

# AFI CHANGEMAKERS SUMMIT

UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA, DECEMBER 2014

REPORT TO THE RIGHT TO  
DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP



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Report prepared and edited by Rory Evans and Emma Robinson of the AFI Changemakers Summit at the UN.

AFI Changemakers Right to Development Summit conceived, organised and facilitated by Ariel Foundation International, Dr. Ariel Rosita King.

This publication is dedicated to Dr. Margo G. King, who has spent a lifetime empowering youth to lead us into the future.

**Special Thank You to:**

AFI Changemakers 2014 Executive Team Co-chairs Amin Khosravi, Smriti Sonam & Dipti Kumar  
New leaders Emma Robinson, Rory Evans, Catherine White, Michael Fox, Meg Smith & Sarah Crowe  
Ambassador Ireneo Namboka, Co-Chair of AFI Changemakers-UN Summit 2014  
Ambassador Joseph Huggins, Chair, Ariel Foundation International  
Ambassador Molelekeg Ernestina Rapolaki, Vice Chair, Ariel Foundation International and Ariani-Leilani Children's Foundation International  
"The Little Ambassador," Ariana-Leilani Margarita Alexandra King-Pfeiffer  
Ambassador Tamara Kunanayakam, OHCHR Chair, Working Group on Right to Development  
Bat-Erdene Ayush, OHCHR, Chief Right to Development  
Shyami Puyimanasinghe, OHCHR, Human Rights Officer, Right to Development

**Photography** by Dr. Ariel R. King & Jennifer Smith

**Front cover image:** AFI Changemaker Sabrina Ong

This year's supported cause was providing orphans in Botswana with hot meals and gifts for one day. We successfully raised €800.



On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2014, **youth representatives** from around the world met in Geneva at the Palais Des Nations to **tackle the most important issues** for their **generations' future**.







Facilitated by **Ariel Foundation International**, the summit deliberated on actions and recommendations to be taken forward to the **UN Right to Development Working Group**.

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Image at top: Dr. Ariel R. King and Abhilash Gupta

Middle images: The Right to Development Panel

Image below : AFI Changemakers-UN Summit 2014 delegates Daisy-May Super, Emma Judkins, Daniel Dai, Hannah Stoate, Justin Hoek, Laurent Basset, Maxime Le Marechal, Poonam Bhar, Raphaëlle Butteau, Shagufta Ashraf, Anna Dai, Fei Ni, Smriti Sonam, Amin Khosravi, Dipti Kumar, Michael Fox, Catherine White, Emma Robinson, Rory Evans, Sarah Crowe, Megan Smith, Elena Bartaškaitė, Aarti Borole, Dominic King, Jennifer Smith, Bienja Kaya, Kristina Stepanova, Nicolas Prost, Andrea di Biagio, Sabrina Ong, Ritesh Saigal, Hannah Couchlin, Ambassador Ireneo Namboka

Not pictured: Julius Yee





# AFI CHANGEMAKERS-UN ARE EXTRAORDINARY!



Ban Ki-moon, “the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) has identified in his second term working with and for young people as one of his top priorities.” He appointed Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi of Jordan as his first ever Envoy on Youth, who assumed his position on 17 January 2013 to advocate for addressing the development needs and rights of young people, as well as to bring the work of the United Nations with and for youth closer to them.

The AFI Changemakers-UN 2014 are an extraordinary self-selected group of self-motivated, passionate, open, intelligent, multi-talented, sophisticated, compassionate, awe inspiring eighteen to thirty-five year olds. With only three days, this extraordinary group came to know one another, decide on important issues that affected youth worldwide and held deliberations on the state of the issues and the way forward with recommendations for actions. In short they are extraordinary Changemakers!

The next AFI Changemakers-UN Summit in February 2015 will be on the Right to Health and Access to Medicine and once again these remarkable young people will prove themselves as extraordinary Changemakers! ([www.changemakers-un.org](http://www.changemakers-un.org)).

The Envoy for youth, Mr. Ahmed Alhendawi’s ([www.un.org/youthenvoy](http://www.un.org/youthenvoy)) number one priority is the “participation for youth – increase youth accessibility to the United Nations” and the second is “advocacy for youth – stronger youth participation”. AFI Changemakers-UN meet and participate at the United Nations working on the world’s most difficult challenges, including discrimination, slavery & trafficking, food security, climate change, sustainability and conflicts. AFI Changemakers-UN actively participate both at the international level and local country level for the betterment of the world. AFI Changemakers-UN lead and we will follow!

**Dr. Ariel King**  
**President, Ariel Foundation International**

# CONTEXT

Young people make up roughly a quarter of the world's population (UNFPA). **That's 1.8 billion people.** The power of young people to act as changemakers and influence the world around them has never been greater.

Technology has revolutionised the way we communicate, bringing young people from across the world closer and closer together in ways that have never been experienced before. These greater and more diverse connections allow for a **sharing of ideas** and a mobilisation for **collective action** that crosses international borders.

We are living in an age of unprecedented global access to education that has allowed the world's young people to become the **most educated generation ever.** It is the responsibility of this generation to ensure that the next generation of young people are provided with even more opportunities than we are.

**This challenge won't be easy.** With a smaller world comes the reality that there are challenges that collectively face us all; climate change, increasing inequality, the evolving and unpredictable nature of global conflict, the allocation of resources and the pressures and challenges associated with increased migration are just some of the problems facing the new generation of changemakers.

We know that **the power to solve these problems is within our grasp.** We're motivated by the knowledge that the tools that we have available to us are effective for change. Time and time again, young people have proven themselves as **leaders and thinkers**; their participation is crucial and an opportunity not to be squandered.

This is why **the participation of young people in the continued dialogue at the United Nations is essential** for the continued legacy of the Right to Development. The UN High Commission for Human Rights Office of Development has actively sought opportunities to engage with young people and encourage their participation.

It is for these reasons that in 2013 **Ariel Foundation International (AFI)** facilitated the inaugural **AFI Changemakers Summit**. Building on the success of 2013, the 2014 summit sought to provide a voice to ever more young people in the changing world. **AFI believes passionately in the mutual benefit possible from youth engagement and involvement in UN work, policies and practices.**

We believe youth should take control of the future they want to see



It's the change to make, so let's make it now.



# WORKSHOPS



Workshops found **youth perspectives** in six crucial areas: conflict zones, climate change, food security, slavery and trafficking, discrimination and sustainability.



# CONFLICT ZONES

Julius Yee, Sabrina Ong, Anna Dai, Shagufta Ashraf, Hannah Couchlin

The repercussions of conflict are extensive, widespread and disastrous. Conflict can be both interstate or within state boundaries. Key causes include economic, ethnic, social, political and religious turmoil. Our group chose to focus our policy recommendations on educational issues and issues concerning asylum seekers and refugees.

