



# **GENERATION EQUALITY**

## **YOUTH TASK FORCE**



# AASHA SHAIK

Aasha studies Political Science and the Middle East at Rutgers University. She has lived in the U.S., India, France, and Jordan; her experiences in each shape her gender equality activism, as does being a first-generation American, half-Muslim and half-Hindu, woman of color, and other intersections of her identity. When she was 15, she began her gender equality advocacy work at the UN as a Girl Advocate for the Working Group on Girls. She is the 2019 Harry S. Truman Scholar of New Jersey, and will pursue law and public policy graduate degrees to continue uplifting marginalized voices and fight for the human rights of all.



# ABEL KOKA

Abel is a young lawyer leading the implementation of Tutimize Ahadi project at Restless Development in Tanzania, a youth-led accountability programme monitoring progress against SDG5 and FP2020 commitments. He is unleashing youth potential to use data to influence the government of Tanzania to implement its gender equality and family planning policies. He uses his own social media networks to advocate for community participation in bridging the gender gap, and campaigning for teenage mothers in Tanzania to return to school. As a result of his work, he was nominated to participate at the African Youth SDGs Summit in Ghana in 2018, the Fifth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Marrakech Morocco in 2019 and the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in 2019



# ALAN JARANDILLA NUÑEZ

Alan is a lawyer and passionate SRHR activist from Bolivia. He is the Director of Policy and Advocacy of the International Youth Alliance for Family Planning, and also serves as Secretary of the Board of the Youth Coalition. He is the Founder of Change the System (CTS), a Bolivian youth-led organization working towards sustainable development, human rights and youth participation from a systemic change perspective. Through the organization, he works to strengthen the capacities of youth around gender equality and feminism and support the mobilization of young people in key advocacy moments. He is a passionate advocate for meaningful youth engagement at all levels

# ALINA IXCHEL VALLEJO GALEANA

Alina is a self-identified feminist, lesbian activist with experience in promoting, training, and documenting human rights, sexual diversity, and gender-based discrimination and violence. She is currently the Coordinator for the Incidence of Metal Muses Group of Gay Women in Mexico, where her work involves designing, writing, and managing projects that promote youth leadership, and supporting public awareness and training in sexual diversity.

She recently has been selected as an AWID Fellow of the Youth Feminist Leadership of the Open Society Foundation.

## AMANDA\*

Amanda is a transgender youth activist from Uganda, advocating for LGBTI rights. Her experience with activism has given her the opportunity to contribute to policy formulation around HIV prevention and treatment services. She is affiliated with the Commonwealth Youth Council on the committee representing special interest groups and the African Queer Youth Initiative that amplifies the voices of young LGBTIQ persons on the African continent. She is also a member of the UN Women informal reference group on LGBTI issues and one of the 25x25 UNFPA global, where she decides movement champions that are advancing the ICPD +25 agenda. \* A photo of this Youth Task Force member was left out deliberately to protect Amanda's identity.

## AMANI ARURI

Born and raised in Palestine, Amani is passionate about linking, improving, and increasing support to women and youth peacebuilders and increasing young people's pro-social civic engagement and democratic participation, particularly in high-risk contexts. She is the Advocacy Team Leader at the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counselling, the Acting Director of the Palestinian Association of Contemporary Art, a member of the assembly of the UN Women gender innovation program-AGORA, and was elected for the Youth Local Council of Eastern Bani Zaid town in Palestine. She also leads campaigns (including media campaigns) to hold duty bearers accountable for violations of women's rights on the national and international levels and raises the awareness on the situation of Palestinian women.



# AUDREY FONTAINE

Audrey is a 28 years-old French creole woman from Reunion Island, French Mascarenes. At 15, she left her beloved Island to move to mainland France to study medicine. Audrey currently lives in Paris where she works as a psychiatrist at the hospital and studies public affairs at Paris Political Institute. Throughout her academic and non-profit experiences, she has become passionate about health, gender equity and international affairs. Through her involvements, Audrey has restlessly fought for gender equality, and for youth voices to be heard, especially in healthcare delivery, education and leadership. Recently, she broadened her scope beyond global health, by becoming Youth7 representative for France at the Y7 2020 summit.



