NGO YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES TO DPI
2018 ORIENTATION AND WORKSHOP

Thursday, 12 April 2018 | Conference Room 1
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Meetup for NGO Youth Representatives to DPI
1:15 to 3:15 p.m.
DPI NGO Resource Centre

Speakers for 2018 Orientation and Workshop

Alison Smale is the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, United Nations Department of Public Information. Chief of Bureau of The New York Times in Berlin since 2013, Ms. Smale brought to the position almost 40-years of journalism experience gained in an international career. She has a proven track record as reporter, editor and senior leader. Appointed Executive Editor of the International Herald Tribune (IHT) Paris, in 2008, she is the first and only woman to have held that post. Ms. Smale went to the IHT in 2004 as Managing Editor from The New York Times, where she had been Deputy Foreign Editor since 2002, having joined The Times in 1998 as Weekend Foreign Editor. Earlier in her career Ms. Smale reported for United Press International and The Associated Press as Bureau Chief for Central and Eastern Europe, Vienna (1986-1998) and Correspondent, Moscow and Bonn (1983-1986, 1978-1983).

Jeff Brez is Chief of NGO Relations, Advocacy and Special Events in the Department of Public Information. He oversees the relations with non-governmental organizations, the Messengers of Peace Programme, the Creative Community Outreach Initiative and Special Events. His work in international humanitarian aid and development assistance has spanned more than a decade and covered a range of issues including children’s and women’s rights, refugee assistance, child soldiers, health, education, sustainable agriculture and food security, environmental sustainability, anticorruption and climate change. His experience includes all aspects of strategic communications and campaign planning, social media, video and photography, development of knowledge products and events as well as global, multi-stakeholder policy consultation processes and relations with civil society.

Hawa Diallo began her United Nations career in 1986 with the Department of Public Information in New York. From 1992 to 1994, she served in two United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Cambodia and Somalia. In 2000, Ms. Diallo joined the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General before she moved to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHabitat) in Nairobi, where she served as an Associate Human Settlements Officer. Ms. Diallo also worked as a Partners and Youth Officer at UNHabitat, before she moved to the Agency’s New York Liaison Office in 2010. Currently, she serves as a Public Information Officer in the NGO Relations and Advocacy section in the Department of Public Information. NGO Relations office facilitates the exchange of information and develops partnerships with civil society to enhance their interaction with and understanding of the work of the UN.
Felipe Queipo began his United Nations career at the NGO Relations & Advocacy Section of the Department of Public Information (DPI) in 2008. He currently serves as the Officer responsible for outreach, engagement and global communications with civil society organizations for the Section. Felipe is also the focal point for faith-based organizations within DPI. In this capacity, he leads the team that organizes the “Focus on Faith” briefings within the Department, an initiative that studies the links between faith traditions and religious organizations, and the work and mission of the United Nations. The Focus on Faith Series has explored, amongst other themes, the role that gender plays in religious institutions, the contribution of religious organizations in preventing violent extremism, as well as the efforts to address the refugee and migrants crises around the globe and the resettlement work of governments and faith-based civil society.

Jadayah Spencer is the Executive Director of the International Youth Leadership Institute. She is an advocate for improving access to opportunities that enhance the lives of youth, people of African descent, and indigenous people worldwide. A proud IYLI alumna, Jadayah became an IYLI fellow in 2010 and traveled on the 2011 Summer Fellowship Program to Tanzania. She subsequently served in various roles, including being an IYLI volunteer, an IYLI board member, and an IYLI group leader (Brazil SFP 2013). She serves on several international and local boards, including her work with the New York City Young Women’s Advisory Council which addresses policy issues that directly affect young women of color in New York City.

Alpha Diallo was born and raised in Conakry, Guinea. As a result, he brings with him an abundance of first-hand experiences. Alpha is currently enrolled at SUNY Old Westbury, where he studies Political Economy & Law. He received an Associate’s degree in Fine Art from Fulton-Montgomery Community College in 2014. Since 2011, Diallo has worked with Grow NYC, an initiative that seeks to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers through sustainability. Alpha is involved in youth education and sales. Alpha is particularly passionate about impacting change in his native Africa, as well as engaging with Africans living in diaspora. He speaks Fulani, Creole, French, and English. He aspires to become a diplomat in the future and cites his motivation as his interaction with UN personnel when studying in Sierra Leone as a child.

