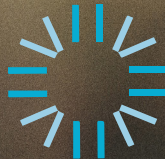


15 YEARS OF
DISRUPTION
FOR GOOD

AHA FOUNDATION

2022
Annual
Report



aha foundation

15 YEARS OF

BREAKING THE SILENCE
PROTECTING LIBERTY
CELEBRATING DIGNITY





George Zarubin, AHA Foundation Executive Director

Letter from our Executive Director

DISRUPTORS FOR GOOD

Usually, when we think about disruption, we think of it as a negative thing, as meaning chaos and disorder. 2022, for example, was a very disruptive year: the invasion of Ukraine, economic turmoil, and the attack on Salman Rushdie were just a few of its dramatic, disturbing events.

But I believe that **disruption can also be a good thing**. When we start to take our freedoms for granted, for example, it becomes essential to disrupt the process of erosion and to reaffirm our ideals and principles, even if it means shocking people out of their complacency.

Our Founder Ayaan Hirsi Ali is one such disruptor. For over two decades, she has spoken out against injustice. As a legislator in the Netherlands, she **exposed and opposed the suffering of women in Muslim communities, disrupting a status quo marked above all by silence**. Many people were and are offended by Ayaan's interventions, but that hasn't stopped her in the slightest.

Ayaan shocks us in a good way, disrupting our complacently-held views, challenging us to take a critical view of ourselves and re-think our positions—or lack of them. Whether you end up agreeing with her on everything is beside the point: what matters is that she provokes in the name of liberty.

AHA Foundation, too, is a 'good disruptor.' **We do not flinch from tackling sensitive issues like female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, threats to free speech, and the dangers posed by Islamist extremism**. As Ayaan once said, "people don't like talking about the genitals of little girls, but you need to

understand what we say when we are talking about female genital mutilation, because you hold the power to enact laws to stop this barbaric practice."

The same goes for all of our program areas. People don't like talking about child brides, or how free speech must be defended even when it means defending the most offensive of statements, or how Islamism is a dangerous ideology which threatens to undermine liberty for all.

But we need to talk about these things. We need to speak out and take action to protect our precious, fragile freedoms—or risk losing them entirely.

In 2022, AHA Foundation was a disruptor for good across all these areas, and you can read all about our achievements below. We also celebrated our 15th anniversary and revamped our mission statement: "to preserve, protect, and promote Western freedoms and ideals." No doubt this mission will cause offense to some, but doesn't it make you think about how our lives would be without them? Doesn't it reemphasize how essential they are for everybody?

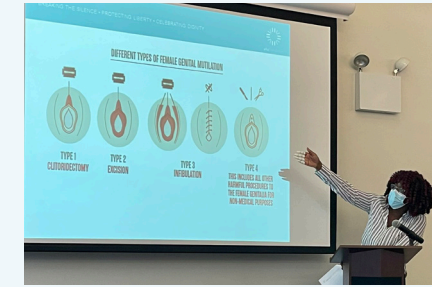
Our revamped mission is a symbol of AHA Foundation's commitment to disrupting for good. **None of our achievements in 2022 would have been possible without you, our supporters, who are just as disruptive as Ayaan and AHA are**. Thank you for standing with us, and for helping us to be the best disruptors we can be.

Sincerely,

George Zarubin
Executive Director

2022 Highlights

Helped to publicly launch the CLARITY (Champions for Liberty Against the Reality of Islamist Tyranny) Coalition to expose and oppose Islamism.



Conducted 5 trainings for 59 frontline professionals in Chicago North Side as part of our federally-funded 3-year grant to combat FGM in the area.

Delivered a training webinar about FGM on the American Bar Association continuing education platform and conducted FGM training with the American Public Health Association.



Assisted Ayaan Hirsi Ali as she taught a class on 'Critical Thinking and Freedom of Expression' at the UATX (aka the University of Austin) Forbidden Courses Summer Program.

Produced legal guides in 10 states for FGM survivors to seek justice, for which we received the LawWorks Best International Pro Bono Award 2022.

