

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT

Members' Biographies 2018

[#FutureLeadersConnect](#)



FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Abdur Rahman – Pakistan

Climate change

Abdur is Head of Program at Punjab Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency (PEECA), based in Lahore, Pakistan. Abdur leads on energy efficiency and conservation in Pakistan, aiming to address the energy crisis in the country and bridging the gap between energy consumption and generation. Abdur has worked with policy think tanks, the Pakistan government and the corporate sector. He has also been involved with a variety of voluntary projects in the UK and Pakistan to address greenhouse gas emission reductions and natural disasters.

Abdur's vision for global change is to initiate and replicate energy efficiency and conservation programmes in the developing world, ensuring energy security.



Ahmed Alaa – Egypt

Poverty

Ahmed is a project manager at the Ministry of Trade and Industry as part of the Minister's team for national projects. Ahmed started his leadership path during his studies through the international youth development organisation AIESEC, as a National Manager for Corporate Relations. Professionally, Ahmed focused his career on project management and strategic management. Through his work in the government, he was able to lead and participate in various projects such as micro, small and medium enterprises, industrial zones/clusters development and business negotiations for the ministry with other international investors as part of the economic transformation plan for Egypt and the national industrial development strategy 2020.

Ahmed's vision for global change is to reduce poverty gaps through sustainable developmental projects.



Angga Dwi Martha – Indonesia

Sustainable development

Angga is a Social Policy Specialist at UNICEF. He is currently serving as the UN Youth Adviser for the Sustainable Development Goals Implementation in Indonesia, the liaison between the government and the UN Indonesia and is responsible for co-ordinating and mobilising youth around awareness and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He is a recipient of the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP) scholarship, the Sustainable Development Goal-focused Blakeley Foundation Fellowship, the 2017 Fletcher School Honos Civic Civic Engagement Award, the 2017 Tufts University President's Awards for Civic Life, and the 2016 Indonesian Ambassador's Award for Excellence by the Indonesian Ambassador to the United States. Angga is one of the founding members of the Cohort 2030, a group of youth leaders from around the world that are driving change to deliver on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals. He was also selected as one of ten young Southeast Asian leaders to participate in a roundtable discussion with former President Barack Obama in 2018.

Angga's vision for global change is to prioritise sustainable development by focusing on the potential of young people and expanding civic space.



Carla Márquez Muñoz – Mexico

Mental health

Carla is a researcher, BSc teacher and clinical psychologist, leading a mental health/arts project for children at Centro Cultural La Titería, where she is implementing a free treatment plan for parents of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) children based on the results of her investigation. She is a member of the Society for Emotion and Attachment Studies. Her research has considered the role of maternal sensitivity and a genetic factor in autism spectrum disorder severity as well as a mother's neural response to infant faces and the neural response for social exclusion in socially anxious youth. Inspired by these research experiences and by listening and studying families' stressful events, she became interested in finding and developing projects related to young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Carla's vision for global change is development of in-depth interdisciplinary evidence-based projects to address young people's mental health and socio-emotional wellbeing so they can reach their full potential.

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Conor O'Meara – UK (England)

Technology

Conor is the Vice President of Design for Potentiallife, a tech start-up that works with organisations to make their people happier and more productive through behavioural science and technology. He has previously worked in the United States Senate and as a volunteer teacher in Calcutta, India. A former opera singer, he is passionate about using behavioural science and data analytics to transform economic and social policy on a global level.

Conor's vision for global change is to use the latest research and technology in government services, to address economic, social and political issues.



Danish Ali Bhutto – Pakistan

Civic engagement

Danish is a Legislative Researcher at the National Assembly of Parliament of Pakistan. He has expertise in parliamentary research, political communication, advocacy and programme management. He represented Pakistan in the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 2017 and presented policy recommendations on youth. As Shadow Minister for Cultural and Indigenous Affairs at the 8th Commonwealth Youth Parliament, British Columbia 2016, he presented interventions on empowering Commonwealth youth, and against human rights violations. For his contribution to gender-sensitive legislation and oversight at the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, he was selected as an Emerging Leaders of Pakistan fellow by the US department of State in 2015.

Danish's vision for global change is the socio-economic and political empowerment of youth and women and inclusion in all legislative and decision making.



