

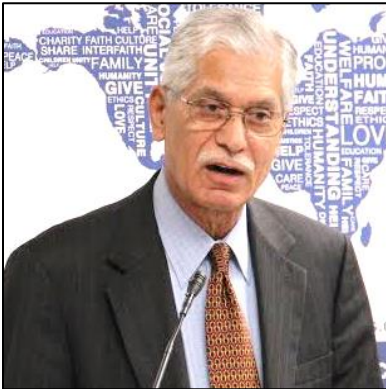
Women's Empowerment & Quality Education for Our Collective Sustainable Future

Wednesday, May 31, 2023



H.E. Ms. Cecilia Attard-Pirotta, Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to the State of Israel. A career diplomat, Cecilia Attard-Pirotta joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1983 and throughout her 39-year career she managed Malta's relations with several countries, working on Mediterranean, European Union, and Commonwealth issues. Over the years Ambassador Attard-Pirotta occupied several senior positions within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; between 1999 and 2002 she served as Director, responsible for Bilateral Relations. She was subsequently appointed Ambassador to Spain, becoming the first woman to be appointed as a bilateral ambassador resident overseas - a post she held until June 2004. In July of that year, she was appointed Permanent Secretary within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion, becoming the first woman in Malta's Civil Service to occupy such a post. In 2010 Ambassador Attard-Pirotta was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean and was responsible for Social and Civil Affairs. Over this three-year assignment, she worked on projects for underprivileged

girls, focusing on education, decent work and improving the status of women and girls. In January 2016 Ambassador Attard-Pirotta was appointed resident Ambassador to the State of Israel, presenting her Credentials to President Reuven Rivlin in February 2016 – a post she held until July 2020. Ambassador Attard-Pirotta was appointed Malta's Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security upon her return to Malta. In October 2021, Ambassador Attard-Pirotta was re-appointed Ambassador of Malta to the State of Israel, and presented her credentials to President Isaac Herzog on December 16th, 2021.



H.E. Mr. Narinder Kumar Kakar, Ambassador and Permanent Observer for the University for Peace to the United Nations. Ambassador Kakar is currently accredited to the United Nations as the Ambassador and the Permanent Observer of the University for Peace (UPEACE), an institution established pursuant to a General Assembly decision. He also served as the Permanent Observer of the world's largest and oldest environmental network viz. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Prior to serving UPEACE and IUCN, Ambassador Kakar served the UN Development Programme (UNDP) for over 30 years in countries like Yemen, Guyana, Turkey, China and Maldives in addition to serving in senior positions at UNDP Headquarters. During his career with UNDP, his responsibilities included development and management of programmes in human development and the broader aspect of sustainable development. Ambassador Kakar lectures extensively on issues related to the United Nations in general and in particular on matters related to peace and conflict, as well as on sustainable development and the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development. He has had prominent roles in discussions related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and in the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, followed by discussions related to the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He has served on a number of Boards and is currently on the Board of Trustees of the Elisabeth Haub Foundation, dedicated to promoting the cause of environmental conservation, as also on the Board of the Canadian Foundation for International Training. He has written a number of articles and papers on socio-economic matters and has edited curriculum and training manuals on different aspects of education for peace.



Ms. Anel Bakytbekkyzy, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in New York. She graduated from the Ablai Khan Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages in international law and earned her Doctorate in Political Sciences from Al-Farabi State University. She has had several important postings as part of her diplomatic career in India and Singapore. She was the first female Deputy Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). With a deep conviction in multilateralism, Ms. Bakytbekkyzy has passionately nurtured this important entity and was recognized for her distinguished service. She has received also several certificates for the training she undertook and conducted regarding Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement for CICA Member States. Ms. Bakytbekkyzy since her youth has been passionately striving for gender empowerment and equality, and is active in all UN fora related to women and girls. She is the focal point at the mission for the Spotlight Initiative and Generational

Equality of the EU. Ms. Bakytbekkyzy is at the same time versatile in the fields of Sustainable Development, Youth and Children, and many other issues on the UN agenda, working on cross sectoral integrated innovative solutions. She has been just as much an advocate for human justice and equality.



Ms. Jayashri Wyatt, Chief of Education Outreach & UN Academic Impact in the Outreach Division of the United Nations Department of Global Communications. Jayashri is a seasoned communications professional with a wealth of experience in the United Nations System producing high-level events, advocacy campaigns, and films for the Department of Global Communications, UNICEF, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In addition to her work with the United Nations, Jayashri also worked in the theatre community in New York as the lead producer of the multimedia series *The Blueprint for Accountability*, working with scholars, journalists, and actors to promote human rights and social justice. Jayashri also has nearly a decade of experience as an educator championing diversity education training. She holds a degree in Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto and a master's degree in Women's Studies from the University of Guelph, Canada.



