

Biographies – Speakers and Moderators

Mr. Ahmed Badr Moderator, Discussion I



@uBadr

Photo: Marc Birnbach

Ahmed Badr is a [writer](#), social entrepreneur, poet, and former refugee from Iraq. When he was 8 years-old, Ahmed's home in Baghdad was bombed by militia troops. He and his family relocated to Syria as refugees for two and a half years before receiving approval to move to the United States. Ahmed later founded [Narratio](#), a global platform for youth empowerment through creative expression. It publishes works of art from all over the globe, and hosts workshops centred around the power of storytelling and creativity. Ahmed is a rising sophomore at Wesleyan University, where he is a Fellow at the Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life. This summer, Ahmed is working with the UN Migration Agency as the host of the “TOGETHER” podcast, which is centred around the stories of migrant and refugee youth around the world. With work appearing on [SAP](#), [United Nations](#), [Instagram](#), [NPR](#), [Global Citizen](#), and others, Ahmed explores the intersection between creativity, the refugee experience, and youth empowerment.

Mr. Imrana Alhaji Buba



@Bubaimrana

Imrana Buba is a Nigerian young leader focused on efforts to counter violent extremism and promote a culture of peace in northern Nigeria. Imrana is a United States Institute of Peace Generation Change Fellow and the Founder/Coordinator of the [Youth Coalition Against Terrorism \(YOCAT\)](#), a volunteer-based youth organization working to unite thousands of youth against violent extremism through 46 chapters in north-eastern Nigeria. These chapters promote peace education, and provide skills training and psycho-social support to young people affected by Boko Haram. He was the recipient of the Queen’s Young Leaders Award in 2016 and holds a degree in political science from the University of Maiduguri.

Ms. Taya Carneiro



@TayaCameiro

Taya Carneiro is a human rights activist focused on LGBTI rights. She is a member and co-founder of the [Libertarian Union of Trans Women \(ULTRA\)](#) and is a former member and co-founder of the youth organization [Corpolítica](#), which is aimed at empowering young victims of discrimination and violence, including because of their race, gender and sexuality. She is a “Youth Ambassador” of the [Youth Ambassadors Programme](#), which is a partnership between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Brazilian company Caixa Seguradora, established with the purpose of empowering young leaders to represent their communities and local interests. Taya has a Bachelor in social communications and is a Master student in communications at the University of Brasilia where she researches gender, sexuality, and discrimination and access to employment and income.

Mr. Tito Quiroz Angulo



@TitoQuirozAng

Tito Quiroz grew up in an orphanage where his teacher, Nancy Benning, introduced him to the violin. Tito’s love for music inspired him to found [The Benning Academy of Music](#). The Academy’s programme has had great success in Baja California and Morelos, and Tito hopes to expand to different parts of Mexico and the world. The programme aims to share music with those in jails, orphanages, asylums, rehabilitation centers, convents and other children and youth at risk of marginalization, including persons with disabilities. Tito was awarded the National Youth Prize in 2015, as well as several other awards, for his work on violence prevention through music education.

Tito is a lawyer and with a degree from the Autonomous University of Baja California. He also holds Master's degree in the administration and management of public policy from the Ibero-American University.



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Ms. Yasmine Arrington



@YazzieSpeaks

Yasmine Arrington was born and raised in Washington, DC. She is a 2015 graduate from Elon University with a Bachelor of Arts in Strategic Communications and History. Yasmine is a third-year Master of Divinity degree candidate at the Howard University School of Divinity. In 2010, while a junior in high school, Yasmine founded the non-profit [ScholarCHIPS](#), an organization that provides college scholarships, mentoring and a peer support network to graduating high school seniors who have a parent(s) in prison, and are pursuing their college degree. To date, ScholarCHIPS has awarded over \$100,000 in college scholarships to 43 scholars. In 2016, Yasmine served as an organizer for the Wage Peace DC Festival, supported by Ray Chamber's office, held on the campus of American University.

