

PARTICIPANTS



Caleb Adebayo
Founder, Earthplus, Nigeria

I am a lawyer with special interest in energy, environmental law and policy. I was born and raised in Port-Harcourt, Nigeria by an Igbo mother and a Yoruba father, from where I began to appreciate cultural diversity. I am an environmentalist and the founder of Earthplus, a non-profit organization focused on environmental sustainability, climate change and waste management. I am a public speaking expert and a Fellow of the President Barack Obama Young African Leaders Initiative. I am also a Fellow of the Carrington Youth Fellowship International (CYFI), an initiative of the United States Consulate. I volunteer full-time and work as a toolkit developer for Youth Tolerance For Peace Development Initiative (YTTFPDI). I am a creative writer, public speaking coach and performance poet.



Daniel Denis Adesina (Cote d'Ivoire)
Community Manager & Editorial Coordinator, SEPHIS, Nigeria

I am a Political Scientist, peacebuilder, human right advocate and humanitarian activist. I promote women's empowerment, youth education and peacebuilding. I obtained my Bachelor of Political Science from the Institut universitaire d'Abidjan (I.U.A), Cote d'Ivoire. Presently, I am pursuing a Master's degree in Political Science and International Relations at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. I am a volunteer activist with Amnesty International - Cote d'Ivoire and currently the Community Manager and Editorial Coordinator for the organization SEPHIS. I am the founder of African Youth Unity Network (AYUN). I have recently been elected as the Vice-President of the Association of Graduate Students of Political Science (AGSPOS), University of Ibadan, Nigeria. I am proficient in French, English, Bambara, Yoruba and Baoulé.



Emmanuel George Bangura
Volunteer/Community Peacebuilding Facilitator, Young Peace Builders, Sierra Leone

I am Emmanuel George Bangura, a student currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Economics at the Fourah Bay College University of Sierra Leone and a volunteer with the Young Peace Builders in Sierra Leone. When the Ebola outbreak started in Sierra Leone and the country was described as a living hell, I decided to volunteer my time and energy towards mobilizing and encouraging youth and young people to serve as volunteers in diverse capacity in their communities to fight against the virus. I find pleasure in working to build safer and peaceful communities.



Fily Keita
Vice-President, PY Africa, Mali

I am a 23-year old Malian activist. I am strongly committed to the development of my community. I am the Vice-President of PY Africa (Progressive Youth for Africa Leadership and Empowerment Initiative) Mali. I also volunteered as a Translator for IMANI Francophone for 3 months. I received training about Leadership and Innovation for Social Change, Capacity Building, Mentorship, and Networking during the 8th YALI Connect Camp in Ivory Coast. I am an active member of English Practice Club (EPC) of Bamako and Women's Network Kati. I'm also working on a social venture project (AGROWOMEN), which aims at empowering women through Agriculture. I am graduating from the University of Bamako and English is my major. I'm currently working as an intern at Tonus, an NGO in Kati.



Gayflor Z. Worzi
Program Director, Supreme Youth, Liberia

I am passionate about generating change in the life of youth and societies. I graduated from Dayspring Bible College-Liberia with a degree in General Counseling, and am very active in community and civic engagement. I am currently a junior student of the University of Liberia. Since 2010, I have volunteered for the Movement for the Promotion of Gender Equality in Liberia (MOPGEL) as a Gender Advocate. I am currently volunteering for a community based youth organization called Supreme Youth Liberia as program director, and a pan African Youth based organization called Progressive Youth for Africa, as Country Ambassador, promoting youth engagement and participation in achieving sustainable peace. I also volunteer as a computer trainer at the Mission of Hope for the Disabled (MHD), a home for hundreds of physically challenged youths in Liberia. I believe in education, because education is what makes you what you are, or want to be in future life.



Haruna Ahmed Tanko
Program Coordinator, Young Peace Brigades, Ghana

I am currently completing a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance at the University for Development Studies (UDS). I have been involved with the Young Peace Brigades for the past 3 years helping develop community mentorship programs for out-of-school youth groups who are involved with gang-related violence. I organize programs and coaching on life skills, peacebuilding, conflict resolution and leadership for these groups.