David Oluwadiya Ashaolu – Nigeria

Cybercrime

David is the Managing Partner at Velma Solicitors and Velma Consulting and Professional Services, Abuja. He started advocacy in 2010, when he attended the World Youth Summit in Bari, Italy. He has crisscrossed various fields since, touching environmental rights, entrepreneurship and transnational crimes. In 2012, he organised the first Cyberlaw Colloquium in Nigeria. The event exposed the need for a local anti-cybercrime law. The deadline for the enactment of the Nigerian Cybercrime Act was set at the event by the former Senate President with concurrence from two former Presidents and other policymakers who were at the event. The Act was passed in 2015. An established author, he co-wrote the first Nigerian text on cyberspace law in 2009, titled *Policing Cyberspace in Nigeria*.

David's vision for global change is the introduction of education, systems and regulations to tackle hate crime and fake news for improved democratic processes.



Debbie Thomas – UK (Wales)

Disability

Debbie is Policy and Campaigns Officer at the National Deaf Children's Society Cymru. Debbie began her career as a newspaper journalist and was shortlisted for a national award in 2008, but soon realised that her interest was in politics and took up post as Policy and Campaigns Officer for the National Deaf Children's Society Cymru. In this role, Debbie has achieved a number of campaign wins. These include securing attainment data for deaf pupils in Wales and ensuring that all new school buildings built through the Welsh Government's flagship 21st Century Schools Programme meet accessible acoustic standards. Debbie also founded, and remains an active member of the Third Sector Additional Needs Alliance (TSANA) in Wales. TSANA was established as a lobbying group in response to Welsh government plans to reform additional learning needs legislation. It is through her work with deaf children and TSANA that Debbie has developed a passion for raising disability awareness.

Debbie's vision for global change is for disability awareness to be taught in schools.

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Desma Natome – Kenya

Conservation

Desma works for the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) under the Ministry of Finance in Kenya, working in a team responsible for changes to tax policy issues for budget proposals. As a Policy Analyst in the Corporate Policy Unit, Desma was part of a larger team that monitored international tax-related legal instruments such as double taxation treaties and other multilateral treaties. She is also working in the Tax Base Expansion Unit where the core mandate is to develop strategies aimed at recruiting new and retaining existing value-adding taxpayers through targeted initiatives, full automation and strategic alliances to enhance revenue collection and ease administrative processes.

Desma's vision for global change is to promote environmental conservation through policies in support of a green economy

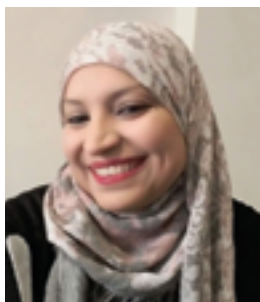


Dharini Suresh – India

Healthcare

Dharini is a Biotechnologist and a Biochemical Engineer who is the Founder of GrandWay Inc, a social enterprise startup that specialises in menstrual hygiene management and maternal healthcare. As part of this she teaches teenagers how to practise menstrual hygiene and exercise safe disposal of sanitary waste. She is now working on encouraging student entrepreneurship in schools to increase the accessibility and affordability of biodegradable sanitary products. She was previously a part of The Feeding Room Project that was launched in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, which advocated for breastfeeding stations in public spaces and achieved funding for centres in and around Thiruvananthapuram.

Dharini's vision for global change is to provide education on menstrual hygiene and the reproductive health of women.



Dhikra Elhidri – Tunisia

Gender equality

Dhikra is currently responsible for the Leading Change across the Mediterranean, Policy Advice and Strategy Development project with the Center for Applied Policies Research at the University of Munich. She previously worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fishery and International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) developing policies on women and youth empowerment in rural areas, the Sustainable Development Goals and inclusive approaches. She is a trainer in Civic Education with the Goethe-Institut and a trainer in Advocacy and Policy Influencing with INTRAC.

Dhikra's vision for global change is addressing sustainable development and poverty reduction, with a focus on gender equality.



Dolapo Oladayo Olaniyan – Nigeria

Female genital mutilation

Dolapo is a public health champion with five years of experience implementing projects and advocating for increased investment in sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence and maternal health programmes. She is the Programme Lead of the EndFGM Initiative and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) Advocacy at HACEY Health Initiative. She has been involved in using media and technology skills to accelerate the impact of development interventions focused on helping women and girls have access to quality and affordable SRHR services. Under her leadership, HACEY Health Initiative has mobilised 4,673 community members (women, girls and men) to act against female genital mutilation, built their capacities to engage other communities on ending the harmful practice in Nigeria and supported over 10,000 young people to have access to life-saving SRHR information and services.

Dolapo's vision for global change is to bring about the end to female genital mutilation so that women and girls have the freedom to exercise their rights.