## Education:

The Right to Education is enshrined in the Convention of the Rights of the Child under Article 28, however this right is often not brought to the forefront of consideration within conflict zones due to the nature of instability and uncertainty. Those living within conflict zones, internally displaced people and refugees and asylum seekers all suffer from a lack of access to education during conflict.

## Recommendations:

- Increased funding for education in refugee camps to prevent an entire generation being lost to a lack of education.
- Article 28 by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the right to education) should be compulsory at a higher level, not just a primary level.

## Refugees and asylum seekers:

Conflict creates an enormous number of refugees and asylum seekers, which often leave host countries struggling to cope.

## Recommendations:

- Wealthier nations should be receptive to a larger number of refugees and asylum seekers to ease pressure on less developed host nations
- We would encourage governments at a national level to include education about the rights and experiences of refugees within a national curriculum to encourage empathy and improve the integration of refugees into their new societies

“

One of the worst aspects of conflict is the devastating impact it can have on young people. We've focused on education within conflict zones because children are the least responsible for conflict and yet are always the worst affected.

Hannah Couchlin, 20



”



# CLIMATE CHANGE

Emma Robinson, Bienja Kaya, Laurent Basset, Andrea di Biagio, Justin Hoek, Daniel Dai

Our committee recognises the threat that climate change poses to the Right to Development. We emphasise that a concerted effort against climate change will require the adoption of sustainability as an ethos and underline the importance of both top-down and bottom-up approaches. We understand that climate change is a global issue and therefore requires the mobilisation of governments and populations worldwide. The viability of climate change solutions will vary from place to place depending on the development, economic and resource limitations of each area. The recommendations made below will try to incorporate this reality.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### REGULATION

Aim to reduce financial barriers to combating climate change by:

- Imposing a tax penalty scheme to discourage operational processes that result in negative externalities, such as: inefficient energy and resource use and irresponsible waste management. Using this tax revenue, we suggest subsidies for companies who demonstrate a commitment to sustainable practises, to ensure that the scheme is self-contained;
- Making more investment funds available for research into reducing fuel in air travel;
- Creating an international carbon tax based on per capita emissions which is only imposed once a maximum emission threshold has been surpassed. This would be administered by the UN and used to fund suggested climate recommendations that would create a financial burden;
- Creating more transparency within the lobbying industry through the public registering of lobbyists from every industry; revealing who and what they are lobbying for and the cash sums involved.

### CONSUMER AWARENESS

Aim to make it easier for individuals and families to monitor their carbon footprint by:

- Providing more support and funding for cleaner energy sources and technologies from governmental bodies. This can be done through our aforementioned tax subsidy scheme; supporting companies working on new developments and imposing tax penalties on companies that are unwilling to change their production. This will result in a visibly fairer green price index for the consumer;
- Working towards the goal of achieving the installation of an energy consumption monitoring device in every home and office building in the developed world, allowing occupants to manage and optimise their energy usage. This can be done by supporting companies through subventions.



## EDUCATION

Recognise the need to educate citizens from an early age about the importance of sustainability and the effects of climate change by:

- Integrating environmental awareness into the core curriculum of schools on a global level, fostering a sense of awareness and responsibility and nurturing skill-sets required for a growing sustainability sector. This education should begin at kindergarten level.
- Promoting sustainability and climate change careers in higher education by encouraging governments to promote a link-up scheme between universities and industry sectors, thus providing a more direct route into jobs
- Educating at least one person in every workplace to act as a sustainability ambassador. These schemes have been shown to be effective in creating a culture of climate friendly values. Each sustainability ambassador would be awarded with an accredited certificate from a regulatory body and training for these courses could be paid using revenue from carbon taxes;
- Actively promoting the value and importance of careers with a focus on sustainable development through awareness campaigns and education whilst taking into account the sensitivities and priorities of different demographics. It should be ensured that all of these jobs promote labour rights and pay a living wage that supports families and communities.

## ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

Stress the power of effective communication by ensuring that:

- The information collected and published by scientific bodies and institutions should be disseminated in a way that is accessible to policy and decision makers as well as to global citizens. We recommend that reports be published not only in a way that is accessible to those with less expertise but also published in as many different languages as possible;
- It is mandatory for all governments to educate their citizens about climate change using accessible mediums such as viral campaigns on social media, TV programmes and radio broadcasts.

## GLOBAL INITIATIVE PLATFORM

Understand that every global citizen has the right to understand the issues facing their community, and thus:

- Call for the creation of a free, global, United Nations sponsored platform that encourages the implementation and support of local projects that focus on sustainability. This would be used as a network that facilitates the sharing of knowledge, ideas, and resources through mediums such as websites, regional committees and summits.
- Call for a knowledge exchange between developed and developing countries. This contact can be initiated through the platform, for example engineering specialists can be linked up with beneficiaries to teach them how to build more efficient machines and make use of new technologies.

“

Mobilising our generation to ensure that we invoke change requires us acting together, demanding progressive policy, implementing innovative ideas and then sustaining the global movement against climate change.

”

Bienja Kaya, 28



# FOOD SECURITY

Rory Evans, Ritesh Saigal, Nicolas Prost, Elena Bartaškaitė, Maxime Le Marechal



## Introduction:

Food security is **access to food for all people at all times**. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), food security “exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. Echoing David Laborde, IFRI Senior Research Fellow, we felt that “Food security is not just about producing more food. It’s also about raising incomes across the board, particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable members of society”.

## What are the main causes of food insecurity?

- Lack of infrastructure at a micro level:
  - Farmers lack access to basic farming technologies, fertiliser, tools and the financial infrastructure to save and borrow to grow their businesses.
- Lack of infrastructure at a macro level:
  - National transport infrastructure is often inadequate to transport crops efficiently which could allow farmers to access global markets.
  - There is also inadequate infrastructure for storing food, meaning much is lost as wastage, particularly when a glut in the market produces excess food.
- Education:
  - There are inadequate mechanisms for the sharing of best farming practices, effective yield results and profit/loss triggers.
- External factors that skew the market:
  - Farming subsidies in the developed world skew the market, by artificially deflating prices for some producers and therefore making it difficult for farmers without this advantage to compete.

## Recommendations:

- **Basic financial infrastructure:**
  - We propose that microfinance and microcredit are made available to those in need, which will allow them to invest in the necessary infrastructure to be able to compete at a global level. Microfinance institutions should be community owned, to create an environment of local trust that avoids financial exploitation and adheres to cultural norms.