Ibrahima Kalil Gueye
President, Organisation pour le changement positif, Guinea

I have a Master's degree in public law and bachelors degrees in political analysis and International Relations. I'm an Assistant Professor at the Department of Public Law of the Université Libre de Guinée. I'm also the President and Co-founder of the NGO Organization for Positive Change, which promotes peace through education and development in Guinea. After my graduation in 2014, I travelled to Ghana where I attended project management and accounting courses (in English) at international Barrytraum training center. In February 2016, I participated in the YALI connect camp based on leadership, innovation for social change and mentoring with the Ohio University (USA) in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. I was later selected in May 2016 for the first cohort of the regional center of leadership (Young African Leaders Initiative, Dakar) where I attended training and mentorship in public administration.



Immaculee Katounke
Co-founder and Communications Manager, Patriotes Togo, Togo

I recently graduated from the University of Lome with a Bachelor in Organizational Communications. I am a youth activist, a social entrepreneur and a professional feminine rugby player. I am interested in anything related to development especially using Information Technology for development. After a first voluntary work experience with the US Embassy of Lome, I received a certificate of appreciation from the United States Department of State. I volunteered for several organizations in project management, journalism and communications. I am the co-founder of Patriotes Togo, where we work on the education of children and youth. My typical work includes organizing interactive workshops about youth leadership, peacebuilding and sexual reproductive health and rights in rural areas.



Isata Ngombulango

Finance Manager, Youth in Action for Development, Sierra Leone

Born on 2nd October, 1992 to the Ngombulango family, one of the traditional ruling houses in Kenema City, Eastern Sierra Leone, I attained my West African Senior Secondary School Certificate at the Holy Rosary Secondary School in Kenema in 2011. I have a Bachelors of Science in Banking and Financial Services from the Institute of Public Administration and Management (University of Sierra Leone). In my quest to effect positive social change in my community, I volunteered with Youth in Action for Development (YAD) throughout my studies and fortunately for me, I was appointed as Finance Manager after my graduation. YAD is a youth serving agency working with and for the youth in Kenema district. I'm interested in connecting with other positive social change makers in other parts of the world so that I can learn from them more and become a better servant of my own community. I personally love readings, music and debates.



Jerry Azilinson (Benin)

Program Associate, Social Change Factory, Senegal

I am a 20-year old young Beninese living in Senegal for 12 years. I have been working as program associate at a civic and leadership center names Social Change Factory. I have a Bachelors Degree in Communications and made the choice to acquire work experience before looking to continue my studies. One of my favorite quotes is: "The greatest wealth is diversity". I am also a feminist who wants to sensitize the younger to see the world from a better side. That's why I have the conviction that the Young Peacebuilders' program will help me to reach my goals.



Kodzo Selom Germain Kogbe

President, ANGEL, Togo

I am founder and CEO of Prodi Dream, a construction and consultancy business based in Togo. I am a senior civil engineering technician by profession and hold an additional College diploma in Business Administration and Leadership. I am also the Co-founder and President of African New Generation of Emerging Leaders (ANGEL), a social organization working essentially in the fields of education, entrepreneurship, leadership and ICT's. This organization aims to raise a new set of transformational leaders in Africa that can progressively make Africa a peaceful and prosperous continent. It achieves its goal mainly by endowing young people with useful skills in order to enable them to tap into their potential and successfully awake their leadership style. First Prize winner at the Model United Nations of Benin, I am also Country Representative of the NGO EIFAY, a Leadership consultant and YALI RLC for West Africa Ambassador.



Lamine Thiam

Vice-President of Business Development, AIESEC local committee, Senegal

I have a Bachelors Degree in Geography from Cheikh Anta Diop University. I volunteered for 3 years (2012-2015) with Forum Civil (Section of Transparency International), where I was advocating for anti-corruption behaviors. I'm currently volunteering with AIESEC, an international youth-led organization which envisions peace and fulfillment of humankind's potential. At AIESEC/Cheikh Anta Diop Local Committee, I serve as the Vice-President in charge of Business Development for the term 2016/2017. I initiated a campaign about the Sustainable Development Goals. This campaign aims to make young people understand the importance of such goals and the role they have to play in their achievement.