Ms. Wazhma Tokhi, Founder of Pohana Foundation & Advocate for Women and Youth Education. Ms. Tokhi was born in the Zabul Province of Afghanistan and graduated from Malali University with a degree in Political Science and Law. She has a strong knowledge of computer programs and the English language, including over nine years of experience working for various international and national organizations that were funded by USAID, the Afghan government, and the embassies of other countries. From 2017 to 2021, Ms. Tokhi worked as an advocate for USAID-supported programs in Afghanistan. She also served as a volunteer member of the Youth Parliament where she was involved in various women's programs and activities. Ms. Tokhi was instrumental in the development of advocacy campaigns, including concept creation, strategy development, and execution. This included conducting outreach to find potential partners and organizing training

sessions for thousands of activists and Civil Society Organizations. After moving to Germany in August 2021, she continued her social activism supporting quality education for women and youth by participating in platforms and forums. Ms. Tokhi established underground schools in southern Afghanistan which started to fulfill the existing gap in education. She is an inspirational Youth Leader with her passionate beliefs in the importance of digital connectivity and that having inclusive education for all is a basic Human Right which aligns with the UN SDGs and the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, "To Leave No One Behind."



Ms. Leslie Falconer, Founder of Experience Early Learning, Co-Founder and Trustee of the Alabaster Fund. Leslie is an edupreneur, impact investor, author and philanthropist with a mission to elevate and strengthen the early childhood education ecosystem. She is an international speaker and expert on the application of design thinking within the education space and has led innovation in EdTech, edutainment, and curriculum development to expand access to high quality early education resources and workforce development. As trustee and co-founder of the Alabaster Fund, a private foundation, she leads the grantmaking strategy and provides seed funding, grants and microloans to NGOs at the intersection of Entrepreneurship, Education, and the Arts. Leslie founded Experience Early Learning (EEL) in 2007, where she led the social impact company to become the largest US-based ECE subscription curriculum program. The curriculum has served

millions of educators across 17 countries and supported tens of millions of young children. She is published author and executive producer of award-winning children's music label 'Dance and Beats,' where she co-wrote over 110 albums that have captured millions of views across Youtube, Spotify and global streaming platforms. Over the past decade, by serving as a board member of the World Forum on Early Care and Education, ISSA, the International Child Resource Institute, and Johns Hopkins School of Education; she has supported the research and mobilization of a multi-sectoral effort to analyze the ECE landscape, produce new knowledge, and offer policy recommendations to support the development of a quality early childhood system and workforce at scale.



Dr. Dalia Fadila, Founder of Q Schools: Education, Consultation & Development, an institution for promoting quality education of the Arab society in Israel. Dr. Fadila is an organizational development and educational entrepreneurship expert and consultant, and an international speaker on the issues of minority women, identity and education. Between the years 2013-2018, Dr. Fadila held the position of President of the College of Engineering and Science, leading it from a small technological institute into a leading academic and professional college for qualifying engineers in the Arab community in Israel. Prior to that, in the period between 2000- 2011 Dr. Fadila, acted as the Academic Director of Al Qasemi Teacher Training College. As a member of the college's leadership, she helped develop it from a religious seminary into an academic institution. Dr. Fadila is a TED speaker, a fellow member of the "EU Visitors Program", and an alumnus of the "US International Leadership Program", and a lecturer at Bar Ilan University. She was previously a faculty member of the International School for Leadership and Diplomacy at IDC-Inter

Disciplinary Center in Herzliya. Dr. Fadila has led and managed national and international seminars and projects on issues of gender, culture, identity and education. Currently, Dr. Fadila is consulting for the Ministry of Education and the National Library of Israel on educational programs in East Jerusalem schools. Dr. Fadila is member of the governmental civil-service higher committee, President Rivlin's committee for a shared society, and the advisor to the Knesset on Arab education issues and board member of the Rothschild Foundation and Sikkuy Association for Shared Life and Haifa University. Dr. Fadila currently holds the position of joint CEO of Atidna NGO for promoting the successful integration of Arab citizens in the state of Israel along with continuing to advance education in the Arab community through Q Schools that includes currently trilingual schools and preschools, youth leadership center and a strategic consultation institute. Dr. Fadila received the Presidential Medal of Honor, the highest award to be granted by the president of Israel for investing in education in the Arab community and creating bridges between Jews and Arabs in the country.



