

# SAKENA YACOobi

# PEACE

## IS LOUD

To book Sakena Yacoobi for your event,  
visit [peaceisloud.org](http://peaceisloud.org)  
or email [johna@peaceisloud.org](mailto:johna@peaceisloud.org)



“AFGHANISTAN WILL HAVE PEACE  
WHEN THE WOMEN OF  
AFGHANISTAN ARE LEADERS.”

– SAKENA YACOobi

## EDUCATION PIONEER & VISIONARY LEADER

As Founder and Executive Director of the **Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL)**, Sakena Yacoobi has established herself as a visionary leader working at the grassroots level to bring education and health services to Afghan women and children.

AIL was the first organization to offer human rights and leadership training to **Afghan women**. After the Taliban closed girls' schools in the 1990s, AIL operated 80 underground home schools for 3,000 girls in Afghanistan. AIL smuggled school materials into the country, hiding books in bags of rice and flour.

**AIL now serves 350,000 women and children each year through its Educational Learning Centers, schools and clinics in both Afghanistan and Pakistan.** AIL's women's learning centers and

interactive teaching methods have been replicated by many nonprofit organizations in Afghanistan. Seventy percent of AIL's 450 staff members are Afghan women.

Sakena is an Ashoka Fellow and has been a **featured panelist and speaker** for international organizations and conferences, including the Clinton Global Initiative, the World Economic Forum and the Millennium Campus Network Conference.

Awards and recognitions include, Opus Prize at Georgetown University (2013), Afghan National Peace Award (2011), Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership (2009) and the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship (2006), among others.

For a full list of awards and recognitions, and an expanded bio, please visit [peaceisloud.org](http://peaceisloud.org)

## Speaking Topics

- Powerful women: reconnecting the generations in Afghanistan
- Courage and the future of Afghan women
- Advancing the status of women in Afghanistan
- Citizen participation and gender equity
- Mobilizing local leaders and communities

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