Modou Cham is from The Gambia and was raised in Norristown, Pennsylvania. He is currently studying for a Masters of Science in Sustainability Management at Columbia University’s Earth Institute. Prior to Columbia, Modou worked as the Chief Administrative Officer for World Information Transfer (WIT). WIT is an NGO in general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, promoting environmental health and literacy. He was responsible for assisting the CEO in all functional and organizational matters, including office, personnel, information, and conference management. Principally, in office management, his duties included, drafting and processing office correspondence to senior UN officials. It also included managing conferences and inviting renowned scientist to present on the growing clinical evidence supporting the link between degrading environments and diminished human health. While working for WIT, Modou served as the Executive Secretary on the board of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development from December 2013 to December 2016, through which he helped influence the Post-2015 Sustainable Development negotiation to mainstream climate change in the agenda. Modou holds a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and International Relations from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. After Columbia, he intends to move back to West Africa and work for The Gambian Government.
Dena Makawi is a Women and Youth representative at the United Nations for Women’s National Book Association. Dena has been working closely with media and those influencing culture, to create more inclusiveness within corporations and private sector. Dena has challenged the status quo, from co chairing the youth committee at the United Nations, engaging more millennials to the United Nations, to co-organizing one of the first sustainable fashion shows at the United Nations, to securing major deals with Cadillac for Style & Resilience partnership with the Global Goals World Cup, which uses sports as an advocacy tool. Style & Resilience engages through a creative dialogue, creating impactful initiatives.

Ben Dotsei Malor is currently the Chief of UN Radio in New York. He has served as the Moderator and Master of Ceremonies at several High-Level UN events, including for the General Assembly and at the annual Global South-South Development Expos in Geneva, Rome and Vienna. Mr. Malor has more than 20 years of top-level experience, accomplishments and reputation in the fields of International Broadcasting, International Relations, Media and Public Information, Speechwriting, as well Strategic Communications, through his extensive work across the United Nations and also at the BBC World Service, where he was a well-known radio presenter and Deputy Editor. Within the United Nations Mr. Malor has served as the Communications Adviser to the President of the Sixty-Sixth Session of UN General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser of Qatar.

Devi Palanivelu joined the United Nations in 2002 and has worked in a variety of offices across the Department of Public Information (DPI), from the UN Visitor Centre to UN Multimedia to the Office of the Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General. She has also worked in media relations at the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, including in the field in Lebanon reporting on the Syria refugee crisis. She currently works at the Development Section within DPI’s Strategic Communications Division, particularly on issues relating to gender, youth and health. Prior to the UN, she worked on television programmes commissioned by Singapore’s national broadcaster, Mediacorp. She holds a M.S. in Urban Studies and a B.A. in Journalism.

Earlene Cruz is a true francophile with a penchant for connecting people from all corners of the world. A voyage on a ship inspired her social venture, Kitchen Connection, which is a hub for people of all cultures to come together and learn or teach live, online and interactive cooking classes, with some of all of the proceeds contributing to Action Against Hunger and Whole Food’s Whole Planet Foundation. This venture led her to pursue Master’s Degree at New York University, focusing on food studies and social entrepreneurship. Her work has recently earned her a James Beard Award and a nomination as an envoy on youth under the United Nation’s Secretary General.
Saphira Rameshfar is a Representative of the Baha’i International Community’s UN Office in New York. Saphira currently serves on the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York, as Secretary of the Working Group on Girls to the UN and on the DPI NGO Youth Steering Committee to the United Nations Department of Public of Information. In 2016, Saphira was the Cochair of the Conference Planning Youth Sub-committee to the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea.

Upasana Chauhan is a small town girl from the state of Haryana, India. STEM Girl - Working with Fortune 500 Companies and International Banks since last 9 years. Her dream and passion is to encourage and empower every girl next door to be courageous to DARE TO DREAM and be her own superwoman to get those dreams. She is on the drafting committee for the New York City for CEDAW bill. This bill is a bill for rights of women. CEDAW is an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly. She is also a blogger and writes with World Pulse with articles published in TIME Magazine, Huffpost. She is also on advisory committee of PLS - NGO in Rajasthan India working on Girl’s education who never had the opportunity to go to school. She is also a member of the working group of UNIANYD taskforce. And she loves to travel and believes in living life in Awe and enjoy every drop of it.

Subhajit Saha is currently an undergraduate student majoring in Political Science and Biochemistry at the City University of New York – Hunter College. In addition, he serves as the NGO Youth Representative to the United Nations DPI for the Dayemi Foundation. Currently, his latest projects involve serving as a Co-Chair for the Outreach and Publicity Sub-Committee for the Intergenerational Dialogues on the Sustainable Development Goals. As a member of the Committee, he advises the United Nations Department of Public Information on its engagement of young people working within NGOs and youth-leading organizations focused on the issues of the United Nations’ agenda. As a champion for storytelling through social media, he leads the Social Media Working Group for the DPI NGO Youth Representatives Programme.