In 2022, Ayaan continued to speak loudly and freely on the burning issues of the day, on her own podcast, on other people's podcasts, through speaking events, and with articles in various esteemed publications.

"Freedom of speech is not about politeness. The freedom of speech boils down to having the right and the privilege to offend."
— Ayaan Hirsi Ali, AHA Foundation Founder



Image credit: Frank Schirmacher Foundation/The Swiss Institute of International Studies

Alongside many others, helped to successfully advocate for the reauthorization of the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which now also includes protections from FGM and forced marriage.

Organized seven webinars and in-person events defending freedoms at six universities across the nation, including four webinars with our Founder Ayaan Hirsi Ali, with event recordings reaching over 1,000,000 worldwide to date.



Organized the first-ever CLARITY Coalition conference, 'Going on Offense,' in Salzburg, Austria, bringing together a diverse group of anti-Islamism and pro-democracy advocates from around the world.

Continued our anti-FGM training program on the American Medical Association (AMA) online learning platform.



Advocated for a child marriage ban in Massachusetts, which was passed after 6 years of effort from us and our partners.

Conducted anti-FGM trainings in Orange County, California and Washington, D.C.



Ending Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the U.S.

ANTI-FGM LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

After Years of Advocacy, Landmark Federal Legislation Reauthorized—Now With Anti-FGM Protections...

Over the past several years AHA Foundation and other advocates have tirelessly advocated for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), one of the most important legislative achievements for protecting the rights of women and girls in the U.S., which expired in 2018. We also advocated for it to be expanded to include such abuses as female genital mutilation (FGM). And in March 2022, we finally won—President Biden signed this important legislation into law!

“The federal government has sent a strong message across the nation that laws to protect the rights of women and girls must be strengthened... But we have a lot of work left to do.”
— Michele Hanash, AHA’s Director of Policy and Women’s Programs

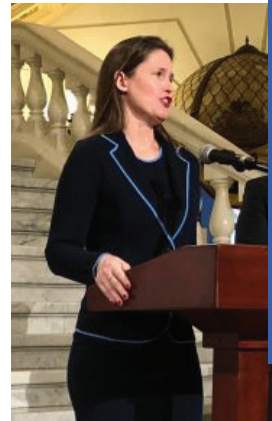


Under this reauthorization, for the first time, FGM and forced marriage are defined under VAWA. The reauthorization also expands Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) grant funding to FGM, provides funding for culturally specific services regarding responses to, and prevention of, FGM, and enables middle schools, high schools and institutions of higher education to provide training to personnel on the needs of students who are victims of FGM.

STATES THAT LACK ANTI-FGM LEGISLATION



“This is a battle we can win. There is a very clear will to end FGM in the U.S., we just need the resources to finish it.”
— Amanda Parker, AHA Foundation Senior Director



...But Disappointment At State Level

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, no new anti-FGM legislation was passed at the state level this year. Despite the disappointment of 2022, we remain undeterred in fighting for the rights of girls and women against the horrific injustice of FGM.

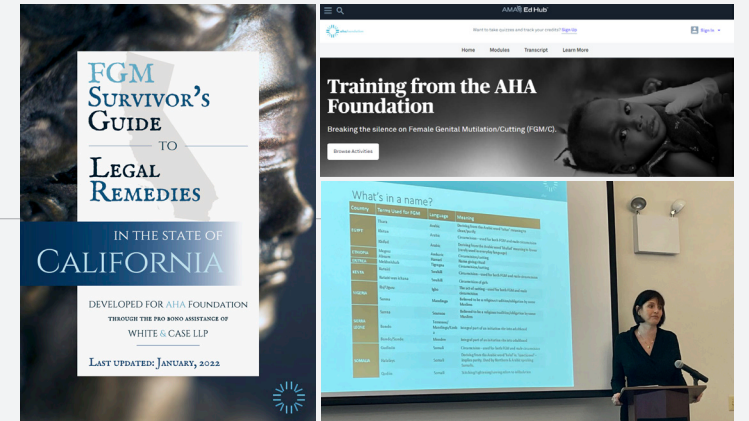
Only 10 states and the District of Columbia lack anti-FGM legislation. In 2023, we will continue important outreach in these states, with past sponsors as well as with new potential sponsors. We have already laid the groundwork for future victories—among other things, we have garnered support for anti-FGM legislation in Connecticut and hope that 2023 will be the year this injustice is finally ended in that state.

