



## PERSONAL DETAILS

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## PROFILE

Since 1988 - activist of democratic movement in Azerbaijan, one of the pioneers of peace building efforts in the resolution of Karabakh conflict.

Most important directions of activity: peace building, conflict resolution, human rights protection and democracy building.

Co-chair of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (HCA) International - since 2000-2012; chair of the National Committee of HCA (ANC HCA) in Azerbaijan since 1992. The HCA is an international network of non-governmental organizations and individuals working for peace, diversity, and human rights in Europe, Middle East and Central Asia.

The Olof Palme Peace Prize (1993), The United States-European Union Marshall Prize for Democracy Building (1998), Netherlands Helsinki Committee Civil Society Award (2015).

## EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS:

<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Qualification</i>	<i>College</i>	<i>Class or level of qualification</i>
1997	International legislation on human rights , Oxford, New College		
1999	Women and Public Policy Program of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and Hunt Alternatives in Boston.		
1988-1990	Post-graduate studies at The Institute of History at The Academy of Science of Azerbaijan and at Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies		
1973-1978	Master degree History, Baku State University		

## PRESENT EMPLOYMENT:

2000-2012 Co-chair of International Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (HCA)

### MAIN DUTIES

- 1) coordinating the work of HCA network
- 2) enlarging and developing HCA's international relations with different structures
- 3) initiating and managing joint projects with different member organizations
- 4) Promoting of membership of HCA as associative member of INGO of Council of Europe
- 5) Establishment of Middle East and Central Asia Citizens' Assembly

1992-now Chair of Azerbaijan National Committee of Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (ANC HCA)

### MAIN DUTIES:

- 1) coordinating the work of the ANC HCA office in Baku
- 2) establishing and maintaining international relations of ANC HCA
- 3) initiating and coordinating of several projects and activities concerning:  
- participation in the peace-building process, promotion of peace-building ideas and promotion of constructive solutions surrounding Karabakh, Osetiya, Abkhazia, Transnistria

- active participation in the process of reconciliation between conflicting sides of above mentioned conflicts
- coordinating civil society efforts to support free and fair elections
- monitoring, assistance and prevention of tortures
- prevention of ethnic conflicts
- addressing and solving issues and problems of refugees, forced migrants and other migrants
- assistance in the search for missing persons, liberation of hostages and war prisoners in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia
- assistance in the process of integration of SC
- promotion and development of third sector in Azerbaijan
- protection of human rights of different groups, preparing cases to be sent to European Court of Human Rights, human rights education
- involving youth into democratization processes and peaceful conflict resolution efforts
- enhancing and establishing intercultural dialogue between the countries of Caucasus, Middle East, Europe and North America
- enhancing and supporting women's participation in public life

#### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS ON CHAIR OF ANC HCA AND CO-CHAIR OF HCA POSTS:

- 1) participation in the initiation of the peace building process between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 1992 as a result of the visit to Armenia as a member of International Peace Caravan (it was the first time when Azerbaijani came to Armenia after the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict). The visit was a major breakthrough at that time – the role of public diplomacy had risen, women active in social life were involved in the peace building activities
- 2) awarded, altogether with an Armenian colleague Anahit Bayandour from HCA Armenia, with the Olof Palme Peace Prize for their work in trying to break the enemy images and their initiation of the peace dialogue between warring parties of Karabakh conflict (1993)
- 3) awarded with the joint United States-European Union Marshall Prize for Democracy Building, signed by Bill Clinton, Tony Blair and Jack Saunter (1998)
- 4) initiative in establishment of a) The Council of Non-governmental, Political and International Organisation on Election Monitoring in Azerbaijan 'For Free and Fair Elections', created as a consultative organ to facilitate fair elections in Azerbaijan in 2003 and b) The Coordinating Advisory Council (2005) coordinated by Helsinki Citizens' Assembly; initiative in establishment of

Azerbaijan House (2002) – a HCA structure aiming at promoting the idea of polyethnic nation and rights of all the citizens irrespective of their ethnic belonging

5) co-founder of Women Coalition 1325 with membership of women from governmental structures of Azerbaijan Republic and non-governmental organizations

6) initiative in establishment of HCA-MECA (Middle East Citizens' Assembly), [People's Initiative for Peace, Progress and Political Pluralism in the Broader Middle East Region](#), an unique east-west network working for the intercultural mutual understanding and cooperation, member of MECA Founding Coordinating Council March 2005

7) was chosen in May 1999 as a local partner of Women Waging Peace, a global initiative of the Women and Public Policy Program of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and Hunt Alternatives in Boston. In 2002 was chosen as a Regional coordinator of Women Waging Peace.

8) an effective work in the release of over 500 prisoners of war and hostages of Karabakh conflict as a result of cooperation between Helsinki Citizens' Assembly groups in South Caucasus, citizens' diplomacy efforts of the chairs of the groups and substantial support of international organisations.

9) initiative in establishment of The Committee of Protection of Freedom of Speech (2007), engaged in the protection of rights of the imprisoned journalists and monitoring the mass media situation, elected the chair of the Committee 2007-2011

10) partnership in several international peace forums and initiatives (Ben Lemond Peace Process, Women Waging Peace, IKV PAXChristy, Dartmouth conference, )

11) becoming an acting chair of the Azerbaijan National Committee on European Integration. International Conference on the EU - CoE Policy on Human Rights: Azerbaijan Perspectives in European Integration Processes (2007) was held.

