

2021
ANNUAL REPORT

HEROES IN ACTION



PRESENTED BY

AHA
FOUNDATION

A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS



George Zarubin, Executive Director

MY DAUGHTER AND I LOVE SUPERHERO MOVIES. We race to the theater whenever a new film is released—*Spiderman*, *Wonder Woman*, *Black Panther*, *Shang-Chi*. These characters all have flaws and challenges to overcome, yet are always fighting for those who have been unjustly wronged. During the COVID pandemic, I think we have all felt the need for superheroes—whether fictional or real.

In our work at AHA Foundation, we are fighting for the survivors and girls at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM), honor violence, forced marriage and child marriage. **Our founder Ayaan Hirsi Ali, who has dealt with many of these challenges herself and overcome them, is one of my superheroes.** And she continues to try to make the world a better place—by calling out these abuses

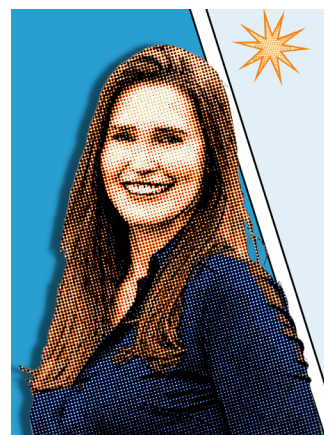
against girls and women, by directing attention to the underlying cultural causes, namely, the flawed ideology of political Islam, and by working to inspire and activate college students to join the fight against these dangerous practices.

I'm also so proud of the victories we achieved in 2021 and the heroes who made them possible—survivors, advocates, legislators, and other supporters who inspired and empowered our small team of heroes at the Foundation. We were elated when President Trump signed the Stop FGM Act of 2020 into law. Indiana legislators adopted our model bill to ban FGM, making it the 40th state in the country to end this horrifying practice. After years of lobbying in New Hampshire and New York, their governors signed new laws ending child marriage in their respective states. And we continue to raise awareness about these issues and the dangers of Islamism on college campuses around the U.S. both in person and virtually. For a small organization, I feel like we punch far above our weight!

The work we do at AHA Foundation continues and grows each year because of **you, our supporters, who are the real superheroes.** Let me say on behalf of Ayaan and AHA Foundation team that we are so grateful for your support. **Every win we have is a sign of your heroism in action.** And without your future support, the many battles that still have to be fought will be impossible to win. I hope you will continue to stand with us to protect and save women and girls who have been unjustly wronged.

Sincerely,

George Zarubin
Executive Director



"One girl cut is one too many, so we need to do all we can, at every level, to stop the horror of FGM."

-AMANDA PARKER,
AHA Foundation Senior Director
on the importance of state FGM bans

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

➔ Advocated for the federal anti-FGM ban that was ultimately signed into law by then-President Trump.

➔ Spearheaded efforts that resulted in Indiana banning FGM due to our role as the national leader in anti-FGM advocacy.

➔ Aided state-level efforts that resulted in two states banning child marriage.

➔ Conducted training for frontline professionals on addressing and responding to FGM in Salt Lake City, Utah.

➔ Organized six events with fellows on campuses across the country defending free speech and promoting critical thinking and women's rights, with event recordings reaching 890,000 people in 50 countries worldwide to date.

➔ Ayaan was published in world-renowned journals and magazines, featured on popular podcasts, launched her own podcast, and appeared in broadcast television interviews, panels, and discussions to promote AHA Foundation's core issues and her latest book, *Prey*.

➔ Established a Global Advisory Council made up of advocates, experts, and leaders united by the common goal of combatting Islamism.

2 CHILD MARRIAGE LAWS PASSED

3,259 PROFESSIONALS TRAINED TO DATE

360+ WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CRISIS ASSISTED TO DATE VIA EMAIL-BASED HELPLINE

400+ INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED TO DATE VIA CRISIS TEXT LINE

1 STATE ANTI-FGM LAW PASSED

1 FEDERAL ANTI-FGM LAW REAFFIRMED

890,000 CTF EVENT VIEWS WORLDWIDE

ENDING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN THE U.S.

513,000+
GIRLS PROTECTED
BY NEW LAWS

1 HISTORIC FEDERAL BILL SIGNED INTO LAW **1 STRONG STATE-LEVEL BAN PASSED**

ANTI-FGM EFFORTS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

A Historic Victory in the Battle to End FGM in the U.S.

After more than two years in legal limbo, the federal ban against FGM in the U.S. was reestablished on January 5, 2021, when then-President Trump signed the STOP FGM Act of 2020 into law. This was one of the biggest ever legislative wins for AHA Foundation and all those who are committed to protecting women and girls from FGM in the U.S. It was also a testament to the power of bipartisan efforts; the legislation shows just what can be achieved when many organizations and legislators on all sides come together to defend women's rights.