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Edwin Oyoma Akpotar – Nigeria

Healthcare

Edwin provides technical and programme leadership for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded PACFaH@Scale project which involves the expansion of family planning services provided by community pharmacists and patent medicine vendors in Lagos and Kaduna States. He is a licensed pharmacist and a development expert and has worked with the government of Nigeria to revise the national treatment policy to include global recommendations for the management of childhood pneumonia and diarrhoea (two diseases that are responsible for over 23 per cent of mortality in under-fives in Nigeria).

Edwin's vision for global change is to harness the power of technology to increase access to family planning services, consequently reducing child and maternal deaths.



Eloise Nutbrown – UK (Scotland)

Migration

Eloise is Policy Manager (Migration Population and Diversity) at the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. She spent the majority of her early career with Save the Children, working for over seven years on policy, advocacy and campaign initiatives to reduce UK poverty and bring about lasting changes in Scottish policy for families living in low income households. This includes statutory entitlements to early years services and government funding to meet the costs of school. In her current role she is leading migration and equalities policy for local government in Scotland and supporting the development of a national anti-destitution strategy. She also supports a national children's charity to strengthen its impact through education policy.

Eloise's vision for global change is to reduce destitution and severe poverty amongst the world's migrants and to ensure that all migrants and asylum seekers can access basic public services, including, housing, healthcare and social security, regardless of their immigration status.



Francisco Javier Varela Sandoval – Mexico

Inequality

Francisco is Deputy General Director of Economic Analysis at the Secretariat of Health, leading a team that uses economic and technology tools to inform health policy. Additionally, Francisco worked at the President's Office, in charge of open government and innovation policies. His work leading a one-year, continent-wide negotiation, resulted in the Latin American Digital Agenda, now under implementation by 34 countries, aimed at promoting regional development goals. Previously, at the National Transparency Institute, he contributed to the design of the legal and technological framework that enables Mexicans to exercise their privacy rights and their freedom of information. He currently teaches economics at Mexico's Autonomous Institute of Technology (ITAM).

Francisco's vision for global change is the promotion of a new generation of young public servants who are technically equipped, socially committed and who believe and work for government transformation.



Gaurav Somwanshi – India

Technology

Gaurav is a Senior Consultant with Pricewaterhouse Coopers Pvt Ltd, and a member of the Chhattisgarh State Direct Benefit Transfers Cell that oversees implementation of over 160 welfare schemes in the state, and formulates state guidelines. He was selected as a Leaders in Innovation Fellow 2018 by the Royal Academy of Engineering, UK, and has conducted a series of pilots for Blockchain in the state of Chhattisgarh for various projects on land records, health records, and secure data exchange between state departments. He also organised an international Blockchain event to invite start-ups across the globe to develop Blockchain solutions for public services in the state with the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of Chhattisgarh.

Gaurav's vision for global change is to use technology to manage public services and transform the relationship between citizen and the state.

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Greta Lucero Ríos Téllez Sill – Mexico

Youth

Greta is the founder of Ollin, a youth-led non-governmental organisation. Her work is focused on the design and lobbying of inclusive and high impact youth policies. Ollin was recently in charge of running a national campaign to get young people to vote. She was an intern at the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN in New York and Geneva. She worked for the Mexican Ministry of the Interior and has done consultancies on International Human Rights Law. Greta was appointed keynote speaker at the First Global Forum on Youth Policy in 2014 and was a speaker for the Mexico City Youth TEDx Talks session in 2014. In 2016, she became an Ashoka Fellow and is currently enrolled in the Vital Voices VVLead Fellowship. In 2017 she joined the BMW Foundation Responsible Leaders Network.

Greta's vision for global change is the consolidation and strengthening of youth engagement and participation in public matters through active citizenship.



Hanif Falah – Indonesia

Sustainability

Hanif is currently working at Golden Agri-Resources (GAR), the world's second largest palm oil plantation company, as Sustainability Policy and Compliance Specialist. As Indonesia becomes the largest producer and exporter of palm oil in the world, there are tensions between environmental conservation and economic development as 40 per cent of cultivation land is owned by smallholders. Hanif currently manages developments on business and human rights policy and energy policy and is also responsible for a project to empower smallholders through certification. Hanif was a grand finalist in Asian debating and further represented his university at international debates. He also volunteered to teach debate to high school students in East Java.

Hanif's vision for global change is to review the sustainability of the palm oil industry.



Haythem Dellai – Tunisia

Security

Haythem is the co-founder of Elite Center for Civic Engagement and Local Governance. He worked as a trainer in conflict resolution and communication in many local and international non-governmental organisations in Tunisia. Haythem has been involved in over 100 training sessions to over 500 participants in rural areas which are harder to reach through civic engagement programmes.

Haythem's vision for global change is an improvement in national security to strengthen society and community engagement.