Ms. Danielle De La Fuente, Founder & Executive Director of the Amal Alliance. Danielle has vast experience in peacebuilding and diplomatic efforts stemming from her work at the US Department of Defense and multiple Embassies. Her passion for achieving sustainable development, led her to form the Amal Alliance. Amal is a non-governmental nonprofit organization that provides displaced and disenfranchised children worldwide with social development programs that help cope with the invisible scars of trauma, and the learning fundamentals that guarantee them future opportunities to succeed. As a passionate advocate for children's rights to education and to play, she specializes in social emotional learning. Bridging policy and practice, she sits on the Advisory Board of Boston University's Global Development Policy Center, a G20Y committee, and forms part of numerous international coalitions and UN task teams for early childhood development and inclusive education. Her work has received many accolades including winning UNHCR's Humanitarian Education Accelerator COVID 19 Challenge, being a Top 3 Nominee for

2020's Crisis and Conflict Response, and she was featured for her COVID-19 Leadership Response in Vulnerable Settings. Like her work, Danielle's own background is rich in culture as she was born in San Diego to immigrant parents from Mexico and Iran, is multilingual, and has lived in 4 countries. She obtained her BA in International Relations from Boston University's Pardee School of Global Affairs and MLitt in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of St Andrews in Scotland. Danielle is a former Rotarian, Kids Yoga Instructor, and Mindfulness Educator. She enjoys traveling, cooking, the arts, meditation, and skiing in her spare time.



Ms. Paige Propper-Sanborn, Co-Founder of the Zariki Nursery and Primary School in Tanzania. Paige is a child psychologist who previously worked with families at both the Harvard and Stanford Hospital systems and maintained a private practice while raising her children and taking care of her extended family. Paige has written and received grants and awards for her work with pediatric radiation oncology patients and spoken globally about programs that she has developed. Paige founded a health and wellness tech-company called r-Thread and the non-profit App Intellination which focuses on disaster relief efforts and the coordination needed to assure that resources are getting to the most vulnerable. In addition, Paige co-founded Zariki Nursery and Primary School in Tanzania with her father that presently has 364 students and she has spoken at the UN and other international venues about her work in Tanzania and her numerous global initiative



Ms. Mary Muia, Founder and Director of WEMA, and UN Representative for Soroptimist to UNEA in Nairobi, Kenya.. Mary lives in Nairobi, Kenya East Africa region and she is dedicated to empowering women and girls to emerge as global and community leaders. She is also passionate about the environment, climate change, gender equality, food security, water and sanitation. She champions for rights and access to adolescents and youth reproductive health, family planning, maternal neonatal child health and access to basic services and livelihoods for women and girls living in informal settlements and rural settings. Mary is the Founder director of WEMA, a community-based organization working to transform the lives of adolescent girls and young women to access quality education, prevent gender-based violence, early child marriages, teenage pregnancies, including ending harmful practices toward young women.

She empowers them through with social entrepreneurship and economic resiliency initiatives. Mary's vision is to influence as a speaker, trainer, and coach in leadership as a tool to empower those working with girls and young women in vulnerable environments in Africa. A Soroptimist, wife and a mother, Mary is the Immediate past Chair and President who helped bring Soroptimist International Africa Federation (SIAF) to its inauguration in June 2020, following many years of its formation journey. Mary was appointed to serve as a director for Soroptimist International Board in January 2021, and she serves as a Vice Chair of the NGOCS-D-NY Executive Board and a Member of the Urban Cluster for the UN High Level Political Forum.



Ms. Daria Kimuli, Co-Founder of the St. Philip Neri Primary School in Nairobi, Kenya. Daria has been a professional humanitarian and development worker since 2009. Graduate from Trnava University with a master's degree from social work. She has been working for a Slovak NGO in various countries in Sub-Saharan region in health, social and educational sectors mainly in Kenya, South Sudan and Burundi. For the last 10 years she has been coordinating many projects of Slovak agency for International Development Cooperation (SlovakAid) in health and educational field in Kenya and South Sudan. She coordinated and successfully managed several health care facilities in South Sudan which significantly reduced the child and maternal mortality in communities. In 2013 she co-founded a primary and junior boarding school for stigmatized and marginalized children in Kenya society. The school is providing

quality education for more than 600 children and it's one of the best schools in Machakos County. Daria always had a passion working with the children and disadvantaged communities and believed in equality. In 2021 she was awarded with Silver Plaquette by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs for her contribution in the field of development cooperation. Her projects contribute to community capacity building and integration of the marginalized communities to the society. She is currently pursuing her PhD. Degree in social work.



Mr. Desderio Njiru, Headteacher of St. Philip Neri Primary School, Kenya. Mr. Njiru is a professional teacher, having graduated from Machakos Teachers' Training College with a P1 Certificate in 2007. Ever since, he has worked in various early year schools, in Kenya. He has worked in various capacities ranging from an assistant teacher to a head teacher. He is currently working as a head teacher of St. Philip Neri Primary School in Machakos County in Kenya. A position he has held since the inception of the school in the year 2013. St. Philip Neri Primary school is one of the best day and boarding primary schools in Machakos County that offers quality education to nearly 600 children from vulnerable families. Mr. Niiru was born in 1982 in Kenya.