The federal law is now one of the biggest shields protecting thousands of women and girls from undergoing FGM. Still, we can and need to do more.



Congress passed the STOP FGM Act of 2020 on December 16 2020 and then-President Trump signed it into law on January 5 2021.

Heroes in the Fight Against FGM – Survivors, Advocates, and Legislators React to the STOP FGM Act of 2020



"In an incredibly difficult year, the little girls in our country who are vulnerable to this painful practice were not forgotten. The STOP FGM Act is a strong bill that makes it clear that in this country, we do not tolerate this practice, and we will not stand idly by as girls are cut."

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, FGM survivor and AHA Foundation founder

"I was so thankful to hear that Congress has passed a federal law banning FGM. This will be life-changing for girls that are at risk in this country, and for moms wanting to protect girls from this practice within their communities but didn't have anything to help them in that fight to protect them. I am filled with so much joy for so many girls that will be saved because of this law."

Jenny, FGM survivor and advocate from Kentucky

"I thank my colleagues in the House who worked with me on this issue. The law that passed will send a strong message that Congress condemns the violent and disgusting butchery of young girls and women in this country."

Senator Marsha Blackburn, Tennessee



"It's certainly encouraging to see that we've made progress in eliminating the horrific practice of female genital mutilation. FGM is an uncomfortable issue to discuss, but we must continue calling attention to it and educating ourselves on the signs so that we are equipped to protect young girls from this excruciating practice."

Senator Joni Ernst, Iowa

ANTI-FGM EFFORTS AT THE STATE LEVEL

Despite the Pandemic, AHA Foundation Continues to Push All 50 States to Outlaw FGM

Despite the continued disruption caused by the pandemic, AHA Foundation has adapted and our efforts, building on the momentum created in previous years, have remained strong and relentless. Both in-person and virtually, we have been leading the push for strong legislation against FGM in various states.

At the state level, AHA Foundation:

INDIANA

More than 5,000 girls protected*

→ We fought alongside Senator Elizabeth Brown to pass a strong anti-FGM bill in Indiana. This law contains vital educational and outreach components and protects more than 5,000 women and girls at risk of, or living with, FGM. Senator Brown worked tirelessly to ensure no compromises were made that would weaken the bill and it was eventually passed unanimously: a feat almost unheard of in modern politics.

MISSISSIPPI

→ We supported and sought to strengthen legislation that was introduced in Mississippi; unfortunately, both the Senate and House bills died in committee.

CONNECTICUT

→ We galvanized a survivor-led Coalition to End FGM/C in Connecticut. Although there was no progress in passing an anti-FGM bill this session, we will continue our efforts next year.

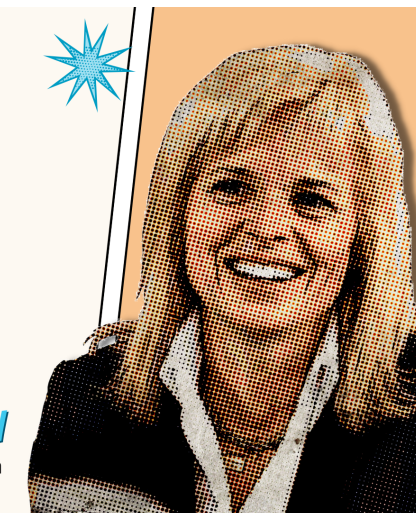
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

→ We strategized with Councilmember Mary Cheh, to introduce strong anti-FGM legislation, based on our model FGM bill, this session. If passed, the bill would protect almost 4,000 women and girls at risk of FGM in D.C.

*Source: Population Reference Bureau

"AHA Foundation did an excellent job preparing me on the important reasons to pass [Indiana anti-FGM] legislation, and I was able to share that with my fellow legislators. It was heartening to see our full General Assembly come together on an issue that matters to all Hoosiers."

-ELIZABETH BROWN
Senator from Indiana



Despite some successes at the state level this year, much work remains to be done. Only 10 states and the District of Columbia lack anti-FGM legislation. In 2022, we will continue important outreach in these states, with past sponsors as well as with new potential sponsors. We are urging legislators to step forward and introduce comprehensive anti-FGM bills that will not only criminalize the practice but will provide education and outreach to families, professionals and the community at large, and support for survivors.