Heather Kitt – UK (England)

Healthcare

Heather is a National Institute of Health Research Academic Clinical Fellow in Paediatrics at the Centre for Infection and Global Health at the University of Liverpool and a paediatric doctor working at Alder Hey Children's Hospital. Heather's research interests centre around improving the outcomes and quality of life for babies born prematurely or with birth complications. She is passionate about improving the lives of children and young people globally. She sits on the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health's (RCPCH) International Child Health Group and Child Health For All's (CHIFA) International Working Group on Neonatal Health. The recipient of many domestic and international awards, she is an experienced speaker, having been invited to present her work at a variety of national and global events.

Heather's vision for global change is a reduction of preventable pre-term births, the leading cause of mortality in children under five.

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Issam Eddine Abail – Morocco

Education

Issam Eddine Abail currently works as a consultant at McKinsey & Company's Casablanca office. He has a particular interest and passion for social entrepreneurship and education. In 2012, he co-founded the Moroccan Center for Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship, an organisation that became a one-stop-shop for social entrepreneurs in Morocco. He later founded Tamkeen Initiative, a project impacting thousands of high school students by teaching them skills for employment and empowering them into becoming changemakers. He has received many awards and distinctions for his work including being a British Council Hammamet Fellow, an Ashoka Changemaker and a US Department of State Alumnus.

Issam's vision for global change is to transform schools worldwide into social innovation hubs and collaborative labs.



Isti Toq'ah – Indonesia

Peacebuilding

Isti is a peace activist focusing on policy recommendations to help underrepresented groups whose religions/faiths have not been acknowledged by governments. Isti worked as a researcher and administrative assistant for Lieut. Gen. (Ret.) Agus Widjojo, former Vice Chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) and the present Governor of LEMHANAS (National Resilience Office), where she contributed to support the work for the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and Center for Policy Studies and Strategic Advocacy (CPSSA). Isti is a founder and chairperson of Indonesia's Peace Education movement, known as PANDAI, and undertook voluntary work at CINTA (Community for Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue) Indonesia.

Isti's vision for global change is peacebuilding among diverse communities and societies.



Joseph Devlin – UK (Northern Ireland)

Sustainable energy

Joe is a Senior Market Analyst at Viridian Group where he is currently responsible for forecasting electricity markets and assisting businesses in their transition to the new all-island energy market. He is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers Hub in Belfast, a collective of passionate people working together to deliver a better Northern Ireland. Projects undertaken range from charity breakfasts to attracting and delivering a major European conference. Joe is passionate about combatting global climate change at a local level by empowering communities and consumers to take ownership of their energy usage from the point of generation right through to the point of consumption.

Joe's vision for global change is to implement policies to mitigate climate change, focusing on renewable energy.



Kumar Kunal Jha – India

LGBTQ+ rights

Kumar is currently working as an Assistant Professor at the Centre of Social and Organisational Leadership, School of Management and Labour Studies at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India. Kunal in Sanskrit means the 'person who sees beauty in everything' and just like his name he strives to find positivity even in difficult times. He aims to start difficult conversations related to LGBTQ+ inclusion and diversity with an intention of going beyond these conversations through education and gender sensitivity training programmes. He is a recipient of a Dalai Lama Fellowship, Aon Hewitt Think Tank Fellowship and had an opportunity to represent India in the Ethical Leadership Summit held in 2016.

Kumar's vision for global change is to develop and implement policies which address the marginalisation and exclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals.

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Laura McNamee – UK (Northern Ireland)

Homelessness

Laura is a Housing Adviser and Practitioner Support Officer at Housing Rights, a charity working to prevent homelessness within Northern Ireland. Laura was previously a Councillor for the Ormiston Ward of Belfast City Council (Deputy Leader of the Alliance Party group) and Board Member of Eastside Partnership, which works to regenerate areas of deprivation within East Belfast. As a Councillor, Laura assisted numerous constituents with housing problems, ranging from homelessness to dilapidation. She was also successful in lobbying for new legislation to provide Councils with comprehensive powers to address dereliction and urban blight caused by abandoned buildings.

Laura's vision for global change is to develop a cross-border, holistic approach to tackling all causes of homelessness, ranging from displacement due to civil war to repossession due to the emergence of 'zero hour contract' employment.



Lucy Jane Carmichael – UK (Scotland)

Rural affairs

Lucy leads a team in social security policy in the Scottish government, following the transfer of new welfare powers from the UK government. The policy is distinct to Scotland in ensuring it is based on dignity, fairness and respect; tackles poverty and inequality; and promotes a fairer society. Lucy has extensive experience of developing and influencing public policy in a range of areas, including rural policy and working in the cabinet secretariat during the 2014 Scottish referendum. She is passionate about co-designing policies and services with the people who will be affected by them and whose voices have often been unheard.