- Community owned microfinance can empower people to buy the machinery and technology that they require and to participate in a community saving scheme that leaves them more resilient to shocks.
- Community based savings programs can be used to assist farmers in investing in new technology, such as drought resistant drip-irrigation systems.
- **Efficient allocation of goods**
  - Investment should be made in food storage facilities in areas prone to gluts in supply during bumper harvests.
  - Investment must also be made in national and international transport infrastructure that can connect suppliers more efficiently to global markets.
- **Subsidies**
  - We propose the UN carry out an assessment of the impacts of farming subsidies and trade tariffs on the developing world. This far-reaching evaluation will allow us to better understand the impact of subsidies so we can draft policies that best service the needs of farmers in both the developed and the developing world.

“

I think that food security is a very important issue for young people because the human population is growing rapidly, and if we don't think about these issues shortly, we won't be able to face the challenge of feeding billions of human beings.

Nicolas Prost, 16

”







# SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING

Poonam Bahr, Sarah Crowe, Emma Judkins, Megan Smith, Kristina Stepanova

Slavery and trafficking as crimes are a manifestation of other evils in our society; namely inequality, poverty and greed. The harsh reality is that as long as gross inequality, global poverty and obstacles to development exist then slavery and trafficking, as manifestations of these problems, will continue to thrive.

## 1. The Push and Pull Factors:

Part of the complexity of dealing with slavery and human trafficking is that they are a manifestation of global concerns; issues which create both “push” and “pull” factors. “Push” factors refer to the conditions in the country of origin that make potential victims more susceptible to these crimes. “Pull” factors refer to those in receiving countries which potential victims may perceive as presenting better opportunities and attract perpetrators to certain countries.

### Recommendations:

- Empower communities and vulnerable groups through development initiatives and use education as a prevention tool.
- Reduce “pull factors” by strengthening criminal justice systems to create a zero tolerance for perpetrators of slavery and trafficking, through legislation, policy and policing.
- Independent reviews, on a national level, of the impact of sex and drug laws with a view to reducing demand for trafficking.

## 2. The Role of Business in Combating Slavery and Trafficking:

Many businesses directly or indirectly condone slavery and trafficking through their labour policies, supply chains and unethical practices. This may be knowingly or unknowingly due to the complexities of global business.

### Recommendations:

- Enforce and strengthen the legal duty for businesses to respect human rights, ensuring that they are accountable for their actions. This could include requirements such as signing ethical trading agreements with suppliers, monitoring their work force for abuses and training staff members to be vigilant. It's essential that businesses are engaged in this discourse.
- Establish an independent international regulatory body to ensure businesses adhere to human rights standards.
- Businesses must adopt ‘responsible child protection from exploitation’ policies.

### 3. Raising Awareness in Order to Identify Victims:

A large majority of the population are currently unable to spot the indicators of the different forms of slavery and react in an appropriate way.

#### Recommendations:

- Increase the awareness of the indicators of slavery and trafficking amongst the public, and amongst decision-makers, service providers and those working on the frontline through education in workplaces, schools and public advertising

### 4. Perceptions of Slavery and Trafficking:

There must be a broader recognition of all forms of slavery and trafficking. These include debt bondage, forced labour (including in drug cultivation, agriculture and construction), domestic servitude and descent-based slavery.

#### Recommendations:

- International emphasis on the many forms of slavery and trafficking – steering away from the focus on sex slavery and trafficking, whilst still appreciating their gravity.
- International collaboration and campaigning to break away from the term ‘modern-day slavery.’ No other crime has been renamed or termed ‘modern’ as it has evolved over time; we do not refer to ‘modern’ rape or ‘modern’ war crimes.

### 5. Front-Line Border Controls:

In many countries there is a lack of independent oversight into potential trafficking cases. Media and public opinion also conflate trafficking with illegal immigration and human smuggling.

#### Recommendations:

- Create separate national bodies to identify victims of trafficking or adapt the current system to adequately meet the needs of victims.
- Media outlets must play a more active role in ensuring that the conflation of trafficking and immigration is not perpetuated.
- Improved training of front-line immigration staff that deal with potential victims.

### 6. Victims Left in Legal Limbo; No Documentation, Status or Somewhere to Go:

After discovery, it is usually difficult for victims to produce legal documents upon arrival. This can lead to victims having no legal status, akin to refugee status.

#### Recommendations:

- Establish a new internationally recognised legal status for victims of slavery and trafficking. This status should consider victims that are too vulnerable to return to their own country, allow a period of leave to remain and recognise that not all victims will fulfill a cross-border requirement.

“The sad political reality is that slavery and human trafficking receive little attention because those with the power to publicise feel that they are the least affected. However, slavery and human trafficking causes permanent and significant damage to our society.”

Poonam Bahr, 21





# DISCRIMINATION

Catherine White, Michael Fox, Jennifer Smith, Dominic King, Hannah Stoate

We focused our discussion on eight areas of discrimination: class, migrant, gender, LGBT+, religious, child, racial, and disability.

## Class Discrimination

Vast wealth inequality, lack of political representation and inadequate labour rights all contribute to discrimination against those who are economically or socially disadvantaged.

### **Recommendations:**

- Pressure developed countries to adopt a minimum wage.
- Create international mechanisms to support weak nations in collecting corporation tax.
- Promote equalising financing for education to standardise the quality of schools nationally.
- Finance research into creating laws that will protect domestic workers from abuse and that will improve their working conditions where necessary.

## Migrant Discrimination

Migrants face discrimination in the workplace, the legal system and in the community. Abuses of human and labour rights, social discrimination, and the lack of funding for legal representation for trafficked migrants all need to be addressed.

### **Recommendations:**

- Legislate formal rights for all domestic workers.
- Remove migrant labour systems that place the welfare of the workforce entirely within the hands of the employer.
- Create a framework of necessary programs for national governments to facilitate the integration of all migrants into society including social education in schools.
- Influence countries to act quicker in humanitarian incidents to provide infrastructures for refugees from bordering nations. Provide financial assistance for organisations that are fighting for the legal protection of migrants and the enforcement of justice for traffickers or criminals.



## Gender Discrimination

Gender is being used here instead of sex in order to reflect gender identity rather than biological sex.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), wealth inequality and incomplete education due to child marriage, lack of sanitation in schools and strict gender roles are examples of discrimination against gender.

### **Recommendations**

- Pressure must be placed on UN Member States to actively reduce and tackle GBV through proper response and prevention. In addition, international guidelines should be put together on how people should be treated when they have been physically and/or sexually assaulted within the legal system of each country.
- Education and training for women to encourage young women to stay in school and gain employment which will in turn improve national economic growth.
- Encourage the autonomy of young women. Empower them to make informed choices regarding education, marriage, and expressing their sexuality.

## LGBT+ Discrimination

The term LGBT+ is used here to recognise the vast spectrum of sexual self-identification, inclusive of all persons who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or any other sexual identity.

