



For Immediate Release

Nanaimo Human Rights Leader Represents Canada At Summit In Turkey

(April 11, 2022 Nanaimo, BC) A Youth Summit in Istanbul, Turkey brings together 150+ participants to promote peace amid rising human rights challenges. Nanaimo's Blaise Hunter was selected to represent Canada and speak on her advocacy work with women's reproductive health rights. The US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights hosted a global [Youth Summit](#) in Istanbul April 1-4 to bring peace through education. The Youth Summit had representatives from over 50 countries in attendance including young leaders that were selected among thousands to represent their nation. The most awaited event of the year, the [USIDHR](#) Youth Summit 2022 held in the heart of Istanbul did not disappoint with over 150 participants coming to share their passion for human rights advocacy and diplomacy.

The Summit program opened with a welcoming session featuring international guests such as Queen Mother, the Ambassador of Goodwill for Africa at the United Nations, Hon. Gentiny Ngobila Mbaka, Governor of Kinshasa - Democratic Republic of Congo, Sheikh Kasem Bader, President of the Universal Peace Council, H.E. Hussain Ismail, Minister for Youth, Sports, and Community Empowerment from Maldives, UNICEF representatives, and diplomats. They were joined by Av. Turan Hançerli, Mayor of Avcilar Municipality, who welcomed the distinguished guests and the initiative by the US Institute to host the Youth Summit in the Avcilar area. The guest speakers were followed by an introductory session led by the founder of USIDHR and international human rights law specialist, Ms. Isabelle Vladioiu, who presented a summary of the non-profit's past successful events and charity programs to inspire young leaders into future action. "When USIDHR was founded, it was my goal to make human rights education increasingly accessible to all. Education is the most sustainable means of developing societies and creating long-lasting peace," said the Founder of USIDHR, Isabelle Vladioiu.





Award-Winning Humanitarian

Over the course of two days, one by one youth delegates then took the stage to present their work in the human rights field and their impact in the community, followed by panel discussions moderated by the USIDHR Board of Directors, which gave attendees a further opportunity to introduce themselves on an international stage. In addition to the opportunity created for young people from over 50 countries to share their voices on the international stage, the uniqueness of this summit was in training these young people to become Human Rights Leaders. During the two days, various experts from the USIDHR founder, diplomats, human rights specialists, lawyers, and businesspeople trained the participants, and at the end, all those present received the Human Rights Leader certificate from the US Institute of Diplomacy Human Rights. The aim of these training sessions was to give future leaders the tools and knowledge to go back into their communities and promote human rights education for all.

“It was an incredible honour to represent my country and highlight the work I’m doing with my non-profit group: Footprints. It is my mission to bring awareness to the mental health effects of infertility and pregnancy loss and make a positive impact. Women’s Rights Are Human Rights.”

Blaise is an author, copywriter, multi-award-winning humanitarian, international speaker, fertility expert, certified human rights advocate, Mother of Purpose, and Breaker of Chains. She is a change agent for women’s rights. Blaise’s mission is to shake up the status quo and right the wrongs of this world. Her “disruption leads to inclusion” approach is making an impact wherever she goes. Blaise founded the Heroine Movement to compel women to draw their swords and breathe fire on this world. She also established the non-profit organization, Footprints Infertility & Pregnancy Loss Support Initiative. After experiencing three miscarriages, she decided to bring awareness to this taboo topic and inject more empathy into the frontlines. She hand-makes mental health support bags for grieving parents the moment their trauma happens. Blaise is on a crusade to change the medical system one hospital at a time and put the care back into healthcare.





Award-Winning Humanitarian

"It was a surreal experience to break the silence barriers on women's reproductive health rights and it be so well received," stated Hunter. "Men and women connected with my story, and they entered a portal of empathy to a vital issue globally. When we can connect to the hearts of humanity, we become united. Meeting other advocates and learning about all the meaningful social justice projects taking place around the world inspired me to do more, be more, and become more. We all play an essential role in moving the needle for positive change."

