community resilience in the West Bank. Amira continues to center the voices of Palestinian women and families facing dispossession and war, working toward a future grounded in dignity, equality, and hope.

Ufra Mir is a Muslim peace-psychologist born and raised in Kashmir. She has been working at the intersection of peacebuilding, mental health psychosocial support, arts, spirituality and conflict transformation for over 14 years — in Kashmir, across South Asia, the Global South, along with some work in the U.S. and Europe.

Ufra's work supports communities psychosocially with the ramifications of living in conflict-regions while advocating for justice and human rights, and building space for peacebuilding in the process. Ufra facilitates culturally-relevant, contextualized, and decolonized approaches of wellbeing and peacebuilding while counteracting the enforced-normalization and dehumanization of conflicts. Part of this work is creating empathetic spaces for expression and narrative-sharing in conflict regions through influence from local arts, culture, food, language, architecture, and faith. Ufra has worked with youth, women, half-widows, war-widows, artists, students, mental health professionals, teachers, human rights defenders, refugees, peacebuilders, and journalists from places like Kashmir, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Syria, Morocco, Senegal, Kenya, Uganda, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, the Philippines, India, and more. She's the Founding Executive Director of the International Center for Peace Psychology and is currently the co-chair for the Protection Working Group with the Global Coalition on YPS.

Tanenbaum promotes justice and builds respect for religious difference by transforming individuals and institutions to reduce prejudice, hatred, and violence. More information about Tanenbaum's offerings can be found here: https://tanenbaum.org/
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