

**Dr Omnia Marzouk from Egypt and UK is elected as the new  
President of Initiatives of Change International**

Ms Omnia Marzouk, UK based paediatrician has been appointed the new President of Initiatives of Change International.

Dr Marzouk is the first woman to hold this post. She succeeds Professor Rajmohan Gandhi, a historian journalist and writer, author of a recent major biography of his grandfather Mahatma Gandhi. Past Presidents include Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun from Algeria, former special advisor to the United Nations Secretary General on Africa; and Mr Cornelio Sommaruga from Switzerland, former President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and presently Honorary President of IofC International.

Dr Marzouk was born in Madrid, and spent her formative early school years in Egypt. She moved to Australia as a teenager and studied medicine at Sydney University while her father served as Egyptian Ambassador. At university she was the first woman to be awarded the Hamilton Mott Scholarship at Wesley College for all round contribution to College life. She obtained her MD thesis, with distinction, from Liverpool University and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (FRCPCH) and a Fellow of the College of Emergency Medicine (FCEM). She has been working as Consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine for 15 years at UK's busiest Children's Emergency Department – Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust in Liverpool. She was Clinical Director of the Emergency Department for 7 years and is currently Associate Medical Director.

Dr Marzouk is an accredited mentor, and has a Diploma in Medical Education and in Advanced Medical Management. She is active in many educational roles serving locally on the executive of the School of Paediatrics as RCPCH Regional advisor. She is currently RCPCH National Chair for Paediatric Emergency Medicine training and has taken part in two RCPCH "Train the Trainers" delegations to Jordan and Kurdistan. She has received local, regional and national awards in recognition of her different roles. Dr Marzouk speaks Arabic, English and French.

Dr Marzouk met IofC while at school in Australia and has been actively involved since. For many years, she has been particularly involved in intercultural and interfaith dialogue within the UK as well as taking part in similar initiatives in countries in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. She is committed to building bridges of understanding between the west and the Muslim/Arab world.

"With an Arab Spring still unfolding to an unpredictable endpoint, an economy in crisis and many societies holding pluralism, conflict, and extremism in tension," says Dr Marzouk, "nothing lasting can be built without solid moral foundations and a desire by people to live differently and exemplify the changes they want to see in society."

Initiatives of Change (IofC) focuses on the vital link between personal change and global change, and aims to inspire, support and equip people to play their part in building a better society. It affirms that each person has something unique to contribute to building a just, peaceful and sustainable world. It stresses the importance of personal responsibility, ethical leadership and building trust across the world's divides

IofC's global headquarters are in Caux, Switzerland, where it runs an annual series of conferences on issues of human security, learning to live in a multicultural world and on trust and integrity in the global economy. Other international programmes include a women's initiative, Creators of Peace; an international Farmers' Dialogue; interfaith and community trust-building dialogues; and an award-winning documentary film production company, FLT *films*. In January

IofC will host a “Dialogue on Making Democracy Real” at its centre in Panchgani, Western India, bringing together many of those involved in the Arab Spring movement, as well as leaders from emerging democracies in Africa and Asia.

Initiatives of Change International (IofC International) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) working for peace, reconciliation and human security worldwide. It has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and Participatory Status at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Its main executive office is in Geneva while its national members, from all continents, have offices in their respective countries.

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