



Ambassador Moushira Khattab, PH.D

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Egypt's former Minister of State for Family and population. A career diplomat, progressing through the ranks to become an Ambassador and finally Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Cultural Affairs. She was also the candidate of Egypt and the African Union for the post of UNESCO Director General in the 2017 elections. With the new millennium, she shifted to development and human rights and became a world-renowned expert in the fields of human rights, consensus building, diplomacy, negotiation, lobbying and building alliances. She is known for her concrete achievements on the ground working for children victims of discrimination and violence. Her most renowned achievements are building 2200 schools for marginalized girls and achieving a profound comprehensive legal reform, combatting Female Genital Mutilation, child marriage, commercial and sexual exploitation of children, harmonizing Egypt's legal framework for children with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, CRC.

Khattab is a member of Egypt's Supreme Council of Culture and a member of the National Committee managing Egypt's heritage listed on UNESCO's heritage list. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Egyptian Civilization. She is a lecturer at the Institute of Diplomatic and Consular Studies at Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was chosen among the Top 50 Egyptian Women and a mentor for emerging leaders.

She is a member of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, founder and chair of its Women in Foreign Policy Group. She is a board member of ENACTUS "Entrepreneurial Action for others Creates a better world for Us all", a global program for empowering university students to improve the livelihood of marginalized local communities. She is a member of the advisory board of "Defense for Children International" based in Geneva.

- In the field of development and human rights, Khattab is known for her ability to deliver and to build consensus around critical, culturally sensitive issues. She enjoys outstanding national and international credibility, and a track record of creating/working in partnership with diverse stakeholders including UN organizations, civil society, governments, the private sector, religious leaders, the donor community, and children. Her reputation as an achiever has enabled her to raise considerable funds for the implementation of many projects serving children and their families.
- She spearheaded the implementation of a wide range of large scale, national and international projects with many UN agencies, international and regional organizations ( Arab and African).
- While serving as an expert, vice chair and rapporteur of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, she pioneered and engineered the withdrawal of Egypt’s reservations to the Convention on the rights of the Child (CRC). She was instrumental in alleviating misconception that CRC violates the Islamic Sharia encouraging other Arab and Muslim countries to follow suite.
- In December 2013, Khattab ranked third among the five leading female human rights activists in the Middle East and North Africa MENA region.  
[http://www.yourmiddleeast.com/columns/article/5-great-female-human-rights-activists-in-mena\\_20096..](http://www.yourmiddleeast.com/columns/article/5-great-female-human-rights-activists-in-mena_20096..)

**Positions Held and other activities:**

- Visiting professor on human Rights and gender issues at the University of Perugia for Foreigners – Italy (2011-2014)
- Senior Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Washington DC, USA (2012)
- Visiting lecturer on Egyptian Foreign Policy, international relations, human rights and gender issues- Misr University for Science and Technology MUST- Egypt- 2011.
- Expert on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva from 2002- 2010.
- Chair of the Intergovernmental Expert Group mandated to prepare UN Guidelines on Justice Matters for Children Witnesses and Victims of Crimes. (ECOSOC resolution 2005/20 of 22 July 2005)
- Vice-President of the International Bureau for Children’s Rights [IBCR] – Montreal Canada (2005-2013)
- Member of the Women Leadership Council to combat trafficking in persons including children (UNGIFT / UNODC, Vienna 2008)
- Vice President of Aflatoun International for Child Social and Financial Education – Amsterdam (2008 – 2011)
- Board member of Child Help International - Amsterdam (2003-2009)
- Member of the organizing committee for the Sixth Global Conference for health promotion- WHO- Thailand 2005
- Member of the Board of Trustees of the Egyptian Radio & Television Union & Chair of its Sub-Committee on Family and children (2000 – 2009)
- Board Member of the Egyptian Federation of NGOs (2000 – 2009)
- Board member and Consumer Representative at the Egyptian Electricity Regulatory Board (2002 – 2009)
- Board member of the Vodafone Foundation for Social Development (2002- 2009)
- Board member of the Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS), Egypt
- Faculty member, mentor and a regional expert of “Women in Public Service Project” (WPSP), established by US Secretary of State, a partnership between the US State

Department and the US Seven Sisters colleges. The project aims to empower emerging women leaders in different parts of the world.

