

IYD 2020 Podcast Participant Bios:

Host



Lucy Fagan

Lucy is Global Focal Point for Health in the UN Major Group for Children and Youth where she works to enhance and strengthen the voice of adolescents and youth on their health and rights through global, regional and national policy processes. She is passionate about the role that youth-led action and advocacy can play and is committed to ensuring that this generation of young people, and those to come, are recognised and engaged in creating a sustainable, healthy and more equal world for all. Lucy also chairs the Commonwealth Youth Health Network, which seeks to bring the voices of young people from across the Commonwealth, including those from small island states and indigenous communities, to the forefront on issues such as SRHR and mental health & wellbeing.

Guests

Session 1. Engagement at the Local Level



Javan the Poet:

Rapper and poet from the East side of Nairobi with passion for social change and an advocate of people's power. Javan has tackled a range of societal issues in his work so far-from climate change through to police brutality and other issues in society.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCVfpPhYt7XyxskA5cUqJpg_

<https://www.facebook.com/javanthepoet>



Lynrose Jane Genon:

Member of the Executive Council of Young Women+ for Peace and Leadership (YW+PL-PH), a network of young women and young LGBT leaders from the Philippines who are agents of peace and advocates of human rights, women's rights, gender equality, and peace and security. She is also the co-Director of Project YACAP ('Youth Amplifying, Co-Creating and Advocating Peace'), a youth leadership development program for peace which envisions to build a network of young people in Mindanao with a view to nurturing the culture of peace. She is currently a Faculty Member at the Department of English of Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), where she teaches Public Speaking, Writing, Literature and Fundamentals of Peace Education. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Master of Arts degree in Culture and Arts Studies. She focuses on Youth Leadership, Education and Peace.

Session 2. Engagement at the National Level



Nikoli Edwards:

Political Leader of the Progressive Party, also known as the "progressives" in Trinidad and Tobago. Nikoli was appointed as the youngest Independent Senator in Trinidad and Tobago and the youngest member of the Procurement Board of Trinidad and Tobago. He held the international title of Vice Chairperson Policy, Advocacy and Projects of the Commonwealth Youth Council, representing 1.2 billion young people globally and is the recipient of Trinidad and Tobago's 2018 National Youth Award for Youth Activism.

<http://nikoliedwards.com/>



Joe English:

Joe English is the Founder and Executive Director of Hope in a Box, a national nonprofit that helps rural educators create safe and inclusive classrooms for LGBTQ students. The organization works with hundreds of schools across the country to provide "Hope in a Box": curated books featuring LGBTQ protagonists, bespoke curricula for these materials, and training and mentorship for educators. Their work has appeared in Education Week, Teen Vogue, Times Union, Forbes, Metro Weekly, and The Advocate.

Prior to Hope in a Box, Joe worked for Generation.org, the world's largest education to employment NGO, and for McKinsey & Company, where he developed education and economic development strategies for nonprofits and local governments. Joe is the recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award, Forbes 30 Under 30, and the Jefferson Award for Public Service. He is a graduate of Yale University, where he was elected Student Body President. <https://www.hopeinabox.org/>

Session 3. Engagement at the Global Level



Hajar Yagkoubi

UN Youth Representative for the Netherlands. At the last UN General Assembly, she spoke about ‘us-them’ sentiments in Dutch society: “in the past years, sentiments of divisiveness have increased in the Netherlands—between people from different ethnic backgrounds, but also between the rich and the poor, the political left and the political right, the high-educated and the practical-educated... it’s easy to live in an ‘echo bubble’. Social media algorithms connect us to like-minded people and feed us self-confirming messages.”



Eglė Janušonytė

Currently the elected Liaison Officer for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Issues including HIV and AIDS of the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA), which represents 1.3 million medical students from 129 countries. Egle has experience in global health advocacy on UHC, SRHR as well as Human Rights and Peace, having represented medical students in international meetings including the ICPD+25, WHO Regional Committee for Europe, 63rd Commission on the Status of Women, World Health Assembly, Women Deliver and Partnership for Maternal, Child and Newborn Health Board Meetings, delivering interventions on SRHR in UHC, access to safe abortion and meaningful youth participation. She has also moderated panels in IFMSA's internal events such as European Regional Meeting theme event together with UNAIDS, as well as Women Deliver 2019 high-level panel hosted by International Planned Parenthood Federation.