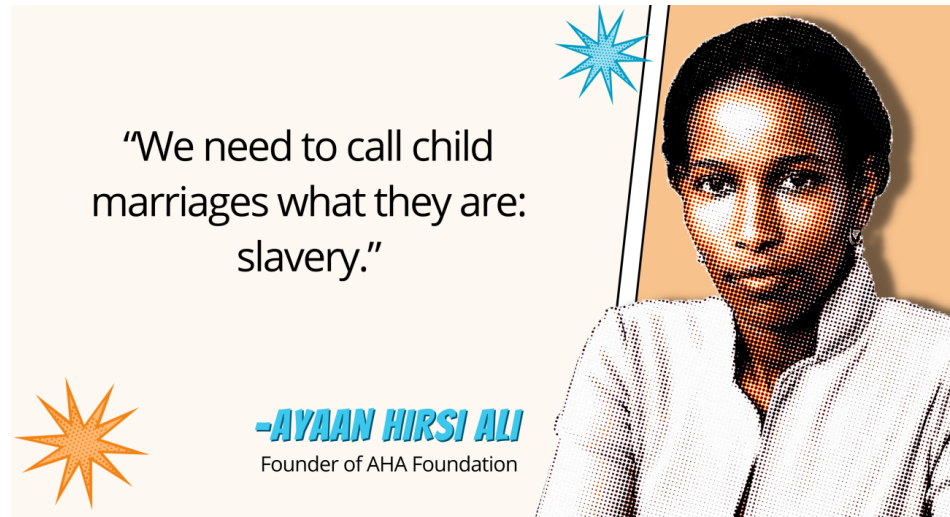
ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE U.S.

FEDERAL CHILD MARRIAGE EFFORTS

Disappointment at the Federal Level as Promising Legislation Stalls

Throughout 2021, we continued to support the Protecting Children Through Eliminating Visa Loopholes Act, which would make 18 the minimum age for receiving marriage-related immigration benefits. The bill was designed to close the dangerous loophole in federal law we identified and warned about in 2017. This loophole allows for a minor of any age to sponsor a spousal visa or to come to the U.S. on a marriage-based petition.

Although the bill was re-introduced by Representative Scott Perry in May, there has been no movement on the bill since then. This is disappointing, but AHA Foundation will keep pushing to get the legislation passed as quickly as possible, to protect women and girls from this abhorrent abuse. As our Director of Policy and Program Development Brooke Bumgarner put it: "one case of forced or child marriage is one too many."



STATE-LEVEL CHILD MARRIAGE EFFORTS

In the Battle to End Child Marriage, AHA Foundation Won't Accept Compromise

This year has proven to be pivotal in the fight to end child and forced marriage: more states introduced legislation seeking to end this human rights violation than ever before. Working with our allies to educate legislators on the issue, AHA Foundation emphasized that protecting girls from this appalling practice must be an urgent issue for every state that still does not have legislation to stop this abuse. Before this year, only four states outlawed child marriage completely. We are proud to have supported 11 brightline bills (bills that would make the minimum marriage age 18, with no exceptions) in 2021. As a result, two more states were added to the list of states that ban all marriage under the age of 18, but clearly the fight is only just beginning. AHA Foundation will not rest until every single state bans child marriage without exception.

▶ NEW YORK

We accomplished a huge victory when New York became the sixth state to ban child marriage with no exceptions in August this year. This was one of AHA Foundation's highest priorities in 2021 and has been in the works for many years. This law will protect thousands of children from being entered into child marriage. Tirelessly working with Unchained at Last and other members of the National Coalition to End Child Marriage, we held countless advocacy days to convince legislators to ban this dangerous practice immediately.

▶ RHODE ISLAND

We contributed to another major victory in June when Rhode Island banned marriage under the age of 18 without exceptions. We were honored to attend the Governor's signing of the bill in person after testifying virtually earlier in the year.

Heroes'Voices – Breaking the Silence, Demanding Action Against Child Marriage

AHA Foundation amplifies the voices of survivors, advocates, legislators, and those at risk of child marriage because breaking the silence surrounding this barbaric practice happening in the U.S. is the first step in ending it. This work is even more important now, as we emerge from the pandemic that caused these abuses to become even more hidden from the public eye.

"Child marriage occurs right here in the U.S. at a rate that defies belief."

No child should be married off before they are a legal adult. No molester of children should be rewarded with the life of their victim. As adults, it is our job to protect the innocence of our children. We have to do better."

Jenn, survivor of and advocate against child marriage in the U.S.



Jenn, now a Massachusetts resident, was only 14 years old when she met a 40-year-old man whom she wed two years later in Florida with her parents' consent. Here she is pictured speaking at an Unchained at Last protest in Boston, urging the Massachusetts legislature to ban child marriage. Photo courtesy of Unchained at Last. Credit: Matilde Simas for Capture Humanity.

"While we were waiting for our bus at the Greyhound station, we saw her relatives pull up and we ran into the ladies' room. We were both violently grabbed by the neck and dragged out after two sets of locked doors were kicked in."

What was equally upsetting about the whole situation is that not one bystander at the bus station called the police as we were thrown screaming into the back of a windowless van. We were both put in a corner for hours while the perpetrators 'went to get their guns'—all for enabling a child bride to escape."

