“An In-Depth Look at How Youth Can Affect Change Through Policy and Action”

Steve Chiu is Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation’s Youth Representative to the United Nations Department of Public Information. 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.

Annie Weaver is a Programme Support Consultant in the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, where she works on communications, advocacy, and the Young Leaders for the SDGs initiative. She is an NYU Gallatin graduate and previously worked on women’s and youth empowerment programming with UNDP and UN Women in the Arab States.
Omar A. Almutawa is the Youth Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the UN. In a personal-academic capacity, he is a multi-disciplinary researcher in globalization. He has received degrees in international and global studies from the American University of Sharjah and Columbia University, respectively. In addition, he is involved in youth empowerment via Model UN. Omar was Secretary-General of the AUS Model United Nations (AUSMUN) for two consecutive years. He is currently the director of strategic development at United Ambassadors in New York.

Shakira McKnight is an Advisor to the Newark Youth Ambassadors under the administration of Mayor Ras J. Baraka. She is an alumnus of Central High School, Newark, New Jersey. Currently, she is studying physical therapy with aspirations of one day opening her own practice. Shakira has a unique background in community activism. She strives to be the voice for the voiceless amongst the youth because she understands that youth have the power to make the change. This dynamic young lady represents the future of today’s youth leadership. She is focused, determined, and committed to the development of all young people because she genuinely believes in the power of their collective voices.

Lauren Horn is a Senior Program Manager for The Resolution Project, which identifies and empowers undergraduate students around the world who wish to launch new social ventures, supported by Resolution’s global network of resources. Lauren oversees volunteer mentorship programming. She manages resource access and matching, as well as volunteer applications, onboarding, and support. She is leading the growth of the Continuing Impact Program for Fellows who have moved their focus from their initial social ventures and works closely with Corporate Program Partners providing access to volunteers. Previously, Lauren was a Project Implementation Coordinator at Northeastern University’s Center for STEM Education, where she organized science and engineering educational programs for K-12 students, teachers, undergrads, and community members, and handled the department’s public relations. She holds a MS in Nonprofit Management and a BA in Journalism, both from Northeastern University.
Young people aren’t at the center of decision making even though half the world’s population is under 30 yrs-@UNDP #DPINGO #YOUnified

Globally, less than 6% of the parliamentarians are under 35 years old- @UNDP #DPINGO Briefing on #YOUnified

Empowered young men & women can play a critical role in preventing conflicts & ensuring peace – UNSG @antonioguterres #DPINGO #YOUnified

Young people are an opportunity for building peace- @UNYouthEnvoy #DPINGO #YOUnified

Young women & men are essential partners in promoting human rights and development. More at #DPINGO Briefing on #YOUnified

The average parliamentarian age is 53 years old- @UNDP #DPINGO Briefing on #YOUnified.