Lack of legal recognition, criminalisation, forced sterilisation and lack of health services contribute to an LGBT+ community that is marginalised and underrepresented in institutions.

### **Recommendations:**

- To create an international policy framework that addresses all aspects of LGBT+ rights, for example, a treaty similar to CERD and CEDAW.
- To encourage training and education, as well as sex and relationships education, at all levels of society.
- To ensure that effective mechanisms are promoted that focus on addressing gender-based violence, not just on violence against women. This acknowledges that stigmatisation of LGBT+ people is a basis on which GBV is often ignored.
- To encourage the global decriminalisation of homosexuality and removal of homophobic and transphobic legislation and the creation of equal rights.
- The recognition of the right to sexual self-identification as a human right.

## Religious Discrimination

Lack of cultural sensitivity, hate crimes, social media xenophobia and sectarian violence are examples of religious discrimination that people face around the globe.

### **Recommendations**

- Implementation of an international framework suggesting that religious education is taught in schools on a national scale, without bias and in a culturally sensitive manner. This helps to encourage a more value driven system that focuses on important global values versus values of a particular religion or country.
- An international annual review imposed on social media corporations to review internal policies on cyber rights. Discrimination that occurs on social media reflects the fast and perpetually evolving nature of the internet in a globalised world. Existing hate crime legislation should be used to prosecute perpetrators of internet hate crimes.



## Child Discrimination

Violent discipline, the effect of war, child abuse, lack of access to healthcare and difficulties in access to education are all examples of issues that show discrimination against children.

### Recommendations

- Reducing the violence of police forces and custody officers on children, for example by legislating that these officials be required to wear cameras when dealing with children.
- Changing the perception of violence in society by disallowing physical punishment in school. This could be added as an amendment to Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.\*
- Effective prosecution of those involved in the recruitment of child soldiers and the effective rehabilitation of victims.
- Ensuring a better understanding of sex and reducing sexual abuse through education.
- Improving access to health care (including mental health care). Develop a trusted symbol of accreditation to assign to medical companies who support developing countries by providing equipment at a reduced price or offering funded training such as professional exchange programs. The improving of education around health could be suggested through a general comment accompanying article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.\*
- Improving the quality of teachers. Agencies like UNESCO and UNICEF could work together to provide a minimum standard for teacher training including training in learning disabilities and the early warning signs of general and mental health conditions.
- Improving the quality of education and access for children with learning disabilities. These agencies could also work together to provide a minimum standard for the level of assessment needed into each individual's learning style and ensuring the diagnosis of any learning disabilities.

\*This could be in the form of one general comment that sets a standard for the essential topics that must be covered within education, such as sexual health, hygiene, first aid, mental health and all essential life skills relevant to the environment the child is being brought up in.

## Racial Discrimination

Unfair treatment within the legal system, police discrimination, cultural appropriation and hyper-sexualisation and fetishisation of minority ethnic women within different countries are all examples of racial discrimination.

### Recommendations

- Enforcement and imposition of a report justifying the stopping and searching of an individual based on reasonable belief with said reason being documented in the report.

- There should be an increased focus on audits and on reviewing that all evidence used in legal cases can be found to be valid and sufficient.
- Exonerated persons should receive effective rehabilitation including financing programs to assist them in re-stabilising their lives.
- Greater monitoring of the police force and those institutions in power, for example through the use of body cameras to increase trust in the police and accountability
- Funding of development programs to assist marginalised ethnic minority communities to improve their quality of life
- Adoption of international law concerning racial discrimination in the workplace

## Disability Discrimination

The recommendations below are aimed to protect and support growth and development for individuals with intellectual, mental, sensory, and physical disabilities.

### Key Issues

Unacceptable quality of life, insufficient protection from abuse and inadequate policies, practices and regulations are examples of discrimination facing people with a disability.

### Recommendations

- Full adoption of the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in place of the current optional status, including an amendment with our suggestions from the specialised Discrimination report.
- Global adoption of proactive, universal, and consistent regulatory and practical solutions based on cooperation and partnerships that work towards “optimal results or accommodation” in place of “reasonable accommodation” of disabled persons.
- Creation and adoption of KPIs based on a universal categorisation of individual disability needs and an international disability maturity model to increase motivation, guidance, and incentives in government, education, institutional, and work environments.
- Increased focus on improving information, resources, and providing mandatory training both for and about the needs of the disabled community to increase awareness, understanding, conscientiousness, and success within governmental, educational, institutional, and work environments.
- Auditing of all responsible parties providing services, treatments, programs, or products for members of the disabled community to attain optimal results for every individual while preventing and prosecuting abuses
  - Provision, by consensual choice, of traditional and/or alternative treatments and support that facilitates well-rounded lifestyles for all individuals until they have achieved a high quality of life



“Our group chose to focus on discrimination as we firmly believe that it is our duty to ensure that we work tirelessly to recognise the value of all types of people through our thoughts and actions. We want to assure that the global community of tomorrow will benefit from greater equality, participation and contribution than that of today.”

**Catherine White, 21**





# SUSTAINABILITY

Aarti Borole, Abhilash Gupta, Daisy-May Super, Fei Ni, Raphaëlle Butte

According to the United Nations' 'Our Common Future' report, sustainable development means ensuring that the needs of the present population do not compromise the ability of any future generation to meet their own needs. Sustainable projects are required to be economically viable, socially positive and environmentally sound. Sustainability as a topic is infinitely large and encapsulates nearly aspect of all of our lives. It is an ethos that we believe everybody – all nations, all organisations, all individuals - should be working towards.

## Concerns

- Lack of education of the issues and how to tackle them in effective ways.
- Lack of funding to sustainable development projects.
- Lack of incentives to carry out sustainable practices.

## Recommendations

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

- More funding should be invested by governments, in particular those of developing countries, into the infrastructure of waste management sites. Effective, environmentally-sound waste management services reduce pollution and health risks to those living and working on or around these sites.
- Increased funding should be available from international organisations for sustainable projects. Infrastructure help offered by these institutions should be offered on the agreement that assistance will be given if recipient countries work towards meeting global sustainability goals and waste reduction policy remains a high priority in national affairs.
- Tighter regulation with regards to chemical waste disposal. Industries must face consequences for incorrect disposal, particularly when harmful chemicals are involved.
- Education and training in waste disposal should be made compulsory, with a particular focus on chemical waste in developing countries. Mandatory and thorough training in environmental management should be implemented with world-wide recognised and accredited certification.

- Public rankings of both company and industry commitment and action to environmentally sustainable waste disposal should be made available. These rankings should be promoted in order to encourage companies to make changes and allow consumers to make informed, ethical choices.

## SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- In order to increase the scale and capabilities of social enterprises, we recommend that governments work alongside private investors to ensure sufficient means are available. We would like to see more banks follow the example of the Grameen Bank and use the same model world-wide.
- The risk of sustainable social enterprises should be lowered in order to attract investors and encourage more enterprise of this type. Increasing incentives and minimising risk losses through tax breaks for small start-ups, communal or government guarantees on loans and financial incentives would encourage more social enterprises.

## FARMING

- Corporate responsibility regulation should be enforced in the farming sector. Ethical farming must be brought to the attention of all consumers and used as an example for companies to practice environmentally sound and healthy procedures. We recommend an international agreement which also protects farmers in developing countries, where their rights may not be as enforceable or protected. Land assurance and ownership along with regulations on access to markets and capital should be fair and equal to all.
- In areas where farming techniques are ineffective, education should be provided in how to utilise land in a way which is effective and sustainable. We recommend government training initiatives for groups of farmers.
- Technical assistance is needed to tackle problems in sustainable farming. Recently pioneered scientific developments must be effected with immediacy.
- Farmers should be encouraged to support each other and create groups and structures between themselves. Knowledge and understanding of farming will be what ensures sustainability, and farmers, along with researchers and specialists, should be connected and transfer their knowledge.
- Advantage should be taken of the positive effect that initiatives such as crowdfunding and microcredit can have on farming. Funding for rural farmers in developing countries by investors in developed countries could bridge the gap needed for funding.
- We believe that a change needs to be affected across all populations to consume local, seasonal produce and use materials that can be grown effectively and sustainably. Governments everywhere should actively promote this message in order to reduce the negative environmental consequences of consumer demand. Offering incentives to eat seasonal and ethical foods, such as increasing tax for imports, can aid the change of global attitudes.



“ We know that it is entirely possible to live sustainably but it will require brave and inventive problem-solving to kick-start the sustainability revolution! ”

Daisy-May Super, 21

# CHANGEMAKERS PANEL

## HIV/AIDS and EBOLA

World Aids Day, 1 December

### Co-Chairs

Dr. Ariel King, *President Ariel Foundation International  
& Ariana-Leilani Children's Foundation International*

Ms. Smriti Sonam, *Co-Chair AFI Changemakers Summit*

### Original Performance

Mr. Abhilash Gupta, *India (guitar and vocal)*

### Speakers

Ms. Ibtisam Karoui, *Germany and Tunisia*

Ms. Dipti Kumar LLB, *Malaysia*

Ms. Catherine White, *United Kingdom*

Mr. Nicolas Prost, *France*

Ms. Shagufta Ashraf, *Pakistan*

Ms. Sabrina Jiah Ling Ong, *Malaysia*

Mr. Michael Fox, *Northern Ireland*

Ms. Poonam Bhar, *Malaysia*





# PRESENTATIONS

## **“Ebola is not just a medical issue, it’s a racial and feminist issue”**



Catherine White, 21

Catherine argued that Ebola must be treated as more than simply a medical issue; instead it must be treated as a racial and feminist issue. We must learn from our failure to effectively treat the HIV/AIDs epidemic by taking on board this reality. The problematic representation of Africa in popular culture, such as Bob Geldof’s ‘Band Aid’ charity single is unhelpful in creating a negative and stereotypical impression of an entire continent. It is a highly reductive impression of a complex problem. Catherine argues that the categorisation of Ebola as an African disease is a destructive element that damages public perceptions of those affected and breeds ignorance. She goes on to discuss the impact of Ebola on women, and its creation of a maternal health crisis. Catherine argues that the spread of Ebola has been allowed to get out of control because it occurred in countries at the lowest end of the UN Human Development Index, and in Africa, and therefore has been taken less seriously in the developed world.

## **“A feminist perspective of the HIV/AIDs crisis”**

Michael argues that although human beings are born “equal” in the UN Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR) Article 1, they are not able to access equal rights to development. He focuses on the three groups affected by HIV/AIDs: women, sex workers, and the homosexual community. He argues that in Asia sex workers avoid carrying condoms or visiting health clinics to avoid arrest, thereby increasing their chances of infection and transmission of HIV. Homosexuals are also ostracised in many societies, increasing the prevalence of HIV infection among these groups as they avoid seeking medical attention for fear of prosecution or persecution. In many countries in Africa the number of women infected with HIV is two or three times that of men. Michael argues it is of the utmost importance that legal and social protection be given to sex workers and the LGBT+ community across the world in order that they can access their right to development. Women must also be given equal opportunities to men so they can achieve the same access to medical care.



Michael Fox, 22

# PRESENTATIONS

## **"Russia cannot afford to ignore those with HIV/AIDs"**

Russia has the second fastest growing HIV epidemic in the world, where it is frequently spread between intravenous drug users, argues Poonam Bahr. Russian authorities frequently make grand statements about HIV in Russia, and have earmarked \$600 million, but only 3% of this is for preventative services. UNAIDS has suggested a dramatic change of strategy if Russia is to get its HIV epidemic under control. 83% of HIV infections in Russia are registered among injecting drug users, and the banning of methadone as a heroin addiction replacement tool has had a particularly devastating effect. Stigmatisation of the LGBT community has also made it more difficult for homosexuals infected with HIV to seek treatment. Ineffective screening processes for blood transfusions is another problem, which could be overcome using 'blood pharming' techniques. What is certain is that ignoring the problem of the HIV epidemic in Russia is only going to make it worse.



Poonam Bahr, 24

## **"We cannot look at HIV in Africa and pretend it would be allowed to happen anywhere else"**



Sabrina Ong, 21

Sabrina points out that two thirds of the 35 million people living with HIV/AIDs today live in sub-Saharan Africa. In sub-Saharan Africa, 300,000 mothers with HIV give birth to children each year, and 90% of the pregnant women worldwide with HIV/AIDs live in this region. This is a humanitarian emergency of staggering proportions yet it isn't treated as such. The HIV/AIDs crisis makes a mockery of our ideas about justice, and we cannot pretend that a crisis of this scale would be allowed to continue if it was happening anywhere else in the world. For the first time in history we have the technology, the know-how, the cash and the lifesaving drugs. But do we have the will? For Sabrina, "Idealism detached from action is just a dream. Idealism, however, allied with pragmatism is very exciting. It's real and strong. We cannot afford not to take action right now, and hope that one day we will win the fight against HIV/AIDs."