Fatima Ali, women's rights activist, recounting how she tried to help a 16-year-old friend who had been married to an older man to escape



"One of the biggest reasons child marriage hasn't been banned more universally is because people are largely unaware that it occurs. Education and advocacy are key in banning child marriage on a larger scale."

Representative Kay Khan, Massachusetts, who led on a bill to ban child marriage in her state

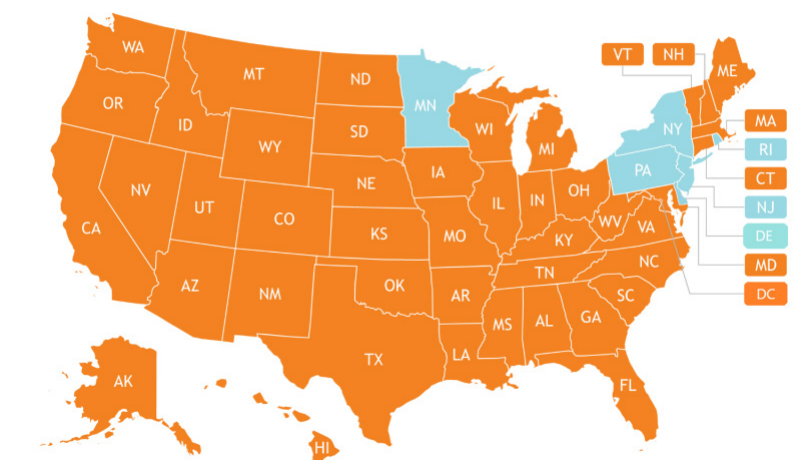
"In my work at AHA Foundation, I meet child marriage survivors who work tirelessly with us to make sure that what happened to them, does not happen to other girls. In a recent call with Michigan legislators, one child marriage survivor finished telling her story by saying, 'I just wonder where all the girls [that were married as children] are now and what's happened to them...' Years of inaction have negatively impacted countless girls, and left thousands more at risk. Let's make sure they aren't left behind any longer."

Brooke Bumgarner, AHA Foundation Director of Policy and Program Development



Brooke working with local communities in Tanzania. It was there that she decided to focus her career on fighting child marriage.

An astonishing **44** states still allow child marriage.



Onward and Upward: The Fight Goes On

Despite the great victories AHA Foundation achieved this year in New York and Rhode Island, child marriage is still legal in 44 states and the District of Columbia. This is unacceptable. There were nearly a dozen other strong bills introduced in 2021 and, inspired by our victories this year, we plan to continue the fight into 2022 and beyond, until every girl is safe from this abuse.

CRITICAL THINKING FELLOWSHIP

Breaking the Barriers to Free Speech and Critical Thinking on College Campuses

Our campus fellowship program, Critical Thinking Fellowship (CTF), defends freedom of speech and promotes Enlightenment values and women's rights in colleges and in public debate. This is achieved through the efforts of our CTF fellows who continue to break the barriers to open dialogue, free speech and critical thinking.

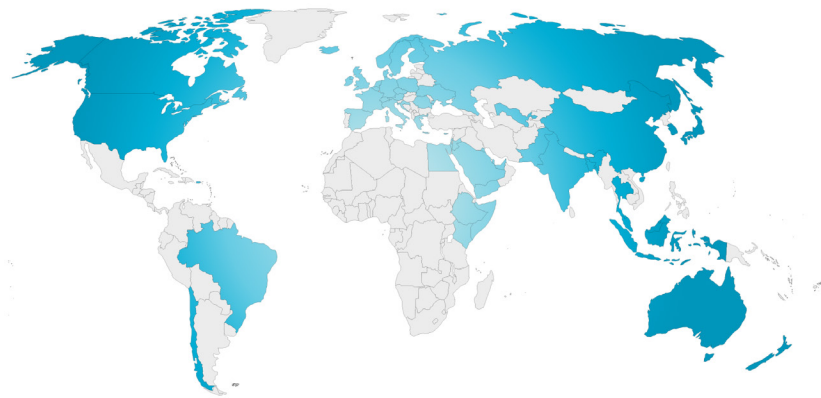
CTF fellows organized six major events throughout North American college campuses this year. Due to the pandemic, these were mostly online. Virtual events were not only cost-effective, but the flexibility afforded by them allowed for more diverse speakers and greater audience reach.

To date, CTF event recordings have a viewership of around 890,000 people,

spanning over 50 countries worldwide, from France and Spain to Russia, China, Somalia, and Saudi Arabia. This is a testament to the power and appeal of the ideas of our founder, Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

Overall, the Critical Thinking Fellowship has not only adapted to but thrived in face of challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Critical Thinking Fellowship events have been viewed in over **50** countries worldwide.



CTF Training Programs

This year, CTF conducted two training programs for ten new and seven existing fellows. Our virtual winter training program featured prominent speakers including the women's rights activists Masih Alinejad and Yasmine Mohammed, who escaped a forced marriage to a member of al-Qaeda and has since rallied against Islamists' treatment of women.