'Imagine' Music Collaboration

CREATE203

PREMIERE
International Youth Day #IYD2020

Imagine

CURATOR Lisa Russell **MUSIC PRODUCER** Alien Child **BEATMAKER** Kaila Mullady

SONGWRITERS/PERFORMERS Alien Child, Javan the Poet,
Sean Slaughter, Ramya Ramana, Zuhura Seng'enge (The African Lioness)

Zuhura Seng'enge (The African Lioness)

International poet, writer and storyteller based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Zuhura began her poetry journey in 2013 when she was receiving her degree in BA education at the University of Dar es Salaam, performing for the first time on the International Woman Scream Poetry Festival organized by a Dar based poetry platform called La Poetista. From that moment, Zuhura continued appearing in local and international events including; the Woman Scream International Poetry Festival (2014), Mwalimu Nyerere Professional Chair in Pan-Africanism 7th Intellectual Festival (2015), The East Africa Vibes Concert (2016), Paza Sauti Youth Poetry Slam (2017), at the farewell party in honor of Ambassador of French to Tanzania (2017), also Nuru ya Afya Masquerade Fundraising Ball in support of maternal health, and health insurance services to Tanzanians in informal sectors (2018).

Sean Slaughter

Poet and graphic designer from Brooklyn NY, based in Los Angeles. His practice intersects between communication arts & communities of color through a pedagogical approach to alternative education. The pillars of Sean's design philosophy are — art, education, and community practice. He uses his work to examine and open dialogues about a community history, culture, and its social needs. While on a pursuit to merge language and design as one system; he became a two-time published author, and a national poetry-slam champion featured on HBO Brave New Voices. He has curated creative workshops in juvenile detention centers throughout Los Angeles to orphanages in Malawi, East Africa. Currently Sean is obtaining his bachelor's in fine arts from Otis College of Art & Design and plans to continue his studies in graduate education.

Alien Child

An electro-pop duo born in Bali, consisting of Aya: First female award-winning music producer in Bali + instrumentalist, Lala: Front (wo)man, songwriter/lyricist and director/screenwriter. Two sisters fuelled by their drive to experiment, learn and challenge themselves, Alien Child self-produces all elements of their art, from songwriting, music arranging, mixing and mastering all the way to the process of filmmaking. Alien Child is known for their titles as “young geniuses” + “production powerhouse.” With the mission to use music as a form of peacemaking, writing songs about strong and serious topics happening in the world, the two sisters were known as ‘young activists’ and often performed in feminist, activist, environmental and volunteer events. This step in their career came to an end in 2018, when the two discovered more knowledge and explored their potential even further in music.

Javan the Poet

Hails from Kenya and has kept the love on by composing lots of poetry for personal nourishment till until after his O level education that he chose to go mainstream by doing socially charged pieces in different forums to champion for social justice and also appreciate African culture. Having composed over twenty pieces that saw him perform on different stages for different awards he has worked with so many artists and youth organization in line of empowering youths and arts.

Ramya Ramana

Nationally acclaimed American poet and author Ramya Ramana made her debut in 2014 at the inauguration of Mayor Bill De Blasio where she was asked to perform an original piece. The New York native then went onto perform at over 200 venues in a year, making mentions in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Brown Girl Magazine and many more. Ramana released her first manuscript, “Don't Drown Her in the Baptism”; the collection of poems explored femininity, faith and race. She received her bachelor's at St. John's University which she attended on a full scholarship with the NY Knicks Poetry Slam.

As a first-generation Indian-American, Ramana's work illustrates both the immigrant experience, generational trauma and existentialism. Her upcoming projects include creating a spoken word album, and songwriting. She is currently receiving her MFA in poetry at The New School.

Kaila Mullady

Kaila is the 2015 & 2018 World Beatbox Champion, the 2014 American Vice Beatbox Champion and 3x Loop Station Champion. Kaila performs all over the world infusing beatboxing, singing, rapping, and theater to push the boundaries of creativity and show just what the human instrument is capable of. She recently completed her run starting in Lin Manuel Miranda's hit Broadway show "Freestyle Love Supreme".

One of the most fulfilling parts of Kaila's career has been traveling the world teaching workshops promoting confidence and leadership through beatboxing.

Lisa Russel, Curator

Emmy® Award-winning filmmaker who has 15+ years producing films and curating creative events that lie at the intersection of arts, social justice and sustainability. An established global speaker and thought leader, she is a two time TEDx speaker, SheDecides Global Champion, UN/NGO contracted storyteller and arts curator, Fulbright Specialist, writer and is a regular presenter at film festivals, storytelling summits, leading universities, international conferences and youth leadership programs.