

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter, **GRATITUDE IN ACTION**, that helps the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative keep you in the loop. As you know, our Initiative is dedicated to supporting global humanitarian activities and finding the most efficient ways to address on-the-ground humanitarian challenges with a focus on helping the most destitute. To learn more about our impact, simply scroll down.



UNIQUE CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR THE 2024 AURORA PRIZE

Nominations closed for the 2024 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, awarded on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors. The nomination period opened on June 1, 2022, with the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative encouraging people all around the world to put forward modern-day heroes.

In total, **732 submissions for 675 unique candidates** have been received for the Prize, hailing from 75 countries including USA, Kenya, Armenia, Nigeria, Germany, Pakistan, Canada, India, UK, Czech Republic, Georgia, and Iran.

2023 Aurora Dialogues Online

The event titled **"From Vulnerability to Leadership: Women Shaping the Future Against All Odds"** took place on May 15, 2023, and featured inspiring female leaders from around the world.

The discussion, moderated by Julia Middleton, Founder of Common Purpose and Women Emerging, brought together Armine Afeyan, Executive Director of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative; Shad Begum, Aurora Prize Expert Panel Member and Founder/CEO of the Association for Behavior & Knowledge Transformation (ABKT); Margee Ensign, President of the United States International University, and Julienne Lusenge, 2021 Aurora Prize Laureate and Co-Founder of the Fund for Congolese Women (FFC).



“Better to have the impostor syndrome any day if it keeps you humble, keeps your feet on the ground, keeps you listening, keeps you close to your community, keeps you educating people.”
– Julia Middleton



“One of the aspirations is the importance of elevating the voices and leadership of refugees themselves and people from the communities impacted by conflict.”
– Sasha Chanoff

On June 20, 2023, Aurora held an event titled **"Uniting Humanity on World Refugee Day"** in partnership with RefugePoint and the Network of Engaged International Donors. The discussion was moderated by Sasha Chanoff, Founder and CEO of RefugePoint, and the speakers' list included Armine Afeyan, Executive Director of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, Noubar Afeyan, Co-Founder of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and Founder and CEO of Flagship Pioneering, Jamila Afghani, 2022 Aurora Prize Laureate and President of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Afghanistan, and Mirza Dinnayi, 2019 Aurora Prize Laureate and Co-Founder of Air Bridge Iraq.

Aurora at the UK House of Lords

Jamila Afghani was one of the speakers at the reception at the UK House of Lords, organized on June 22, 2023, to raise awareness of the ongoing work and growing legacy of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative.

The invitees had a chance to hear about the Initiative's impact directly from the Aurora Prize Laureates, as well as Aurora Co-Founder Noubar Afeyan and Chair of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee Lord Ara Darzi.



“Aurora holds the hands of its Laureates and Humanitarians and spreads our stories around the world. We all have the obligation to keep humanity alive.”
– Jamila Afghani
2022 Aurora Prize Laureate

April 24 Events Commemorate the Armenian Genocide

On April 24, 2023, Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, Arman Jilavian, CEO of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, as well as other members of the Aurora team, laid flowers at the Tsitsernakaberd memorial in Yerevan, Armenia, to pay tribute to the eternal memory of those who perished a century ago. They were joined by dozens of Aurora supporters and representatives of the global Gratitude in Action movement.



Later that day, the updated Chronicles of Aurora manuscript **was presented** to the audience at the Matenadaran.

The Chronicles, first introduced five years ago, reflect Aurora's global impact and tell the stories of Aurora Prize Laureates and Humanitarians. The latest addition to this unique masterpiece – the title page for the story of 2022 Aurora Prize Laureate Jamila Afghani – was designed by the children studying at the Art of Flowering miniature studio that operates at the museum.

In Memory of Benjamin Ferencz

On April 7, 2023, human rights activist and global ambassador of the Aurora Prize Benjamin Ferencz passed away. This world-famous American lawyer joined the Selection Committee of the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity as its Honorary Co-Chair in 2019. He was the last of the investigators who had worked to hold the Nazis accountable for the crimes committed during World War II. Benjamin Ferencz dedicated his life to fighting for human rights and global peace, making it his mission to promote the establishment of an international rule of law. **He will be dearly missed by Aurora's community.**



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