



BEIJING+25 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 and the Fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 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.

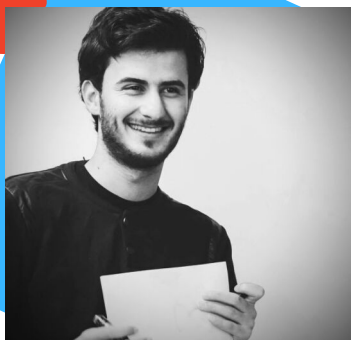
**A photo of this Youth Task Force member was left out deliberately to protect Amanda's identity.*

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.

ANMAR KHALID



Anmar is a human rights activist and youth advocate from Iraq. He has over 10 years of experience with youth participation and leadership in the fields of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), peace building, gender equality and gender-based violence (GBV). He is currently the International Coordinator in Charge of Y-PEER International Network, a youth led- network of young people and organizations working in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), youth participation and other youth-related issues through peer education approach and interactive methodology in 46 countries around the world. In 2018, Anmar on behalf of Y-PEER received the International Maxx Royal Award for Outstanding Achievements in Combatting Taboos and Stigma around Women's Health.

CARYN DASAH



Caryn's journey began at age 14 as a peer educator for a community based organization in her community, some of which include her role as community worker and peer educator for Rescue Mission Cameroon, communication and Nutrition officer for Food and rural Development Foundation, volunteer at the Social Centre of the Ministry of Social Affairs Bureau, in charge of child welfare. In 2014, she created Hope Advocates Africa, an NGO advocating for the rights of women and girls living in Rural communities in the South West Region of Cameroon. Her work has impacted thousands of youth around Cameroon, through her community radio show, her sensitization campaigns and also running a school program that educates girls about their sexual reproductive and health rights. She is also a trained gender based violence case worker, a trained nonviolent, communicator and a die heart advocate for women and girls and currently awaiting an LLB in Law.

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.



DAREN PAUL KATIGBAK

Daren Paul is a registered Nurse, Midwife and a Public Health professional residing 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. He used to work with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines – Episcopal Commission on Health Care (CBCP-ECHC), a faith-based organization that mainstream gender equality and women's health and rights among different Catholic schools, universities, colleges and different dioceses and parishes all over the Philippines.



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.

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.

INDIRA VARGAS



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



Jane has spent her career focusing on policy making and governance issues in her home country, Kenya. She was recently appointed as the Executive Director of the GREEN CONGRESS OF KENYA, a political party that engulfs itself with green ideals and strives to improve legislature towards green initiatives in Kenya. She was also elected as Secretary to the women's program of the Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC), which is an umbrella body for all political parties in Kenya. She convened the Young Women in Political Parties Lea Jane is also the convener of young women in political party leadership whose composition is made up of young women (below 35) who are appointed to the national executive council of their political partiesdership (YWPLL), which is a body of young women in the leadership of the political party called NEC.



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.



KAITLYN POSSELWHITE

Kaitlyn is a Canadian Policy Analyst for the Department for Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) in Ottawa, Canada. In this role, she works as the Departmental liaison for WAGE's Youth Working Group on Gender Equality, where she is co-developing a strategy to engage all Canadian youth in dialogue on gender equality. She is also an Associate for Youth Climate Lab, a youth-run organization that works to support and accelerate youth-led policy, project and business ideas that promote action on climate change. She is currently co-directing the Youth Negotiator Exchange and Training (Y-NEXT) program, which supports on-the-ground efforts to equip young people to engage in UN Framework Convention on Climate Change processes as part of country delegations.



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.



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.



OBAA AKUA KONADU

Obaa Akua is the Policy and Advocacy Manager at Youth Empowerment Synergy, a youth-focused NGO in Ghana. She leads the organization’s efforts on the Sustainable Development Goals and youth participation in governance, through which she has reached over 3,800 youth in Ghana. She is also a member of the Global Shapers Community (Accra Hub). Obaa Akua holds an MSc in Development Administration and Planning from the University College London; her fields of interest include youth development, women’s well-being and youth and women’s engagement in the labour market.



PIP GARDNER

Pip is a women’s rights activist with a focus on sustainable development. They are currently the Project Coordinator and Communications Manager for Woodcraft Folk – a co-operative youth movement in the United Kingdom. They are also a volunteer, working with girls, women and trans people on the promotion of SRHR and the prevention of GBV. Through their work with WAGGGS, IFM-SEI, they have delivered non-formal education to mobilize young people for gender. In 2010, they set up an initiative that created a peer educator’s toolkit on gender equality and supported young women to blog about their experiences.



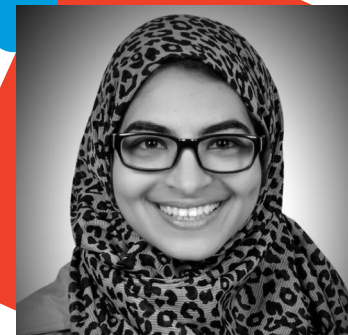
RACHA HAFFAR

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.



RAFIUL ALOM RAHMAN

Rafiul is the founder of The Queer Muslim Project, India's first and only organization working on the intersectional issues affecting LGBTQ Muslims. Rafiul has been involved in grassroots LGBTQ mobilizing and youth advocacy, and has facilitated communications, advocacy and training on gender, sexuality and human rights for several organizations. Through digital advocacy and a series of focused offline workshops, trainings and retreats, he has worked to create safe and enabling spaces for self- introspection, confidence-building, community support and emotional healing for LGBTQ Muslim individuals. In 2018, Rafiul was nominated as a 'Young Changemaker' by The Hindu Business Line.



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".



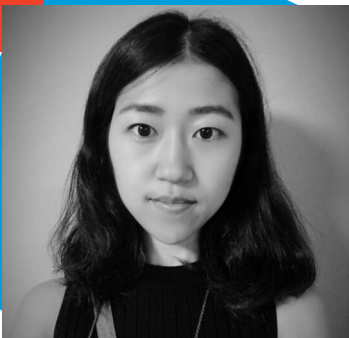
RUIYING XU

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.



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.