We were happy to be able to complete our summer training program in person, at the historic Driskill Hotel in Austin, Texas. Throughout the weekend of July 30th, 17 of our campus fellows heard from past speakers, learned the basics of event planning, networked with other student leaders, and workshopped event ideas. Fellows learned from and engaged with experts who are on the frontlines of the fight for free speech and critical thinking, including human rights activist and founder of Ideas Beyond Borders Faisal Saeed Al Mutar and founder of Unchained at Last Fraidy Reiss, as well as AHA Foundation program experts.

By completing these trainings, our fellows showed that they are more than ready to start organizing events on their campuses to promote ideological diversity, activate college students, and inspire a movement of young people who believe in liberty for all.

CTF continues to recruit and onboard new fellows, including our first European fellow, as part of an experimental expansion to reach international colleges and universities.



Photos from our 2021 CTF summer training program at the historic Driskill Hotel, Texas.



"Thank you to the supporters of the AHA Foundation who give us students the resources to challenge ourselves and our fellow students to think critically and promote ideas for a freer world."

-SERENA KILLION
Longest standing Critical Thinking Fellow

2021 CTF Campus Events

Ohio University

How Can We End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)? A survivor's perspective featuring Nimco Ali.

University of Connecticut

Free Speech and Minority Rights: Perspectives of a Danish Blasphemer and an American Homosexual featuring Flemming Rose and Jonathan Rauch.

North Carolina State University

FGM/C The Hidden Practice That Changes Lives featuring F.A. Cole, Mariya Taher, Amanda Parker, and Dr. Lori Frasier.

California State Northridge

Child Marriage in California featuring Fraidy Reiss and Amanda Parker.

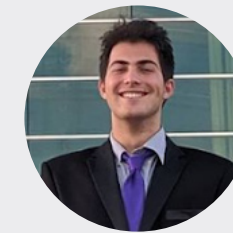
University of Central Florida

Women as Agents of Change Against the Forced Hijab featuring Faisal Saeed Al Mutar and Masih Alinejad.

Utah State University

The Battle for Free Speech in the 21st Century featuring Flemming Rose

OUR IMPACT IN THE WORDS OF CTF FELLOWS

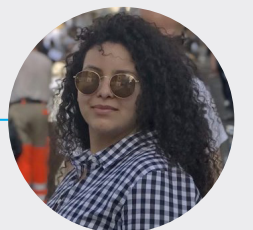


"Speech restrictions are often used by authoritarian governments to imprison dissidents, and many people take it for granted that authoritarianism could never happen here. I hoped that starting a discussion might be a good way of challenging a climate where free speech is being censored for sensitivity."

Isadore Johnson,
CTF Fellow at the University of Connecticut

"I would like to express my deep gratitude to AHA Foundation's supporters! Your support equips us with the necessary tools to promote issues that are not discussed in mainstream media. Because of your help, we are one step closer to having liberty for all!"

Hanna Nur,
CTF Fellow at the University of Central Florida



"With what I believe to be the evaporation of political heterodoxy and urgent human rights violations in Afghanistan, China, and around the world, I fear as a country we are losing our muscle. We see inaction as noble, a safe-space from making mistakes. I feel I must do something. I am honored and inspired to serve as a fellow for this foundation."

Kiran Sampath,
CTF Fellow at Yale University

UNITING AND AMPLIFYING ACTIVISM AGAINST ISLAMISM



"Islamism, in essence, is a political philosophy, one that is rooted in jihad but seeks to describe how society should be run. It is more than an irrational and violent ideology: it is an attack on liberalism itself."

-AYAAN HIRSI ALI
Founder of AHA Foundation

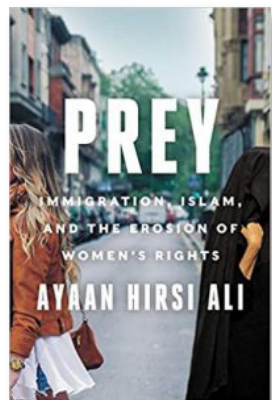
To strengthen and magnify the work of our Coalescing Networks to Combat Islamist Ideologies program, launched in the Fall of 2019, AHA Foundation set up the Global Advisory Council this year. This council is made up of advocates, experts, and leaders from different backgrounds who are united by a common mission: to rid the world of Islamism, promote Enlightenment values, and combat extremism. The Global Advisory Council is the first of its kind and it aims to play a leading role in the global fight against extremism whose inauguration we hope will mark a turning point in the battle to defend Enlightenment values.

In December 2021, we held a virtual Working Group Meeting bringing together anti-Islamism advocates and activists, including Muslim reformers and ex-Muslims, to agree on core principles, branding, and strategy, and to plan a launch conference in 2022.