Nishat Mirza graduated from Boston University School of Medicine, with a Masters in Medical Sciences. Her Master’s thesis in ALS or Lou Gerigh’s disease was a major breakthrough in the field of neurodegenerative diseases and in developing future treatment of ALS. After graduation, she started working in Clinical Epidemiology at Harvard Medical School, recently completing her 2 years project to find the risk factors of a skin infection outbreak. Although, all her life she studied to pursue a career in Medicine, she always believed in public service and making a difference in people’s lives on a daily basis as an Educator, Leader and Entrepreneur. She has a decade of experience working with people from various ethnic backgrounds in different socio-economical settings, such as teaching GED to adults in welfare, working with foster care children, and teaching sciences from middle school to college students. At Boston University, she learned to be more Globe Friendly! She started volunteering with Amnesty International, helping to send aids in Syria and traveled to her homeland Bangladesh, for the first time in 12 years to help the children in the slums.
DPI NGO Youth Steering Committee

**Jadayah Spencer** is the Executive Director of the International Youth Leadership Institute. She is an advocate for improving access to opportunities that enhance the lives of youth, people of African descent, and indigenous people worldwide. A proud IYLI alumna, Jadayah became an IYLI fellow in 2010 and traveled on the 2011 Summer Fellowship Program to Tanzania. She subsequently served in various roles, including being an IYLI volunteer, an IYLI board member, and an IYLI group leader (Brazil SFP 2013). She serves on several international and local boards, including her work with the New York City Young Women’s Advisory Council which addresses policy issues that directly affect young women of color in New York City.

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**Steve Chiu** is Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation’s Youth Representative at the United Nations. In alignment with Tzu Chi’s work in disaster relief, climate action, education for global citizenship, sustainable development and gender equality, Steve works to build relationships, share best practices and develop programs with other organizations to make tangible impacts on the ground, with the mission of alleviating the suffering of those in need.
Calisher Perry is a product of Corpus Christi College, graduating in Business from Trinidad & Tobago. Having migrated to the United States of America, she participated in costume designing in the Arts and dedicated most of her time teaching preschoolers Arts & Craft. She then showed aspirations in doing administrative work for developing campaigns such as Rise & Shine Community Services Inc. and Releasing Aging People in Prison (RAPP). Calisher has maintained the organization’s work professionally, engaging in major community outreach work from New York State to Washington DC. Currently, she is continuing her professionalism at the United Nations serving as a liaison between the Olof Palme Peace Foundation International and the United Nations where she is involved with putting together a repertoire to combat women & children globally who face domestic violence and bring a sense of security of life after domestic violence.

Alpha Diallo was born and raised in Conakry, Guinea. As a result, he brings with him an abundance of first-hand experiences. Alpha is currently enrolled at SUNY Old Westbury, where he studies Political Economy & Law. He received an Associate’s degree in Fine Art from Fulton-Montgomery Community College in 2014. Since 2011, Diallo has worked with Grow NYC, an initiative that seeks to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers through sustainability. Alpha is involved in youth education and sales. Alpha is particularly passionate about impacting change in his native Africa, as well as engaging with Africans living in diaspora. He speaks Fulani, Creole, French, and English. He aspires to become a diplomat in the future and cites his motivation as his interaction with UN personnel when studying in Sierra Leone as a child.

Juan Pablo Celis currently holds the position of Youth Representative of the United Nations Association of New York. He has participated in humanitarian, financial, and entrepreneurship projects around the world. Mr. Celis served as Co-Chair of the Youth Subcommittee for the 66th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference on Education for Global Citizenship. Mr. Celis is a former adviser for the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations on youth-related issues. He worked with educational institutions in Italy and Egypt to design innovative approaches to teaching and has coordinated promotion and fundraising programs for NGOs in Brazil and Argentina. In his native country, Colombia, he was a leader for the global student organization, AIESEC. In this position, he managed a development exchange program and trained young leaders for the global market. Mr. Celis is an active member of the Youth Steering Committee of the UN DPI NGO Youth Representatives Programme. He is passionate about social, cultural, and humanitarian affairs, including advocacy of youth issues and gender equality.

Aishwarya Narasimhadevara is the youth representative to the Medical Women’s International Association, an NGO based in Vancouver, Canada, dedicated to the empowerment in the field of medicine. She is an individual wishing to make a difference in society like others. She is also involved in youth advocacy related projects and interested in the importance of Education in the field of International Development. She has been involved with various non-government organizations working in the field of education, the environment, and culture. She has a Master’s in International Development from the University of Kent-Brussels School of International Studies in Brussels, Belgium. Travelling is a passion of hers and she enjoys seeing new places. She also enjoys learning, taking photos, and practicing karate.
Saphira Rameshfar is a Representative of the Baha’i International Community’s UN Office in New York. Saphira currently serves on the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York, as Secretary of the Working Group on Girls to the UN and on the DPI NGO Youth Steering Committee to the United Nations Department of Public of Information. In 2016, Saphira was the Cochair of the Conference Planning Youth Sub-committee to the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea.