# PRESENTATIONS

**"Young people can be mobilised to collective action but first we have to inspire them"**

We must all join in a collective effort to end the HIV/AIDs epidemic, argues Nicolas Prost. The UN believes that ending the AIDs epidemic by 2030 is possible, but only by bridging the gap between those with access to prevention services and treatment and those who do not. There are clear parallels between the HIV/AIDs epidemic and Ebola; victims are often stigmatised and therefore avoid treatment, increasing the likelihood of further infections and deaths. Nicolas is deeply concerned by the apathetic reactions of young people in his home country of France, who he feels lack concern because they do not deem the events to be happening within close proximity to them. He uses the example, however, of how national campaigns such as live telethons have the power to mobilise young people to give symbolic and financial support to those in need. The power to change things is only in the hands of those who see the reality and act to save lives.



Nicolas Prost, 16

**"Local cultures must be respected when tackling AIDs globally"**



Dipti Kumar, 23

Awareness campaigns are essential in stopping the transmission of HIV and preventing further infections and these campaigns have been proven to have success in the developed world. So why have they been less successful in the developing world? My experience with HIV+ individuals in Malaysia has made me appreciate the difficulty of spreading HIV awareness messages in places where gender and sexual issues are taboo. Open campaigns, information sessions and free condoms will not be successful in these cultures. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach that transplants successful HIV awareness campaigns from one culture to another that has none of the same cultural norms, governments must implement HIV campaigns that are sensitive to local custom. One example could be the facilitation of anonymous online support groups where individuals do not have to confront cultural taboos openly in order to get help. There are many ways to prevent the spread of HIV beyond translating campaigns into local language.





# 26 YEARS OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

A programme co-ordinated to celebrate the progress made since the Declaration on the Right to Development and to appreciate the massive challenges that lie ahead.



Images; top left: Mr. Roberto Bissio discusses the threat posed by global inequality; top right: Ms. Jumoke Oduwole speaks of Ebola treatment in Nigeria; bottom left: Changemaker Kristina Stepanova speaks with Ms. Karin Arts about her speech on our obligation to the rights of children.







# MOVING FORWARD

# VISION AND AMBITION



The AFI Changemakers Summit was founded with the vision of promoting the **inclusion of the perspectives of young people within the UN**. Despite its enormous ambition, the inaugural summit saw this vision finally brought to life, and it was because of this success that the 2014 summit was even more ambitious than the last. It is only through this drive and determination to increase the presence of Changemakers at the UN that we can achieve the imperative of **greater youth involvement at all levels of the United Nations**.

One of our key ambitions is to ever **increase the diversity of experience** of Changemakers to ensure that they reflect the views of young people on a truly global scale. We are aiming to double the number of delegates at the December 2015 summit, and are investigating access pathways for young people for whom Geneva would normally be out of reach.

**The Right to Development is only the beginning for Changemakers.** 2015 will see Changemakers represented at a multitude of United Nations events on a wide range of topics. We know that the Changemakers care about every aspect of the work of the United Nations, and we want to provide them with opportunities to **get to the heart of the issues they care about most**.

Our vision is one which exists both inside and outside the UN; we see so many remarkable youth initiatives, organisations and movements that we seek to build relationships with and learn from. By **increasing our media presence** both online and offline we hope to inspire young people who may have become disaffected that the **youth can be instrumental in making change** when their voices are heard.

Our vision is taking shape, but our ambitions will only be truly realised with the support and backing of the United Nations.





# RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are put forward to the Right to Development Working Group for consideration and approval:

- Consider all actions/recommendations from the Changemakers Summit workshops and provide feedback to the Changemakers Summit Co-Chairs with information where the Working Group has or is doing work in these areas.
- Identify themes/specific areas where sub-working groups engaging with youth can bring value to the UN Right to Development.
- Work with the AFI Changemakers Summit Circle of Leaders to explore how we can overcome barriers and enhance greater youth participation in the Right to Development's work.
- Support the continuation of the AFI Changemakers Summit and accept our invitation to be involved in the Right to Development Summit in 2015.
- Right to Development should play an advocate role in supporting the Changemakers Summit at the UN concept with other UN departments and working groups, bringing direct youth participation to other areas of the UN's work.
- Support a communication project that promotes the Declaration of the Right to Development as an inspirational tool for young people to use.
- Have Changemakers Summit representation at Right to Development Working Group meetings.
- The Changemakers Summit platform should be used to communicate work experience opportunities for young people at the UN.

# NEXT STEPS

- AFI Changemakers Summit on Access to Medicine and Right to Health (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February)
- OCHCR Social Summit on Access to Medicine (18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> February)
- Present the report to the Right to Development Working Group in April/May
- Changemakers representatives will be present at The World Health Assembly, the International Labour Organisation, UNAIDs and the UN Human Rights and Business Conference throughout the year
- AFI Changemakers Summit December 2015



# AFI CHANGEMAKERS DELEGATES 2014



**Daisy-May Super, 21, United Kingdom**

Daisy-May is studying English Law and Australian Law at King's College London and spends her spare time raising funds for social enterprises in Tanzania. Her aim at the summit was to form well-rounded, justifiable opinions and use them to make positive change in developing communities, particularly in Eastern Africa. She believes that the way out of poverty and national inequality is through business and economic stimulation achieved through global co-operation and discipline.



**Emma Judkins, 21, United Kingdom**

Emma is reading International History and Politics at the University of Leeds, currently on a year abroad at Leiden University. She has taken a great interest in Model United Nations and debating. She believes that as a part of a new generation that has never been so interconnected, the understanding of each others' cultures is key for the longevity of peace and stability in our world.



**Daniel Dai, 21, Australia**

Daniel is a Politics, Philosophy and Law student at Monash University Australia, now currently on a six month exchange program at Leiden University, where his studies have predominantly focused on international relations and foreign policy. His primary areas of interest are climate change, security and development.



**Hannah Stoate, 23, United Kingdom**

Hannah has wanted to pursue a career in human rights since she was 14. She has undertaken volunteering, mini-pupillages and internships across a range of rights issues to develop her understanding of problems faced by different groups, including refugees, disabled individuals, gender issues and children's rights. She is currently studying human rights at postgraduate level and hopes to build on this to achieve her dreams of fighting for the vulnerable.



**Justin Hoek, 24, Netherlands**

Justin has amassed many cultural experiences from his time living in several different countries and is now studying a liberal arts and science program at the University of Utrecht. His main specialisation is in environment and innovation. He wishes to learn more about the important process of accomplishing a global consensus on issues that affect us all. He looks forward to a UN experience that involves meeting young inspirational people who will help widen his horizon.

# AFI CHANGEMAKERS DELEGATES 2014



**Laurent Basset, 34, France**

Laurent is actively involved in environmental NGOs including “Surfrider Foundation” and “Asso Green”. He is concerned with issues of globalisation such a wealth distribution between and within countries. Currently pursuing a Masters in Science Entrepreneurship and Innovation, he is most passionate about creating social change with entrepreneurship and new business models for a sustainable world. He aspires to create a company in the sustainable development industry.



