

Karim El Mantawi [karim@soliya.net] was born in Egypt and raised in Sri Lanka, the United States, India, Austria and Japan. He received his MA in media, peace and conflict at the UN-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica, and his BA in mass communications from the American University in Cairo. Currently, he is the outreach officer for Soliya, an NGO and a lead implementing partner of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. Soliya works to promote mutual respect and understanding between young people from Muslim and Western societies. As Outreach Officer, Mr. El Mantawi is focused on expanding the organization's network of partner universities to enable more students to use new media technologies to foster dialogue, mutual respect and understanding. Since 2008, he helped coordinate the implementation of Soliya's flagship project, the Connect Program, which directly connects university students in the Middle East, North Africa, South-Asia, Europe and the United States through groundbreaking online collaboration and communication technology. Since 2003, Soliya has successfully implemented its pioneering program, the Connect Program, in over 70 universities around the world.