

## United Voices 4 Peace presents **TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY**



Syrian Ahmad Joudeh dancing in Palmira

On the occasion of the **World Refugee Day** next June the 20<sup>th</sup> **United Voices 4 Peace**, in collaboration with the European Parliament, has organized the event **Together in Solidarity**.

**Together in Solidarity** will show a performance of Syrian dancer and choreographer **Ahmad Joudeh** on the Esplanade Simone Veil, in front of the European Parliament in Brussels. Joudeh will perform at 13:30h. The dance performance will be followed by some words from Ahmad Joudeh and testimonies by two young refugees.

This initiative aims to share a positive message about the successful integration of refugees throughout the European Union. United Voices 4 Peace strongly believes that arts can play an instrumental role to build bridges between peoples of different background, fostering a culture of understanding, inclusiveness and solidarity.

**Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will give a welcome statement.

UN representatives based in Brussels will also attend the event, sponsored by UNESCO Brussels Liaison Office. "Together in Solidarity" event is part of the celebrations of the European Year of Cultural Heritage and has been granted with the EYCH Label.

### **About Ahmad Joudeh:**



**Ahmad Joudeh** (1990) was born and raised in the Palestinian refugee camp, Yarmouk, in Damascus, Syria. Ever since his childhood, his dream was to be a dancer. Despite intense opposition from some family members and society in general, Ahmad attended dance lessons, often in secret. He was trained at Syria's major dance company the Enana Dance Theatre from 2006 to 2015 and studied at the Damascus based Higher Institute for Dramatic Arts between 2009 and 2016. In his free time, he also taught dancing to children with Down's syndrome and orphans who lost their parents under the civil war. During the summer of 2016, Joudeh visited the demolished ruins of his family home in the Yarmouk refugee camp near Damascus to dance in the place where his relatives had been killed. Dutch documentary filmmaker, Roozbeh Kaboly, realized the 18-minute documentary "Dance or Die". Ted Brandsen, the director of the Dutch National Ballet, saw it, raised the necessary money, organised the visa and a program of study, and brought bring Ahmad Joudeh to Amsterdam. Ahmad Joudeh has been living there since October 2016. + info: <http://www.ahmadjoudeh.com/>

### **About United Voices 4 Peace**

Founded in 2017 the platform **United Voices 4 Peace** fosters the creation of a Universal Culture of Peace through music and the arts. The organization stimulates citizen activation and engagement to Cultural Diplomacy by supporting joint performances and co-creations, artistic trainings, music therapy activities and preservation of cultural heritage. To know more about the organization: <http://www.uv4peace.org/>

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