FIGHTING FGM ON THE GROUND: TRAININGS AND LEGAL GUIDES

While legislation is essential to ending FGM in the U.S., at AHA Foundation we believe we need to work from the ground up, too. That is why we are the nation’s leading provider of anti-FGM trainings.

2022 AHA TRAININGS:

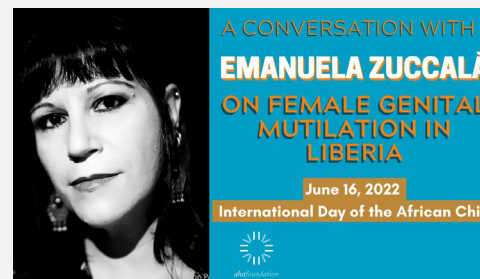
- Launched a partnership with the **American Medical Association** to provide anti-FGM training courses on their online learning platform, which was taken by over 300 frontline medical professionals in 2022.
- Provided an in-person training session to professionals on FGM risk assessment and response in Washington, D.C., for which we partnered with the **American Public Health Association**.
- Worked with the law firms **White & Case LLP** and **Reed Smith LLP** to produce 10 state-level legal guides for survivors of FGM, advising them in clear language how to seek justice for the traumatic, life-altering experiences they have endured. For our efforts with **Reed Smith LLP**, we received the **LawWorks Best International Pro Bono Award 2022**.
- Provided a live webinar about FGM for prosecutors and judges on the **American Bar Association’s** continuing education platform.



Left: Front cover of FGM Survivor’s guide for California
Top right: AHA Foundation AMA Ed Hub training
Bottom right: AHA Senior Consultant Lisa Brett conducting anti-FGM training to front-line responders

- Provided training for 59 frontline professionals through our federally-funded **WE STOP FGM/C Chicago North Side program**.
- Trained frontline professionals on how to prevent FGM and provide services for those who have undergone or are at risk of it in Orange County, California.
- Raised awareness about honor violence, FGM, and child and forced marriage to young women from around the globe at the **Women2Women International Leadership Program** conference in Boston.

Top: Article written by AHA Senior Director Amanda Parker and Independent Women’s Forum senior adviser Andrea G. Bottner raising awareness about FGM in the U.S.
Bottom: AHA hosted the first-ever virtual screening of Emanuela Zuccalà’s film about FGM in Liberia, *The Bush School*



Many of the attendees of our Chicago training program told us that they had had no knowledge of FGM before taking the training. This shows just how important it is to break the wall of silence surrounding this oppressive tradition, and we are proud to have provided thousands of professionals to date with the knowledge and tools they need to protect girls and women in their local communities.

In addition, our work was recognized by the Independent Women’s Forum (IWF) this year when our work was referenced in their ‘Zero Means Zero Tolerance Report.’ Our awareness-raising continued with a joint op-ed by IWF’s Andrea G. Bottner and AHA Senior Director Amanda Parker in the *DC Journal*, in which they called for strong action against FGM. Finally, we also hosted a screening of the filmmaker Emanuela Zuccalà’s documentary about FGM in Liberia, *The Bush School*.

“I can’t believe that this many girls are at risk in the community where I am a school counselor. I am happy to be educated about the prevalence of FGM/C, so I can be a part of fighting to eradicate it.”
— Testimonial from an attendee of one of our Chicago trainings

Ending Child Marriage in the U.S.

VAWA REAUTHORIZATION CLOSES CHILD MARRIAGE LOOPHOLE

Thanks to our work and work of our partners, the reauthorization of VAWA (see above) repealed the marriage loophole to statutory rape in the federal code. Before, this loophole allowed sex that would have been a crime under the federal code outside of marriage to become legal. VAWA now also requires annual reporting on the incidence of marriage laws that undermine the state's statutory rape laws. Most people don't realize that loopholes like this exist: we are proud to disrupt the status quo and bring them to the forefront so that girls and women can receive justice.

