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## **Reem Assil**

### **Development Director - EMESA, Common Purpose**

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Reem joined Common Purpose in 2018. She designs, manages, and facilitates programmes in three languages: English, French, and Arabic. She is a Master Facilitator with +500 hours of facilitation globally across different sectors and generations. A mentor with over 15 years' experience in mentoring young people and a certified Transformational Coach.

A British Syrian, Reem holds an MSc in Biotechnology. She worked as a University Lecturer in immunology and animal biology at the University of Damascus and the University of Qalamoon in Syria from 2007 to 2010. Reem worked on her PhD degree in Immunology at the Université Montpellier II/France from 2009 to 2012. She worked as a Chief Biomedical Technician in the Cardiovascular Department at the University of Cambridge before embarking on her second PhD in religious studies and peacebuilding exploring the large-group identities for Syrians in exile at the University of Winchester between April 2016 and March 2019. She holds a certificate in Business and Social Justice from the University of Cambridge/ Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL), and a certificate in Embodied Conflict Resolution.

Reem is a member of the Community Scrutiny Panel at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police, and an invited observer to Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) Trustee meetings. She is a founding member of the Syrian Nonviolence Movement; a Syrian NGO supported by Amnesty International where she headed its Media department. She is also a co-founder of the Free Syrian Translators, a media activism group. She chaired the Syrian Platform for Peace-UK in collaboration with International Alert from 2015 to 2019. She also worked as the Editor-In-Chief in the media department of the National Coalition for Syrian Opposition Forces, and as a consultant with Integrity for Research and Consultancy. Reem is a blogger and has written for several media outlets in both Arabic and English. She is a co-author of "The Arab Spring, Five Years On". She is a single mother, a social activist, and a public speaker who can engage, motivate, and empower her audience. She was the top-rated public speaker at Amnesty International Student Conference in 2013.

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