

## **Frank Folino**

Frank Folino is a Board Member of the World Federation of the Deaf, an international non-governmental organisation representing 130 countries around the world. A national of Canada by birth, he holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Political Science, from York University in Toronto, Ontario Canada. He was actively involved at the national level in a leadership position with the national deaf organization. Frank Folino has been an enduring leader and advocate for human rights. He was invited to participate in conferences and meetings to provide his expertise on sign languages and accessibility related to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Among his notable successes, Frank Folino was a passionate advocate to include a legal recognition of national sign languages in the landmark Accessible Canada Act. Also, he was an interim board member for Canadian Administrator of Video Relay Services and Frank Folino has also received awards recognizing his volunteer services.

## **Teresa Thomson**

Bio: A reflective practitioner and independent consultant deeply committed to gender equality and the leave no one behind agenda, Teresa brings 14 years experience leading gender and social inclusion change. She specialises in translating evidence based frameworks into practical tools for transformative change. With a background in law, anthropology and evaluation, Teresa's recent experience includes: leading a desk review and co-design process for development of an Intersectionality Toolkit for UN Country Teams, in partnership with IDA and as part of a PRPD-supported interagency project with UN Women, UN DESA, UNICEF, UNFPA and OHCHR, development, validation and rollout of CBM International's Disability and Gender Analysis Toolkit, and development of a cross-organisation gender and COVID-19 pandemic response tool addressing family violence, sexual and reproductive health and care work for local government.

## **Shiela May Aggarao**

### Bio

Shiela May Aggarao is a 30-year old woman leader with low vision from the Philippines. She is a founding member and the secretary of Nationwide Organization of Visually-Impaired Empowered Ladies or NOVEL, a group of women with visual impairment pushing for gender equality and disability inclusive development (DID). She is also a core group member of Philippine Coalition on the UNCRPD, a major network of organizations of persons with disabilities monitoring the implementation of UNCRPD, SDG and other international commitments in their country. Aside from her work in gender and DID, Shiela together with Life Haven Center for Independent Living is currently part of the team conducting a CRPD-compliant budget research and analysis on the spending of Philippine government for Filipinos with disabilities. You can also watch her every week via Facebook live as she is part of the production team of Inklusasyon, a weekly online program discussing the issues and concerns of persons with disabilities .

## Contributions to the EGM

Shiela May Aggarao will be sharing her experiences as a woman leader with disability. She will relate in the meeting her work on gender equality and disability inclusive development including the barriers and challenges to leadership and participation as well as the opportunities and gains. Some of the highlights of the things she will contribute to the EGM are the good practices and lessons learned from the community-based peer monitoring on the situation of women with disabilities amidst COVID pandemic. She will happily share also her role on their weekly online program Inklusasyon and the potential of this kind of platform for stronger advocacy, establishment of networks and empowering persons with disabilities.

### **Zara Todd**

Bio: Zara Todd is a disabled women and intersectional feminist based in Scotland. She is particularly interested in how to ensure the experiences of disabled women and disabled children and young people are accounted for in policy and decision-making processes. In 2017 Zara carried out a [Winston Churchill memorial trust fellowship](#) looking at inclusion disability and leadership and what could be learned from Australia and New Zealand.

Zara is a senior advisor at the European Network on Independent living where she co-founded their sector leading youth network. Zara currently represents ENIL on the European Disability Forums women's committee. In 2017 Zara was profiled in the [guardian newspaper](#) for her work in disability rights.

### **Abia Akram**



Bio: With a personal experience of physical disability, Abia Akram has been engaged in the activities of Disability Movement since 1997. She is known as one of most active women with disabilities leader globally. In the struggle of giving voice to women with disabilities, she has been lobbying with parliamentarians, UN high level representatives focusing on developing advocacy

strategies to raise awareness, network, and build capacity and at the UN level in relation to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Inclusive Development. She also coordinates efforts of including persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goals. In particular, she established National Forum of Women with Disabilities, Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP), Ageing and Disability Task Force (ADTF), Commonwealth Young Disabled People' Forum (CYDP), Global Network of Emerging Young Women, Disabled People International and has been recently assigned the responsibility as Chair, Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities Network. She is the Co-Coordinator, Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities United and Coordinator, South Asia Disability and Development Initiative (SADDI) Project. Abia is also a Trustee for the Sightsavers UK and a Board Member of Asia Pacific Women Law & Development (APWLD).