Mamadou Bhoie Sow
Ambassador, PY Africa, Guinea

I am 25 years old. I hold a Bachelors Degree in Economics. A volunteer and young leader, I'm currently the Ambassador of a Pan-African organization named "Progressive Youth for African Leadership and Empowerment (PY Africa) in my country. Reading and learning new things are some of my preferred passions. I do like travelling to discover new horizons and explore the world. I find my happiness in watching Manga series, drawing and/or listening to music.



Magou Diawara
Co-founder, Malian Youth Association for School Development, Mali

When I obtained my Bachelors degree in 2012, I was initially interested in studying journalism. Unfortunately there was no public school for that in Mali at the time. So, I shifted to English as I got interested in interpretation. Now I am about to complete a Bachelors degree in English. I graduated from Teachers' Training School this year. I attended this school with the aim to contribute to the development of education in my country. For the same reason, I am a cofounder of MJDEM: Malian Youth Association for School development. I am also a former SUSI participant 2015.



Olaoluwa Abagun
Founder, Girl Pride Circle, Nigeria

I am a Lawyer and passionate girls' rights advocate from Nigeria. Ushered into advocacy as a 13 year old Senator in the Nigerian Children's Parliament, I have garnered 12 years of experience in advocacy & nonprofit management. In 2014, I founded Girl Pride Circle, an NGO that advocates for girls' rights to education, equal opportunities, and violence-free communities. With a 2016 Women Deliver seed grant, I mobilized 273 adolescent girls to draft the first ever "Community Action Plan for the Prevention of Sexual Violence" in Alimosho - the largest Local Government Area in Lagos, Nigeria. I hold a Bachelor of Laws

Degree from Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife. I am also enrolled as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.



Onyekachukwu Ugwu
Program Officer, Advocates for Youth and Health Development, Nigeria

Having discovered my interest in development work in 2014, I volunteered with Peer Education Training, a UNICEF-funded project to train peer educators in schools and youth friendly centers on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Currently, I am the Program Officer at Advocates for Youth and Health Development (AYHD), a youth led organization that works towards human right protection and peacebuilding among youths and children in conflict settings and that is part of the network of NGOs that lobbied for UN Security Council resolution 2250 that empowered youths' participation in peace and security. I am passionate about using research, advocacy and education to build sustainable peace in communities. I am also the Lead Coordinator of Save Aid International, working among the vulnerable youths to mitigate risk behaviors and pioneer social change in conflict settings. I have a Bachelors degree in History and International Relations.

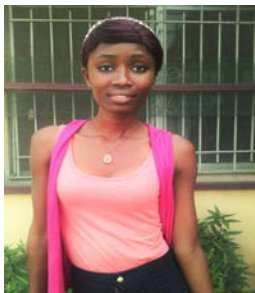


Praise Adeyemo

Youth leader, Nigerian Girl Guides Association, Nigeria

I am a fifth year Veterinary Medical student of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB). I work with the Nigerian Girl Guides Association, a member organization of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), where I serve as a youth leader in my state. I was recently inducted as a Voices Against Violence (VAV) Champion for Nigeria.

VAV is a project being run by WAGGGS advocating for the rights of girls and young women in regards to violence. I attended African Church Grammar School for my high school studies and became a certified Project Manager of IPMA last year, at PM Hub Nigeria. I enjoy writing, reading and volunteering of which most have been for Girl Guiding.



Raphaelyn Nae Bomosy

Networking, Social Media and Outreach Officer, Messengers of Peace - Liberia Inc. Liberia.

I am a third year student at the United Methodist University, majoring in Accounting. Presently, I'm a volunteer at Messengers of Peace - Liberia Inc. (MOP) as the Networking, Social Media and Outreach Officer, and work on the "WHEEL" project, a capacity building program designed to bring out hidden talents within youths. I am also the Assistant Coordinator for Star Girls Leadership Academy. I believe in volunteerism: It helps enlighten you morally,

socially, psychologically. I started my work within my community, using my little skills to mobilize other youths to make our community a better, happier and suitable place for everyone. During the Ebola crisis in Liberia, I worked with my district in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in carrying out awareness raising activities. I was also the head of the Outreach team within my community. I am very passionate about how we as leaders can unite in sustaining peace on earth.



