

Rotary



Hagir Elsheikh

2018-2019 Rotary International President



Chairwoman & President of Hagir Network, HSE Staffing Agency LLC, Kareem's Mission Org., KMission TV LLC, and Tomorrow's Smile Org.

Hagir Elsheikh is a serial entrepreneur, motivational speaker, advocate, political analyst, talk show host, producer, author, and philanthropist.

Hagir Elsheikh is an advocate, leader, and survivor whose life's work embodies resilience, justice, and dedication to peace-building and human rights. Her journey from a survivor of torture, gender-based violence, harassment, female genital mutilation (FGM), and domestic violence to a global human rights champion is a testament to her spirit and lifelong commitment to making the world a better place.

Early Life and Political Activism

Born in Sudan, Hagir's early years were marked by her vocal opposition to the oppressive Al-Bashir regime. From the age of 11, she used her voice to protest against tyranny and advocate for democratic reforms. As one of the few female spokespersons for the Sudanese Democratic Front, her courageous activism led to her arrest, torture, and eventual asylum in the United States. These experiences only strengthened her resolve to fight for justice and human dignity.

Advocacy for Human Rights and Women's Rights

Hagir Elsheikh's advocacy is deeply personal and wide-reaching. As a survivor of torture, Gender-Based violence, domestic violence, harassment, and FGM, she channels her experiences into powerful campaigns against gender-based violence, human trafficking, and the exploitation of minors. Her efforts include raising awareness, advocating for legislative changes, and supporting victims through counseling and empowerment programs.

Hagir's commitment to combating FGM is particularly noteworthy. She has tirelessly worked to raise awareness and implement preventive measures to stop this crime, drawing from her own painful experiences to drive change. Her advocacy extends to supporting survivors and promoting gender equality, demonstrating her commitment to protecting vulnerable populations.

Peace Building and Democratic Empowerment

Hagir's work in peacebuilding and democratic empowerment is globally recognized. She collaborates with organizations such as the United Nations, UNDP, TASSC, CWS, Amnesty International, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC), the civic club, World Affairs Council of Harrisburg, and several colleges and organizations such as Grand Canyon University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Pennsylvania to promote dialogue and initiatives that foster peace and democratic governance. Her efforts have been instrumental in promoting peace in conflict-affected regions, especially in Sudan.

In the United States, Hagir is an active member of Sudan's working advocacy group for Congress and the State Department, providing crucial advice, briefings, and support for humanitarian causes. She serves on the boards of Trustees of several humanitarian organizations, including the organization that she founded Tomorrow's Smile INC (TSI), TASSC, Church World Services (CWS), and the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg. Her work with CWS, in particular, involves using her experiences as a refugee and immigrant to raise awareness about the challenges refugees face and to assist in providing them with training and cultural orientation when they settle in Pennsylvania. She is also a member of the board of trustees at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), Kareem's Mission organization.

Work with Autism Spectrum Disorder

As a mother of a child with autism, Hagir has a personal and profound commitment to supporting individuals with autism and their families. She founded Kareem's Mission Org. and KMission TV LLC to provide resources, support, and education to families affected by autism. These organizations offer a range of services, including educational videos, support groups, and community events, aimed at raising awareness and fostering an inclusive environment for individuals with autism.

Through Kareem's Mission and KMission TV LLC, Hagir Elsheikh continues to advocate for a more inclusive and supportive society for individuals with autism. Her efforts have had a profound impact, providing hope, support, and empowerment to countless families. Hagir's dedication and passion make her a true champion for the autism community, inspiring others to join her in creating a better world for all.

Recognitions and Awards

Hagir's work hasn't gone unnoticed by the community at large. In 2017, the Central Penn Business Journal (CPBJ) recognized her as a "Woman of Influence."

She was featured in many magazines, newspapers, Documentaries, and TV shows in the US and internationally.

Hagir was also the recipient of the Health Care Hero Award in 2017.

Hagir's company, HSE Staffing Agency, was named Readers' Choice Simply the Best Staffing Agency in Central Pennsylvania in 2017 and 2018.

Hagir was honored by the state of Pennsylvania in 2018 on their Year of the Woman Recognition.

Hagir was also inducted into the GCU Hall of Fame, representing the College of Nursing 2019.

In August 2019, she was named Simply the Best Community Activist as the winner of the "Simply the Best People Award in Central PA,"

She was the HACC Distinguish Alumni Award Recipient in 2019,

In March 2020, she was on the cover of Business Women's Magazine, and a short story was written about her life and achievements.

Hagir published her memoir Through Tragedy and Triumph: A Life Well Traveled, which is available on Amazon.

Hagir's company, HSE Staffing, is a top nominee for the 2021 Best Place to Work. She was honored by PennLive and the Patriot-News for black history month 2022.