Lucy's vision for global change is improved support for rural areas, embedding consideration of rural issues into decision-making to address depopulation and to build thriving rural communities.



Luisa del Rosal – USA

Education

Luisa is Executive Director of the Tower Center for Political Studies, a public policy research and programme centre, and the founding Executive Director of the Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center, an action-oriented policy research centre, both at Southern Methodist University (SMU). She's the youngest executive director at the university, as well as the only Hispanic to head up two centres. Previously, at the SMU Cox School of Business, she oversaw strategy for new global partners to engage in leadership and business development for the Latino Leadership Initiative. Prior to SMU, she was the Community Relations Manager for Education is Freedom. She oversaw the development of community partnerships and was responsible for the administration of Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert's Intern Fellows programme. She has also worked as a manager for international business development for the Dallas Regional Chamber and held various positions with public relations firms.

Luisa's vision for global change is to promote multilingualism to boost economic growth and improve integration within societies.



Martha Mackenzie – UK (England)

Healthcare

Martha is Head of Government Relations at Save the Children. During her time at Save the Children, she has helped to secure a major child refugee resettlement commitment from the UK government and campaigned to secure cross-party support for the UK's overseas aid commitment. Prior to joining Save the Children she worked for the housing and homelessness charity Shelter. Here she secured legislation to ban 'revenge evictions' in the private rented sector, a practice that left 200,000 people a year without a home.

Martha's vision for global change is to enable and incentivise low-income countries to spend more domestic resources on health to reduce inequalities in health access and in healthcare outcomes.

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Mary Dinah – Nigeria

Gender equality

Mary is the Founder of Job-Link Foundation, Nigeria's first independent job centre, established in 2014. Together with the Ministry of Youth, Job-Link has trained over 2,000 people on employability skills and CV reviews. The company has received seven awards for its contribution to alleviating poverty amongst Nigerian youths. Job-Link also provides free school lunches for children living below the poverty line. Recently, Mary was conferred an Honorary Fellow at the Nigerian Institute of Brand Management and was appointed Ambassador of Tourism for Lagos State between 2016 and 2018.

Mary's vision for global change is to empower women, working towards a world where there is gender equality, social inclusion and women's rights are protected.



Menat Hussein – Egypt

Children's rights

Menat works at the Ministry of Social Solidarity as part of Takaful and Karama, the Conditional Cash Transfer Programme as Conditionality Officer. She is responsible for promoting investment in child health and nutrition and access to education among the most vulnerable groups. Her team has put in place an operations cycle for tracking school attendance and health visits. Menat also works on raising awareness on the importance of primary healthcare and child education.

Menat's global vision for change is to secure healthcare for all children and grant them the right to education.



Michael Gilmont – UK (England)

Water

Michael is a water resource scientist with interests in the physical and political understanding of water management. Since 2014 he has been a Research Fellow in Water Security at the University of Oxford, working on environmental, economic and political aspects of water management in China, India and the Middle East. He is also a consultant for the Water Security Core Team of the World Bank. His current academic research work involves co-ordinating an international consortium of water researchers in Oxford, Israel and Jordan, working to understand how regional best practice in water use can enhance 'decoupling' of economic and population growth from increased demand for natural fresh water. During the course of this project, he has devised creative solutions for continued co-operation between partners.

Michael's vision for global change is the development of regional and global policies on food trade, water allocation, agricultural and economic development which together work to relieve pressure on nationally stressed water resources.

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Mohamed Ibrahim Hafez – Egypt

Poverty

Hafez is a Senior Economic Researcher at the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation. Prior to that, he was a Credit Analyst at one of the leading commercial banks in the MENA region. He received intensive training in public policy development through his participation in the Presidential Leadership Program and founded the PLP Finance and Economics Club, a governmental workshop that produced a number of research papers to develop Egyptian society and economy, and presented the findings to senior government officials through national youth conferences. In 2017, he was nominated as the official spokesman of the World Youth Forum. Hafez has joined Rowad 2030 Project, a national entrepreneurship initiative that aims to create a scientific community capable of adopting and supporting entrepreneurial thinking.

Hafez's vision for global change is to see a world without poverty by fostering effective development policies that promote social inclusion to ensure equal access of opportunities for all the world's citizens.



