



# Yamaniyat

**First In-Person Conference  
Gathering male and female  
Journalists in Yemen**



*Yamaniyat*

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**EMPOWRING WOMEN  
THROUGH MEDIA FOR PEACE**

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## A face-to-face conference bringing together journalists for the first time in Yemen



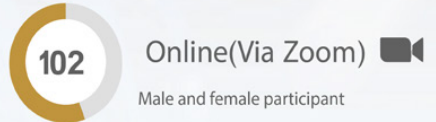
In Taiz, southwest Yemen, over 120 male and female journalists from various Yemeni governorates gathered on October 10, 2024, for the Yamaniyat Conference. This marked the first in-person conference bringing together Yemeni male and female journalists since the outbreak of the war in March 2015. The event was organized by the Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC) with support from the Canal France International (CFI).

The Conference brought together a diverse group of journalists and women journalists, including members of the Yamaniyat and Mekanati projects, both implemented by SEMC with CFI's support. Participants included individuals passionate about women's issues in Yemen, such as activists, human rights advocates, and representatives of media organizations and platforms committed to promoting these topics.

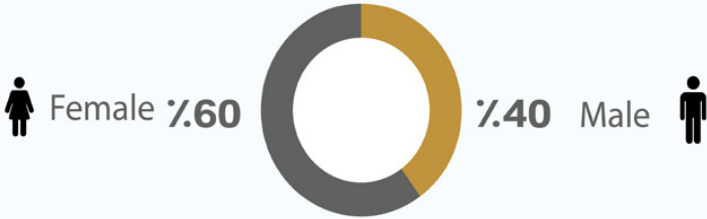
# Yamaniyat Conference

## Empowering Women

Total of male and female participants **229**



## Attendees



 Thursday  
10 October 2024

 In-person  
Taiz

## Fruitful Sessions Led by Experts in Women Issues and Peace



The Yamaniyat Conference featured eight sessions, including three discussion panels, alongside introductory and opening remarks, an overview of the Yamaniyat project, the announcement of winners of the Yamaniyat awards, and a summary of the sessions' key takeaways.

The Conference opened with a welcoming session led by Mustafa Nasr, the Chairman of SEMC. He emphasized that any efforts to achieve peace in Yemen would be incomplete without the inclusion of women. Mr. Alan DREANIC, Deputy General-Director of Canal France International (CFI), described the Conference as an opportunity to discuss the added value that female journalists bring to media initiatives like the Yamaniyat project in Yemen.



In the opening session, Dr. Abdulqawi Al-Mekhlafi, Senior Deputy of Taiz Governorate, expressed his hopes for practical outcomes that could be translated into developmental programs benefiting women. He also called for advanced media coverage of women's issues that avoids stereotyping and traditional narratives.

H.E. Catherine Corm-Kammoun, the Ambassador of France to Yemen, reaffirmed her country's commitment to supporting Yemeni women, emphasizing France's continued efforts to help them achieve their rightful place as active partners in society.



A dedicated session reviewed the key achievements of the Yamaniyat project, presented by Ms. Sarah Filali, Project Manager at CFI.

Filali highlighted the tangible successes of the project through effective partnerships and high-quality outputs. She stated: “We have a professional partner, which has significantly contributed to the success of Yamaniyat, leaving a strong and impactful mark.”





The first panel discussion at the Yamaniyat Conference addressed the theme “Media, Women, Peace: Pathways to the Future.”

Dr. Noha Al-Kazmi emphasized the need for fundamental solutions that grant women a genuine role based on their contributions and efforts. Female journalist Rahma Hojira called for organized action to pressure the government, official entities, and all parties, including political parties, to empower women.

Samira Salem, Program Director at Tawasol Community Radio in Al-Mahra governorate, highlighted how the Yamaniyat project enhanced her team’s capabilities through the training and professional development they received.

In her intervention, Dr. Balqis Alwan stated: “We have women who are capable of making a difference, but they are hindered by a lack of empowerment.”