In addition to receiving the ALC Black Excellence Community Service Award 2023, she was honored in 2023 and placed in the Women's History Garden by the WACOH and the Civic Club of Harrisburg.

She is the 2024 recipient of the Carolyn L. Smith Legacy Award tribute to women of excellence from the YWCA.

These honors underscore her significant contributions to social justice, human rights advocacy, and political engagement.

She is the recipient of the 2024 Harambee Award from Life Esteem as the overall winner of the Nguzo Saba! This recognition celebrates her embodiment of the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Mentorship and Media Presence

Hagir Elsheikh's influence extends to the next generation through her mentorship of middle school, high school, and college students. She shapes the minds of future leaders, instilling in them the values of justice, equality, and active civic engagement. As the chairwoman of the Hagir Network and the host of "The Hagir Show" Hagir fosters impactful conversations that inspire change and encourage collective action. Her memoir, "Through Tragedy and Triumph: A Life Well Traveled," offers an intimate look at her journey, serving as both a powerful narrative of resilience and a call to action for justice and human rights.

Community Involvement and Global Impact

Hagir's involvement in community service has garnered her multiple honors, including recognition by the state of Pennsylvania in 2018, induction into the GCU Hall of Fame, and the "Simply the Best Community Activist" award in Central PA in 2019. She has also been honored for Black History Month in 2022 and received the ALC Black Excellence Community Service Award in 2023.

Hagir's advocacy extends beyond the United States to fight for peace in Sudan and other parts of the world facing injustices, wars, and humanitarian crises. Her work with TASSC in Washington, D.C., and other organizations highlights her dedication to supporting survivors of torture and promoting human rights on a global scale.

Hagir Elsheikh's life and work are a powerful testament to the impact one individual can have in the fight for justice, peace, and human dignity. Her contributions to political discourse, human rights, women's rights, and peacebuilding have left an indelible mark on the world. Through her dedication and tireless advocacy, Hagir continues to inspire others and drive meaningful change, making the world a better, more just place for all.

Expertise and Impact

With rich experiences as a keynote speaker, author, serial entrepreneur, and philanthropist, Hagir embodies the relentless pursuit of human rights and women's rights activism. Her areas of expertise include:

- Immigration and Refugees
- Immigration Advocacy
- Domestic Violence / Violence Prevention
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Women's Rights/Human Rights
- Women's Health
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Autism Awareness
- Gender-Based Violence
- Women in Business
- Bullying & Suicide Prevention
- Training

Hagir's advocacy extends beyond speeches to direct action, training, and support for survivors, law enforcement, government officials, and the community at large. Her leadership at Hagir Network, HSE Staffing Agency, KMission TV, and foundational work with Tomorrow's Smile, Inc. and Kareem's Mission have cemented her role as a catalyst for global change.

Literary Contributions

A published author, Hagir shares her life's journey in her memoir, *Through Tragedy and Triumph: A Life Well Traveled*, available on Amazon. Proceeds from the book support domestic violence survivors through Tomorrow's Smile and a scholarship with HACC called HSE Second Chance.

Media Appearances

Hagir's media appearances on networks such as AlhurraTV, VOA, BBC, France 24, MBN, Alarabia, Alaraby, CBS, TRT, ART, ABC, and WITF highlight her status as a sought-after commentator on Sudan's affairs, US politics, elections, and foreign policy, with a special focus on the Middle East and North Africa. These appearances amplify her influence, allowing her to contribute significantly to the global conversation on democracy and human rights.

Speaking Engagements

Motivation fuels the Hagir Network. Drawing inspiration from her journey—overcoming domestic violence to owning her business and triumphing over early-life challenges—Hagir skillfully connects with her audience, delivering a powerful message that inspires action.

Hagir has significantly impacted political dialogue through speaking engagements at universities, colleges, and organizations. Her platform, The Hagir Show, extends her reach in discussing global and social issues, playing a pivotal role in educating and inspiring a broad audience. The "Know

Your Candidates” segment has become a cornerstone for political engagement, especially for Democratic candidates in Pennsylvania.

Collaborations

Hagir has collaborated with numerous organizations, including:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Grand Canyon University (GCU)
- John Hopkins University
- University of Pennsylvania (UPenn)
- Dickinson College
- Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC)
- Central Penn College
- Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC)
- Hamilton Health Center
- Rotary Club of Harrisburg & York
- Leadership Harrisburg Area
- WITF-Smart Talk
- Trinity High School
- Cumberland Valley High School
- PennLive/Patriot News
- The Burg News
- ABC-Good Day PA
- Harrisburg Magazine
- Central Penn Business Journal
- The Civic Club of Harrisburg
- World Affairs Council of Harrisburg

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