Nicholas Schiavo – Canada

LGBTQ+ rights

Nicholas is a Policy Analyst with Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the G7 Task Force. Previously, Nicholas worked in Nairobi, Kenya as an Ontario Global Edge Fellow and with the Green Party of Canada as part of the fundraising team during the 2015 federal election. Nicholas has worked with a number of international institutions as a delegate, including the Commonwealth, the World Bank Group and the United Nations. He is currently the Program Director for the Young Diplomats of Canada, an Associate with Start Proud Ottawa and a Board Member of the AIDS Committee of Ottawa.

Nicholas' vision for global change is the development of policies to protect the human rights of LGBTQ2+ individuals so that no one faces persecution, violence or discrimination simply for who they are.



Oluwaseun Ayodeji Osowobi – Nigeria

Gender equality

Oluwaseun is the Executive Director of the Stand to End Rape (STER) Initiative; a leading organisation advocating to end gender-based violence, providing pro-bono medical, legal and psycho-social services to survivors, while engaging communities to disrupt structures that contribute to gender inequality in Nigeria. The STER Initiative has reached over 15,000 (young) Nigerians with information on sex education and reproductive rights. Oluwaseun started her advocacy by interning at the United Nations Headquarters and Half the Sky Movement, New York where she researched human rights violations against women and girls such as child trafficking, sexual abuse in countries like Cambodia and the United States. She is engaging the Nigerian House of Assembly on passing and enforcing laws addressing women's rights such as The Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Education Institution Prohibition Bill.

Oluwaseun's vision for global change is a world where gender equality is an entrenched culture and violence against women and girls is eliminated.

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Omair Ahmad – Pakistan

Disability

Omair is Executive Director of NOWPDP, a disability not-for-profit organisation. He has led the organisation in creating 300 jobs for people with disabilities, delivered skills development training to 500 individuals and made possible the provision of a national identity card to 1,200 anonymous disabled people. As a result of his work, the organisation was recognised by the United Nations as the sole representative of Pakistan in 2018 as winners of most innovative work for disability.

Omair's vision for global change is the inclusion of disabled people through inclusive schooling, skills development, employment and enterprise.



Omar El Hyani – Morocco

Air pollution

Omar has been a member of the City Council of Rabat, Morocco since 2015. He is also Investment Director at Maroc Numeric Fund, a venture fund dedicated to Moroccan technology start-ups. As a member of the City Council and a representative of the Democratic Left Federation (an opposition party), he has been involved in the close monitoring of a US\$900 million investment programme. In 2016, he was the manager of the electoral campaign of Omar Balafrej, who is now one of the most active MPs in the Moroccan Parliament. He previously worked as a consultant at the Boston Consulting Group and as corporate finance associate in CDG Capital.

Omar's vision for global change is to reduce air pollution in cities through building more efficient public transportation networks.



Owen Evans – UK (Wales)

Education

Owen is a Director for Teach First Cymru, a charity which exists to ensure that no child's educational success is determined by their background. Owen previously worked in a number of other roles for Teach First Cymru, including School Partnerships Manager and was a teacher on the Teach First programme. He has helped recruit over 150 teachers to work in schools serving more disadvantaged communities.

Owen's vision for global change is the eradication of the attainment gaps which exist between learners from wealthier backgrounds (and nations) and those from less wealthy backgrounds (and nations) in terms of literacy, numeracy and level of qualification.



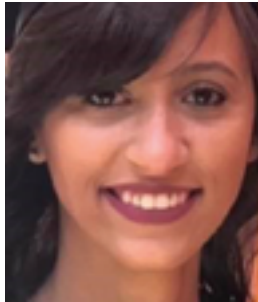
Rafia Saleem – Pakistan

Climate change

Rafia works as Head of Risk and Compliance at NRSP Microfinance Bank Limited – a social enterprise working on poverty alleviation in Pakistan. Rafia is a writer, researcher and environmental activist and works to educate the public on environmental protection and climate change. She is also the author of *ABC of Environment*, an eco-booklet for children. The booklet was subsequently re-printed by local authorities, reaching 120,000 students. Through her advocacy and activism, she has helped the local community raise its voice on important issues of polluted drinking water and waste management. She has also recently scripted, produced, and presented an eco-centered radio programme *Sabz Khawab* on a local radio channel. Rafia has received many awards including Presidential Award of Excellence, Young Eco-Hero Award and Fatima Jinnah Memorial Gold Medal. She is also a Fellow of State Department's Emerging Leaders of Pakistan Program, Swedish Institute's Young Connectors of the Future Program and Adaptation Finance Fellowship of Frankfurt School of Finance and Management.

Rafia's vision for global change is to act on climate change to mitigate some of its devastating impacts.