Sainabou Nyang

Administration Officer, Think Young Women, The Gambia

As a women and children's rights defender since the age of 13, my passion for better lives for women and girls inspired my work with Think Young Women, a young women-led non-profit resident organization that aims to inspire and assist girls and young women to achieve their individual needs and collective interests, as I aspire to see a generation of enlightened young female leaders. I co-founded Reach Out Gambia, an organization of young people striving towards the promotion of sustainable development for women and better childhood for children. I also co-founded Father Tony Pamodou Solar Hub, a

charity based organization that focuses on promoting children's education and women's entrepreneurship. I hold a graduate diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy. As a global citizen my passion and talent for writing and acting is used as a platform to convey my message for the cause I stand for: In the spirit of girls and women around the globe I stand.



Sise Sawaneh

Youth Empowerment Officer, Peace Ambassadors, The Gambia

I am an award-winning journalist cum activist advocating and writing on issues affecting women and children. I report and present a TV magazine dubbed 'mehfahamundeh' on the state broadcaster, Gambia Radio and Television Services. I have also engaged in different voluntary work at community, national and international levels, where I currently serve as the Media Ambassador for The Girl Generation in

The Gambia, Youth Empowerment officer of Peace Ambassadors-Gambia, board member of the Serahule Youth Development Organization and also the country coordinator of the West Africa Youth Conference. I have also worked closely as a member of the ECOWAS Early Warning, African Youth Commission and West Africa Civil Society Forum. I hold a certificate in Aviation from IFPNC, Senegal. My interest lies in gender and peace through education and early warning which led to my involvement in different peace negotiations with my organization, Peace Ambassadors Gambia in different settlements like Casamance, Sindhian and Ziguinchor which are highly affected by violence.

TRAINERS, FACILITATORS and CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT TEAM



Gwendolyn S. Myers

Founder & Executive Director of Messengers of Peace (MOP) - Liberia Inc, Liberia, Member organization of UNOY

Founder and Executive Director (2008-present) of Messengers of Peace (MOP)-Liberia Inc, a non-for-profit, youth led organization, that advocates for peace and mobilizes young people for volunteerism by engaging over a thousand volunteer peace messengers in over twenty peace clubs in schools and vulnerable communities in Liberia. I work with ex-combatants and conduct coaching and mentorship programmes for adolescent females in urban slums, organize peace campaigns, engage in

public speaking across the globe, plan and manage dialogues for the meaningful involvement of young people in peace and security matters. I am a Center for Women, Faith and Leadership Fellow at the Institute for Global Engagement, USA and a 2016-2017-Dialogue and Mediation Programme Fellow at the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Sweden. I am currently the UNOY outreach manager for West and Central Africa, working on a mapping of youth-led peacebuilding organizations in the region.



Meg Villanueva

Strategist in sustainable peacebuilding

UNAOC alumna and UNOY resource person

I am a strategist in sustainable peacebuilding and youth work, having worked in this sector in the past 10 years. I am a freelance trainer on Peace Education, with special focus on Conflict Transformation, Peace and Human Rights, Inclusion, Nonviolent Communication and Peace Advocacy. I am grateful for 10 fruitful years of professional experience in peace education and have been since 2005 doing advocacy work and lobbying for the Culture of Peace and disarmament, as well as on youth, peace and security and preventing violent extremism (PVE) at the UN level. As a freelance consultant, I provide strategic development of small start-up organizations and international networks, support in quality control project management,

and manage capacity building projects through non-formal education in the Mediterranean and South Caucasus. I have extensive background in grassroots peace and conflict work, having lived and worked in 4 continents (Philippines, Indonesia, Spain, Georgia, and Panama). One of the organizations I co-founded, Peace Superheroes, is a UNAOC PEACEapp Award winner.



