

In April, Aurora joined the Skoll World Forum in Oxford, UK, where global leaders gathered around some of the defining questions of our time: peace, belonging, innovation, and the future of humanitarian action.

Aurora voices helped shape that dialogue, with Aurora Prize Selection Committee member [Dele Olojede](#) and Laureate [Ilwad Elman](#) contributing to a discussion on peacebuilding and reconciliation, and our Co-Founder [Noubar Afeyan](#) reflecting on innovation, uncertainty, and the future of AI.



At Skoll, we acted as a bridge-builder, bringing together grassroots leaders, donors, and sector experts for a [conversation on how humanitarian funding can be allocated with greater trust toward local humanitarians](#). This is [Aurora 2.0](#) in motion: helping shift power and resources closer to the people who can use them fast and best.

This work is deeply connected to where Aurora began. On April 24, Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, our team members and partners [came together to honor the survivors and those who saved them](#), in whose name [the Initiative was founded](#).

That legacy of remembrance, resilience, and Gratitude in Action continues to guide our next phase as humanitarian needs are rising, resources are shrinking, and local humanitarians are being asked to fill the gap.

We heard this clearly from Aurora Humanitarian [Sally Becker](#), Founder and CEO of Save a Child, who [spoke at Skoll](#) to the cost of waiting for support: *"Small organizations like mine, who need to act quickly, cannot get funding from the big organizations. <...> It takes weeks to fill out an application form and months to get the funds."*

Grassroots humanitarians are closest to crisis, trusted by their communities, and often first to respond when systems move too slowly. **When we elevate them, we empower the "human" in humanitarian.**

At Aurora, we are privileged to see what this means far beyond the rooms where policy is discussed. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Aurora Humanitarian [Sister Angélique Namaika](#) gives vulnerable children food and education. For years, some of them learned in classrooms that could not even keep the rain out. With Aurora support, Sister Angélique's organization, APBAC, repaired and rebuilt six classrooms, so those children have a safe place to learn and grow. That is what happens when funding reaches local humanitarians in time, and it is precisely the work [Aurora 2.0](#) is built to strengthen.

In his remarks, Noubar Afeyan also reminded us that **Gratitude in Action is about awakening the humanitarian in every human**. *"Our mission at Aurora is to breathe life into that spark of common humanity,"* he said, *"to turn it into a flame that can brighten our darkening world."*

Feel that spark? Here is how you can carry it forward in your daily life:

## Nominate a humanitarian for the Aurora Prize



The Aurora Prize does more than recognize extraordinary work. Through its participatory grant model and sustained partnerships, it helps expand advocacy, visibility, storytelling, and access to support for local humanitarians.

Help us find the people whose courage, care, and leadership should be honored, heard, and supported.

**NOMINATE NOW**

## Put funding directly into local hands

Over the past decade, Aurora has built a global network of 100+ humanitarian leaders and has impacted more than 3.7 million people. We have tested and retested this model and here is our conclusion: when support reaches those already serving their communities, it can change lives quickly and efficiently.

Donate today to help more local humanitarians turn urgent needs into lasting care.

**DONATE**

## Share this message



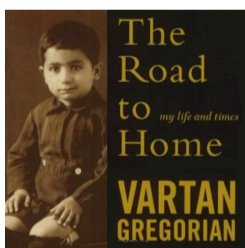
The more people understand the role of local humanitarians, the stronger global support for humanitarian action becomes. Help us uplift those carrying humanity forward.

With Gratitude,

The Aurora Team

## Aurora Book Club

Our reading corner for voices that deepen our sense of what it means to be human and humanitarian.



Five years after [Aurora Co-Founder Vartan Gregorian's passing](#), his memoir, [The Road to Home: My Life and Times](#), invites us back into the life of a man who was an ardent advocate of education and enlightenment, believing books could be "stations of hope, education and better future."

What a moving way to remember that a life shaped by learning is a life devoted to humanity.



[In this interview](#), Aurora Humanitarian [Dr. Iftikher Mahmood](#) talks about building HOPE Foundation from a single clinic into a healthcare system serving women, children, and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Dr. Mahmood reminds us why local capacity matters: because behind every statistic is a human story of loss, resilience, and care that must reach people in time.



For a powerful proof of what it means to refuse indifference, [watch this AP News video](#) featuring Aurora Prize Laureate [Jamal Eltaeb](#).

As Sudan faces one of the most devastating escalations in its history, Dr. Eltaeb speaks about why he cannot look away and continues to help his people.

Did a quote or idea stick with you? Tell us about it!



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