**Maxime Le Marechal, 25, France**

Maxime is currently studying Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Skema Business School in France. After 6 months involved in a Cambodian NGO helping artisans to run their fair trade business, his hunger for adventure pushed him to travel along the North America’s west coast from Vancouver to Mexico City. His next goal is to create or be part of a social enterprise. He is passionate about cultural exchanges and was excited about meeting diverse youth leaders at this year’s summit.



**Poonam Bhar, 24, Malaysia**

Poonam is currently enrolled at medical school in Moscow, graduating in June 2015. She is involved in a variety of influential medical projects within Russia, including providing medical help to small towns and delivering much needed support to rural orphanages. She hopes to see her passion as a Changemaker develop beyond the medical field and attended the summit to further explore some of the issues she hopes to promote change within.



**Raphaëlle Butteau, 23, France**

Raphaëlle studied languages and international business before moving into the field of entrepreneurship. She is especially affected by the world's social and economic inequality and strives to reduce this gap through enterprise. Her main focus at the summit was to establish new business networks in the field of social development.



**Shagufta Ashraf, 32, Kashmir**

Shagufta is a lecturer at the University of Management Sciences and Information Technology Azad Kashmir. She is eager to teach young students in a twenty-first century manner using a unique combination of experience based learning skills. She is a passionate proponent of the right to life and her main focus at the summit was to bring attention to dispute resolution issues affecting conflict zones.



# AFI CHANGEMAKERS DELEGATES 2014



**Jennifer Smith, 33, USA/France**

Jennifer is a certified project manager, Master's graduate, and future PhD student living in Paris and finishing a second MSc in Information and Knowledge Systems at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. She works with an NGO that increases awareness of disability issues to improve lives through new softwares. She uses her expertise and skills to contribute to disability assistance technology and environmental protection projects to increase awareness, facilitate improvements and create change.



**Elena Bartaškaitė, 18, Lithuania**

Elena is passionate about innovative art and technology to solve global problems. Elena believes in acting on an issue rather than waiting for others to start the lead. She developed this passion while observing various young people take to the keyboard to complain, without acting on such issues. She wishes to start taking action to make a positive change and began by attending the Changemakers Summit.



**Fei Ni, 25, China**

Fei Ni is a Chinese student from Skema Business School in France possessing degrees in both Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Software Engineering. She hopes to work within a diverse group of individuals, and implement the knowledge she has amassed about technology and business in order to create positive change. Her life motto is: "Be the change you want to see in the world".



**Julius Yee, 23, Malaysia**

Julius is an aspiring barrister who is deeply passionate about advocating the promotion of human welfare, access to justice and rule of law, particularly in developing regions and underdeveloped communities. He has served in volunteering projects in Kenya, Uganda and Malaysia, and is currently an active member of Lawyers Without Borders in the United Kingdom. Julius is currently studying Law at the university of Exeter, UK.



**Anna Dai, 25, China**

Anna is currently enjoying her study of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Skema Business School in France. She previously earned a degree in Design and is a keen photographer.

# AFI CHANGEMAKERS DELEGATES 2014



**Aarti Borole, 30, France**

Aarti is an Entrepreneurship and Innovation student at Skema Business School in France. She has recently launched her concept of '4D people' for Indian society, in line with her passion for social and environmental issues.



**Dominic King, 21, UK**

Dominic assisted in drafting a report on the state of children's rights in England for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child when he was fourteen. He has had input into major publications and made public presentations in the field of human rights. Over the last year he has been working on strategic communications and has previously co-ordinated a UK wide children's rights partnership, been a Trustee for one of the world's largest human rights alliances and developed a public speaking course for a school in Uganda.



**Abhilash Gupta, 27, India**

Abhilash quit his job as a software engineer to pursue his dream as a singer/songwriter. He believes in spreading a positive world message through his music and has worked with several NGOs to produce songs about change and causes. He is currently studying for a Masters in Communications.



**Bienja Kaya, 28, Germany**

Bienja is currently finishing an MSc in Entrepreneurship and Innovation for a Sustainable World at Skema Business School in France. She has also studied in Singapore and Germany and wants to use the knowledge she has gained from these different cultures to come up with innovative strategies for solving global problems.



**Kristina Stepanova, 31, Lithuania**

Kristina is a Country Manager of *Žiburio Fondas* in Lithuania, an NGO providing support to vulnerable young people and their caregivers. She has previously worked for *Save the Children Lithuania* as Program Manager and Senior Child Rights Advocacy Adviser. Actively involved in the promotion of child rights, both at a national and international level, she is a member of Children Welfare Council under Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour and is the author of several children's rights publications.



**Nicolas Prost, 16, France**

Currently studying at the Lycée Jacques Duhamel in Dole, France, Nicolas is highly invested in several high school organisations that organise events around his city to improve student life. Nicolas aspires to pursue his tertiary studies at a prestigious business school.

# AFI CHANGEMAKERS DELEGATES 2014



**Andrea di Biagio, 23, Italy**

Andrea is currently studying an MSc in Applied Mathematics at Imperial College London. He has previously attained an MSci in Physics with Theoretical Physics. He is the Secretary and Event Organiser for the Imperial College Environmental Society, who are focusing on low-cost sustainability initiatives for businesses and peaceful climate action. He has previously been a field assistant for the Operation Wallacea forest biodiversity conservation mission in Indonesia.



**Sabrina Ong, 21, Malaysia**

Sabrina is a final year law student at King's College London, where she currently holds the position of Director of International Relations within the Business Society and acts as a management consultant for various start-ups in London. She intends to complete the Bar Vocational Course to become a barrister specialising in international law and human rights. She also volunteers at her local community centre tutoring GCSE Maths students.



**Ritesh Saigal, 22, Malaysia**

Recently graduated from University College London, where he studied Mathematics and Economics, Ritesh is currently working in the financial sector in London and is especially passionate about education. He believes that harnessing innovative technological ideas is the best way to expand the outreach of education and create mechanisms that provide financial tools to those that need them.



**Hannah Couchlin, 20, UK**

Hannah is an undergraduate law student at the University of Dundee in Scotland and is currently on Erasmus at Leiden University in the Netherlands. Being surrounded by major international institutions at The Hague, and having participated in the Vienna Model United Nations 2014, she has become devoted to pursuing a career dedicated to international development.



**Rory Evans, 23, UK**

Rory is a recent Religious Studies graduate about to start an MA in Development, Violence and Conflict at SOAS in London. He has recently volunteered with an NGO specialising in food security issues in eastern Africa and wants to pursue a career in international development, particularly concerning humanitarian disaster relief. Rory is on the organisational committee for the 2015 summit.



