

12 August 2016, 10am - 1pm  
ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Biographies of Presenters

**Ms. Nadira Angelina Hira**

Moderator



@nadirahira

Nadira Angelina Hira is a writer at heart. But in true restless 21<sup>st</sup>-century style, she does it her way—as an award-winning journalist, recognized Millennial expert, energizing public speaker and effortless curator of compelling conversations in print, on screen, and on stage. Known for her distinctive voice and infinite curiosity, Nadira’s taken rapt audiences along on countless adventures, from tapping out beats with Shawn “Jay Z” Carter to doing a stormy summer ride-along—in a UPS truck! But there’s perhaps nothing Nadira’s enjoyed more than exploring her own generation, elucidating Millennials’ unique mindset and enterprising worldview from the pages of *Fortune* to the halls of Google to the airwaves of NPR and CNN—culminating in her new book, the forthcoming *Misled: How a Generation of Leaders Lost the Faith (And Just What You’ll Need to Get It Back)*. A would-be poet, professional sports fan, and passionate advocate for young leaders, Nadira is a proud graduate of Stanford University who will always call New York City home. Find out more about her and her work at [www.nadirahira.com](http://www.nadirahira.com).

**Ms. Avery Kelly**

Speaker on Extraction



Avery Kelly graduated summa cum laude from Sewanee: The University of the South with a B.A. in International and Global Studies in 2014. After college, as an intern and later a fellow with Sisters of Mercy (NGO), Mercy International Association: Global Action, Avery spent a year and a half doing human rights and social justice advocacy with civil society colleagues at the United Nations headquarters in New York. During this time, Avery was part of the NGO Mining Working Group coalition and worked with networks of grassroots groups denouncing the devastating impacts of extractivism in Latin America and around the world. She actively co-organized and campaigned with civil society colleagues and members of the global water justice movement for the explicit naming of the human right to water and sanitation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Avery continues to do human rights research and communications work with Mercy Global Action and will begin law school this fall at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC.

## Mr. Jesse McElwain

### Speaker on Production



@theMachanic

Jesse McElwain works to amplify the voice of companies, organizations, and individuals working at the intersection of sustainability, education, and public health. As a private consultant, he works to uncover the core story, the motivation, the “why” of a cause, and deliver that message in inspiring and captivating ways. As an advisor, he provides guidance to start-ups and organizations looking to engage new audiences and specific target markets. He also works in-house at the U.S. Green Building Council supporting their student programs and work in schools & education facilities. Jesse studied architecture and urban planning at Cornell University, though is better known for (and frequently teased for) spending his time founding Cornell University Sustainable Design (CUSD), which he developed from a 15-member group into a 200 student endeavour with more than 20 faculty advisors and projects on three continents. Jesse orchestrated a media campaign focused on student and alumni support for Cornell's "NYC Tech Campus" proposal, a \$2 billion academic development on New York City's Roosevelt Island. After Cornell won the bid, Jesse began working for Entrepreneurship@Cornell, developing programs connecting students with start-ups in Ithaca and Manhattan and opening POPSHOP, a co-working space just off Cornell's campus.

## Mr. Steve Lee

### Speaker on Consumption



@steveleesj

Steve Lee is a climate change activist, a policy advocate to the United Nations, and a global speaker and feminist. He is the Executive Director of Foundation for Environmental Stewardship and its 3% Project. He is going on 5 national tours across 400 towns in 2 years to educate and empower 1,000,000 young Canadians (3% of Canada) to solve climate change in their local communities. The result will be a nation-wide conviction that climate change is happening right now, that it is mainly caused by human activities, and that we're the final generation with the opportunity to solve climate change. More information about Steve can be found at his website: [www.steveleesj.com](http://www.steveleesj.com).

## Ms. Lauren Singer

### Speaker on Disposal



@Trashis4Tossers

Lauren Singer is author of the Zero Waste blog Trash is for Tossers and founder of organic cleaning product company The Simply Co. An Environmental Studies graduate from NYU and former Sustainability Manager at the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, the amount of trash that she has produced over the past four years can fit inside of a 16 oz mason jar. Through her blog, she has empowered millions of readers to produce less waste by shopping package free, making their own products, and refusing plastic and single use items. Her work has been profiled by New York Magazine, MSNBC, NBC, AOL, Vogue, CNN, Yahoo, Fox Business, BBC, and NPR amongst others.

## Ms. Deepika Kurup

Speaker on Innovation

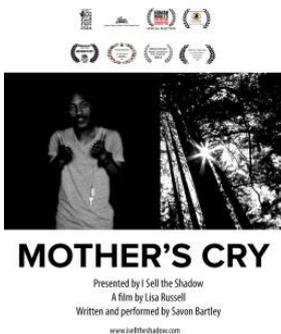


@TheDeepikaKurup

Deepika Kurup is an 18-year-old sophomore at Harvard. She has been passionate about solving the global water crisis ever since she was in middle school, as she was exposed to the water problem at a very early age. Recognized as “America’s Top Young Scientist” in 2012, Deepika won the grand prize in the Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge. In 2014 she was honored with the “United States President’s Environmental Youth Award”, and represented the United States at the international Stockholm Junior Water Prize — the most prestigious youth award for a water-related science project. Most recently Deepika was named one of the 2015 Forbes’ “30 Under 30: Energy”, was the National Geographic Explorer Award Winner in the 2015 Google Science Fair, and attended the 2016 (and 2013) White House Science Fair. Along with research, Deepika is passionate about STEM education, and feels that STEM education has the power to revolutionize the world. In her free time she enjoys giving talks and writing articles to encourage students all around the world to pursue science, technology, engineering and math, and to increase awareness of the global water crisis. Deepika is also an ardent fan of martial arts, and has black belts in both shaolin kempo and taekwondo.

## ‘Mother’s Cry’

Creative Interlude



"Mother's Cry" is a short poetry film from I Sell the Shadow, a creative arts initiative that includes a growing network of socially conscious artists who aim to build meaningful and sustainable partnerships with UN/NGO agencies through performances, workshops and partnerships. A film by Emmy-winning filmmaker, Lisa Russell, who has 10+ years producing films and creative campaigns for UN/NGO agencies, "Mother's Cry" features the incredible work of Savon Bartley, a renowned youth poet, writer and youth mentor whose work reflects his experiences with mental illness, global health and social justice. Savon's work has been recognized through theater, film and commercials at venues such as the Apollo Theater, the United Nations, and with high profile groups such as the HBO Def Poets, the Wu Tang Clan and Grammy, Emmy and Tony award winners. For more information, please visit [www.iselltheshadow.com](http://www.iselltheshadow.com).