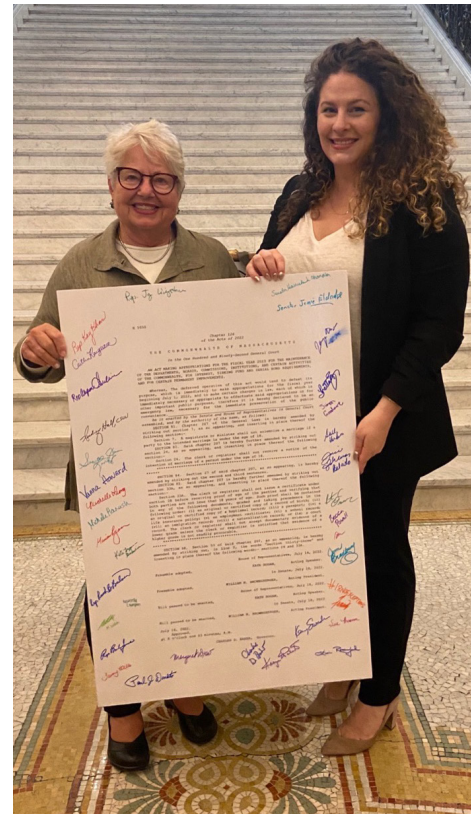
A MAJOR VICTORY: MASSACHUSETTS BANS CHILD MARRIAGE

In July 2022, Massachusetts finally banned child marriage after half a decade of activism from AHA Foundation and many others. As our Senior Director Amanda Parker said:

This victory is the culmination of SIX years of advocacy and activism from AHA Foundation and its allies in this fight, such as Unchained at Last and countless other survivors, legislators, and activists. As AHA's Senior Director, I personally have visited Massachusetts several times over the past six years to push for legislation to end the horrific practice of child marriage, and I feel a sense of great achievement now.

But the fight is not yet over. Yes, it is great news that Massachusetts has become the 7th state to ban child marriage—but this means that tens of thousands of girls in 43 states are still NOT protected from this child abuse!

So even as we celebrated this victory, we were working hard to protect girls and women in the 43 states which still have not banned child marriage. We will not rest until we have made these states take notice of this abuse—and act to end it. Only in this way can we protect and give justice to girls across the U.S.



Top: Massachusetts bill sponsor Representative, Kay Khan, and AHA's Director of Policy and Women's Programs, Michele Hanash, at the ceremonial bill signing celebration (bottom) at the Massachusetts State House on September 7, 2022.

In 2022, we ASSISTED 122 INDIVIDUALS in crisis through our Helpline and Crisis Text Line



"After many years, I was pleased and excited to learn that we were finally able to get this bill across the finish line... I believe [the Massachusetts victory] will send a strong message to other states that progress is being made on this issue—do not be left behind!"

— Representative Kay Khan, our staunch ally in the fight against child marriage in Massachusetts

Disrupting the Silence: Survivors' and Advocates' Voices

Abuses against women and girls like FGM and child marriage are all too often shrouded in silence. That is

why we at AHA Foundation seek to amplify the voices of survivors and advocates who have spoken out about such abuse—by disrupting the silence around this abuse, we move one step closer to ending it once and for all.



"[Child marriage in the U.S.] is an issue that state lawmakers and Congress are not acting fast enough to fix. It is an issue that needs immediate attention to protect girls from being exploited by their own families, families who still think of their children as a commodity to offload in difficult economic times."

— Sasha K. Taylor, advocate and child marriage survivor from the U.S.



"It's so important to educate and communicate and above all we the victims must be able to share our experiences in order to inspire girls to reject this practice. Then we can help mothers to protect their daughters and nations to put in place the financial and material support needed to treat victims, protect at-risk girls and put the perpetrators in jail."