Francis Nii Obodai Provencal
Founder, Nuku Studio, Ghana

Born in Accra, I went to school in England, Nigeria and Ghana. I'm a self-taught photographer. My work explores our relationship between the urban and rural culture, spirituality and the environment. Photography is my channel for conscious self-discovery and artistic expression. In 1998 I established Nuku Café in Accra, a vibrant conduit for contemporary artists to exhibit in a social and supportive environment. Nuku Cafe evolved into Nuku Studio. The studio facilitates an intensive annual photography workshop program and offers photographic project management support. I am the initiator and a founding member of the Accra based, The Beyond Collective (Established 2012). I continue to travel, photographing the vibrant essence of my environment. I have exhibited widely.



Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba
Executive Director, New Era Educational and Charitable Support Foundation, Nigeria
UNAOC alumnus

I hold a PhD in Philosophy and Religion, specializing in Metaphysics and Comparative Religion. I am the founder of the leading-edge Creative Minds International Academy, a Nigeria-based model coeducational school empowering students with tools and opportunities for critical thinking to investigate information and inter-connectedness of all life, and then make wise decisions for sustainable relationships with each other and with Earth herself. In 2014, I received the Unsung Heroes of Compassion Award in San Francisco, CA, USA for service to humanity and peacebuilding efforts, especially in my native country, Nigeria. For the past 9 years, I have hosted the Annual International Conference on Youth and Interfaith Dialogue in Nigeria, which hosts over 350 participants from more than 10 countries annually. I dream of a peaceful world, one in which the smiles of humanity shine brighter than the sun itself. I currently serve as Executive Director of New Era Educational and Charitable Support Foundation- a Nigeria based national nonprofit and recipient of the UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund, 2013 Edition.



Portia Dery
Founder and Director, African Youth Writers Organization, Ghana
UNAOC alumna

In 2013, I dared to turn my passion and love for reading and writing into a social venture called the African Youth Writers Organization (AYWO), which designs quality innovative literacy products and solutions to improve the literacy skills of young people from low-income communities. As the Founder and Director of this organization, I am passionate about using literacy as a powerful tool to break the poverty cycle in low-income communities. I am also Community Development Officer with the Department of Community Development and Social Welfare in a rural district in Ghana and a storyteller. I hold a Bachelors Degree in Integrated Development Studies (Development Communication Option) and I am a Mandela Washington Fellow 2016. I participated in the Youth Event of the 7th UNAOC Global Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan.



Rashida Namulondo
Founder and Team Leader, Sophie Muwanika Institute of Art,
Uganda
UNAOC alumna

I am a poetry performer and a self-taught theatre practitioner. My work seeks to use words and stories for social healing and development. Driven by my own past experience of dealing with trauma and depression, I founded The Sophie Muwanika Institute of Art for change. It seeks to use theatre and storytelling to provide psychosocial support for young people who cannot seek or afford formal therapy services. We foster self-healing and reconciliation to build peaceful individuals who will build peaceful communities. I am an alumna of the UNAOC Summer Schools.



Imre Veeneman
Capacity Development Program Coordinator, International Secretariat of the
United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), The Netherlands

I am the Capacity Development Program Coordinator at the International Secretariat of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders in The Hague, the Netherlands. I have been involved in coordinating capacity building projects for youth organizations active in the field of peacebuilding. This included designing learning pathways for peace education trainings, developing an online resource on how to improve monitoring, evaluation and learning practices within youth peace organizations as well as organizing trainings of trainers on the topics of peacebuilding and conflict transformation. I'm holding a Master's degree in Cultural Anthropology with a focus on youth and refugees and I have worked for several peacebuilding, humanitarian and international development organizations in the Netherlands.



Isabelle Tibi
Project Management Specialist –Youth and Education, United Nations
Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), New York

I am an international education professional passionate about youth participation. I currently serve as Project Management Specialist for Youth and Education at UNAOC, where I develop capacity building programs that strengthen young people's ability to advance intercultural dialogue and peacebuilding. A native of Montreal, Canada, my passion for languages and intercultural learning has led me to work in educational programming in Canada, the United States, Peru and Colombia over the past ten years. Before joining UNAOC in 2013, I worked in higher education, managing international exchange and scholarship programs. My experience also includes collaborating with a youth-led organization in Bogota, Colombia to develop and implement teacher-training workshops on peace education and conflict transformation. I hold a Master's Degree in International Educational Development from Teachers College, Columbia University.