- International board member of “Women in Diplomacy”, chaired by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs (2013).
- Expert with the China program on the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review sponsored in cooperation with the Ford Foundation. Lectured in January 2014 and July 2014 in Beijing.
- Alumni of the Fulbright Commission
- Member of Rotary international
- Member of the association of “Friends of the Egyptian Opera”
- Board member of the association of “Friends of Manial Palace Museum”

### Publications

For a list of publications and annotated studies, please visit <http://www.moushirakhattab.com> and <http://www.wilsoncenter.org>

### Education

- PH. D in International Human Rights Law – Cairo University, Egypt
- MA in Political Science on “UN General Assembly Uniting for Peace Resolution”– University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
- B.SC with Honors in Political Science – Cairo University, Egypt

### Decorations and Honors

- Knight of the Grand Cross of the Republic of Italy
- Commendatore della Repubblica by the President of Italy
- Order of Good Hope by the President of South Africa
- Award of courage by the American Secretary of State in 2007.<sup>1</sup>
- Fatima El Fehria Award- Tunisia 2016.
- Global Humanitarian Award by UN Association- San Francisco- 2018

### National Track record

Her diligence, transparency, and participatory approach encouraged a phenomenal engagement by the donor’s community, United Nations family and the civil society. Her tenure at the helm of NCCM and the Ministry of Family and Population has made a paradigm shift in status of children as right holders.

- Khattab’s greatest achievement is the creation of **a rights based legal framework for children**. She initiated and led over a period of five years (2003-2008) the most comprehensive rights based legal reform process in Egypt, ME and North Africa. The process included building consensus diligent negotiations, lobbying and alliance building at various levels. It was crowned by the adoption of Law 126/2008. Three laws were amended bringing them into closer harmony with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols. The Egyptian penal Code was amended to prohibit Female Genital Mutilation FGM and the sale of children, the exploitation of children in pornography, sexual abuse and trafficking. Civil Status Law was amended to raise the

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<sup>1 1</sup> The public library of US diplomacy

minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years with provisions for penalizing offenders. This process started by working at the grass roots to raise awareness of the need for reform. It was followed by awareness raising among decision makers, parliamentarians, media professionals and opinion leaders. This participatory process protected the law against later attempts in 2012 to lower the minimum age of marriage and attempts to decriminalize FGM. Civil society organizations led the campaign to protect the legal achievements

- Khattab led similar participatory efforts whereby a comprehensive draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities was prepared. The bill was guided by the respective UN Convention.
- Within the framework of the UN Secretary General's "**Education for all initiative**", Khattab engineered Egypt's "Girls Education Initiative" EGEl. The initiative targets 6-13 year old girls and seeks to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, equality in participation and accomplishments in a good quality basic education. The initiative was implemented in 10 most derived governorates at the grass roots level. Khattab mobilized society for girls' education. A five-year National action plan (the first to be drafted by the grass roots). It was later translated into seven action plans reflecting local opportunities and challenges. Through a targeted and coordinated effort, Khattab played a key role in raising awareness of the rights of the girl child. She mobilized resources and established of over 2200 girl-friendly schools (2006-2009) providing quality active learning for thousands of the most marginalized girls in governorates with the highest gender gaps. Egypt's GEI targeted girls without excluding boys. The initiative centered around five programs: 1. Establishing a database disaggregated according to gender, geographic location and other possible grounds for exclusion and marginalization; 2. Community mobilization and participation 3. Poverty alleviation 4. School construction and 5. Monitoring and evaluation. A distinct achievement of EGEl is raising awareness of the crucial importance of education, instilling a culture of community participation, coordination, non- discrimination, active learning and bottom up planning, implementation and monitoring pedagogy that focus on building the capacity of civil society as a partner. EGEl scored many achievements. In February 2008, she signed a protocol with the Minister of Education to mainstream the EGEl active learning methodology in public schools. Another outcome was a ministerial decree to remove the age restriction on school reentry for female dropouts. These efforts encouraged the Ministry of Education to establish a unit for combatting school dropout and a unit for coordination with NGO's.
- She pioneered ongoing programs in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), on **adolescent health** in secondary schools. The program succeeded in raising awareness of students, teachers and school professionals on the reproductive rights as a component of school extra curricula activities. The program succeeded in mitigating the cultural resistance to teaching adolescents reproductive health rights within schools. It even stimulated an emerging conviction of the importance of teaching students such issues within schools.
- She organized training courses and capacity building programs for parents, school directors, teachers and other education professionals. The primary objective was to eliminate cultural and economic causes of school dropout. The courses focused on building capacities and training on active learning, human rights education, population issues, adolescence health, healthy environment, sustainable development, and gender equality, addressing causes of vulnerabilities, disability, combating drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation. The courses succeeded in mitigating cultural sensitivities resistance for such issues. Art, leisure; recreation and sports constituted a pillar of the training courses.

