

## IHH – The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief, Turkey

### Dr. Durmuş Aydın

#### *Organisation Profile*

IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation began its first humanitarian activities voluntarily in Bosnia at the time of the Bosnian War that erupted in 1992 and became institutionalized in 1995 and now working across the globe with the purpose to deliver aid to all people who are in need, who had a catastrophe, who are affected by conflicts, natural disaster, etc. or wounded, crippled, starved, left homeless and persecuted thereof, wherever they are. IHH operates in over a hundred countries, transcending regional, religious, linguistic, racial, and sectarian boundaries. IHH's headquarter is based in Istanbul, Türkiye and we have offices in 10 countries including Palestine/Gaza, Kuwait, Qatar, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Philippines/Moro, Somalia, Sudan, Niger and Sierra Leone. IHH is an advisory status member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); a council member of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation Humanitarian Fund (OIC) and International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), and the Union of NGOs of the Islamic World (IDSB). IHH is committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Core Humanitarian Standards, and Sphere Standards, ensuring high-quality humanitarian efforts worldwide.

IHH's primary mission is to provide humanitarian aid to individuals affected by war, natural disasters, and social injustice, ensuring the protection of their fundamental rights and freedoms. Our organization operates with a commitment to impartiality, assisting people in need without discrimination and without expecting anything in return. We are implementing projects in the fields of aid and development. These projects include FSL (Food Security and Livelihoods), WFI (Water Quality Standards), shelter, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), protection, health, education, early recovery, nutrition, logistics and cultural facilities. Moreover, our search and rescue teams affiliated with the IHH Disaster Management Department save lives by fighting earthquakes, fires, floods, and other disasters around the world. We can respond rapidly to emergencies and get help to the affected people right away so that as little damage as possible is done due to our wide range of access. We help communities to protect themselves and build resilience against recurrent disasters. Furthermore, we develop projects and carry out advocacy activities to relieve individuals and communities from the vulnerability they have suffered, and we take initiatives to mobilize world public opinion and international legal authorities regarding violations in conflict and war zones. We engage in humanitarian diplomacy in crisis areas, protecting civilians, finding the missing, rescuing captives and enabling the necessary steps to end crises. In every endeavor, we uphold the belief that "Goodness anytime and anywhere." Through our unwavering commitment to humanitarian aid, global cooperation, and sustainable development, we strive to embody this motto, ensuring that the light of kindness shines in every corner of the world.

## Nominee Information

### Mr Durmuş Aydın



**Gender:** Male

**Job title:** Secretary General

### Video presentation



Durmuş Aydın is a versant professional with a broad background in social work and humanitarian aid. His undergraduate studies in the Social Work Department at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, coupled with a master's degree in Labor Economics from Marmara University in Türkiye, and a Ph.D. in Social Works from Yalova University in 2022, have fortified his academic and professional expertise. Aydın has made contributions to academia, serving as a Lecturer in International Social Work and Theories and Approaches in Social Work at Yalova University and Health Sciences University. He actively contributes to academic initiatives in the civil society realm.

Aydın commenced his professional journey with the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation in 2004, marking the beginning of his dedicated contributions to the humanitarian affairs. Starting as a volunteer, he transitioned into professional roles, eventually assuming various responsibilities, including managerial positions in external relations, public relations, and corporate relations. Since 2018, he has been serving as the Secretary General, showcasing his leadership skills. With over 19 years of experience in humanitarian aid and development, Aydın has a broad perspective, particularly in managing projects in Africa and Asia. He has actively participated in the planning and coordination of various high-profile initiatives. Notable among these endeavors are the Gaza Land Convoy, Gaza Freedom Flotilla, Open Road to Aleppo Convoy, and the UN World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. Aydın, serving as one of IHH's key representatives at the United Nations, has consistently showcased commitment to advancing humanitarian causes on the global stage, representing the organization in various international projects, meetings, and events with esteemed institutions such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Islamic Development Bank, and ICVA, among others.

Durmuş Aydın's notable contributions to ICVA's 2030 strategy encompass active engagement in forced migration works, leveraging his prolonged involvement in crisis zones for capacity-building through collaborative efforts. Aydın's doctoral thesis, titled "Analysis of Social Services Provided to Syrian Asylum Seekers and Refugees: Cases of Germany and Turkey," reflects his commitment to understanding and addressing the challenges faced by displaced populations. His academic expertise, particularly in the realm of migration studies, further enhances his contributions to civil society. This emphasizes his dedication to improving the conditions of asylum seekers and refugees, adding a profound academic dimension to his role within ICVA. Benefiting from Türkiye's strategic geographical proximity, Durmuş Aydın will not only create valuable opportunities for both national and international collaboration but will also establish internal coherence within NGOs, fostering robust capacity development. Furthermore, Aydın's steadfast support in advocacy will play a crucial role in fortifying ICVA's strategic goals, emphasizing his pivotal contribution to advancing humanitarian initiatives within the organization.

**Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for**

- **Chair –yes**

***If yes, what qualities would you bring to the position of Chair?***

In the role of Chair, Durmuş Aydın would bring an effective leadership style marked by collaboration, as evidenced by his active engagement with ICVA members and diverse networks. His approach offers a perspective in tackling shared challenges, particularly those related to forced migration. On the international stage, Aydın's advocacy and representation ensure that the voices of NGOs, not only resonate but actively influence key discussions. His strategic networking approach would strengthen collaboration among multilateral partners, regional organizations, and civil society networks, resulting in a more comprehensive response to humanitarian-related concerns. In essence, Durmuş Aydın's distinct combination of academic and field experience, collaborative leadership, and advocacy positions him as a catalyst for positive change within ICVA, specifically in addressing the complex issues surrounding forced migration