— Bayer Chantal Ngoltoingar, advocate and FGM survivor



"Empowering all girls to obtain their education is a powerful tool against child marriage. Education allows girls to decide their own futures. Educating parents is also a tool to end child marriage. The more parents know about the serious harms of child marriage, the more that they will also become aware of the abuse and hopefully find other options for their children."

— Sara Tasneem, advocate and child marriage survivor from the U.S.



"The more we speak up about the marriage laws which encourage child marriage in every state, the more awareness we create for people to join and support us in this fight."

— Aliya Abbas, advocate and child marriage survivor from the U.S.

"The best cure is prevention. We can't just continue letting FGM/C happen and reacting to its awful consequences after the fact. We have to do better."

— Oluwadamilola Alabi, Project Coordinator of AHA's WE STOP FGM/C Chicago North Side program

Celebrating 15 years of Defending Freedoms in the U.S.

In 2022, AHA Foundation celebrated 15 years of making an impact. We have achieved so much with your help since we began, and we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for everything you do.



Ayaan and AHA staff and supporters celebrate AHA's 15th anniversary in April.

15 YEARS

With **YOUR SUPPORT** AHA achieved these **HISTORIC VICTORIES**

AHA provided assistance to **OVER 900 INDIVIDUALS** facing forced marriage and honor violence

OVER 3,400 police officers, teachers, counselors, and medical professionals are **now TRAINED TO PROTECT** girls and women

AHA helped initiate the **first ever FEDERAL PROSECUTION** of FGM against a doctor in Michigan

AHA helped launch the **Champions for Liberty Against the Reality of Islamist Tyranny (CLARITY) Coalition** to **EXPOSE AND OPPOSE ISLAMISM** and **defend democratic values**

AHA helped **strengthen** the federal FGM ban through the **STOP FGM Act of 2020**

AHA has raised awareness at over **50 colleges** reaching **over 1 MILLION PEOPLE**

AHA helped **PASS 34 BILLS** against FGM, child marriage, and domestic violence in **21 STATES**

watch our **SPECIAL 15th ANNIVERSARY VIDEO** using this QR code



Championing Free Thought on Campus

AHA'S CAMPUS PROGRAM: THE CRITICAL THINKING FELLOWSHIP

AHA's Campus program, the Critical Thinking Fellowship (CTF), aims to not only inspire action in young adults around our core program areas like female genital mutilation and forced marriage but also to cultivate an educational environment that nourishes ideological diversity and yields thoughtful, impassioned future changemakers. Throughout 2022, our campus fellows continued to inspire with their dedication to free speech and free thought. The CTF provided a wide range of in-person and virtual events across the year—7 in total, at 6 universities across the nation.

CTF Webinars With Students and AHA Founder, Ayaan Hirsi Ali

These included 3 webinars between students and our Founder Ayaan Hirsi Ali on the Islamist threat to women's rights worldwide, child marriage in the U.S., and the controversial issues concerning free speech on campus and new illiberal ideologies shutting down free thought. A further webinar between Ayaan and her friend Yasmine Mohammed critiqued the culture that seeks to silence advocates of Muslim women's rights. The two ex-Muslim activists exchanged thoughts on how to defend Muslim women without fear of "cancellation," and ended the hour with a lively audience Q&A session.



Ayaan and Yasmine Mohammed discussing Muslim women's rights in one of four CTF webinars featuring Ayaan in 2022.

Other CTF events in 2022 included



A webinar hosted by our Fordham University fellow featuring Fraidy Reiss, a forced marriage survivor and the founder of our ally nonprofit Unchained at Last

- Fraidy told her story of forced marriage, abuse, and escape, and discussed the legislative efforts she and many others undertake to end forced/child marriage across the U.S.



A webinar hosted by our University of Central Florida fellow with ex-Muslim activist Sarah Haider

- Sarah spoke about her childhood, which was defined by an oppressive family and a restrictive culture, and how, through atheism and activism like her work with Ex-Muslims of North America, she has redefined her goals and sources of happiness in life.