- She launched a program, in cooperation with NGOs to increase enrollment in pre-school education. Concerning early childhood development, she engineered a study mapping the status of nurseries and its limitations. As a result, guidelines were prepared for quality in early childhood education as well as training courses for nurseries teachers and educational professionals on the use of the quality standards
- Social and financial education for children: In cooperation with Child Social and Financial Education (Amsterdam), the program benefitted over one hundred thousand Egyptian children in different schools
- She initiated a study on school violence and bullying in Upper Egypt. The study guided the formulation of a national strategy for the protection of schoolchildren from violence.
- Khattab conducted a **youth aspirations survey**, in cooperation with UNDP and Al Ahram Center for Strategic studies. The survey guided the preparation of a program on civic education. Other initiatives involved youth active participation and their right to access information in order to defuse the chronic problem of apathy and rote learning in public schools. Khattab established youth network, run by; and reached out to youth in both schools and universities. It helped revealed many problems and the perception of the youth to the solutions. Youth recommendations were regularly transmitted to decision makers. She planned and supervised the implementation of many programs by the youth themselves, through national campaigns, community initiatives and carrying out programs through arts, media tools and capacity building. She organized many competitions for the same purpose. Community initiatives included “*person to person*” advocacy
- Khattab also led and coordinated the implementation of several programs for rehabilitation of working children and street children and their reintegration back into education, removing all administrative and financial barriers. The program builds the capacity of children through education, vocational training, special education programs, technical, cultural and civic education. (Manshiet Nasser program and Dar El Salam reception Center).
- She pioneered a program that provides educational, cultural and recreation activities to **refugee children**, in cooperation with the High Commissioner for Refugees. The program included 1) Enrollment of Arabic speaking refugees in public schools wherever possible; 2) Literacy programs and establishment of schools, nurseries and health services with no hidden cost; 3) Training of teachers and raising awareness on HIV/Aids, communicable diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, harmful traditional practices such as domestic violence, FGM and child marriage; 4) Increasing women’s participation in conflict resolution and peace building.
- She led the implementation of a national program “**Children at risk**” in cooperation with the European Union. This catered for the protection and empowerment of vulnerable children. It was implemented in various governorates targeting out of schoolchildren, street children, working children and children with disabilities. The program supported the “Girls’ Education Initiative”. Work manuals were prepared to support primary education. School curricula were improved and civic education mainstreamed, training manuals prepared and teachers trained. Monitoring and follow up manuals were also prepared. It contributed to the construction of girls’ friendly schools in deprived areas. The program improved the lives of many children and their families. EU considers it one of its most successful projects in Egypt.

In her capacity as Minister for Family and Population, Khattab took the initiative in 2010 to establish and chair a committee on ethics and moral values. The committee was diverse and included representatives from the Church, Al-Azhar, opinion leaders, media professionals, and universities, representatives of civil

society as well as the Ministries of Education; culture and other line ministries. The committee focused on the elimination of discrimination and violence against children; including gender and religious based discrimination, harmful traditional practices and disseminating a culture that respects human rights and the rule of law. The Committee established a technical committee mandated to review school curricula in the primary education and to remove all forms of discrimination, bias and prejudice from schoolbooks and teaching pedagogy. The Committee scrutinized curricula and produced a comprehensive proposal that removes all forms of discrimination and violence.

### **Introducing a Cultural Legacy**

- Khattab organized hundreds of programs interviews to raise awareness of certain cultural challenges. She organized massive popular gatherings that ranged from entire villages (120) getting together to declare their determination to abandon some traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation. She organized camps for schools and university students to discuss reproductive health issues. She regularly met with hundreds of university students within their summer camps to discuss current issues of public concern. Her ability to communicate with different groups enabled her to build an environment supportive of the rights of the child and positive sustainable development. She succeeded in dealing head on with tough harmful cultural practices
- Khattab is credited for building alliance with/ and mobilizing a paradigm shift in the handling by the media of the right of children to protection from discrimination and violence. Media's handling of FGM, child marriage, street children and child labor and the standing of persons with disabilities, are only examples of the change. Combating violence against children became a common denominator in many Radio and TV programs. She organized several training and capacity building workshops for media professionals. She coordinated several camps for school and university students as well as residents of slum areas. Such programs were harmonized, as an incentive, with female illiteracy programs and economic and social empowerment through financing small and micro enterprises (especially in deprived areas such as North Cairo).
- Worth noting is the campaign "No to Harmful traditional Practices" the campaign lumped deprivation of education, child marriage and FGM in one group. It earned a number of prizes, both national and international. The same applies to the campaign "Red Card to Child Labor" coinciding with the world cup
- For ten consecutive years, Khattab chaired annual workshop during the Cairo international Child Film festival. The topics always focused on issues related to combating violence against children.
- As the chair of family committee within the federation of Egyptian Radio and Television, she contributed to the dissemination of many constructive cultural values and raising awareness with various aspects of human sustainable developments. She guided the planning and implementation of many training programs for different groups of media professionals. She focused on encouraging the abandonment of harmful concepts concerning different age groups. Committee membership included chairs of Television and Radio channels in and other cadres of the mass communication sector. The main mandate of the committee to design media strategy and policy as it concerns the family
- To make the cultural change happen, she planned and supervised the implementation of a **social marketing** project "Think Twice". The program focused on cultural issues. It encourages positive change. The project was implemented in cooperation with UNDP and the Italian cooperation.