The session «Media and Civil Society: Partnerships for Impact» focused on the mechanisms for fostering collaboration between media outlets and civil society organizations to achieve long-term influence in peacebuilding. This theme of partnerships was a core focus of activities and implementation within the Yamaniyat project.

Mohammed Ismail, Executive Manager of SEMC, said: «We have successfully institutionalized these partnerships and created meaningful impact in several governorates.»

Um Al-Razzaq Masleh, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Hodeidah News website, highlighted the positive influence of the Makanati project, which was further enhanced by the Yamaniyat project,



and how this has reflected positively on their platform.

The third panel discussion focused on «Past Efforts and Future Interventions by Donors and International Organizations.»

Mr. Bueno Padilla Luis Miguel, the Head of the Political Section to the EU delegation for Yemen, emphasized that the EU prioritizes women's issues and stressed the necessity of a tangible role for Yemeni women in peacebuilding.

Mr. Hicham Nahro, Deputy Representative of UNFPA - Yemen, affirmed that women are a key component of all projects implemented by the UNFPA in Yemen.

You can watch all the sessions [here](#)





## Six Awards Across Three Categories



The conference included the announcement of the best stories published on the Hodaj platform by September 30, 2024, as part of the Yamaniyat project.

Six stories and six winners were honored across three categories: written, audio, and visual. From over 30 diverse stories and pieces, a judging panel consisting of journalists Nashwan Al-Othmani and Abdulkarim Al-Khayati selected two stories from each category.

In the written stories category, the top honors went to:

- [“Al-Jawf Mediators: Social Traditions Empowering Women”](#) by female journalist Latifa Al-Dhafiri from Sana’a.
- [“Women’s Issues in Their Voices: Rehabilitation as the Core of the Story”](#) by female journalist Fatima Al-Ansi from Taiz.

For podcasts, the winners were:

- [“The Role of Mahri Women in Peacebuilding”](#) by female journalist Samira Salem from Al-Mahra.
- [“A Hidden Voice”](#) by Mohammed Mahrous from Taiz.

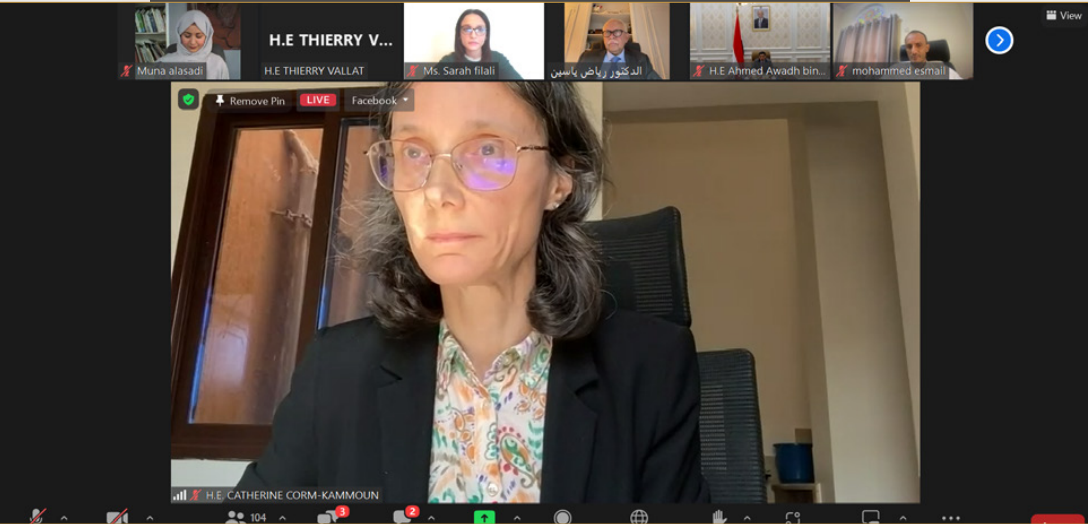
In the video category, the awards went to:

- Malak Rashad from Marib for her story [“According to Tribal Customs: Yemeni Women Making Peace.”](#)
- Tareq Al-Zuleimi from Aden for his story [“Women’s Alliances: Reviving Hope for Peace in Yemen.”](#)

The diversity in topics, categories, and governorates gave the winning stories significant momentum and presented them in a fresh light to the audience. These stories were eagerly revisited on the Hodaj platform and its social media accounts, where they continue to resonate with readers, listeners, and viewers alike.



