

ACTION COPY

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**2016 Voices of Courage Awards Luncheon**

Cipriani 42nd Street  
110 East 42nd Street  
New York City

April 21, 2016  
11:30am - 2:00pm

**Voices of Courage Awards**

Mina Jaf  
Cho Lay Mar

**Corporate Leadership Awards**

Hamdi Ulukaya  
Founder,  
Chobani and  
Tent Foundation

SAP  
Anka Wittenberg  
Chief Diversity &  
Inclusion Officer,  
SAP SE

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

António Guterres  
UN High Commissioner  
for Refugees, 2005-2015

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**Executive Director**  
Sarah Costa

122 East 42nd Street  
11th Floor  
New York, NY 10108  
Phone: 212-551-3111

April 8, 2016

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
United Nations Headquarters  
405 East 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Secretary-General:

As the Executive Director of the Women's Refugee Commission, I am pleased to invite you to join us for our annual Voices of Courage Awards luncheon.

It has never been easy for the millions of women and girls forced to flee their homes because of conflict and violence, and recently, the crisis has grown to unprecedented proportions. The news challenges us every day to redouble our efforts to respond to this humanitarian crisis.

The Women's Refugee Commission will recognize those who are working at the forefront of this crisis at our annual Voices of Courage Luncheon this spring in New York. António Guterres, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. His dedication to refugees, and in particular women and girls, has been both inspiring and instrumental to bringing awareness and resources to address humanitarian issues. Mina Jaf, an Iraqi-Kurdish refugee living in Brussels, and Cho Lay Mar, a displaced person in Myanmar, will be recognized for their resilience and bravery.

The Women's Refugee Commission would be deeply honored for you to join us at the 2016 Voices of Courage Awards Luncheon and would like to extend to you a complimentary, non-transferable ticket to this event. The luncheon will be held from 11:30am to 2:00pm on Thursday, April 21 at Cipriani 42nd Street.

The Voices of Courage Awards Luncheon is attended by 400-500 leaders in business, international humanitarian organizations, and philanthropy. It is our organization's most important public education and fundraising event. All proceeds support our programs to identify the specific needs of refugee women and girls and protect their human rights, health, and well-being while on the move and living in refugee camps and urban areas.

I realize that your schedule is incredibly busy, but I do hope that you will be able to attend our event.

My colleague Tara Steinke will follow up with your office shortly.

Sincerely,

Sarah Costa  
Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the Women's Refugee Commission cordially invites you to attend the

# VOICES OF COURAGE AWARDS LUNCHEON

**THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016**  
RECEPTION: 11:30AM | LUNCHEON: NOON

CIPRIANI 42ND STREET  
110 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK CITY

For additional information please contact Feyen Teklu at 212.551.3102 or fevent@wrccommission.org

## 2016 VOICES OF COURAGE HONOREES



**MINA JAF**

Mina Jaf spent her first 20 years as a refugee. She was born during a chemical gas attack in Iraqi Kurdistan in 1988. Her family then fled over the mountains to Iran. She grew up keenly aware of the importance of bureaucratic details for the displaced: which line to stand in, what forms to fill out. Now an emerging leader and refugee advocate in Brussels, Mina Jaf enlists others to join her as a fierce ally for refugee women as they begin their new lives.



**CHO LAY MAR**

Cho Lay Mar champions peace and inter-ethnic understanding in Rakhine State, Myanmar, where she was born and raised. She has dedicated herself to improving the lives of vulnerable populations, including Muslim girls and women, even in the face of great resistance, in her role as program officer at Community & Family Services International. Her ability to build positive relationships with her government and her commitment to peace and diplomacy distinguish Cho Lay Mar as a true voice of courage.

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



**ANTÓNIO GUTERRES**

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES – 2005-2015**

As UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres devoted his energy, diplomacy, and intellectual vigor to elevate refugee issues for the world's 60 million displaced persons. A strong and impassioned advocate for the particular issues facing displaced women and children, he lived up to his call to "fight for a world where women and girls are respected in their homes, schools, workplaces, and communities, [where they can] walk freely, without fear."

## 2016 CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS



**HAMDİ ULUKAYA**

**FOUNDER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHOBANI  
FOUNDER, THE TENT FOUNDATION**

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Hamdi Ulukaya seeks to improve the lives and livelihoods of the 60 million people who have been forcibly displaced around the globe through the dedicated efforts of the Tent Foundation, which he founded in 2015. Tent advances its mission by funding direct assistance, investing in innovation, and promoting policies and partnerships to help the displaced realize their full potential.



**SAP SE**

**AWARD ACCEPTED BY ANNA WITTENBERG  
CHIEF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION OFFICER, SAP SE**

SAP, one of the world's largest software manufacturers, shows an exemplary commitment to refugee rights. Its three-pillar approach to pressing refugee issues generates real solutions in a complex crisis. SAP provides humanitarian aid through corporate and employee giving, taps corporate innovation that brings to bear big data on expansive challenges, and fosters workforce integration to support long-term solutions for refugees and their families. SAP's leadership and robust corporate social responsibility program distinguish the company as a voice of courage.



# VOICES OF COURAGE AWARDS LUNCHEON

APRIL 21, 2016



## Research. Rethink. Resolve.

The Women's Refugee Commission improves the lives and protects the rights of women, children, and youth displaced by conflict and crisis.

womensrefugeecommission.org

@wrccommission /wrccommission

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\* Co-chairs of the Commissioners