- Her hands-on involvement in advocating the rights of the marginalized achieved great success and a cultural paradigm shift putting it at the forefront of public debate.
- Khattab succeeded in dealing with cultural sensitivity and resistance to what was perceived as invading family privacy. She initiated, coordinated and led the establishment of 3 helplines as toll free national **monitoring mechanisms** supported by remedy and rehabilitation services; for 1. Children with disabilities (2003), 2. Children at risk (2005) and 3. Family counseling to combat child marriage (2009)
- **Child observatory** was established, in cooperation with UNICEF and the Italian cooperation, as a monitoring mechanism. It functioned in cooperation with universities, researchers and schools
- In 2006, she initiated and led the first national **rights- based budget tracking**, which monitored the size of public spending on implementing and advancing the rights of children. The study tracked the efficacy, efficiency and sufficiency of public spending. It monitored public policies as reflected by budget allocations. It also examined governmental and non-governmental programs. The study targeted evaluation of Egypt's actual fulfillment of its commitment under international humanitarian law. She cooperated with the same university to conduct a study mapping child poverty
- Khattab championed the cause of **eradicating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**. Her success in changing the culture and perception of the society towards FGM is among her outstanding achievements. Her diligence, perseverance and good rapport with the grass roots promoted a change in the societal perception of FGM from a socially accepted habit to a crime punishable by law. She spearheaded the creation of a strong lobby against the practice both nationally and internationally. She cooperated closely with universities, research centers, schools and institutions of learning as strategic stakeholders in all activities targeting the elimination of FGM. In June 2008, Khattab's endeavors were crowned as law 126/2008 was adopted amending Egypt's Penal code to criminalize the practice by a fine and imprisonment. She also championed the creation of an international network against the practice, working in cooperation with UNDP, UNICEF, and Italian and African NGOs. She also continues to support to African countries afflicted by the practice. Such efforts led to a considerable decline in the practice. Her success is due to her success in building a national cultural consensus that FGM is a wrong cultural practice that is not called for either by religion or health reasons. Such efforts earned her international recognition. She was honored by the highest decoration by the Italian President in 2010 and the award of courage by the American Secretary of State in 2007.<sup>2</sup>
- Khattab waged a national campaign against **early marriage** and succeeded to raise the minimum age of female marriage to 18 years. This was later enforced in partnership with the office of the Prosecutor General and NGOs. In 2009 alone more than 9600 cases of violations were reported, and perpetrators brought to justice
- She Established within NCCM, Egypt's first Unit to **combat child trafficking**. She established a shelter for victims in cooperation with IOM and DANONE. She spearheaded the formulation of a national database-powered action plan to train professionals, receive complaints about violations and monitor intervention.

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<sup>2 2</sup> The public library of US diplomacy

- Throughout her career, Moushira Khattab successfully forged strong partnerships with the **private sector**, within a corporate social responsibility framework including with multinationals.

### **International Experience**

- Moushira Khattab's diplomatic career and long experience in both multilateral as well as bilateral diplomacy equipped her to interact actively both at the national as well as the international level. She acquired solid experience in the functioning of international organizations, particularly the United Nations, where She started her diplomatic career as a diplomatic attaché at the Egyptian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. She was in charge of the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee dealing with social, humanitarian and cultural issues. She was later appointed at the Egyptian embassy in Vienna and, inter alia, representing her country to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). This coincided with Egypt's membership of the UNIDO Executive Council. She deepened her experience with the United Nations and other international organization when she was later appointed to the concerned department at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cairo. She took part in many conferences and meetings at various organs of the UN and chaired Egypt's delegation to such meetings on many occasions.
- As an expert, mentor and faculty member of the Women in Public Service Project WPSM Khattab mentored many emerging leaders in different parts of the world. She also lectured at its different programs in Morocco 2011-2012, Wellesley /Center for Women – Boston 2012, Smith College - Paris 2012, Tunisia 2013, Bryn Mawr College USA 2013 and Beijing 2014
- Carried out similar activities to combat harmful traditional practices in cooperation with other stakeholders in Europe, namely "No Peace without Justice" [www.npwj.org](http://www.npwj.org). Meetings were held in a number of African countries <http://www.npwj.org/search/node/moushira%20khattab>.