A Reverse Q&A session from former Portland State University philosophy professor Peter Boghossian

- In front of a live audience of Purdue University students, faculty, and a professional videography crew, Peter reversed the traditional Q&A structure by asking the attendees questions about the threats to freedom of speech on college campuses from cancel culture, the social justice agenda, political polarization, safe spaces, and overall ideological homogeneity.

In 2023, our fellows will continue their hard work. By disrupting orthodoxies on campus, challenging the status quo, and shining light on taboo subjects all too often sidelined in our media, they show that the next generation should inspire hope in all those who value free speech and free thought.



"If you want your voice to be heard, come to a Reverse Q&A. Speak up. Be honest. Be brave. Be forthright... You are on a college campus and you have every right to speak, ask questions, challenge orthodoxies, and be intellectually challenged."

— Peter Boghossian (pictured left with Tushar Sonvani, our CTF fellow at Purdue University)

It was clear from my conversations with the students at UATX that the elite educational institutions are doing the next generation a fundamental disservice. If we are to teach the leaders of tomorrow how to think — how to ask probing questions rather than repeat dictated answers — we need a fundamental re-evaluation of the modern university.

— Ayaan Hirsi Ali in UnHerd on teaching at UATX's summer course



OTHER CAMPUS OUTREACH: AHA STAFF SUPPORT AYAAN HIRSI ALI AS SHE INSPIRES THE NEXT GENERATION

In June 2022, an AHA team member participated in Ayaan's class about free speech and critical thinking at the UATX (aka the University of Austin) Forbidden Courses summer program. Here is what she had to say about the experience:

It was inspiring to see these young people engaged in civil debate on such sensitive issues. They did it thoughtfully and with immense respect. They were grateful for the exchanges and for what they learned from each other.

... Ayaan told students that it is difficult to describe what it means to live in an unfree society to those who have not experienced it. She noted how hard it is to convey how it feels to know that you could be pushed out of your home, lose your money, and be locked up. She spoke about being concerned that people are not talking to each other in America anymore and are afraid to speak their minds. She said that this could lead to the "closing of the American mind." She encouraged students not to give away their freedoms and to lead by example, to show that open inquiry is essential and valued.

A New Stage in the Fight Against Islamism:



In 2022, after several years of planning and organizing, AHA helped publicly launch the CLARITY (Champions for Liberty Against the Reality of Islamist Tyranny) Coalition, a diverse coalition of Muslim reformers, ex-Muslims, activists, writers, academics, and more. CLARITY aims to combat the dangerous ideology of Islamist extremism which elevates antiquated religious understandings of people and society above universal human rights and secular governance.

"I hoped and dreamed that I would find common cause with Muslim dissidents to put our differences aside and work together, strategically, to defeat Islamism... This weekend, a small piece of that dream is realized."
 — From Ayaan Hirsi Ali's keynote speech at the first-ever CLARITY Coalition conference, October 2022

In October 2022, AHA Foundation helped to organize the first-ever CLARITY conference, 'Going on Offense,' in Salzburg, Austria. This groundbreaking event brought together a wide range of experts working to expose and oppose Islamism. Ayaan gave the inspiring keynote address to attendees, in which she called for unity going forward to defeat Islamist ideology and to champion democracy and human rights for all. Over a weekend, various panels addressed a diverse range of issues related to this mission, including how to counter Islamist strategies.

AHA is extremely proud of playing an instrumental role in the creation of CLARITY. We will continue to stand with our CLARITY allies as we fight to disrupt and defeat Islamism and champion liberty for all.



Top: Ayaan and AHA Board Chairman Emeritus Chris DeMuth during a panel discussion at the 2022 CLARITY Coalition Conference
 Bottom: Group photo of participants of the 2022 CLARITY Conference



Impact Through Media Campaigns

ACROSS THE MEDIA, AYAAN HIRSI ALI DISRUPTS ORTHODOXY AND DEFENDS WESTERN FREEDOMS AND IDEALS

Our founder, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, has long been at the forefront of the public debate over free speech and other Western ideals. By speaking loudly and freely, whether in print, on television, or through her podcast, she lives out her dedication to these freedoms. By challenging the ideologies that would undermine them, she upends the complacent status quo and inspires us to fight to preserve, protect, and promote them.