She is the recipient of Human Rights Presidential Award and is among the Chevening 35 Changemakers globally. She has acquired British Council's Chevening Scholarship and completed her post-graduation in Gender and International Development from the University of Warwick, UK, to envision the leadership role of women with disabilities and learn the practical strategies to implement in the legislation inline with UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). She was given the British Council Alumni Award for her services for persons with disabilities and bringing social change in their lives. She is highlighting the concerns of women with disabilities in global agenda through her engagement in disability-focused grassroots activism and broader policymaking with emphasis on inclusive strategies and systematic change through advocacy, collaboration, and awareness.

### **Dr. Karina Chupina**

Bio: Karina Chupina, PhD (cand.) is an independent consultant, trainer and researcher in disability inclusion. As a woman with a profound hearing loss, Karina has been a passionate disability inclusion advocate for more than 20 years, and is striving towards intersectional approaches in policy work, research and practice. Karina served as a President of [IFHOHYP](#), member of the [European Disability Forum](#) Youth Committee and UNICEF [Youth Council of the Global Partnership for Children with Disabilities](#), and as a Global Advisor to [Disability Rights Fund](#), Boston, U.S. She is a Senior trainer of the [Council of Europe](#) on civil society sector capacity-building, diversity & inclusion, disability rights and youth participation.

Karina is a co-author and editor of international manuals "[COMPASS](#)" (Council of Europe) and "No Barriers, No Borders", "Inclusion from A to Z" (European Commission). She has authored a series of articles and [policy framework texts](#) on inclusion of youth with disabilities, policy recommendations to the UN OHCHR, CRPD and the European Institutions. Karina conducted cross-national studies on [access to culture](#), [inclusive education](#) and mechanisms of social inclusion. Her capacity building, advocacy and research experience spans the regions of CEE, CIS, Europe, Northern America, Central Asia, Southern Asia and Eastern Africa.

Karina holds MA degrees in International Journalism, International Relations and Sociology. Originally from St. Petersburg, Russia, she now lives in Germany where she defended her PhD in

Disability Studies & Rehabilitation sciences at Humboldt University in Berlin. At the moment Karina is consulting the UNDP within the UN PRPD Global programme on Disability-inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery.

More information on Karina Chupina can be found on [LinkedIn](#) and [SALTO](#).

### **Dr. Mohammed Ali Loutfy**

Dr. Loutfy joined the Global Initiative on Inclusive ICTs (G3ICT) IN February 2021, as the organization's senior advisor on capacity building and advocacy.

In February of 2020, Dr. Loutfy was appointed as Disabled People's International (DPI) executive director. Since 2016, dr. Loutfy has been the Representative of Disabled Peoples International (DPI) at the United Nations, where he currently co-chairs the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Between 2014, and 2020, Dr. Loutfy served as a co-founder and Executive Director of the Arab Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Dr. Loutfy has worked as a consultant for a broad array of organizations, including: The National Democratic Institute (NDI); the Bank Information Center (BIC), and the World Blind Union (WBU).

In Fall 2019, Mohammed earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the American University of Washington, DC. In 2009 and as a Fulbright Scholar, Mohammed had earned his master's degree in International Development, also from the American University in Washington DC. In 2001, Mohammed earned his degree in Public Law from the Lebanese University in Beirut.

### **Maria Njeri**

Bio: Maria Njeri is a diversity inclusion consultant and disability advocate in kenya. She was born with cerebral palsy and managed to achieve most of her milestones and lives courageously. Maria leads her own awareness and advocacy organization - Njeri Maria Foundation. She is working with Leonard Cheshire in their Global youth advocacy programs and a contributor to many organizations such as UNGEI, Department of foreign affairs UK Kenya, Government of Kenya, and others. Maria's passion is in capacity building for children and adults with disability through disability inclusive structures and emphasizing the importance of inclusive education especially for girls with disabilities and encouraging sustainable community interventions and systems to facilitate a more inclusive generation.

Inclusion is seeing beyond the disability, seeing the value.