# AFI CHANGEMAKERS DELEGATES 2014



## **Michael Fox, 22, Northern Ireland**

Michael is finishing his Politics degree this year at Queens University, Belfast. He has working experience in the public sector ranging from youth work to international development and hopes to use this experience to closer engage with the international political system. Michael is on the organisational committee for the 2015 summit.



## **Catherine White, 21, UK**

Catherine is an English and French student at the University of Warwick and hopes to pursue postgraduate study in human rights. Being half Jamaican and half English, she has been sensitive to discrimination from a young age. This has led her to pursue overseas internships and volunteering opportunities, including being a translator in Guadeloupe, a research assistant in Madagascar and teaching English in Uganda. Catherine is on the organisational committee for the 2015 summit.



## **Sarah Crowe, 21, Scotland**

Sarah is a law student at the University of Glasgow, where she has a particular interest in human rights and international law, as well as UK policy on asylum and human trafficking. She has previously volunteered as part of a legal aid and access to justice scheme in Ghana, as well as assisting newly granted refugees in Glasgow access to their rights and entitlements. She is currently volunteering with a legal centre assisting women and child victims of human trafficking and asylum seekers. Sarah is on the organisational committee for the 2015 Changemakers summit



## **Megan Smith, 22, UK**

Megan is studying European Legal Studies at King's College London, and is currently on Erasmus at Leiden University in the Netherlands. After volunteering as part of a legal aid and access to justice scheme in Ghana, she is interested in the way grass-roots initiatives and education can play a role in combating problems. She is also actively involved with Lawyers Without Borders and hopes to continue legal work in international human rights law, focusing on the rights of women in developing regions affected by conflict. Megan is on the organisational committee for the 2015 summit.



## **Emma Robinson, 23, UK**

Emma is a student of Theoretical Physics at King's College London. She is passionate about UK political issues, particularly addressing educational inequalities. She has worked with a variety of organisations that aim to promote social justice and hopes to pursue a career that helps to achieve these aims. Emma is on the organisational committee for the 2015 summit.



# AFI CHANGEMAKERS ORGANISING TEAM 2014



**Amin Khosravi, 31, UK**

A British citizen with Iranian and Algerian origins, Amin is an urbanist, design thinker and entrepreneur. After graduating from Manchester Business School, Amin went to work for the British Government in urban regeneration and development before setting up development consultancy Kamideas. Amin is also the founder of the Mudejar Project, a platform that promotes and celebrates the fusion of culture through creative expression to facilitate co-existence and conflict resolution. He is the co-founder of One Hundred Meters Squared, an approach to influencing change by framing problems at human scale. Amin is currently the Director of Design and Strategy at My Drop in the Oceans, an innovative social enterprise that is redesigning money to serve nature as well as people and businesses.



**Dipti Kumar, 23, Malaysia**

Dipti is a lawyer who advocates the empowerment of underprivileged communities. In particular she is interested in revamping the education system and empowering survivors of sexual abuse. An avid traveller who speaks several languages, she is the project manager of a social enterprise project in Nepal which aims to rehabilitate drug addicts and educate and feed homeless children. She is a passionate proponent of bodily dignity and respect for the treatment of vulnerable people and hopes to see a more equal world that provides opportunities for all to live a dignified life.



**Smriti Sonam, 28, France**

An alumna of Grenoble Ecole de Management, Smriti is a qualified Management Consultant and an Engineer in Biotechnology. She has extensive work experience in a wide spectrum of domains including IT and project management and consultancy. Currently working as a Project Manager at Amadeus and based in Nice, when not managing projects Smriti enjoys writing blogs and engaging in welfare activities. Her keen interest in international human rights led her to the Right to Development. Aside from this, Smriti is also a trained Indian classical singer and a qualified Bharatnatyam dancer. Her motto in life is “to create opportunities for growth for all”.



**Ibtisam Karoui, 26, Germany**

Ibtisam is a trained videographer and journalist with experience in the media industry. As a journalist she was the producer of the mini documentary “Small Cries”. She is a student of American and British cultural history with a focus on English Pragmatism and Linguistics. Ibtisam is passionate about human rights, social entrepreneurship and youth development.



## Ambassador Ireneo Namboka

After serving in the Ugandan diplomatic service for 13 years, Mr. Namboka began his United Nations career, in which he has taken part in three United Nations peacekeeping operations in Haiti, Rwanda and Liberia. In 2008, he served on special assignment as Senior Advisor to the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) in the United Nations Office for West Africa. He has also served in the capacity of Head of the Human Rights and Gender Affairs division.

Since leaving the full time United Nations service in June 2010, Mr Namboka has maintained activities in the defence of human rights, transitional justice and peace-building through creative writing, training-module designing and conference work. From March to September 2012, Mr Namboka served as the international consultant (Advisor) to the Co-Chairmen of the Provisional Commission for reflection on national reconciliation, Guinea.

As an expert with UNITAR on the protection of civilians in post conflict countries, he has developed a Training Module for serving and intending Peacekeeping military, police and civilian personnel. During 2013 Mr. Namboka served as a consultant to develop a manual for enhancing awareness of human rights and humanitarian law among the members of the South Sudan national army. In 2014 he participated as an expert trainer of United Nations military peacekeepers pre-deployment coaching in human rights and humanitarian law in three African countries.



## Dr. Ariel Rosita King MPH, MBA, PhD, DTM&H

Ariel Foundation International ([www.ArielFoundation.org](http://www.ArielFoundation.org)) was founded in 2002 as a non-profit organisation with an international focus on children and youth in Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Community Service worldwide. More recently, in 2008 Dr. King founded the Ariana-Leilani Children's Foundation International to educate and advocate for Children's Human Rights ([www.Ariana-LeilaniFoundation.org](http://www.Ariana-LeilaniFoundation.org)) and Ariel Consulting International, Inc. ([www.ArielConsult.com](http://www.ArielConsult.com)) founded in 2000, a company that creates and enhances Public-Private Partnerships in international policy, and management in health, strategic planning and business with focus on developing countries.

Dr. Ariel King is an Economic, Cultural and Social Council (ECOSOC) Permanent Representative for various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) at the United Nations in Geneva since 2008, the United Nations in Vienna ("UNOV") since 2010 and United Nations in New York since 2000.

Dr. King's focus is on International Public-Private Partnerships in Development that has its foundation in 35 years of living and working in 11 countries and travelling to over 60 countries in Asia, Africa, Americas, Middle-East and Europe.

Dr. King's life focus is on the world's children and youth, and their human rights. She is also the very proud mommy of 10-year old "Little Ambassador" Ariana-Leilani Margarita Alexandra King-Pfeiffer, whose life has inspired the founding of the Ariana-Leilani Children's Foundation International (2008) to educate and advocate for children's human rights worldwide.



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