IMPACT THROUGH MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

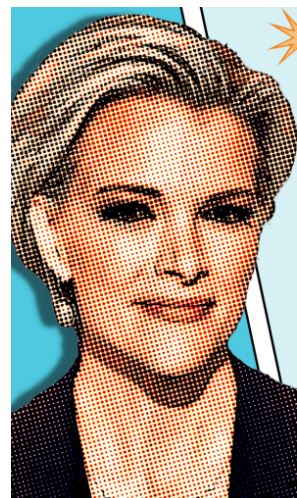
In Books, Podcasts, and on TV, Ayaan Speaks Out on the Issues at the Heart of AHA Foundation's Work

At the start of this year, Ayaan released her newest book, *Prey: Immigration, Islam, and the Erosion of Women's Rights*. In turn, Ayaan's appearances in the



media grew significantly and she used those to raise awareness about issues AHA Foundation is fighting. *Prey* was reviewed by *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *New Ideal*, *Areo Magazine*,

and *The Jerusalem Post*. It received acclaim from journalists including Megyn Kelly who wrote: "empathetic and authoritative, Ayaan Hirsi Ali demonstrates why we cannot let political correctness and apathy overwhelm our duty to protect women's rights," and



"Empathetic and authoritative, Ayaan Hirsi Ali demonstrates why we cannot let political correctness and apathy overwhelm our duty to protect women's rights."

-MEGYN KELLY
Journalist

from former Secretary of State and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Henry Kissinger, saying, "*Prey* warns us that if we do not rethink our philosophy for protecting women and children, we risk losing one of Western civilization's most precious assets: the rule of law."

Ayaan's new podcast debuted in February through Apple Podcasts. Since then, Ayaan has interviewed more than 30 public figures. In many of these podcasts, Ayaan and her guests discuss issues AHA Foundation fights on:



In the first episode, Ayaan talked about threats to freedom of speech with world-renowned neuroscientist and philosopher **Sam Harris**.

With **sociologist Ruud Koopmans**, Ayaan discussed the dangers of fundamentalism.

With **Detective Chris Boughey**, Ayaan shed light on honor violence in the U.S.

With **journalist Flemming Rose**, Ayaan talked about free speech and blasphemy.

With **journalist Nicholas Kristof**, Ayaan discussed child marriage in the U.S.

With **ex-Muslim Yasmine Mohammed**, Ayaan spoke about the dangers of Islamism.

Ayaan in the Media: 2021 Highlights

- ➔ On February 12, Ayaan discussed ideas from her new book *Prey* in a webinar hosted by the California Commonwealth Club with writer Bari Weiss.
- ➔ On February 22, Ayaan appeared on *The Jordan B Peterson Podcast* to discuss *Prey*. In March, Ayaan was on Condoleezza Rice's Women's Leadership and National Security panel broadcast on C-SPAN.
- ➔ On March 2, Ayaan was interviewed by Joe Rogan on *The Joe Rogan Experience*, Spotify's most-listened-to podcast; she described how her life experiences have shaped her views on free speech, women's rights, and Islam.
- ➔ On July 1, Ayaan discussed *Prey* in an event organized by the Hoover Institution's *Uncommon Knowledge* series.
- ➔ In July, Ayaan spoke at Freedom Fest 2021, giving a talk on the 'clash of civilizations' and participating in a debate on the global war against radical Islam.
- ➔ In August, Ayaan filmed an infographic-style video for PragerU entitled "What Radical Islam and the Woke Have in Common." In just a month since its posting, it had already been viewed 2 million times.
- ➔ In August, Ayaan appeared on *The Megyn Kelly Show* to discuss Afghanistan and more.



Ayaan speaks to the Commonwealth Club on women's rights with Bari Weiss

Ayaan's Published Articles

In June, Ayaan became a regular contributor for *UnHerd*, a London-based publication that focuses on free-thinking and has so far contributed over a dozen columns. Also this year, her essays were published in *The Spectator*, *Areo Magazine*, *The Telegraph*, *The New York Post*, *The Dispatch*, *Fox News*, *The Hoover Digest*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. In many of her articles, Ayaan addressed issues that AHA Foundation fights on. Some highlights include:

'Why is child marriage legal in the West?' in *UnHerd*.

'How the West Has Turned a Blind Eye to the Exploitation of Women and Children' in *The Dispatch*.

'Safeguarding Freedom of Speech Will Require an Active Approach' in *Areo Magazine*.

DIRECT SERVICES, TRAININGS AND OUTREACH

Despite continued disruption due to the pandemic, AHA Foundation has adapted its services and continued its essential work on the frontlines, both virtually and in person throughout 2021.

