



**AMS Karate for Peace**  
The Power to Empower

## Promoting Peace through Sports

AMS' community engagement approach starts with empowering those who are willing to commit their talents and hobbies beyond paid employment.

### AMS promotes peace through Karate in Afghanistan



By engaging our employees and their communities, AMS Karate for Peace was born. Meet Rohin Qateh, our champion pioneer, whose passion for Karate can compare to none. Rohin tells his story with joy, poise, and pride. He is an international Karate Gold Medal recipient from a dozen countries, and holds the Afghanistan National Karate Champion title for the last 10 Years, an honorary title bestowed on him by the President of the Republic.

According to Rohin, his dream came true when he got employed by AMS in 2004 to work as an interpreter. It was here that he saw the opportunity to engage with AMS leadership and express his unwavering passion for Karate.

When Rohin joined AMS, he used to have a one-hour lunch break; he would utilize a few minutes to eat and then watch AMS foreign staff train in the gym. Since he was not allowed in the gym, watching people train would bring him joy. This happened several times until one day, Andrew Robertson (CEO) caught him off guard. Andrew questioned Rohin on why he was not back at his post, this is where Rohin saw an opportunity and expressed how much he missed training and shared his passion for Karate.



Andrew Robertson (CEO) and Justine Rukeba (CSO) with AMS Karate Kids



“ I could not believe that this was happening, that I was working with a leader who understood my passion,” Rohin exclaims.

After seeing Rohin's potential, Andrew agreed to have him train three days a week and work three days a week.

After a couple of months of training and engaging with Karate instructors and communities from around the world, there was a chance that presented itself to go to Sri Lanka for a Karate Championship. Rohin approached AMS and asked for help. AMS agreed to sponsor Rohin's trip to Sri Lanka, where he performed exceptionally well and came home with two gold medals.



Rohin Qateh showcasing his Karate medals from around the world



Noticing how one young man was making an impact in his community through his love and passion for Karate, Andrew suggested that Rohin open a Karate Club where he could train other children.

AMS Karate for Peace started with Rohin in 2005 as a single instructor and five children. The club has since grown to over 1,500 Karate graduates and 20 instructors which includes 300 young women. AMS wanted a safe space for underprivileged children to stay off the street and stay disciplined. The impact of the club was well received by villagers and elders. The community started believing in the values that the club provided, they were happy to send their children, which meant they would stay out of trouble, and most importantly, they were safe.

Today, the club runs four training session daily. Due to high demand, the class sizes range from 40 – 80 students per session with ages ranging between 6 - 15 years.

Our graduates have traveled the world, brought in medals from various tournaments, carried the flag for Afghanistan and shared the message of peace with their fellow citizens.



300 Woman Karate Graduates



5 Female Karate Instructors



1,500 Graduates

AMS Karate for Peace has changed and touched many lives in the communities, and you can see the change in discipline as well as mentalities. As a result, confidence levels have increased and communities are promoting coexistence in these tough neighborhoods. Our proof of impact is through engagement! AMS will continue to invest in the club, to enhance and change the lives of not just children, but adults as well. AMS plans to open more clubs in other provinces in Afghanistan and continue the message for Peace through Karate.



Justine Rukeba, AMS Chief Strategy Officer on her visit to the Karate Club

#### **AMS Karate for Peace objective is to;**

- **Empower young people to foster social cohesion and coexistence within their communities**
- **Develop influential leaders from among children and youth through Karate Clubs**
- **Instill core values of personal excellence and social harmony in the next generation**

AMS Karate for Peace is accessible to children and youth through our community clubs, and the goal is to extend the program in all countries where AMS operates through partnering with schools and community centers.

AMS Karate for Peace also builds shared experiences for people going through conflicts in their countries. "When we send out our senior champions and instructors to other countries, they share experiences with fellow champions and students of how to build peace in their communities. Karate does not know race, religion, gender, or color. Inside the Karate club, there is no social, age, or gender hierarchy; everyone is equal; all trainees take off their shoes, give a bow of respect and begin the sport with mutual love, respect, and harmony.

Karate programs build confidence, eliminate fear, and shapes you to believe in yourself and the future. Through the practice of Karate, the fear of the unknown is gone, and there is a connection with your inner self," says Justine Rukeba, AMS Chief Strategy Officer.

"We will expand our Karate clubs to the countries that need it most. Somalia, South Sudan, DRC and Malawi are future recipients of AMS Karate for Peace. Our focus is to empower and encourage children and youth from vulnerable communities to rise, embrace each other, and be the solution they want to see in their communities. Through our program, we promote education, employment, job creation, and other social skills that build hope and confidence," says CEO Andrew Robertson.

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