## Dr. A.H. Monjurul Kabir



Dr. A. H. Monjurul KABIR, currently, [UN-Women's](#) Global *UN Coordination Adviser for Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion*, was the immediate past Chair (2019-20) of the Policy Board and the Management Committee of the [UNPRPD](#). Prior to this, Dr. Kabir was Senior Policy and Programme Adviser for Rule of Law, Justice and Security Sector Reform (SSR) with UN-Women. He also served as the Senior Programme Adviser and Chief of Section, Asia-

Pacific, LDCs, and SIDS (2014-18) at UN Women HQ. Monjurul, a Governance, Rule of Law, Inclusion and Intersectionality, and, Public Sector Management expert, was the Practice Team Leader and Policy Adviser (2010-14) for Governance and Human Rights for [UNDP](#) Europe, and CIS region. He served as the Global Policy Specialist (2006-10) at UNDP Policy Bureau to promote corporate coordination, coherence and innovation in governance policy and innovative knowledge practices.

Previously, Dr. Kabir served as UN's lead Legislative Policy Adviser to the Afghan National assembly (Parliament with UNDP & UNAMA). He headed UNDP Bangladesh's Governance Portfolio as Assistant Resident Representative, Programmes. Prior to joining UN, he worked with both bilateral organisation, civil society and media outlets, both new and old media. Mr. Kabir, a law graduate, Chevening Scholar, and, an international human rights lawyer, holds Ph.D in International Development, Politics and Aid Effectiveness. He passed LL.M (distinction) in International Human Rights Law, Dr. Kabir, a public speaker, authored several books and numerous research articles for international publishers, global news media, and academic journals. His most recent book (2019) is on Politics and Aid Effectiveness by Palgrave and Macmillan: [Development Aid in Stable Democracies and Fragile States](#)

Dr. Kabir can be reached by [e-mail](#) and, be followed at twitter: [@mkabir2011](#)

## Jazz Shaban

Jazz Shaban is currently working at Leonard Cheshire in the role of OPD Engagement Manager. She has lifelong lived, and over 30 years work, experience of disability, the disability sector and grassroots DPO engagement policy and practice in the both the UK and internationally. Having worked for a range of NGOs her work has prominently been about promoting and ensuring inclusion, representation and leadership of people with disabilities in development and humanitarian action. Jazz has a background in media and communications and holds a Masters in International Communications and Development. Jazz is a published author and blogger writing mostly on disability identity and culture and is currently working at Leonard Cheshire in the role of OPD Engagement Manager.

## Rosario Galarza



*Ilustración 1Foto de Rosario Galarza*

Rosario Galarza joined IDA as the Intersectionalities Officer for the Capacity Building Unit. She is responsible for strengthening the inclusion of women with disabilities and underrepresented identities in IDA's work.

Prior to joining IDA, Rosario worked as Human Rights Officer at the RIADIS where she supported OPDs in the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD, CEDAW and the agenda 2030, prioritizing activities related to the rights of women with disabilities and underrepresented groups. In 2019, on behalf of RIADIS, Rosario was appointed as focal point of the group of persons with disabilities which was part of the civil society coordinator mechanism responsible for the SDGs implementation in the Economic Commission for the Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

At the same year, Rosario finished the elaboration of the RIADIS SDG-CRPD Latin American Report in which one section focused on women with disabilities was included.

From 2013 to 2016, Rosario was appointed as Chair of Gender and Equality in the Latin American Union of the Blind (ULAC). As a Chair of Gender and Equality, she promoted the realization of different blind women's meetings in different countries of Latin America to spread the women's rights recognized in CEDAW and CRPD.

At the national level, Rosario founded the first organization of blind women in Peru called Comision de Damas Invidentes del Peru (CODIP) which was a ground-breaking organization in the promotion and advocacy for the rights of women and girls with visual impairments in Peru.

## **Mosharraf Hossain**



Mosharraf Hossain is a Global South Expert on disability-inclusive development. As Director of Global Policy Influencing and Research of ADD International, an INGO supporting the disability movement and OPDs, he actively engaged in the negotiation of SDGs and the 2030 development agenda, contributed significantly to the Global Disability Summit and influenced the Commonwealth Heads of Government for disability inclusion. Mosharraf supported the implementation of CRPD and SDGs in the country programme of ADD International in Africa and Asia. He is a global speaker at the UN Sustainable Development Summit and many other events, including the UK House of Commons.