Ruth Brinkley, also known as Hip Hop artist Infinite Wiz, was the Youth Representative for New Future Foundation, INC a NGO founded by Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely, Community Mayor of Harlem. She is an active community activist and has been a part of the Hip Hop industry since an early age, as her father was signed to Sugar Hill Records in the 70’s. Her message is both positive and inspirational geared toward youth of today.

"DPI NGO Youth Steering Committee helps DPI to channel that momentum towards the strengthening of the Department’s youth platform and programmes"

Learn more about the
DPI NGO Youth Representatives Programme

https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/

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**DPI NGO Relations**

**Who We Are**

**Jeff Brez** is Chief of NGO Relations, Advocacy and Special Events in the Department of Public Information. He oversees the relations with non-governmental organizations, the Messengers of Peace Programme, the Creative Community Outreach Initiative and Special Events. His work in international humanitarian aid and development assistance has spanned more than a decade and covered a range of issues including children’s and women's rights, refugee assistance, child soldiers, health, education, sustainable agriculture and food security, environmental sustainability, anticorruption and climate change. His experience includes all aspects of strategic communications and campaign planning, social media, video and photography, development of knowledge products and events as well as global, multi-stakeholder policy consultation processes and relations with civil society.

**Hawa Diallo** is a Public Information Officer in the NGO Relations, Advocacy and Special Events Section of the Department of Public Information, where she coordinates UN and NGO partnership activities. She has extensive United Nations experience in public information outreach and fostering civil society partnerships, with particular emphasis on youth and women's organizations. Ms. Diallo began her United Nations career in 1986 in the Department of Public Information and has served in two United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Cambodia and Somalia, respectively. She has also worked for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Nairobi, as an Associate Human Settlements Officer and as a Partners and Youth Officer.

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**Swati Dave** started her career at the United Nations in 1994 with the Department of Public Information. She has been working the Department since the last 23 years. In 1995, she began her career with the Outreach Division within DPI. She has worked in multiple areas of the Outreach Division including cashier, reservationist and Group Procurement Unit. She has been working at the DPI NGO Relations in Advocacy Section as a Public Information Assistant.
Pojo Premchandran is a Public Information Assistant in the NGO Relations, Advocacy and Special Events section of the Department of Public Information. At NGO Relations, Pojo serves as a focal point for outreach activities for the Section. She has over 8 years of experience in the field of Journalism during which she engaged with diverse media outlets and communicated with varied industry experts from the world over. She has an undergraduate degree in Journalism from the University of Mumbai, a Masters in Arts Degree from the University of Sheffield (U.K.) and a Masters in Science in Social Science with an Advanced Certificate in United Nations studies from Long Island University.

Victoria Gorelik joined DPI NGO Relations as a public information assistant in 2017. With Felipe Quipeo, she is working to help NGO representatives access and complete Association and Annual Review processes. In addition, Victoria is a focal point for managing content on DPI NGO Relations website. She also works on email campaigns and helps maintain social media presence. She holds a degree Linguistics and Communication Studies. Her native language is Russian.

Harshita Bajaj is an intern in the Department of Public Information-NGO Relations at the United Nations. While studying Commerce as an undergraduate she was most excited by her marketing, advertising and branding classes. Although her degree put her on an accounting path, her enthusiasm for marketing never wavered. She became knowledgeable of the marketing strategy of the brands around her, she became astute to the marketing choices companies where implementing to increase brand awareness. And, she started to tap into the important role that the digital landscape was having on marketing.

Katie Morris is an intern in the Department of Public Information-NGO Relations at the United Nations. She previously interned with the Department of State and Save the Children. She is a strong advocate for refugee rights and hopes to pursue a career in refugee policy. Her work with refugees locally and abroad will be published in a book entitled Vital Lifelines. She graduated from Lehigh University in December 2017 with a dual honors degree in Global Studies and Journalism.

Samira Touali is an intern in the Department of Public Information NGO Relations at the United Nations. She is completing a Masters program specialized Crisis Analysis and Humanitarian Action, at the University of Chambery, France, and is writing her thesis on the Syrian refugee crises. Samira worked as a secretary and as a middle school and high school teacher in France, her birth country.

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Contact Us

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