Ms. Sharehan Alwakily, Bedouin Youth Delegate of Debate for Peace, Political Science Student at Reichman University in Israel. Sharehan is the first Bedouin young woman to study diplomacy at the university. Sharehan comes from an unrecognized village in southern Israel, and forged her path to the top private university in Israel via her dedication to education, and especially extracurricular programs supported by the US State Department. Sharehan has been one of the most active members of Debate for Peace, despite having to travel 6 hours roundtrip to get to Tel Aviv from her village. After graduating high school Sharehan worked at the first boarding school for Bedouin students in Israel, where she served as a mentor. She has spoken at synagogues and mosques and various

communities in the Netherlands, UK, US east and west coast, as well as online. She introduced the Moot Court project at the United Nations in Jan. 2023 as part of an international initiative to raise awareness about the Holocaust and promote human rights and coexistence. Sharehan is proud to be an Honorary Youth Advisor for the NGOCS-D-NY.



Dr. Andrise Bass, BSCJ, MBA, Ph.D, President & Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Co-founder of The Institute of Public Policy and Diplomacy. Dr. Bass is a renowned mentor, author, keynote speaker, human rights advocate, and youth empowerment expert with a wealth of experience spanning over 28 years. As the President and Founder of the Humanitarian Focus Foundation and Co-founder of The Institute of Public Policy and Diplomacy, she has dedicated her career to creating lasting change in communities worldwide. She has been honored by 3 US Presidents, and an honoree mention award for developing a literacy program in Haiti. Holding a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration, Dr. Bass has utilized her Policy on Education research to empower individuals and

transform lives. Her passion for education, human rights, and youth empowerment has led her to mentor thousands of professionals and entrepreneurs across the globe. Dr. Bass actively supports initiatives to promote education, alleviate poverty, Diplomacy, innovation, good governance, capacity building, and defend human rights through her leadership at the Institute of Public Policy and Diplomacy Research. She is committed to empowering women and young people to become community leaders, fostering positive change and sustainable development for future generations. She is proud to serve as a Vice-Chair of the NGOCS-D-NY and a board member of several NGOs to promote innovation, change, literacy, and women and youth empowerment.



Mr. Daniel Perell, Representative to the UN for the Baha'i International Community and Co-Chair of the Coalition for the UN We Need. Daniel joined the Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office as a Representative in 2011. His areas of work include social and sustainable development, global citizenship, human rights, and the role of religion in society and defense of the Baha'i Community. He was a Global Organizing Partner of the NGO Major Group and Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development. In 2010, Daniel received a JD from the University of Virginia, School of Law. He earned an MA in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and has been admitted to the New York State Bar.



Ms. Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Director of UN Relations for Global Family and Convener of NGO Major Group Urban Cluster for the UN High Level Political Forum at the UN. Margo is a Sustainable Development Strategic Consultant connecting stakeholders from all sectors and regions with the SDGs. In addition, she is an Advisor for Youth for a Better World-MMUN, a Climate Reality Project Leader and a Member of the Coalition for the UN We Need. Margo and the rest of the NGOCSD-NY Executive Board are proud that NGOCSD-NY has Special Consultative Status with the UN Dept. of Economic & Social Affairs and Association with the UN Dept. of Global Communications. She has represented the Huairou Commission and Mayors for Peace at the UN. Margo is a member of the NGO Major Group

and the Women's Major Group for the UN High Level Political Forum. She passionately champions all of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals especially SDG 11 on the Urban Agenda and SDG 17 on Building Partnerships. She believes in the NGOCSD-NY motto: *"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change."* Margo brings entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into the United Nations discourse to foster investing in the SDG solutions to support the success of the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, to "Leave No One Behind". She supports the UN Secretary General's Our Common Agenda and preparations for the UN Summit of the Future along with the Global Futures Forum with C4UNWN and our partners. Margo was honored to receive the 2021 Volunteers of America Lifetime Achievement Award from U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Partners: NGOCSD-NY, PVBLIC Foundation, SDG Relief Fund, Coalition for the UN We Need, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet, Baha'i International Community, The Millennials Movement, Perkins Eastman, The Stimson Center, NGO/MG Urban Cluster, RecycleGO, Global Family, Zonta International, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Global Urban Development, Huairou Commission, General Assembly of Partners, Global Family for Love & Peace, Debate for Peace, YFBW-MMUN, ICW, GNEC, CoNGO, and UNA-USA Council of Organizations.

"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"
<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>