Mosharraf founded ADD International Bangladesh Country programme, leading the country programme in Bangladesh for 20 years as Country Director, and mobilised grassroots OPDs for social change towards an inclusive society, ensuring persons with disabilities at every level. Leadership development and strengthening OPD capacity were his key responsibilities - the disability movement and OPD to raise voice and advocate for inclusive policy and practice. He played an instrumental role in developing the Bangladesh Disability Rights Protection Act 2013.

As an internationally recognised activist, he has consulted and advised the UNDP, UNICEF and DFID. He accomplished a Master's in Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and attended executive programs in MIT, Harvard and Stanford Business Schools. He also has another Master in Economics from Dhaka University, Bangladesh. Born and brought up in Bangladesh, Mosharraf has lived experience of disability from his childhood. Currently, he lives in London.

### **Supaanong Panyasirimongkol (NuNu)**

Ms Supaanong Panyasirimongkol was born as Child with Autism on Friday, 19 Oct 1990. On 1993, she diagnosed as Severe Function Autism with Hearing, Touch and Taste Sensory impairments. On 1996 she has been enrolled to the school founded by King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit named Chitralada School. Later, she developed herself until she is Moderate Function Autism. For capacity development in Realistic society, she became High Function Autism and be able to work for both governmental and non-governmental organisation. She studied and gained Bachelor of Music Degree from College of Music, Mahidol University, which had been recognized as one of only two schools from Southeast Asia listed by Rhinegold Publishing "World Conservatories and International Guide to Music Study" from 2009 – 2010. Now, she has worked with APCD more than 6 years, With Expertise in Various field such as Autism, Gender, Humanitarian, Training, Information & Knowledge Management, and many more. She also paid the role as panelist/ workshop speaker/ motivational speaker in various events such as 1st Southeast Asian Women's Summit, 27th 2017 IASSIDD 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Congress "From Inclusiveness to Sustainable Development", Asia Pacific Consultation on the Inclusion of LGBTIQ Communities and Promoting LGBTIQ Rights in Resilience Building, Response, and Recovery Interventions in Humanitarian Settings", National Workshop for Policy Recommendations on Autism in Malaysia, Panelist at Bangladesh side event, titled "Leaving No One Behind: Inclusion of Persons with Autism and Neurodevelopment Disorder in the 2030 Agenda", in the sidelines of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific

Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2013-2022). Recently, She is also Speaker in "My Community for Autism" Programme in Malaysia: "Debunking the Autism Myth" and Bridging the Gap: Serving the individuals with Special Needs in Philippines International Autism Awareness Conference.

### **Florence Ndagire**



Florence Ndagire, is the first visually impaired female lawyer in Uganda. She holds a bachelor of laws from Makerere University. She was awarded a scholarship by the open Society foundation that enabled her to complete her Master of Law in international and European human rights law at the University of Leeds United Kingdom. She is currently enrolled at Makerere University in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and tropical medicine for her PHD researching on access to reproductive health services by persons with disabilities in Uganda. Florence has worked in several capacities in various civil society organizations, first as a volunteer and then as a program officer. She is the chairperson of the UN Women Regional civil society advisory group of East and Southern Africa. She is the current UNPRPD advisor. She worked at the World Blind Union as the human rights policy advisor. She worked with the UN special rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities to support the reports on support services, legal capacity and independent living. She has been the senior program officer advocacy/project coordinator of the action peace building and inclusion for all in the Rwenzori region at ADD International. She formerly worked on a project called my story my rights in partnership with NUDIPU and Light for the world that resulted into disability based evidence that was considered by the committee of experts during Uganda's review on the progress of implementing the Convention on the rights of



persons with disabilities from which concluding observations were made. Florence was in charge of policy and influence at ADD International.

Florence worked with the Uganda National association of the blind as the human rights and fundraising officer in 2012 where she popularised the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. She was in charge of the corporate sponsorship in partnership with light for the world that generated funding for the eye care services.

From 2009-2011, she worked with the Uganda Society for disabled children as senior policy researcher lobbying and advocacy. She advocated for legal and policy reforms for children with disabilities including the special needs and inclusive education policy, the amendment of the children's act to include the rights of children with disabilities. Florence contributed to the development of the alternative report that was submitted by NUDIPU to the committee on the rights of persons with disabilities in 2013. Florence is the primary author of "Will the proposed reforms in the mental health treatment act be consistent with Article 12 of the Convention on the rights of Persons with disabilities in Uganda?"