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Rana Laymouna – Egypt

Gender equality

Rana has a background in public policy and currently works as an Economist in the Macro-Fiscal Policy Unit at the Ministry of Finance. As a part of a team, she works hands-on with Egypt's home-grown economic reform programme. She is responsible for developing policies in the areas of public financial management, fiscal consolidation and social protection. While working on meeting the fiscal targets of the country, she works on policies that are pro-growth that will raise the standards of public service and simultaneously protect the most vulnerable. Rana believes that balanced policies are the success element in such a dynamic stage of the economic reform program.

Rana's vision for global change is the financial empowerment of women to improve gender equality.



Rishika Das Roy – India

Climate change

Rishika is a Technical Policy Consultant at Oxford Policy Management. Rishika's experience is focused on climate change policy, disaster risk reduction and sanitation. Current projects are focused on increasing the capacity of cities to respond to climate change. She has presented her work at the UNFCCC Annual Climate change conference COP22 in Marrakesh and at numerous other forums. Prior to this she worked with BBC Media Action, which used behaviour change communication for development outcomes. She has worked on climate change and gender issues with Earth Day Network, and Ashoka, Innovators for the public.

Rishika's vision for global change is the introduction of an institutional response to climate change, creating a framework which mainstreams climate change into development policy and tackles power asymmetries.



Sahil SR Shah – Kenya

Social enterprise

Sahil is a policy economist working around the areas of public policy, strategy and economic development. Currently, Sahil is the Project Lead of the Kenya Business Guide, a private sector development think tank aimed at improving the business environment in Kenya. Prior to this, Sahil was working as a consultant based at the Strathmore University Business School providing technical and advisory support to leaders and decision-makers in both the public and private sectors. Sahil's main interests are on the role and impact of the private sector and trade and investment in economic development in emerging and frontier markets.

Sahil's vision for global change is identifying and supporting high-impact and viable enterprises for sustainable job and wealth creation.



Samuel Edward Greene – USA

Migration

Samuel is an International Relations Specialist at the Department of Homeland Security. He has worked for the Department of Homeland Security for a decade, focusing on trade and immigration. He has worked on issues such as counter nuclear-proliferation, trade infraction penalisation, communicable disease prevention (Ebola), and international relations, returning foreign fighters, forced labour, trade, and travel facilitation. He has volunteered in refugee camps in Lesbos and Piraeus, Greece.

Samuel's vision for global change is to look for the opportunities presented by borders in terms of economic development, cultural preservation, environment and wildlife preservation, all while increasing border security.

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Shamsa Omar – Kenya

Gender equality

Shamsa is a current member of the County Assembly, and chairperson of Gender, Culture and Community Service Committee, Wajir. She has used her education and expertise to improve and promote rights of women, girls and vulnerable groups in her community. Shamsa has a wealth of experience in community service, championing the rights of women, girls and other vulnerable groups in Kenya. A key advocate for human rights and rights of children, she has worked with Terre des Hommes as a Senior Child Protection officer to promote comprehensive child protection system for vulnerable communities in Garissa County. She has also served as a Psychosocial Counsellor with the Centre for Victims of Torture (CVT), helping war survivors overcome war trauma, torture and gender based violence in Dadaab Refugee Complex, Kenya. In 2014, Shamsa was nominated for Women's Peace Building and Leadership Program, a global movement dedicated to peacebuilding and women empowerment from conflict prone countries.

Shamsa's vision for global change is to bring about an end to violence against women and girls.



Shreya Nayak – Canada

Gender equality

Shreya works with the world's largest Fortune 500 companies as a management consultant, while also increasing female participation in politics, and bringing digital skills to communities and small businesses across North America. She worked extensively in bringing participatory budgets to communities in Toronto, and actively advocates for increased female participation in the technology industry. Outside of her full-time management consulting role at Accenture, Shreya was recently named the 2018 City of Toronto Protégé, a position granted to nine Canadian women who have displayed remarkable commitment to sustainable city development. As a Protégé Shreya works with Canadian politicians and Canadian high schools to encourage girls to pursue STEM careers. Shreya also promotes bilateral and cultural understanding between youth in Canada and Asia as the Youth Council President of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.

Shreya's vision for global change is a future where gender equality in the global workforce is a reality, with equal female representation in the technology and digital workforce.



Sofía Flores Fuentes – Mexico

Healthcare

Sofía is Head of Information and Manager of Content and Public Relations at the National Institute of Genomic Medicine. She is also a lecturer at the Faculty of Science in the National Autonomous University of Mexico in History, Philosophy, and Science Communication, where she also engages in volunteering work by presenting a science radio programme. Sofia has a particular interest in genomic medicine and its potential to improve healthcare.

