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Awareness with Human Action
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The Network for
Religious and
Traditional
Peacemakers



AHA! Project

Breaking Stereotypes of

Transgender Individuals in Pakistan

A. is a young activist from Pakistan working with diverse youth populations, including young lesbian, gay, transgender and young people living with HIV. With support from the European Union funded AHA! project his initiative called "Hi Voices" he is empowering young community members to become more active in their respective community by providing them a safe cultural space. There they can share their ideas, thoughts, and issues that concern them without any fear of discrimination and stigma. He, along with other young community members, are celebrating and organizing international days, cultural events, and community gatherings to promote a peaceful inclusion of diverse youth populations in every segment of life. So far, he has empowered more than 80 young community members in Pakistan. For instance, in the month of June 2021, he organized a transgender community session on, "Peace is our Pride," where young community members participated, learned the history of the transgender rights movement in Pakistan, followed by making a transgender flag and celebrating pre-trans pride gathering in their safe cultural space. He is working to recognize his "Hi voices" initiative as a legal non-for-profit entity so that they can increase the number of empowered community members to 800.

Stigma and discrimination associated with transgender is pushing young community members to not want, or be able, to access reproductive health and rights facilities, increasing rights violations, and health issues among community members. To address this issue, he has organized community awareness sessions on health and rights and engaged more than 100 community members directly and indirectly. He is also concerned about the recent rise in marginalization, in which some segments of the society are trying to challenge. The Transgender Rights Act of 2018 allows individuals to identify themselves with a self-perceived gender identity.



the "peace is our pride" community during a workshop

For more information on the project, contact the AHA! Project Coordinator at simon.woellekua.fi.



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