

World Affairs Council Inland Southern California, Center for Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies,  
and the CSUSB College of Education  
Invite you to...

## ***Meet***

### **Ravdanur Cuma**

Syrian Survivor from a  
Refugee Camp in Turkey

## ***Speaking on...***

### **Surviving Loss – Thriving in Life Education Matters**

**May 4, 2017**

**6:00 – 7:30 pm**

**CSUSB, College of Education, Rm 105**  
5500 University Pkwy., San Bernardino 92407

Program is free.

Parking \$6 Lot N or East Parking Structure

**Public welcome**



You cannot help but be touched by this visionary young woman who is visiting the Inland Empire to study at UCR this spring and summer. In Syria, she started life much as many American children do. She lived in the countryside in a home with her parents, eight brothers and sisters, and beloved dog. Then in 2011, all that changed as the violence started in Syria.

After their village was heavily bombed, her family escaped to Turkey and began living in a refugee camp. At first they thought it was a temporary arrangement, but in the 6th year of the conflict, the camp is what she now calls home.

Always eager to learn, Ravdanur learned Turkish in two months, practicing with camp visitors. She gradually became a liaison between the camp youth and the administration setting up many programs to enhance morale and educational opportunities. She went door to door encouraging young girls to go to school. After she herself graduated from high school at the camp, she applied and was accepted at Hasan Kalyoncu University in Gaziantep, Turkey, to study political science and international relations.

Because of her incredible accomplishments in learning Turkish culture and language so quickly and using her new knowledge to help other refugees, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan invited Ms Cuma to Ankara to be recognized and granted her wish for Turkish citizenship in 2016.

In May 2016, she was invited by the Malala Fund to the World Humanitarian Summit to address the United Nations and world leaders, calling them to invest in refugee education. She has been interviewed by dozens of international journalists and was featured in numerous publications including **UN Women**.