

HOUSE OF WISDOM 2.0

بيت الحكمة 2.0

Ideas Beyond Borders' Flagship Translation Program

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THE PROBLEM

Extremist ideology targets vulnerable people who frequently don't have access to global ideas, freedom of expression, or the right to speak, look, and act differently. These freedoms are included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19, but are often neglected or outrightly suppressed by authoritarian regimes and those seeking control.

Eighteen of 23 countries included in the MENA region had serious threats to freedom of the press, with MENA countries dominating the top 10% of media-oppressed countries. Only .6% of online content is available in Arabic. In contrast, Arabic is the 4th most spoken language among internet users.

OUR PROGRAM

The original House of Wisdom, or Bayt Al Hikma, refers to a Golden Age in the Middle East when ideas were openly shared and scientific discovery dominated conversation in the world's biggest library in Baghdad. Our program aims to rekindle the pursuit of knowledge, enlightenment ideas, and scientific revelation across the MENA region. Arabic-speaking youth need access to inspirational counter-narratives to extremism. They need the freedom of thought and expression to access, consider, and express empowering ideas on civil rights, freedom of religion, women's rights and more.

Ideas Beyond Borders is igniting a movement for a positive change across the Middle East and North Africa. We're empowering youth to seek knowledge, think critically, and transcend the barriers to education that hold them back. These youth are our translators, our readers, and our hope for a better future in the region.

In the face of considerable adversity and threats from authoritarian regimes and extremists, our translators are proud to be challenging the status quo and helping MENA youth to form their own voices and identities by exploring diverse ideas. Despite the crushing human rights abuses and suppression of free speech plaguing the region, they've worked with us to translate topics such as the civil rights movement, mental & reproductive health, women's rights, and more.

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What are you translating?

We translate key works from some of the world's most renowned authors, as well as articles on Wikipedia across a diverse range of topics, magazines and websites that align with our core mission of spreading knowledge and enlightenment values to the Middle East.

Who translates the content?

Once content is selected and rights are granted from the appropriate parties (often publishing houses & our authors themselves), we work with a network of paid & volunteer translators across the Middle East and North Africa. These translators have a personal stake in seeing our mission succeed; they're young men and women that desperately want their home countries to have freedom from extremism and oppression.

We strive to empower each of our translators; to this end, we've partnered with Wikimedia Levante to certify our translators at different levels, helping them access better jobs and better pay.

Who chooses content?

Content is selected by our Middle-East-based translations team, our illustrious advisory board that's filled with world-renowned scientists, policy-makers, academics, and business leaders, as well as Ideas Beyond Borders' staff.

How do you distribute content?

All of our content is free. Our Arabic facebook page has over 67,000 followers and we grow by hundreds of followers a day. We use this page to publish links to articles we've translated, as well as keep our Arabic-speaking readers updated on program progress! In late spring of 2019, we'll also be launching an online library that will house our books, multimedia on interesting topics, and will serve a digital hub of knowledge for our target audience. All of our content has been created and distributed with our end-user in mind; our platform and posts have been optimized for mobile since few in our target audience have access to desktops, laptops, or other methods to access content online.

We've had overwhelmingly positive feedback from youth and young adults in the region, and our growth demonstrates the hunger for access to ideologies that push back against extremist narratives of hate and violence.

HOUSE OF WISDOM 2.0 FAQ



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Ideas Beyond Borders' Flagship Translation Program

SUCCESS METRICS

830+

Articles Translated

850,000

Words Translated

10+

Books Translated

120+

Countries Reached

25+

Translators Certified

Key Books Translated/Currently Being Translated

Waking Up by Sam Harris

Letter to A Christian Nation by Sam Harris

Islam and the Future of Tolerance by Sam Harris & Maajid Nawaz

Lying by Sam Harris

Free Will by Sam Harris

Enlightenment Now by Steven Pinker

Radical by Maajid Nawaz

The End of Faith by Sam Harris

I Wonder by Annaka Harris

Books Acquired/In the Acquisition Pipeline

The Better Angels of Our Nature by Steven Pinker

The Language Instinct by Steven Pinker

The Blank Slate by Steven Pinker

How the Mind Works by Steven Pinker

Uncovered by Leah Lax

A Sinner in Mecca by Parvez Sharma

Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here by Karima Bennouna

The Hijaz: The First Islamic State by Malik Dahlan

Age of Discover by Chris Kutarna & Ian Goldin

Betraying Spinoza by Rebecca Goldstein

Plato at the Googleplex by Rebecca Goldstein

American Gods by Neil Gaiman

Start Up Rising by Chris Schroeder

Key Topics Translated For Articles

Civil Rights

Women's Rights

Reproductive Health

Mental Health

Secularism

Scientific Principles

Evolution

Philosophy



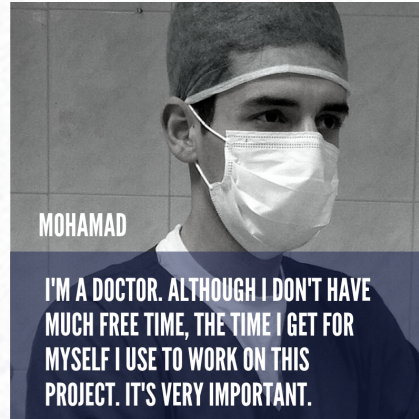
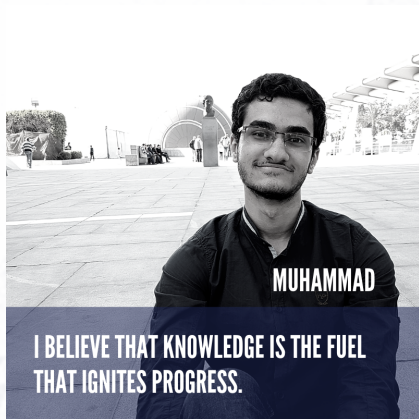
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WHAT OUR TRANSLATORS ARE SAYING...



WHAT OUR READERS ARE SAYING...

"Excellent work! Thanks to everyone who contributes to the publication of this valuable information!" -- Samir

"[The House of Wisdom Program] is restoring awareness in a nation that has lost its consciousness." -- Mohamed

"Great project to enrich Arab content and spread real knowledge to youth of different countries!" -- Alber

"A constructive initiative that ignites a light in a dark tunnel...support it with all your strength!" -- Haroon

"This is exactly what we need because unfortunately, Arab scientific content doesn't ignite the passion of young people learn scientific topics... thank you for your wonderful efforts!" -- Mahmoud