

Welcome to this year's first edition of the **GRATITUDE IN ACTION** newsletter, which recaps the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative's developments quarterly. For more regular updates, please follow us on [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



We are excited to inform you that Aurora will hold a special series of events on **May 8-10, 2024** in Los Angeles, CA. The events, including the 2024 Aurora Prize Ceremony and the Human Rights and Humanitarian Forum, are being organized in partnership with The Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA Law and co-chaired by Dr. Noubar Afeyan, Co-Founder of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, Founder and CEO of Flagship Pioneering, and Co-Founder and Chairman of Moderna, and Dr. Eric Esrailian, UCLA professor and Chief of the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases. Dr. Esrailian, also an Emmy-nominated film producer and entrepreneur, led the efforts to establish The Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA in 2017.

Hold your seat for this exciting series of events and this exclusive opportunity to meet some of the world's most visionary changemakers and humanitarians

**Visit the event page
and register**



Aloe Blacc

Aloe Blacc to Perform at Aurora Prize Ceremony

Aurora is pleased to announce a special performance by [Aloe Blacc](#) at the 2024 Aurora Prize Ceremony in LA. Aloe Blacc, Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter, known for hit songs "Wake Me Up", "I Need a Dollar" and "The Man," will perform his new anthem "SHINE" in honor of Aurora Humanitarians. Blacc has long been involved in philanthropy, extending his commitment to social issues through his partnership with the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative.

2024 Aurora Humanitarians

The three Aurora Humanitarians shortlisted for the 2024 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity were announced at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) annual meeting in New York City in September 2023. One of the outstanding individuals below will be named the next Aurora Prize Laureate during the Ceremony.



[Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja](#)
Bahrain / Denmark

A human rights advocate who has been fearlessly defending the most vulnerable communities in Bahrain.



[Nasrin Sotoudeh](#)
Iran

A human rights defender representing Iranian opposition activists, young prisoners, and women's rights activists.



[Denis Mukwege](#)
Democratic Republic of the Congo

A gynecologist helping survivors of sexual violence and advocating for the elimination of rape as a weapon of war.

The Human Rights and Humanitarian Forum

The Human Rights and Humanitarian Forum will begin with a tribute to the **2024 Aurora Humanitarians**. Plenary and breakout sessions will be held on the global healthcare crisis, forced displacement, climate change, the right to education, AI, philanthropy, and gender justice. Our distinguished lineup of speakers has many notable names, including **Dana Graber Ladek**, Chief of Mission of IOM Mexico; **Ahilan Arulanantham**, Professor from Practice and Faculty Co-Director, Center for Immigration Law & Policy at UCLA Law; and **Tlaleng Mofokeng**, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, among other influential voices.



Hamdi Ulukaya
Chobani Founder

Aurora Welcomes Chobani Founder Hamdi Ulukaya

Hamdi Ulukaya, Founder and CEO of Chobani and Founder of the Tent Partnership for Refugees, **has joined the Aurora Prize Selection Committee**. The prominent entrepreneur and business leader is recognized for his philanthropic impact and advocacy for refugees worldwide. In his new role Mr. Ulukaya will help other distinguished members of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee to choose the Aurora Prize Humanitarians and Laureate.

“Aurora recognizes power of one individual on the world, and I look forward to joining this esteemed group to help uncover and showcase the courageous work of unsung humanitarian heroes around the world.”

Hamdi Ulukaya

2023–2024 Young Aurora Winner

On March 18, 2024, during the Aurora Dialogues Online event titled “Facing Reality: Acknowledging Community Challenges,” UWC Changshu China’s Enlightenment project was proclaimed **the winner of the 2023–2024 Young Aurora competition**. This

year's winning team will be awarded an impressive \$10,000 prize to help grow their project aimed at empowering rural youth from underprivileged backgrounds. The jury was so impressed with all the projects that two runners-up will also receive a small grant to start their crowdfunding.



"Young Aurora is a reminder of the importance of positive action and the small steps that we can take to find solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges."

Faith Abiodun, Executive Director of UWC International

Session Coverage: [2023–2024 Young Aurora Winner](#)

2023–2024 Young Aurora Winner: [Video on YouTube](#)

Meet Our Board of Directors

The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative is honored to present the members of its Board of Directors. Coming from diverse backgrounds in business, public service, philanthropy, and communications, their combined expertise and passion for making a meaningful difference is instrumental in steering our initiative towards achieving its goals and effecting lasting change in communities facing adversities worldwide.



Noubar Afeyan



Alice Greenwald



Eric Esraillian



Anna Afeyan



Ara Darzi



Anthony Barsamian



Laura Kline



Arman Jilavian

Giving Hope to the Women of Congo

Ms. Masika Kitsali Eve was one of the victims of a terrorist attack in eastern Congo. She struggles to forget the violent assault that forced her to flee her village and abandon everything.



Ms. Masika
Kitsali Eve
in D.R. Congo

Thanks to **2021 Aurora Prize Laureate Julienne Lusenge and the Fund for Congolese Women**, she received support that not only restored her hope but also empowered her to rebuild and move forward. Besides training on the active participation of women in sustainable peace efforts and decision-making processes, Masika was equipped with essential agricultural tools and seeds, enabling her to cultivate land.

"The guidance and supervision I received have been instrumental in rebuilding my life. May God bless these compassionate souls who have extended their help to us in our time of need."

Masika Kitsali Eve

The 2024 Aurora Prize Laureate

will be announced in **May 2024** in Los Angeles, California

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