# CARYN DASAH

Caryn Dasah is a social justice activist and a recognized dynamic youth leader, a peace builder and sexual and reproductive health activist. Has frontline experiences implementing campaigns and advocacy initiatives advancing women's rights, gender equality, ending violence against women / girls, peace and sustainable development. She is passionate about silencing the guns as such has been on the frontline organizing advocacy initiatives for sustainable peace and an end to killings the North West and South west regions of Cameroon of her country Cameroon. Caryn has thirteen years of work experience volunteering for the advancement of women's rights in rural communities in Cameroon.

# CHAMATHYA FERNANDO

Chamathya is a youth activist who represents the World Association of Girl Guide and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), the largest voluntary organization for girls and young women, with a membership of 10 million girls in 150-member countries. She has delivered projects of the Stop The Violence Campaign of Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association, leading a team of girls and boys to take action against gender based violence. She was a member of the Global Young Influencers Group who co- developed “Girls Get Equal” Global Campaign with Plan International. She was recognized by the US State Department as one of the 10 Emerging Young Leaders in 2017 for her work on empowering girls and young women against gender- based violence.

# CHANCELINE MEVOWANOU

Mevowanou is a young Beninese activist committed to girls; rights and gender equality. As a communicator and blogger, she raises her voice against violence against girls and campaigns online and offline through various projects to empower girls and create spaces for girls to speak out, take action and participate. She is very committed to working with and mobilizing youth networks, organizations and movements because she believes in the power of young people as a force for positive change in societies. At the age of 23, she is the Beninese winner of the #Blog4Dev 2020 contest on solutions to end girls’ marriages. Chanceline is currently working as the Moderator of the Girls Out Loud project at Plan International Benin.

# DAREN PAUL KATIGBAK

Daren Paul is a registered nurse, midwife and a public health professional born and raised in the Philippines. He finished his Master of Science in Public Health (MScPH), major in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights at Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Currently, he is the Deputy Chair of Y+ Global and focuses his efforts on leading a project that engages young people living with HIV (YPLHIV) locally, regionally and internationally, provides protections, and creates guidelines for the ethical engagement of young people in activism and advocacy. He is also involved in numerous advocacies such as promoting primary health care, fighting for the health and rights of the LGBTIQ+ population and engaging men in gender and sexuality issues.



# DOREEN MORAA MORACHA

Doreen is an HIV/AIDS advocate, openly living with HIV. She developed an advocacy initiative called, "I AM A BEAUTIFUL STORY", which is aimed at creating awareness for people living with HIV and reducing the associated stigma. She has been involved in different workshops and conferences, such as the Mentor Mother Program, which is an interactive training on promoting gender equality, particularly focusing on identifying and tackling gender stereotypes and reducing gender-based violence. Originating from a community where gender-based violence and female genital mutilation affect many women, she is currently developing a training series to empower and mobilize women towards gender equality.



# ELISABETH KEUTEN

Elisabeth is a German LGBTQI+, activist from a faith-based organization and has a special interest in sustainability, human rights and gender. She was a member of the Youth Council for the Bread for the World, where she organized gender sensibility workshops and seminars and helped building regional groups in Germany. In 2018, she joined the ACT Alliance Youth CoP and the Gender CoP (in 2019) to support the inclusion of youth on the governing board of the network; her passion, dedication, and persistence contributed to securing two seats for youth on the governing board. She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in Ethnology and Gender Studies in Göttingen, Germany.



# HAWA YOKIE

Hawa started her advocacy in 2014 during the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, as she was motivated to promote and empower women and girls in her community. At age 14, she started a community development service in her school to improve the lives of young girls in rural communities. At age 15, Hawa was awarded an academic excellence award for her performance in high school. The US State Department recognised Hawa with a volunteering certificate for her volunteering service in 2016. Also, in 2016, Hawa together with a few of her friends won a US Embassy grant to promote girls' education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). During her days as a STEM champion, she organised weekly activities for girls wherein issues affecting girls in Sierra Leone such as teenage pregnancy, child marriage, sexual penetration, etc were discussed.



# ILAYDA ESKITAŞÇIOĞLU

Ilayda Eskitaşçioğlu is a human rights lawyer and a PhD student from Turkey.