Sofía's vision for global change is to build on developments in genomics to improve the quality of, and access to, healthcare for individuals, populations, economies and national health services.



Stellah Bosire – Kenya

Inequality

Stellah is a Kenyan physician and corporate executive, who serves as the Chief Executive Officer and Secretary to the Board of the Kenya Medical Association. Since September 2013, she has served as the Vice Chairperson of the HIV/AIDS Tribunal of Kenya where she focuses on advancing human rights and access to justice for persons affected and infected by HIV/AIDS. Stellah is a senior manager with experience of managing policy briefs, documentaries, research and evaluation studies in sexual health and rights, HIV, TB and human rights. She has also taken responsibility for performance management plans, and partner and donor relationships. Stellah is an Aspen 2018 fellow and was named in the Top 40 Under 40 in 2017 as one of the most influential women in Kenya.

Stellah's vision for global change is to ensure access to services, particularly healthcare for underrepresented groups, including LGBT people.

FUTURE LEADERS CONNECT: BIOGRAPHIES



Steven Lawrence Pacheco – USA

Justice

Steven Pacheco is a student at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice majoring in Social Thought. As a four-time inaugural fellow, he has worked with the Vera Institute of Justice, the David Rockefeller Fund, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (Ron Moelis Social Innovation Fellow), and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. Following his 2018 Echoing Green NYC Future of Work Social Innovation Challenge victory, Steven was selected as an Undergraduate Leadership Fellow for the 2018–19 Futures Initiative Leadership program. As co-founder of CONNECTr, an app-based platform geared towards making the job market more equitable for justice-affected people, his primary focus is pushing forward ideas that will socioeconomically empower formerly incarcerated people.

Steven's vision for global change is a shift towards supporting justice-affected people in their quest for socioeconomic advancement by improving their overall quality of life.



Tara Puspitarini Sani – Indonesia

Healthcare

Tara is the Scientific Director of Alzheimer's Indonesia (ALZI). She graduated from Atma Jaya School of Medicine, where she currently holds a full-time academic post. In 2016, she received an Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education scholarship to pursue MSc Dementia in UCL Institute of Neurology, UK, and volunteered for St Joseph's Hospice during her time in London. Tara's activities at ALZI and Atma Jaya include organising over 140 dementia education sessions and capacity-building workshops for caregivers, healthcare professionals, students and other communities. She has established procedures for researchers wishing to collaborate with ALZI to ensure good and ethical research practices, and has contributed to an ongoing national dementia guidelines project and the World Alzheimer Report 2016. She currently serves as Indonesia's project lead in Strengthening Responses to Dementia in Developing Countries (STRiDE), a multi-national research project.

Tara's vision for global change is the continued involvement of older people in their communities, including those living with dementia.



Vanessa Renee Vardon – USA

Civic engagement

Vanessa is the director of the Chicago Forum on Global Cities at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, a Chicago-based think tank and public education organisation. The Forum brings together civic, business, cultural, and academic leaders for cross-disciplinary dialogue on the challenges and opportunities presented by rapid and mass urbanisation. Prior to joining the Chicago Council, Vanessa worked in both the private and academic sector focusing on international business development and strategic partnerships. She sits on the advisory board of the GEMS World Academy Chicago, is a mentor at Chicago's tech accelerator, 1871, and is a small business owner.

Vanessa's vision for global change is increased civic engagement to respond to grievances manifesting as populism and nationalism.



Yemisi Christiana Fawibe – Nigeria

Conservation

Yemisi is the Assistant Conservation Manager, Policy and Advocacy at the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, Lagos where she works to create and influence policy solutions that can tackle threats to Nigeria's Wildlife, their habitats and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. She is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and a recipient of the WWF/Prince Bernhard Scholarship for Nature Conservation 2018. Yemisi has worked in the telecoms sector and has experiences volunteering for various organisations such as: Corps Peer Education, Junior Achievement Nigeria, Legal Aid Clinic and Lekki Bird Club. In 2017, she drafted proposals to stakeholders involved in Wildlife Trafficking activities in the South-West region on the Save the Vulture Campaign and co-ordinated successful workshops for all stakeholders. This raised the level of awareness on illegal wildlife trafficking from 40 per cent to 70 per cent.

Yemisi's vision for global change is a world where people prosper living in harmony with wildlife and the environment.

www.britishcouncil.org/future-leaders-connect
#FutureLeadersConnect

© **British Council 2018/J100.01**

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities.

© shutterstock by Daxiao Productions