Image credit: Frank Schirmmcher Foundation/The Swiss Institute of International Studies

Ayaan In the Media: Highlights

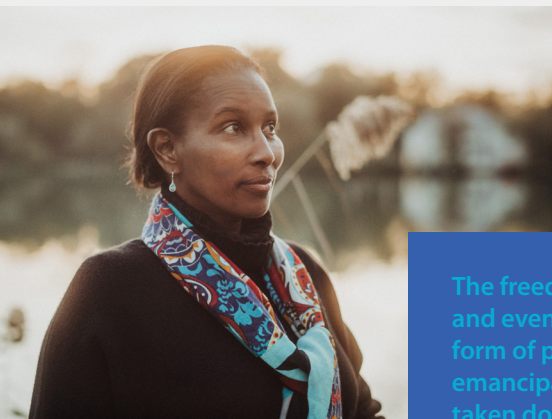
- In March, Ayaan appeared on Lawrence Krauss's *The Origins Podcast* to talk about her story, her fight to defend free speech, immigration, and more.
- In April, Rebecca Sugar wrote an appreciation of Ayaan for *The New York Sun*: "I have noted to myself that if you sat next to her at dinner and didn't know she is a brilliant, courageous warrior, you might get the impression that she is a soft-spoken, kind woman with a gentle nature."
- Also in April, Ayaan appeared at the eminent Munk Dialogues to raise awareness about the threats to reason and liberty today.
- In May, Ayaan was one of the signatories to an open letter on 'America's Crisis of Self-Doubt' in *National Review*: "The rule of law, federalism, and the protections of the U.S. Constitution continue to be bulwarks against the most ambitious designs of ideological fanatics."
- In June, Ayaan gave a keynote address at TOS-Con about the illiberal ideology sweeping across the country and how to counter it.
- Also in June, Ayaan appeared on the *Free Expression* podcast, from *The Wall Street Journal*, about free speech and defending Western freedoms and ideals.
- In July, Bari Weiss published a speech about UATX's mission to protect free inquiry and Ayaan's role in the 2022 summer program (see above for more information on UATX).
- Also in July, the *New York Post* wrote about the UATX summer program, mentioning Ayaan's role in it.
- In August, former Vermont legislator and writer Matt Krauss wrote an appreciation of Ayaan as one of the "four women I adore."
- In October, Ayaan was awarded the 2022 Frank Schirmmcher Foundation Prize, a prize in honor of the late German writer Frank Schirmmcher "awarded annually for outstanding achievements in understanding current affairs." As Ayaan said in her acceptance speech:

The only way I can honor Mr. Schirmmcher's memory is to remain hopeful. It is to fight for what is right. It is to oppose what is wrong. It is to express courage and to commit to safeguarding our societies for future generations.
- Also in October, Ayaan was selected to give the prestigious Reichmuth & Co Lecture at the University of Lucerne. In her lecture, she discussed the grave threats to free speech in the West today—and how to defend it.

Published Articles

In 2022, Ayaan published dozens of articles in London-based publication *UnHerd* and continued to write for *The Spectator World* as a contributing editor. She continued her podcast, *The Ayaan Hirsi Ali Podcast*, while appearing on several other podcasts. In 2022, AHA and Ayaan were at the forefront of the media response to the Salman Rushdie attack, with AHA releasing two statements and Ayaan writing an op-ed in *The Washington Post*. Here are some highlights:

- 'No Country for Young Women' - *Hoover Digest*, January 31 (republished from Ayaan's *UnHerd* article 'Why Afghan women are fighting back,' September 9, 2021)
- 'How Vladimir Putin weaponises refugees' - *UnHerd*, March 2
- 'The new war on Islamism' - *UnHerd*, June 14
- 'Our universities need a revolution' - *UnHerd*, July 1
- 'I once wanted to burn 'The Satanic Verses.' Now I weep for Salman Rushdie.' - *The Washington Post*, August 16
- 'The infidels will not be silenced' - *UnHerd*, August 17
- 'What Western feminists can learn from Iran' - *UnHerd*, September 28
- 'She was the Queen of the West' - *The Spectator World*, October 23



The freedom to speak out — to challenge and even to offend — is the driver of every form of progress. The advance of science, the emancipation of women, revolutions that have taken down monarchies and corrupt regimes — these achievements, at their core, were driven by free expression.