Direct Aid for Women and Girls at Risk

To date, AHA Foundation has helped over 360 individuals dealing with FGM, forced marriage, and honor violence through our email-based direct assistance helpline. Our heroes at the helpline—a team of mental health professionals—helped individuals from many countries in 2021, including the U.S., Egypt, Sudan, Ghana, and Afghanistan.

Our helpline's case manager, Egypt Leithman, outlines the vital work the team does: "We have provided assistance in fleeing from dangerous circumstances, relocating to safer spaces [and] helping to meet basic necessities, providing advocacy tools for survivors, and so much more."

We are always honored to be part of the journey of the women and girls we

"Over the past year, I have witnessed firsthand the role that AHA plays in situations where women and girls have nowhere else to turn... I am always humbled by the bravery that these women and girls embody when they reach out to us. I encourage them to stay safe. The circumstances they endure can often be life or death."

 **-EGYPT LEITHMAN,**
Case Manager,
AHA Foundation Helpline



work with, and will continue to act as a vital resource.

As Egypt says: "I have had the privilege of interacting with the women and girls we have served and they have made

clear how important our work was to their lives. Women and girls often confide that Ayaan's story of bravery and courage has empowered them to reach out for help."

Presentations, Outreach, and Other Programmatic Work

➔ AHA Foundation Senior Director Amanda Parker presented virtually for a group of approximately 500 high school students at Menlo School in the Menlo Park area of California on the topic of FGM. She led a discussion on the reasons FGM is practiced, its prevalence in the U.S. and in California, and how youth can work to end the practice.

➔ AHA Foundation also led a virtual presentation for the Hugoton Learning Academy, a middle and high school in Hugoton, Kansas, on harmful practices in the U.S. including honor violence, forced marriage, child marriage, and FGM. She



Lisa Brett and Brooke Bumgarner, AHA's Senior Consultant and Director of Policy and Program Development respectively, give an anti-FGM training in Salt Lake City, Utah.

also discussed with the students the steps they could take to join the fight against these human rights abuses.

➔ AHA Foundation worked with gender-based violence researcher Sean Callaghan to produce sophisticated data analysis of FGM trends in the Salt Lake City metro area. Sean's work continues to transform and strengthen our knowledge of FGM hotspots throughout the U.S. so that we can better identify and serve communities and individuals at risk of this abuse.

➔ AHA Foundation conducted a training for social service professionals including counselors, social workers, and healthcare providers, outlining the information they need to support populations at risk of FGM in Salt Lake City, Utah.

➔ The Department of Justice awarded a federal grant to AHA Foundation to conduct FGM training in Chicago over the next three years. This is our first federal grant.

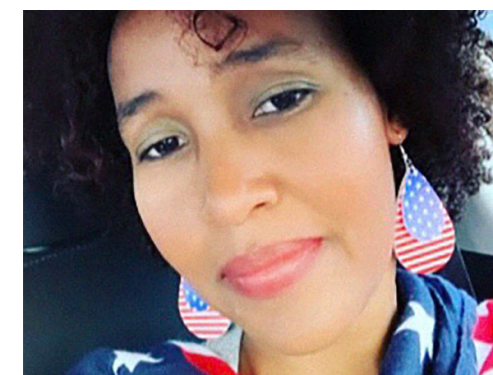
➔ The American Medical Association published our FGM awareness and prevention training on their continuing education website. This training is now available to medical professionals across the U.S.

HEROES WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE - DONOR AND SUPPORTER REFLECTIONS

With the gifts they gave us throughout 2021, they ensured our efforts did not skip a beat, despite the pandemic. Their cheers of support reminded us that our mission touches many hearts in the U.S. and beyond. They are our donors and supporters—the everyday heroes behind our work.

"Reading Ayaan's thoughtful book, Infidel, is what gave me confidence to disassociate from communities of literalists and choose healthier people of all cultures, faiths and no faiths."

Fatima Ali, ex-Muslim and women's rights activist



"I love and respect Ayaan Hirsi Ali so much. Many people in the Somali community hate her and threaten her, but she keeps fighting against FGM. She makes me want to raise awareness and empower individuals to share their stories and voices."

Sahara Ash, FGM survivor and advocate



"By becoming involved with AHA Foundation, I wanted to give a voice to liberal values. I hope to make people aware that not all cultures have equally good ideas concerning women. Hiding behind the culture of diversity does not make harmful practices less dangerous."

Debra Coplan, AHA Foundation Board Member



"Ayaan and AHA Foundation continue to recognize, address, and make impactful changes in the most crucial elements of our society—freedom to choose your destiny, freedom of bodily autonomy, and freedom to debate critical issues. Ayaan gracefully models the importance of fighting for these vital liberties."