She is an attorney at law and a research fellow at the UNESCO Chair for Gender Equality and Sustainable Development, specializing in international human rights law. As a passionate women's rights advocate, she founded an NGO named We Need to Talk in 2016, aiming to empower rural women in Turkey by providing them access to sanitary materials and to destroy the stigma around menstruation. She was chosen to represent Turkey at the 2016 G(irls)20 Summit in Beijing and is still an active ambassador leading working groups on youth empowerment

# ELVIRA CONSTANTINA PABLO ANTONIO

Indira considers herself as an indigenous, community feminist with an active base in multiple indigenous organizations in Ecuador. She is a representative of the Commission for Children and Youth of the Continental Liaison of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA), where she works to support the development of the broad agenda of the Indigenous Movement of Ecuador. At the international level, she has been part of advocacy processes in spaces such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the Regional Conferences of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

# JANE DOROTHY ANIKA

A YALI RLC alumni, Ms Anika is the East Africa Coordinator of AMPLIFY. Ms.

Anika is currently serving the Political Parties Liaison Committee as a steering board member. She was also elected secretary to the women's program of the PPLC. She convened the Young Women In Political Party Leadership KE. She was a pioneer fellow of the Green Talent Accelerator Program by Westminster Foundation for Democracy. She also serves Executive Director of the Green Congress Of Kenya, a member of the Global Greens. She is also part of AWLN technical committee in Kenya. Lastly, she is a ONE East Africa Champion where she lobby decision makers in effort to create changes need for gender equality. Ms. Anika holds a Masters in Women, Leadership & Governance in Africa from the University of Nairobi.



# JULIETA MARTINEZ

17-year-old student, founder of the TREMENDAS Collaborative Platform that promotes the empowerment of girls, adolescents and young people by inviting them to put their skills and talents at the service of the community to generate social impact. Tremendas works based on the objectives of Sustainable Development of the UN and has 7 areas of action: Environment, Inclusion, Gender, Health and Welfare, Culture, Science / Technology and Education. Julieta is a climate activist and gender equity activist and is part of Ashoka Chile Youth Agents of Change network.



# JUAN PABLO POLI

Juan Pablo is passionate about adolescents' rights, with a focus on prevention of gender-based violence, promotion of sexual diversity, and defense of sexual rights. He has coordinated workshops in Buenos Aires and other cities of Argentina, for adolescents in comprehensive sexual education, sexual and reproductive health and new masculinities. His work focuses on promoting gender equality and the elimination of gender stereotypes. He is a Sociology student at the University of Buenos Aires, while also working at the National Youth Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Foundation for the Study and Research of Women.



# KATHERINE DIBBON

Katherine Dibbon is from St. John's, Newfoundland and has been recognized as a young leader with a commitment to making her world a better place. She is keen to encourage and mentor other young leaders and is passionate about encouraging action with respect to gender equality and inclusion issues. She has served as a national ambassador and advisor for organizations such as PLAN, ACIC, World Vision and the RCMP where she has been able to pursue her commitment to representing the youth voice. She has worked with PLAN and their national youth committee to develop the first youth led SDG Implementation Plan and presented it to the Y7 Summit in Ottawa.



# KRISTINA ORLOVA

I am a young specialist from Turkmenistan, working in the field of sustainable development. I am interested in encouraging young women to participate in the achievement of SDGs and to spread information on most effective tools to combat the destructive potential of climate change on the most vulnerable groups. In order to make an impact and to promote women's participation in decision-making, I have joined the Initiative of Young SDG Ambassadors under the auspices of the UN Office in Turkmenistan and the Government of Turkmenistan. Within the Initiative, my main goal is to establish partnerships and build trust between different stakeholders in order to empower women, to improve climate resilience and to teach environmental education. Now, I work for the Scientific-Informational Center of the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development, as well as for the GIZ Regional Programme, where I perform functions of the GIZ Country Gender Focal Point.

# MAJANDRA RODRIGUEZ

Maria Alejandra (Majandra) Rodriguez Acha is a climate justice and queer feminist activist from Peru, based in Lima. She is currently a Co-Executive Director at FRIDA, The Young Feminist Fund. She is also the co-founder and former co-coordinator of TierrActiva Perú, a collective and national network that works towards “system change for buen vivir”, focusing on the sustainability of life in the face of the climate and environmental crisis. She is also a part of Tamboras Resistencia, a feminist collective in Lima that organizes circles of women and drums and accompanies diverse women's groups using drums as a means of expression & power.