### **Expert of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child CRC (2002- 20010)**

During her eight years tenure as an expert, rapporteur, and vice chair of the CRC committee, Moushira Khattab had the following experiences:

- Succeeded in capitalizing on her CRC membership, together with her executive position on the ground as Secretary General of NCCM to add value to both the Committee and her work with children. Her membership in the Committee has lent her work an international dimension and she has had great success in aligning Egyptian legislation and policies with international human rights standards. In parallel, her hands-on approach has provided the Committee with feedback that proved invaluable with respect to setting CRC policies. She has successfully disseminated the collective wisdom of the Committee to millions, not only in Egypt or the MENA region, but the world as a whole
- Represented CRC Committee at various meetings including those on the Reform of UN Treaty Bodies System – Berlin (July 2007), University of Nottingham, UK (January 2006), Inter-Committee meetings of the UN Treaty Bodies – Geneva (June 2006), Malbun, Liechtenstein and Berlin, Germany (2003 & 2006)



- Member of the core group drafting General Comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- Member of the advisory group on children without parental care CWPC, drafted UN guidelines on the protection of CWPC.
- Led and coordinated a participatory process of Egypt's reporting to the Committee on Egypt's combined third and fourth periodical reports (CRC/C/EGY/3-4) as well as preparing the written replies to the Committee's list of issues and the ground preparation of the Egyptian official delegation to the examination of the report in June 2011. A delegation of Egyptian children to the committee was the highlight of this examination. The concluding observations of the Committee reflected progress achieved during the period of reporting which coincide with the tenure of Khattab as Secretary General of NCCM. [CRC/C/OPSC/EGY/CO/1](#)

### **UNSG study on Violence against children**

Khattab has played a proactive role within the framework of the UN Study on Violence against Children including the following:

- As a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, she was able to influence the course of the Study by recommending, since the onset of the process, that the Study initiate a participatory process on the ground by involving the various regions in its development. This has instigated the process of regional consultations that gave the Study its unique feature. She was able to ensure that Egypt plays an active role in this respect
- Chaired MENA Regional Steering Committee and Egypt's National Committee on Violence Against Children (until 2011)
- Hosted and organized three MENA Regional Conferences (June 2005), follow-up (March 2006 & 2007). MENA was the first region to have its follow up
- Chaired the round table discussion that followed the presentation to GA of the UN Study on VAC (New York-12 October 2006)
- She spearheaded the translation into Arabic of the entire study and played an active role in mobilizing the MENA & League of Arab States around the issue of Violence against children

### **Supervised and Edited National Policy Documents and Publications:**

- National Strategy to Empower the Family (2011)
- Right's Based Tracking of Public Budgeting for Children (2006)
- National Plan of Action to Combat Violence against Children (2006)
- Five Year National Plan of Action in accordance with UNGASS "World Fit for Children" ( 2005)
- National Strategy to Empower Youth to Say No to Tobacco and Drugs (2005)
- National Strategy and Plan of Action for the Elimination of Child Labor, as well as a plan of action (2005)
- National Strategy for the Protection, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Street Children (2003)
- National Plan of Action for Girls' Education, Along with 7 local action plans for the 7 most deprived governorates with the highest gender gap (2002)
- National Survey on Child Labor (2002)
- Right's Based Tracking of Public Budgeting for Children- 2006.
- National Plan of Action to Combat Violence against Children (2006).

- Five Year National Plan of Action in accordance with UNGASS “World Fit for Children” (2005)

**Annotated and Revised Studies and Publications**

- International Bureau of Children’s rights, Montreal “Country profile: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia” 2007
- UNICEF’s Global Study on Child Poverty and Disparities & Implementation in Egypt, Center for Economic and Financial research and studies, Cairo University 2008
- Egypt’s Human Development Report – 2001
- Egypt’s Governorates Human Development Report – 2002
- Rethinking poverty, making policies that work for children
- Egypt’s Child poverty study- UNICEF and Cairo University 2010.

**Authored a number of publications that could be accessed through;** <http://www.moushirakhattab.com> and <http://www.wilsoncenter.org>