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HARDWIRED GLOBAL HOSTS A GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE ON PLURALISM IN MOROCCO

Essaouira, MOROCCO - Hardwired Global, in collaboration with Essaouira Mogador Association, is hosting a **Roundtable on the Promotion of Pluralism through Education** in Essaouira, Morocco on March 2-4, 2020. It is the first conference to not only address the challenge of how to help children become resilient against extremist thinking, but to provide models and resources that have been tested and proven by stakeholders to make a positive impact among children.

Ministries of Education from across Africa, the Middle East, and other regions working to address hate, intolerance, and violence among children will gather to share their experiences with Hardwired's teacher-training program. Through this regional dialogue, stakeholders will share and develop best practices relating to the promotion of pluralism and respect for diversity among students in countries that are facing growing extremism.

Tina Ramirez, the Founder of Hardwired Global, notes that "Hardwired's approach to resolving and mitigating religion-related conflict is grounded in our work across more than 30 countries in diverse regions around the world. We recognize that understanding the root causes of conflict — the fears, misconceptions and biases held by those involved — is integral to long-term resolution." She continued, "We look forward to sitting with leaders from around the globe and exploring how, together, we can utilize the education system to promote pluralism and better support students in their journeys to combat extremism."

Educators who have tested Hardwired's curricula in their schools as well as officials, who supported the implementation among schools in their country, will offer best practices to help other leaders gathered learn more about the ways they can implement the program in their country. Participants will contribute to the development of best practices for promoting pluralism and respect for diversity through education. Throughout the programme, Hardwired will showcase lessons and materials developed in each country, including a series of children's books. They will also feature stories of impact on schools and communities through documentaries that will be released to the public.

Hardwired Global is a non-governmental organization with Special Consultative Status at the United Nations that works to promote respect for the dignity and freedom of all people through education. We have experience working with diverse communities in more than 30 countries, and the impact of our work has been presented to leaders in the UN, EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, African Union, and the U.S. Congress. In 2018, Hardwired released a report on the impact of their work in Morocco, Lebanon and Iraq. The work offered valuable insights into how their program

could increase respect for girls, reduce violence in schools, and help children build resiliency against extremist thinking.

Essaouira Mogador Association was founded in 1992 by Mr. Andre Azoulay to promote dialogue between cultures and peace between peoples. The Association leads efforts on programs and events in Essaouira — a historically religiously and ethnically diverse region in the Kingdom of Morocco — to build friendship and solidarity among Moroccans and its visitors.

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