

**The Egyptian Azza Abdel Hamid wins Takreem Award**  
**for Humanitarian and Civic services in 2016**



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**Cairo, 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Mrs. Azza Abdel Hamid, Chairperson of Wataneya Society for the Development of Orphanages and founder of Nida Society for the rehabilitation of children with sensory communication disorders, won Takreem Award for Humanitarian and Civic services in 2016 for her contributions in the humanitarian field. The 7<sup>th</sup> Award ceremony was held in Cairo on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November at Cairo Opera House. Mrs. Azza is the first Egyptian to win the Takreem Award for Humanitarian and Civic services and fourth Egyptian to be awarded by Takreem since its launch in 2010.

Takreem Award was established by Ricardo Karam in 2010 to identify and honor Arabs who have excelled in their field and inspired others in their quest for cultural, educational, scientific, environmental, humanitarian, social and economic excellence and to highlight Arab endeavors across the globe and raising awareness of Arab accomplishments.

Mrs. Azza said that she never imagined during her voluntary work in the past 20 years that she would be honored with an Arab Award adding that she is very happy for receiving such an important award as Takreem.

Mrs. Azza Abdel Hameed, a grandmother of three children, has dedicated her life to serve the community and contribute to the wellbeing of underprivileged children and youth as a volunteer for more than 20 years. She was always concerned with the psychological well-being, social integration, and equal opportunity for underprivileged children and youth and how to meet the international standards in delivering quality of care and protection to them. Mrs. A. Hameed's ability to identify needs of society and the strong desire to work on the root causes made her major two projects a breakthrough in their respective fields.

In 1997, she founded Nida Society for the rehabilitation of children with sensory communication disorders. She served as a chairperson (a full time volunteer) for over a decade. Nida Society was the first in Egypt to introduce the Verbotonal method, teaching children through a holistic approach how to communicate without the use of sign language and including them in mainstream education. It also provides rehabilitation of a cochlear implant through a holistic approach. She also introduced the first rehabilitation center for deafblind.

Nida Society which started as a registered NGO in Cairo under the Ministry of Social Solidarity with three children is now the first nursery for children with hearing impairment licensed by the Ministry of Education in Egypt. Moreover, in 2016, Nida established a new branch in Alexandria.

Mrs. A. Hameed's passion to help another target group of children and help make a difference in their lives, led her to establish 'Wataneya Society for the Development of Orphanages' in 2008, to address the urgent need for reform of institutional homes in Egypt with a special focus on orphanages. She has started her journey at Wataneya Society with a very strong slogan "Good intentions are not enough" to emphasize the fact that even social issues could be solved through knowledge and scientific methodology.

Wataneya Society for the Development of Orphanages is the first NGO in Egypt that aims at creating equal opportunities for children raised without parental care through developing, applying and advocating for the Quality Standards for

Alternative Care. In June 2014, H.E Ghada Wali, Minister of Social Solidarity issued a ministerial decree No.188, officially mandating the "Quality Standards for Alternative Care" within institutional homes on a national level.

Wataneya was recognized as one of the best 6 practices worldwide for Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment organized by the Dubai Government in cooperation with the UN-Habitat.

Mrs. A. Hameed's still has big dreams for the orphans cause in Egypt and believes nothing is impossible with hard work, perseverance and belief in the cause.