# MICHELLE BELFOR

Michelle is a 22-year-old Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights advocate from Suriname that is part of various national and international organizations working with youth from all backgrounds. She is an energetic, creative and socially conscious young woman and uses her energy to influence people around her to become more socially active. Starting her advocacy journey in 2015 as a member of the Youth Advisory Group of the UNFPA has helped her develop commitment, leadership and organizational skills to continue working on the norms and values that she believes in. In 2018 Michelle had the honor to represent Suriname for the first time ever during the Women Deliver Young Leaders Program. Prior to this appointment Michelle has represented Suriname on a regional level as deputy CARICOM Youth Ambassador for Suriname from 2015 -2017. Michelle strongly believes in using South-South cooperation as a mechanism to further the youth agenda and therefore participates in various regional platforms to advocate for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Peace and Youth Development.



# PHILLIE JULAI

Phillie serve as a youth and women advocate while studying in Divine Word University. She has involved herself in taking part in certain programs such as The Initiative Project a youth organization based in Madang that focuses on helping young people, The Junior Toast Master Club based in DWU that focuses in building students of their public speaking and PNG Diversity and Inclusion Leadership program based in DWU that focuses on transforming students into future leaders of Papua New Guinea. As being part of the Initiative project Phillie have done voluntary work with primary students and facilitates sessions for youths. In the PNG Diversity and Inclusion Leadership program Phillie is the Director and senior facilitator training students to be agent of change in leadership. In the Junior Toast Master Club Phillie is one of the evaluators that evaluates students of their public speaking. Phillie is currently the Asia-Pacific Youth Ambassador for PNG 2020-2021. She voluntarily creates spaces for young people to unlock their full youth potentials beyond boundaries and embrace the new changes. Phillie is as well a representative of a FISU Student Ambassador to PNG in promoting student transformation through university sports and educational programs.



# PIP GARDNER

Pip (pronouns: They/Them) is a gender equality activist with a focus on sustainable development and the inclusion of minority genders. They are the Chief Executive of The Kite Trust, an LGBTQ+ youth organisation, and a volunteer with Woodcraft Folk, the UK member of co-operative youth movement IFM-SEI. Their work focuses on non-formal education as a tool for youth empowerment and on creating equitable structures for youth to access decision making processes which affect their lives.



# RACHA HAFFAR

Racha is an award-winning women's rights and feminist activist, named among the top 5 inspiring female entrepreneurs in the Arab World. She is the founder & President of 'Not 4 Trade,' the first anti-human trafficking NGO in Tunisia. She is working on launching an African Youth Movement against Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration. She is a Fulbright Alumna at the University of Kentucky, a journalist and a university professor of public speaking and professional communication.



## RANIA AYMAN

Rania is the Founder and Managing Director of Entreprenelle, a mission driven enterprise that strives to bridge the gender gap economically by educating, training and linking women to resources in Egypt. Her work has focused on advancing socioeconomic gender rights, specifically the right to adequate standard of living based on the SDG 8 of “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. She has represented Egypt at many international conferences, such as The Global Entrepreneurship Summit in India, Social Enterprise World Forum in the United Kingdom, World government summit in UAE and African Youth Conference in Kenya. She was awarded as the “Best Female Entrepreneur” by YE! and featured as one of the most active “25 under 25 Entrepreneurs”.



## RUIYING XU

As a migrant to Beijing from a provincial town in China, Ruiying founded Qisi Program, a non-profit program dedicated to supporting and empowering underserved rural-urban migrant girls in metropolitan China. The program’s module has been recreated in other parts of the country, impacting over seventeen thousand youth. To advocate for quality caring and education for rural-urban migrant girls, she designed and operated the educational Qisi Summer Camp, which engages migrant girls and local youth in feminist-based courses. She is currently pursuing a dual Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Economics at Columbia University and Sciences Po.



# SALAM AL-NUKTA

Originally from Syria, Salam is a startup enthusiast in the Netherlands with a passion for bringing immediate and strategic value-added projects focusing on women's empowerment and communities' prosperity. She founded and launched "ChangeMakers" in 2016, a startup in Syria which aims to close the gender gap in STEM. She spoke at Geneva Peace Week 2018 and other forums, highlighting the voices of young girls in peacebuilding and development. With a working experience of 3 years with the UN, currently, Salam is focusing on founding a startup that aims to empower female smallholder farmers in cooperation with Young Sustainable Impact (YSI) in Norway. She has completed 3 years of BSc in Biology from Damascus University and is now preparing for BSc in International Business Administration.