— Ayaan Hirsi Ali in *The Washington Post* on the importance of free speech in the wake of the Rushdie attack

A Shoutout to Our Partners and Allies

AHA Foundation is proud to be a leader in a national alliance to defend the rights of women and girls from the abuses of FGM and child/forced marriage.

AHA Foundation Is Proud to be Allied With:

- Forma Psychological Services
- Girls Not Brides U.S. Partnership to End Child Marriage
- Tapestry 360 Health (formerly Heartland Health Centers)
- The Connecticut Coalition to End Child Marriage
- The Connecticut Coalition to End FGM
- The Illinois Coalition to End Child Marriage
- The Massachusetts Coalition to End Child Marriage
- The Michigan Coalition to End Child Marriage
- The National Coalition to End Child Marriage, where AHA Foundation sits on the steering committee
- The New York Coalition to End Child Marriage
- The South Carolina Coalition to End Child Marriage
- The Vermont Coalition to End Child Marriage
- Unchained At Last
- Zonta International

Donor Spotlight

Our donors are the backbone of our fight. Julie Papadakis has supported our work through monthly donations over the past 7 years. Here is what she said about our work:



"I came for Ayaan Hirsi Ali and stayed because the AHA Foundation is a beacon for women and girls worldwide who continue to struggle silently under archaic oppression and violence in these modern times. Having a daughter myself, I cannot think of a more honorable mission than protecting a young lady's basic human rights."

— Julie Papadakis, AHA Foundation monthly donor

Looking Ahead: We Will Continue to Disrupt for Good

2022 was a big year for AHA Foundation and there were many changes, not least the revision of our mission statement—**"to preserve, protect, and promote Western freedoms and ideals."** We remain committed to defending the rights of women and girls, championing free speech and free inquiry on campus and beyond, and exposing and opposing Islamism. As we move forward, we will continue to be disruptors for good, shaking people out of their complacency on these issues. I am excited as we move forward with our revised mission statement and I can't wait to see the fruits of the work we did in 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris DeMuth, Ayaan's firm friend and ally and AHA Board Chairman for nearly ten years. He stepped down in 2022 after many years of hard work, and now serves as our Chairman Emeritus. We wouldn't be where we are today without his invaluable input. Luckily, our new Chairman is just as capable. Rosa Zeegers, Ayaan's dear friend and a highly respected business consultant, former corporate executive, and longtime Board member, is taking over, and I am excited to see what we achieve together.

Let the disruption for good continue long into the future—onwards!

Below: George Zarubin (right), AHA Foundation Executive Director, with new Board Chairman Rosa Zeegers



Top: Rosa Zeegers (left) in conversation with Ayaan Hirsi Ali at the CLARITY Coalition inaugural conference, October 2022

Above: Chris DeMuth, AHA Foundation Board Chairman 2013-2022, now Chairman Emeritus



AHA FOUNDATION was established by Ayaan Hirsi Ali in 2007 to put the ideas she writes about into practice. AHA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is committed to preserving, protecting, and promoting Western freedoms and ideals.

We stand up for universal human rights and oppose tyranny in all its forms, whether it comes from oppressive traditions such as female genital mutilation, honor violence, and child/forced marriage, illiberal ideologies shutting down free speech and inquiry on campus and beyond, or Islamist extremism.

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 Western freedoms and ideals on Facebook and Twitter at @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 defend free speech on campus and beyond. Together, we can relegate dangerous ideologies that are often used to justify abuses to the past.



BECOME A
DISRUPTOR
FOR **GOOD**
JOIN US.

