



**TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS
INTERNATIONAL - GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS**
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TAPS International to Host Third Annual International Working Group of Organizations Caring for Families of Military/Conflict Deceased

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Washington, DC – The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) International will conduct the Third Annual International Working Group of Organizations Caring for Families of Military/Conflict Deceased 8-10 December 2020 sponsored by the Embassy of the State of Qatar. The three day conference brings together the leaders of organizations from around the world focused on providing hope and healing to all those grieving the death of a loved one and building stable societies for the surviving victims of conflict.

Participating organizations include representatives from Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Ukraine, Georgia, Great Britain, Colombia, Yemen, Israel, United States, Nepal, Nigeria, and other nations where conflict has impacted the lives and left traumatically bereaved women and children. Delegates from more than 24 countries will participate in sharing best practices, learning from leading international subject matter experts, and creating a strong community of collaboration among organization leaders. Visit taps.org/international and taps.org/international/events/2020/dc for more information.

Key to the International Working Group will be the ratification of the global Declaration (included in this advisory) made by representatives of war widows, orphans and all bereaved survivors of conflict loss. This gathering represents the opportunity for leaders caring for those most profoundly impacted by conflict to go beyond borders, rise above political or religious differences, transcend language barriers and unite with one voice in hope and healing.

Messages, presentations and keynote remarks will be made by His Excellency Meshal Al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the United States; Ms. Tessy Ojo, CEO of the Diana Award, London; Ms. Annika Hilding-Norberg, Geneva Centre for Security Policy Peace Building Platform, Geneva, Switzerland; Bonnie Carroll, TAPS International, Washington, DC; Michelle Quinn, International Stability Operations Association, Washington, DC; Ea Suzanne Akaasha, Technical Advisor, IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support, Copenhagen, Denmark; and Deputy Minister Munera Yousafzada, Ministry of Defense, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Media interviews with organization leaders and surviving families along with opportunities to attend sessions are available by writing to global@taps.org.

Delegate Representatives:

Afghanistan	Israel	Philippines
Australia	Iraq	Poland
Canada	Kenya	Qatar
Colombia	Kurdistan	Turkey
Cote d'Ivoire	Libya	Ukraine
Egypt	Nigeria	UAE
Georgia	New Zealand	Uganda
India	Nepal	United Kingdom

DECEMBER 8 DAY ONE:

- 0900 GMT WELCOME TO INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP DELEGATES
Bonnie Carroll, President, TAPS International
Embassy of the State of Qatar, Welcome Message
- 1000 GMT SESSION TWO | HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY IN AFGHANISTAN
Deputy Minister Yousufzada, Afghanistan Deputy Minister of Defense (Kabul)
Salma SeraJ, Director, Afghanistan Programs, TAPS International (Washington, DC)
Bushra Farkish, Manager, Afghanistan Programs, TAPS International (Kabul)
- 1100 GMT SESSION THREE | CULTIVATING LEADERS FOR PEACE
Annika Hilding Norberg, Head of Peace Operations and Peacebuilding, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (Geneva)
- 1200 GMT BREAK
- 1300 GMT SESSION FOUR | INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
Delegate Country Reports: Asia
- 1400 GMT SESSION FIVE | LOVE WINS: CHOOSING HOPE AND HEALING
Sahale Eubank, Free Burma Rangers (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 1500 GMT SESSION SIX | BUILDING RESILIENCE WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID
Ea Suzanne Akaasha, Technical Advisor, IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support (Copenhagen, Denmark)

DECEMBER 9 DAY TWO:

- 0900 GMT SESSION ONE | SHARED STUDIOS; BRINGING SURVIVORS TOGETHER
Augustine Achu, Curator, TAPS International Shared Studios
(Washington, DC)
- 1000 GMT SESSION FOUR | INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
Delegate Country Reports: Australia and Europe
- 1100 GMT SESSION THREE | YOUTH MENTORSHIP FOR STABLE SOCIETIES
Tessy Ojo, CEO, The Diana Award (London)
- 1200 GMT BREAK
- 1300 GMT SESSION FOUR | INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
Delegate Country Reports: Europe
- 1400 GMT SESSION FOUR | INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
Delegate Country Reports: Middle East
- 1500 GMT SESSION SIX | BUILDING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE
Dr. Ann Brodsky, Professor and Chair of Psychology, University of
Maryland, Afghanistan and Resilience (Baltimore, Maryland, USA)

DECEMBER 10 DAY THREE:

- 0900 GMT SESSION ONE | THE WAY FORWARD
Delegate Discussion & IWG Declaration Review
- 1000 GMT SESSION TWO | INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
Delegate Country Reports: Africa
- 1100 GMT SESSION THREE | WOMEN AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT DURING
AND AFTER CONFLICT
Dr. Ana Belén Perianes Bermúdez, Postdoctoral Researcher, The University of
Institute General Gutierrez Mellado – UNED (Spain)
- 1200 GMT BREAK
- 1300 GMT SESSION FOUR | INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
Delegate Country Reports: Africa and the Americas

- 1400 GMT SESSION FIVE | WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY
Michelle Quinn, International Stability Operations Association, Women
Peace and Security (Washington, DC, USA)
- 1500 GMT SESSION SIX | HELPING CHILDREN COPE WITH GRIEF
Dr. Tina Barrett, TAPS Advisory Board (Missoula, Montana, USA)
Andy McNiel, TAPS Youth Programs
- 1545 GMT CLOSING SESSION | SIGNING OF DECLARATION & FAREWELL

DECLARATION OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF FAMILIES OF MILITARY/CONFLICT DECEASED

Be it known by all, we the families of those who have died in the cause of freedom, stand together in the light of justice against all those threatening the peace of our world. We unite with great purpose and with pride in our heroes' selfless service.

We pledge to continue as their living legacies in honor of their sacrifice to heal our hearts and raise future generations in peace, freedom, and stability.

The families of our deceased military are hereby united as a global community interdependent upon one another. We commit to go beyond our borders, rise above political or religious differences, transcend language barriers and unite with one voice in hope and healing.

We recognize the need for a solid and sustained network of support and to maximize resources offered to all who are grieving the death of a military loved one. We stand together in our acknowledgment of the universality of grief, our respect for all who have served and died, and our dedication to peace.

In honor of our fallen heroes, our military deceased, and our martyrs, we will raise our voices as one global community, representing the families of all those who have given their lives in the cause of freedom.

For the support of this Declaration, we mutually pledge to each other our honor for those who have served and died and our care for their families.

Sponsored by the Embassy of the State of Qatar

