

## Isabelle Mamadou



With an extensive background in defending the rights of people of African descent, Isabelle Mamadou became the first Spanish woman selected to participate in the United Nations Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent. Empowered by the knowledge learned during the course of the programme, she is now coordinating civil society initiatives for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent in Spain. She provides support to civil society organizations to combat racial discrimination and guides public institutions in the implementation of the Decade's Programme of Activities.

Based in Valencia, Spain, Isabelle also serves as a regional coordinator for the non-governmental organization, *Movimiento por la Paz* (Movement for Peace). Passionate about advocating for the rights of African migrants in her country, she coordinates the organization's programmes for immigrants and ethnic minorities, specifically in the areas of humanitarian aid, education, awareness, citizen participation, legal advice, employment integration and gender-based violence prevention.

Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo to a Spanish mother and a father from the Central African Republic, Isabelle and her family moved to Spain in the 1990s. The Rwanda genocide as well as armed conflicts in the DRC shaped her interest in human rights. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Valencia and a postgraduate degree in humanitarian aid from the Seneca Institute. She also obtained a master's degree in international relations from La Rioja International University.

Isabelle has lived and worked in various countries, including Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom, where she continued her education at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. The UN Fellowship Programme provided her with an enhanced understanding of the UN system of human rights protection and promotion, and allowed her the opportunity to participate in international conferences and discussions, including with members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.