# SATOKO YAMAGUCHI

Satoko Yamaguchi is a young women's program coordinator at YWCA of Japan, where she organizes various programs and campaigns to empower young women and girls (from 12 to 30 years old). She coordinates a program called "Japan-Korea Youth Conference" that raises awareness of youth from both countries on commonly shared issues, driving them to commit to the causes. She is also committed to advocacy work, particularly through lecturing on social issues at junior and senior high schools and universities and delivering opinions at Beijing+25 review meetings hosted by the Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office, Government of Japan.



# SHANTEL MAREKERA

Shantel is a Millennium Fellow, Resolution Project fellow and a Rhodes scholar who is passionate about advocacy, policy and international human rights. She is the founder of Little Dreamers Foundation, a subsidized preschool for orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) in Zimbabwe. Shantel is an active mentor for over 40 female high school students around Zimbabwe where she connects them with various educational and professional resources. She is also a Global Peace Ambassador and Country Director of the Global Peace Chain for Zimbabwe, with a mission to help create a culture of transparency and accountability to the law, as well as challenge existing harmful practices against women.

# SHAWANA SHAH

Shawana is a Pakistani activist focused on the rights of women, young girls, and the transgender community. She co-founded Da Hawwa Lur, a political, social and economic development platform for girls that provides a space for capacity building and connecting members to key stakeholders and policy makers to present their demands for pro-women legislations. Through community mobilization and organization, she fostered a women's movement that developed the first women manifesto in Pakistan, enlisting demands by women and for women. In 2016, she received the International Humanitarian Award, and she was selected as Gulmakai Network Champion.

# SOFIA SCARLAT

Sofia Scarlat is a seventeen-year-old student from Corbeanca, Romania, currently in her first year at Stanford University. She is the founder and director of her country's first ever gender equality organization for teenagers - Girl Up Romania - where she coordinates a team of over 130 volunteers. Her main focus areas in advancing gender equality in Eastern Europe are prevention of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking, as well as providing access to comprehensive sexual education and legal assistance to underage victims of GBV. Sofia is also a 2020-2022 Women Deliver Young Leader and an International Children's Peace Prize nominee.

# STEENIA SHEENSY MONTINARD

Steenia Sheensy Montinard, born and living in Haiti, 21, third-year linguistics student at the Faculty of Applied Linguistics at the State University of Haiti. A dedicated feminist, passionate about gender equality, I devote my free time to encouraging young girls to strengthen themselves and young boys to contribute to the struggle for women's emancipation and gender equality.



# SYLVAIN OBEDI

Sylvain holds a degree in Public International Law from the University of Peace of the Democratic Republic of Congo (UNIP-DRC). He lived in Walikale in the North Kivu Province in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

His experiences in this part of the country include activism in the fight against sexual violence, protection, the fight against the recruitment and exploitation of children in armed groups, the defence of the human rights of people living with disabilities and their participation in decision-making processes. When he was 16 years old, he began his work in defence of children rights and inclusion in the Children Parliament as President and member of MONUSCO Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. He is a 2020 CT University Foundation USA Fellow pursuing certification studies in Public Policy and Leadership and YALI Regional Leadership Centre East Africa

2020 in Public Management and improvement of skills. Today, he coordinates a founding structure called “Enable the Disable Action, EDA ONG” by raising marginalized voices in the struggle for human rights for all.



# ZAHRA AL HILALY

As a first generation Australian to migrant and refugee parents, Zahra is an advocate for change. With parents from Palestine and Iraq, she has vowed to help others not have to go through the struggles her parents had to face. She works with the Youth Affairs Council as a cultural trainer, helping refugee and migrant young people to be leaders; as a ShoutOut Speaker, using slam poetry to engage young people in stigmatised topics; and as a youth consultant, facilitating the National Youth Settlement Forum which helped organisations such as hospitals to gain new skills to engage young migrants and refugees. She is also a part of the National Youth Advisory Committee for White Ribbon Australia, which aims to engage young people across Australia to speak about domestic violence against women.