Ms. Juliana Antía García Moderator, Discussion II



@Juliana_Antia

Juliana Antía García is currently a Participation and Peace Education Advisor with the United Nations Development Programme in Bogota, Colombia (UNDP-Colombia). Her current portfolio includes implementing peacebuilding programmes and projects at both the national and local level, specifically in conflict-affected regions. She has also worked significantly with victims of the armed conflict, including youth organizations and young leaders. Her team recently led a consultation of the progress study for United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250. Juliana holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Master of Arts in Development.

Mr. Julián David Rodríguez Sastoque



@JulianRSG

Julián David Rodríguez Sastoque is the Colombian representative of "Youth for SDGs", a United Nations Volunteer (UNV) initiative aiming to train and empower representatives of youth organizations to sensitize, localize and advocate for the 2030 Agenda. He is the co-founder of ["PAZa la Página"](#), a youth peace initiative that brought together over 4,000 Colombians in the Peace Process and Peace Agreements between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC, in Spanish). Julián is an active volunteer and young leader with the [Domopaz Foundation](#) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation. He also served as a "My World Youth Ambassador," leading the UN global campaign "The World We Want" in his country with 15,000 children and young people involved. As a ["Youth for SDGs"](#) advocate, Julian

was awarded for his contribution to the SDGs and for his commitment to peace, sustainable development and youth in his country. He was recently selected as winner of the "National Youth Volunteerism Award, Category: Sustainable Development" and the "Victory Award 2017", as an emerging leader and as one of 20 most influential young people in Ibero-America.

Ms. Haya Atassi Önügören



@haya_atassi

Haya Atassi Önügören was born in Homs, Syria in 1993. She received her Bachelor's degree in Political Studies from the American University of Beirut. Haya has been active in humanitarian work since 2011, when she volunteered at the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Later, Haya worked at International Humanitarian Relief as a Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator. Haya has co-authored research such as "Living with Ongoing Political Trauma: The Prevalence and Impact of PTSD among Syrian Refugees" and "No Place to Stay? Reflections on the Syrian Refugee Shelter Policy in Lebanon" which was published by the Issam Fares Institute of Public Policy and International Affairs and UN Habitat. Haya recently completed a Master's degree in International Relations at Boğaziçi University in Turkey.



Mr. Mohsin Mohi-Ud-Din



@Mohsindin

Mohsin Mohi-Ud-Din is the founder of the award winning [#MeWeSyria](#) program, and the current Director of Storytelling Innovation for [Ashoka's Youth Venture](#). At Youth Venture, Mohsin leads strategy, design and execution of programmes that sync brain science, wellbeing, community-building, and changemaker skills development through the vehicle of communications and storytelling innovation. Mohsin previously worked in public advocacy and strategic communications for the United Nations and UNICEF. He has been working for various human rights organizations since 2003 and has more than 8 years' experience working with youth and youth organizations in Asia, MENA and Africa on social and emotional learning, community-building, and

empowerment. In 2009, he was granted a Fulbright Fellowship grant to Morocco—where he founded the Me/We storytelling innovation methodology for street children and migrant youth. In 2012 was named a United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Fellow. Most recently, Mohsin was awarded recognition as a 'Solver' at the United Nations by MIT's SOLVE community for his innovation with #MeWeSyria, which is co-led by Syrian changemakers across three countries in the Middle East. His work with refugee communities and marginalized youth is regularly featured on VICE Impact, UNHCR Innovation, Huffington Post, and Al Jazeera. He has been a featured speaker at the United Nations, MIT, Asia Society, and the World Economic Forum.

Ms. Emilia Hannuksela



@YKnuoret

Emilia Hannuksela is a human rights advocate who works as an associate expert at the Finnish Human Rights Centre. Emilia has a Masters degree in human rights studies and is currently finishing her second Masters in public international law. Not only does Emilia have a special interest in children's and youth's rights, she also has tremendous experience working in several youth, non-governmental, and UN organizations in the past few years. Her experience includes volunteering for UNICEF Sweden, coordinating youth voluntary groups at Amnesty International, and working at the [UN Association of Finland](#). In 2016, Emilia interned with the Human Rights team at UNDOCO in New York. Currently, she is a board member of the UN Youth Association of Finland where she

oversees coordinating international projects on youth participation.



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