### **Publicity**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dhr6dgQpBYk>

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/Magazines/Health---Living/Exclusion-fuelling-HIV-among-PWDS/-/689846/3144298/-/uph21pz/-/index.html>

<https://youtu.be/GdJhmNmbcv8>

<https://www.justgiving.com/Florence-Ndagire/>

If you have any further questions, please contact me at [flondagire@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:flondagire@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Yosuke Ishikawa**

Yosuke Ishikawa is a Project Director at the Social Inclusion Team of The Nippon Foundation, based in Tokyo. Yosuke is in charge of half of the oversea disability inclusion projects of the foundation, including capacity building of universities, scholarship programs and building sustainable prosthetist and orthotist schools in Asia.

Prior to joining the Social Inclusion Team, Yosuke has been managing a variety of projects to innovate the society from startups incubation to peace building in Myanmar.

### **Mr 'Andrew' Kudakwashe 'AK' Dube**



**Contact details :**

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**Country :** South Africa

**Affiliated Organisation :** Africa disability Alliance

Mr AK Dube's background is in Business Studies with an MBA from Business School Netherlands. He has over thirty-five years' experience in disability, human rights and development work within Africa and internationally. He is presently **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Africa Disability Alliance (ADA)**.

He is a **Member: African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and Working Group on Older Persons and Persons with disabilities** and of the **Presidential Working Group on Disability (PWGD)-South Africa**. He is the **President of Action on Disability and Development (UK)**.

He was appointed by Minister of Justice and Correctional Services in South Africa to and chairs the **Advisory Committee: Domestication of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**, South Africa being implemented by the South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC).

AK has several memberships of professional and business bodies including the Institute of Business Advisors and a Business Panel of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

He has expertise and experience of drafting/ domesticating treaties/ policies/ legislation and strategies. He is an experienced primary and secondary researcher; and provides a service mix that includes participatory planning, management of, and resource mobilisation for, development programmes across all sectors. He has authored and co-edited several books and articles.

**Mx. Morénike Giwa Onaiwu, *Autistic Minority International, USA***

Morénike (she/they) is a former Vice Chair (2016-20) of the Board of Trustees of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN), the leading national autistic self-advocacy organization, as well as a former Chair of the Autism and Race Committee and current Equity, Justice & Representation Consultant/Executive Board of Directors member for the US-based Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network (AWN). Her many impressive accomplishments include being invited to speak at the White House and the United Nations (for World Autism Awareness Day 2018). Morénike is a member of the US government's Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC), the federal advisory committee on autism, and has recently been appointed by Dr Anthony Fauci to the Strategic Working Group of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. She's a prolific writer and social scientist/activist whose work focuses on intersectional justice, meaningful community involvement, human rights, and inclusion for multiple underrepresented and marginalized groups, such as people of colour, immigrant communities, and persons living with HIV. Morénike, the child of West African immigrants, parents six biological and internationally adopted children, all of whom have "hidden" disabilities, including autism.

### **Mr. Erich Kofmel, President, *Autistic Minority International***

Erich is the Founder and President of Autistic Minority International, based in Geneva, Switzerland, the first and only autism self-advocacy organization – run by and for autistic persons themselves – active at the global political level (since 2013). A national of Switzerland by birth, he holds a Masters degree in Public and Development Management, with specialization in Governance and Public Policy, from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, among other qualifications. He undertook doctoral studies at the University of Sussex, UK, and Sciences Po/The Institute of Political Studies in Paris, France, and lived and worked in Senegal. He was politically active and held office and leadership positions in five countries, at the local, national, and European levels. He was invited to present his research at conferences and universities across the world, and having participated in many dozen UN system and related meetings and conferences, Erich has the distinction of being the autistic person who has spoken at the United Nations most often. Despite these notable achievements, his biography is as non-linear and beset by adversity as that of almost all autistics, and he has experienced a lifetime of struggle, compounded by also being fat and gay.

### **Other expert participants**

- **Ms. Bethany Brown**, *Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities*
- **Ms. Elizabeth Lockwood**, *Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities*
- **Mr. Peter Ochieng**, Youth Fellow, *International Disability Alliance (IDA)*
- **Ms. Meenakshi Balsubramanian**, Associate, *Center for Inclusive Policy (CIP)*, India
- **Ms. Ghadeer Al Hares**, Assistant Secretary-General, *Higher Council for Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD)*

- **Ms. Alia Zureikat**, *Higher Council for Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD)*