Blaise plans to leverage her training and certification to further her efforts in bringing awareness and healing to grieving parents. She is meeting with various groups around Vancouver Island on possible collaborations and is hopeful to expand her mandate with Footprints. Blaise also offers human rights consulting to businesses and groups who are wanting to improve gender issues in the workplace. She holds educational workshops to teach employers how to create women's rights policies and procedures within their companies. Blaise also brings awareness to the staff on what their rights are regarding mental health, pay gap issues, infertility, miscarriage, and loss. Blaise is a bridge between employer and employee. A better informed and functional business creates a better working environment. It's a win-win.

About USIDHR:

US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights (USIDHR) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Washington, DC. Its main purpose is to advance education for all. Through its EduforEveryChild program, USIDHR helps kids at risk of poverty go to school by supporting their education for an entire year. So far, they have helped hundreds of kids go to school by awarding them the Edu-box containing school supplies, materials, and necessities to go to school. USIDHR also provides online courses and training on human rights, human trafficking, diplomatic protocol and etiquette, and business consulting. Other programs include Let Her Lead, an initiative aimed at empowering young women through education and training, and Religious Pluralism for promoting religious freedom for all.



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Transformational
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*"Rosalyn brings insights, solutions,
power & flair to the stage"*

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PROFILE

Rosalyn Fung is a Transformational Leadership Business Coach, Facilitator, and Trainer of the Flourishing Workplace Program. With over a decade of neuroscience experience, she mentors CEOs, Founders, Business Owners, and Entrepreneurs to stop energy leaks, optimize their leadership skills, and cultivate deeper connections and satisfaction in their love life, family, and personal and professional relationships.

As a former Psychologist, Rosalyn draws from her experience to help people overcome roadblocks and rewrite their narrative, delving into the depths to uncover the root causes of barriers and trains people how to rewire the mind for unstoppable success along with enhancing their mental wealth. Renowned as a sought-after speaker, Rosalyn combines bold energy with profound concepts to demonstrate how to elevate, energize, and expand our capacity for transformative growth.

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CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL, ALAN MACDONALD ANNOUNCES ELECTION INTENTIONS

For Release, Thursday, September 8, 2022

Collaboration, partnerships, and a commitment to improving livability are the bywords of new Council candidate, Alan MacDonald as he announced his candidacy on September 8.

“I’ve been eager to get started on this campaign for some time,” stated Macdonald, a twenty year plus veteran of corporate and government relations. He brings years of achievements in community development areas such as housing, infrastructure, mental health, social services and economic development initiatives in his work with Kwumut Lelum.

Alan’s background also provides many reasons to consider his candidacy as a ‘small business advocate.’ “I come from a small business-focused family and have operated a small business, while working in an environment of collaborative leadership with First Nations. Among my proudest achievements is the success of the Salish Storm Hockey Association.”

“I want to take some of the energy I’ve invested in my work, my small business, and my sports initiatives and put that into my community to start paying back for everything Nanaimo has done for me. I want to work on restoring citizen’s sense of safety and social order, because we should feel safe in our neighbourhoods and the city’s own studies state that is not the case right now. We need to manage growth as one of Canada’s fastest growing cities. We have to strive to make housing more affordable for everyone in the community in order to maintain our attractiveness as a great place to start a business and grow a family.”

“The themes of livability, safe streets, housing and economic prosperity will be featured prominently in my campaign and my term in office. I feel if I keep the focus on those four issues, I will be successful on Council and the community will certainly benefit if we can all work together on those priorities.”

Alan Macdonald lives in north Nanaimo, is married with a daughter who just graduated from VIU, a son who is an avid hockey player whom he coaches and when not working in the community can usually be found on a sports field, on the ice or in a lacrosse box somewhere. Alan intends to be as open to community engagement during his Council term as he will be during the next several weeks of campaigning for a seat on Council.

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