## Yamaniyat Project was more than just a short-term project



On October 30, 2023, the Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC), with support from the Canal France International (CFI), launched the Yamaniyat project. The Project aims to strengthen the capacities of media institutions and women's organizations while fostering communication between them.

The project has provided training for approximately 75 male and female journalists on conflict-sensitive journalism and peace journalism. It also supported journalists in producing content for various media outlets, emphasizing the importance of enhancing Yemeni women's participation in peacebuilding and promoting their access to decision-making positions.

The virtual launch event of the Yamaniyat project, attended by over 100 journalists from various governorates of Yemen, high-



lighted the activities of the project, which extends from the Makaanati project implemented by the SEMC with support from the CFI during 2021 and 2022.

The focus of the Yamaniyat project is to establish partnerships between media institutions and platforms interested in women's issues and women's organizations. The project includes training representatives of these organizations in digital advocacy campaigns aimed at increasing women's participation in peace-building, as well as signing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to solidify cooperation between media institutions and partner women's organizations.

Additionally, the project provides training for around 75 male and female journalists in conflict-sensitive journalism and peace journalism, helping them produce diverse journalistic content to be published on the Hodaj platform and other partner media outlets.

To date, nearly 90 diverse journalistic pieces have been produced, including multimedia, audio, and written formats.



# Far-Reaching Partnerships



The Yamaniyat project stood out for its wide-ranging partnerships, having signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with media institutions and platforms from various governorates. It also focused on building bridges of cooperation between media organizations and women’s organizations to enhance information access and reach important stories, as well as to discuss issues affecting Yemeni women from a feminist perspective.

Throughout the project’s duration, 11 media institutions and six women’s organizations from the governorates of Sana’a, Aden, Taiz, Marib, Hudaydah, Hadhramaut, Shabwa, and Al-Mahra benefited from a series of digital advocacy training sessions designed to strengthen women’s participation in peacebuilding. Additionally, the materials produced by journalists within the project were published by electronic platforms and local radio stations across several targeted governorates.



## Hodaj: A Platform Amplifying Women's Voices in Yemen



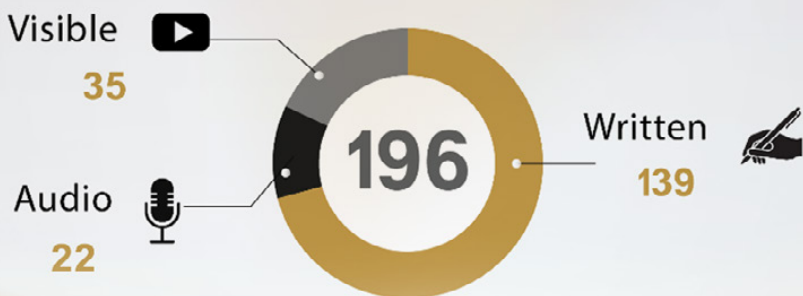
“Your place is here”, this is how [Hodaj](#) introduces itself as a door for Yemeni women, highlighting their aspirations and shedding light on issues that concern them. Launched in February 2021, Hodaj emerged as an outcome of the Makanati project, implemented by the SEMC with support from the CFI. The platform aims to spotlight women's issues in Yemen and support journalists through production opportunities facilitated by SEMC's partnerships with the agency and other organizations focused on women's affairs.



Since its inception, the platform has published 195 journalistic pieces, including 139 written articles, 35 videos, and 22 audio pieces. Hodaj continues to actively cover national and international developments and events concerning women, managed by a team of professional women journalists from various Yemeni governorates.

The platform boasts a growing audience, with over 24,000 followers on [Facebook](#) and nearly 2,000 followers across [Twitter](#) (formerly [Twitter](#)), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).


## Produced press materials for Hodaj platform







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