12) in partnership with CMI (Helsinki/Brussels) establishment of The Experts groups for Black Sea Peace Network

13) in partnership with IKV/PaxChristy (Netherlands) establishment of The Independent Civil Minsk Process (ICMP) which is a platform for negotiation process between the Armenian and Azerbaijani experts of civil societies of both countries (2009)

14) study tours and negotiations on Karabakh conflict resolution were held on Aland Islands ( 2005 , continued in 2010 and 2014)

15. agreement and signing in frame of ICMP the Common Armenian-Azerbaijani Declaration on Karabakh conflict resolution in Tbilisi – so called Tbilisi Declaration (2010)

16. Expert of Council of Europe for the Monitoring of HR situation in Azerbaijan 2011

17. becoming a chair of the Committee of protection of arrested editor-in-chief of Talish Sado newspaper Hilal Mammadov since 2012

18. becoming a chair of the Conflict Resolution Committee of Azerbaijani Women's Development organization, which was inspired by Faith Morningstar a developmental psychologist, spouse of the US Ambassador to Azerbaijan 2012 -2014

19. initiative in establishment of Coalition of nongovernmental organization For Transparent and Fair Elections in Azerbaijan 2013

20. initiative in establishment of the Coordination Council of the Committees of protection of the rights of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience 2013

22. Promote to reset up the Civil Society Defence Committee January 2014

21. Member of Joint Working Group of Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations on HR problems in Azerbaijan 2014

22. Holding in Baku in partnership with Ebert Foundation the conference, dedicated to 10 December – International HR Day with participation of Azerbaijani and Georgian HR defenders – December 2014

23. Organizing by support of UK Embassy to Azerbaijan Study tour for Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian women to Northern Ireland studying the experience of women's organizations in the development of Northern Ireland society in post-conflict period March 2015

24. Receiving Netherlands Helsinki Committee Civil Society Award September 2016

25. Holding in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Foundation the International Conference in Tbilisi. Announcing of the Regional Agora of trusted think tanks November 2016.

26. Initialization meeting with Georgian and Armenian colleagues to establish South Caucasus Women Experts Council in partnership with UN Women December 2016

27. Coordinating of the work of Civil Society Defense Committee January-June 2017

28. Establishment Initiative Media for HR, open facebook and youtube page Haqlarini Bil (Know your rights) January 2017-currently
29. Initiative to set up Youtube and facebook pages Social Media for Peace and site Forpeace.network with Youth for Peaceful settlement of Karabakh conflict September 2017- 2018
30. Initiative in transformation of the Committee of Civil Society Defense Committee to the Committee Solidarity for the Justice June 2018-currently
31. Initiative to establish Azerbaijani-Georgia Forum to manage the problems between two friendly countries (start from crisis around monastery complex David Garedji) July 2019
32. In cooperation with ICCN (Georgia)-GPPAC (UN) Joint Program Women Mediators of the South Caucasus – November 2019
33. HCA Movement Against Arms Initiative raised at the UN and Council of Europe during 2020
34. HCA presentation in CoE of the development of the Global Civil Society April 2020
35. HCA program update Moral politic versus real politic - 2020
36. Call for a Women's Movement Against Arms at the Council of Europe Conference on International NGO Day 26 of February 2021
37. No more war Citizens' Assembly International HCA initiative was launched November 2021
38. Cooperation with ICCN on program Network of Women-mediators of SC for truth, sincerity and trust 2022-2023
39. Regional SC discussions and bilateral Armenian-Azerbaijani online peace negotiations were provided May-June 2023
40. Reintegration program for Karabakh Armenians in Azerbaijan was prepared by experts of Karabakh Council of HCA Azerbaijan
41. Proposals for the normalization of the situation in Karabakh region was prepared and publicized through media : EKho Kavkaza, Novosti Kavkaza GSAC, Meydan TV, Perekrestok and other media resources  
August 2023
42. Establishment of the **Peace Agora**, serving as a Coordination and Advisory Council for the peaceful resolution of conflict. The strategic aim is to transform the peacebuilding work into a coordinated and managed process June 2024

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:**

1989-2001	Member of Bureau and Deputy Chair of Social Democratic Party of Azerbaijan
	Main personal achievement: Organisation of The Coordinating Council for human rights commissions of different political parties
1988-1990	Member of Initiative Group for Popular Front Establishment
	Main personal achievement: Establishment of The Commission for Refugees and Ethnic Minorities' Rights
1978-1990	Scientific Officer, Azerbaijani Academy of Science
	Researching on the system of the cities in Medieval Ages in The Middle East

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

<b>Nationality</b>	Azerbaijani	<b>Marital Status:</b>	widow
<b>Languages</b>	Azeri, English, Russian, Turkish, Farsi (reading)		
<b>Computer Skills:</b>	Microsoft Office, e-mail, Internet, Excel Conflict management, Peace and Gender, Team building, International legislation on HR		

**AWARDS:**

- 1993** Olof Palme International Peace Prize Winner;
- 1998** EU and US Government Award for the Efforts in Construction of Civil Society and Democracy holder
- 2015** Civil Society Award for HR and Peace Activity by Netherlands Helsinki Committee Winner