George Vanderheiden, AHA Foundation donor

HEROES ON THE GROUND - A SHOUTOUT TO OUR PARTNERS AND ALLIES

Our life-saving work against dangerous cultural practices, promoting free speech, and combating Islamism is all the more powerful thanks to collaborations with our partners and allies. We pay tribute to the following organizations and individuals for their contributions to our impact in 2021:

- ➔ With Unchained at Last we have campaigned to outlaw child marriage across the country. This year, we worked with them to successfully ban this abuse in New York and Rhode Island. Their founder Fraidy Reiss has appeared at CTF events, discussing her own background of forced marriage and her campaigns to defend women and girls today.
- ➔ Our friends at Ideas Beyond Borders (IBB), founded by Faisal Saeed Al Mutar, promulgate Enlightenment values across the world, and are, like us, dedicated to defeating Islamism by education and advocacy. With IBB, we empower students to think independently, promote free speech and women's rights, and combat Islamism through our Critical Thinking Fellowship. Faisal also helped to train CTF fellows in Austin, Texas this summer.
- ➔ With Heartland Health Centers (HHC) and Forma Psychological Services, AHA Foundation has pioneered a new program to provide frontline professionals in Chicago with training about FGM. This year, we received federal funding for three years for this program.
- ➔ Apart from those we have named here and in the previous section, there are so many people and organizations we are honored to work with on these vital issues—but it's impossible to name them all! So to everyone we have worked with this year, from legislators, survivors, advocates, and like-minded groups, consider this a personal **THANK YOU** from all of us at AHA Foundation.



Fraidy Reiss (foreground), founder of Unchained At Last, at a child marriage protest in New York, August.



Faisal and George with CTF Fellow Hanna Nour at the CTF summer training.



"No matter what happens, we have to keep pushing [to ban child and forced marriage]. This is a life and death situation. How can you give up when things get tough when you know that there are girls' lives depending on you?"

-FRAIDY REISS
Founder of Unchained at Last

AHA FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GEORGE ZARUBIN LOOKS AHEAD

Heroes inspire action. So in 2022, the team at AHA Foundation looks forward to pushing forward with our heroes and partners and working with legislators in the remaining 10 states, plus the District of Columbia, which lack legislation to protect girls from FGM. At this time, legislators from D.C. and Mississippi have agreed to work with us to introduce versions of AHA's model FGM bill. Meanwhile, we continue to push for brightline child marriage bills in the remaining 44 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in our federal spousal and fiancée visa laws, which are lacking protections for girls from forced marriage.

Exciting doors have also opened for AHA Foundation as a result of our being awarded a three-year federal grant to conduct FGM training in high-risk communities in Chicago. We will also be conducting FGM awareness and prevention trainings in Los Angeles and D.C.

"Every individual in these groups, from the AHA Foundation team and the speakers on our campus program to the counselors and advocates protecting girls and the folks who give their resources – every one of you is a HERO!"



-GEORGE ZARUBIN
AHA Foundation Executive Director



We are especially inspired by our Fellows on campuses, who promoted taboo conversations about women's rights and the threat of political Islam. In 2022, we hope to expand our campus program to multiple additional campuses, so that Ayaan's voice and other activists like her can create dialogue at universities on topics that are seldom discussed.

In 2022, we will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of Ayaan's work through AHA Foundation to change the lives of women and girls and to rally people around the banner of critical thinking and free speech. More than ever, we want to expand our reach, engage with our partners and cheer with our supporters, who have been so critical to our work. Every individual in these groups, from the AHA Foundation team and the speakers on our campus program to the counselors and advocates protecting girls and the folks who give their resources – every one of you is a HERO!

**Be strong! Be constant!
Help us continue with this noble fight!
Onwards.**



"This is not a fight we can afford to sit out. Until we decide that the West is worth defending, Islamism will not be defeated — and innocent people will continue to be killed."

-AYAAN HIRSI ALI
Founder of AHA Foundation

ESTABLISHED BY AYAAN HIRSI ALI

to put the ideas she writes about into practice, AHA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works to protect women from honor violence, forced marriage and genital mutilation. Our programs advocate for freedom of speech on campuses and in public debate, and amplify the voices of Muslim reformers.

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 **AHA Foundation**

Learn about AHA Foundation's work at TheAHAFoundation.org, stay in touch with the movement by signing up for our newsletter updates, and join our conversations about issues related to gender-based violence and oppression on Facebook and Twitter at [@AHAFoundation](https://twitter.com/AHAFoundation). Please encourage your friends and family to follow us as well.

Together, we can put an end to FGM, child and forced marriage, and other horrifying practices that are hurting women and girls behind closed doors in American communities. Together we can relegate dangerous ideologies that are often used to justify these abuses to the past.

JOIN US.

**SUPPORT OUR WORK.
GIVE A GIFT TODAY.**



ahafoundation

AHA Foundation
130 7th Avenue, Suite 236
New York, NY 10011

TheAHAFoundation.org

**BREAKING THE SILENCE
PROTECTING LIBERTY
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