

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2202
November 23, 2021

Dear Zayed Award Judging Committee:

Depicted in the book of Acts as the first Christian martyr, Stephen was distinguished by his faith, grace, and wisdom, tending to the needy as his life's driving purpose. "Mama" Maggie Gobran, founder and CEO of Stephen's Children has made it her life's mission to serve the next generation of Egyptian children. As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I proudly support the nomination of Mama Maggie for the 2022 Zayed Award for Human Fraternity. I stand firm with supporters from around the world in our belief that Mama Maggie is uniquely qualified for this honor.

Throughout the years, I have had the distinct privilege of sitting down with Mama Maggie multiple times to discuss her dedication and service to thousands of impoverished children and their families across Egypt and the Middle East. Her innovative work has promoted peace, solidarity, and support throughout the world.

As a testament to her work, she was named a recipient of the 2019 International Woman of Courage Award presented by the United States Secretary of State. She was also recognized with an Arab Hope Maker Award for work delivering a message of help and care for others. Additionally, in 2018, she received the prestigious Takreem Award where she was honored in Kuwait for her humanitarian work. It is clear from her work that Mama Maggie is a dedicated humanitarian and servant.

Mama Maggie grew up detached from the drastically different lives of the impoverished families of Cairo. After becoming a successful business professional and educator, she traveled to the slums and was taken aback by the despair. Mama Maggie envisioned a more meaningful life, working toward serving the impoverished families of Egypt. Out of this realization, the "Mother of Cairo" was born, founding Stephen's Children in 1989.

Stephen's Children serves the most vulnerable Egyptian children. For over 25 years, Stephen's Children has been nurturing, training, and equipping these children morally, educationally, and spiritually in the poorest areas of Egypt. Now, reaching more than 33,000 children, Stephen's Children offers programs serving all people, including home visits, basic education, vocational training programs and sports camps. Mama Maggie's unwavering servitude, humble spirit, and devout sense of motherhood have allowed her to reach thousands, raising them from the impoverished slums and into the light of opportunity.

Again, I support the nomination of "Mama" Maggie Gobran for the 2022 Zayed Award for Human Fraternity, as she is most deserving of such an award. I hope you see her character as I do: genuine, determined, and selfless, and consider her candidacy with all seriousness. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress