

The Critical Role of Communication in Building Cultures of Peace



Mr. Narinder Kakar, Permanent Observer of the University for Peace to the United Nations. Mr. Kakar is currently accredited to the United Nations as 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, Mr. 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. Mr. 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.



Mr. Satya S. Tripathi, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the UN Environment New York Office. Mr. Tripathi is a development economist and lawyer with over 35 years of varied experience, he has served with the UN since 1998 in key positions in Europe, Asia and Africa in the areas of Climate Change, Human Rights, Democratic Governance and Legal Affairs. He was Chair of the Committees on Laws, Treaties and Administrative matters for the UN-mediated Cyprus unification talks in 2004; UN Recovery Coordinator for Aceh and Nias where he facilitated international cooperation and funding of over US\$ 7 billion for post-tsunami and post-conflict recovery efforts in support of the Indonesian government and affected populations; and Executive Head of UNORCID, a UN System Office of 10 UN Agencies established by the UN Secretary General in 2011 to facilitate the implementation of a US\$ 1 Billion REDD+ partnership between Indonesia, Norway and other

stakeholders on climate change mitigation and adaptation through the conservation of forests and preservation of peat-land and bio-diversity. Mr. Tripathi was instrumental in establishing the Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility (TLFF) in Indonesia in 2016 and the Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF) in 2017 to leverage 'private finance for public good' at mega-scale to achieve transformative social and environmental impact in developing countries. He previously served on the World Economic Forum's Global Advisory Council on Forests; and in India as a member of its national civil service.



Mr. Alyn Ware Founder and Global Coordinator of the network Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND). Alyn Ware is a peace educator and anti-nuclear activist from New Zealand. In the 1980s he was active in establishing peace education programs in New Zealand schools and in the development of the peace studies guidelines adopted by the Department of Education. He was also one of the leaders in the national campaign which successfully prohibited nuclear weapons in 1987 and set a course for a more independent and peace oriented foreign policy. He moved to New York in the late 1980s to work on a number of international peace initiatives at the United Nations, including as the UN Representative for the Gulf Peace Team, co-founding member (and weapons-caucus chair) of the Coalition for the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and UN Coordinator for a ground-breaking opinion by the International Court of Justice on the

legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. For much of this time Alyn also served as the Executive Director at the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy. In 1995, Alyn co-founded Abolition 2000, the global civil society network to eliminate nuclear weapons which includes over 2000 endorsing organisations. He has lead a number of additional initiatives to advance the goal of nuclear abolition including establishing UNFOLD ZERO which promotes United Nations initiatives, and Move the Nuclear Weapons Money, which campaigns to cut nuclear weapons budgets, end investments in the nuclear weapons industry, and redirect these budgets and investments into supporting peace, climate protection and sustainable development. He also established [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament](#) (PNND), a global, cross-party network of over 700 parliamentarians, many holding key positions in their parliaments or in inter-parliamentary bodies such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. At present, Mr. Ware works as PNND's International Coordinator and as Director of the Basel Peace Office. Mr. Ware has won a number of awards including the Right Livelihood Award (2009), UN International Year for Peace Award (New Zealand) and World Peace Award (Canada), and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times. He is a member of the World Future Council.



Ms. Yasmeen Ally is a Communications Specialist with Religions for Peace, where she spearheads the organisation's work with social media as well as serving the global interfaith women's and youth peace diplomacy work, globally. A strong believer in the power of media and communications to build a culture of peace via multi-faith initiatives, Yasmeen regularly develops data-driven campaigns to make the case for religions working together for peace, human rights, and inclusive development. As a Muslim-American, Ms. Ally is inspired by her own experiences and research of religious-based discrimination, to advance cross-cultural and interreligious understanding. She worked in Rabat, Morocco for a prominent religious institution - The Rabita Mohammedia of Ulema's Interfaith and Peacebuilding Research and Training Center. She was selected for an exchange fellowship and delegation to Qatar, and among her many speaking roles, she addressed a high level Arab-U.S.

Policymakers Conference on the "Role of empathy in fostering inclusive policies in the Middle East". Yasmeen is a graduate of The George Washington University and speaks Arabic and French.



Ms. Mandy Sanghera, an International Human Rights Activist, an Award Winning Philanthropist, Consultant and Global Campaigner often referred to a global catalyst. Mandy is a motivational Tedx speaker from UK, She has travelled all over the world empowering & motivating others. With over three decades of experience, Mandy is an expert in various development related fields. She has been driving innovation, building strategic partnerships, promoting advocacy and programming in the areas of human rights, gender equality, accountability and social justice globally. Mandy has helped hundreds of individuals and now reaches thousands through social media and her generous amount of worldwide TV appearances and public speaking engagements, last November she spoke at the US House of Representatives for the 3rd year in a row, and she was at the World Economic Forum and spoke at a couple of side events. She has supported several Hackathon's regarding AI for social good.



Ms. Monique Cuillerier, Coordinator, of the Women, Peace and Security Network - Canada. Monique has developed her passion for information sharing and communications over many years spent working and volunteering for a wide-range of organizations from the local to the international. She is most concerned with building strong foundations for a better, more inclusive future for all, whether those foundations are in the form of multilateral organizations or local groups dedicated to community-based access to food. Over the last ten years, she has built and maintained the public-facing image of the World Federalist Movement - Canada. WFMC is focused on the development, growth, and re-imagining of the legal and political structures needed to adequately and democratically address global problems. WFMC works within the program areas of peace and security, global democratization and global governance. She has also worked, most recently as co-ordinator, with the

Women, Peace and Security Network - Canada, which promotes and monitors the efforts of the Government of Canada to implement and support the United Nation Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security, as well as providing a forum for exchange and action by Canadian civil society on issues related to women, peace and security. Additionally, as a consultant, Monique implements online solutions for collaboration and information sharing, including logistical and technical support for online events, from small roundtable consultations to multiday events. On a more local level, Monique has contributed her skills to supporting public alternative education, community gardening, and creative writing groups.



Mr. Neil Ghosh is President and CEO of SOS Children's Villages USA, which is dedicated to the care of orphaned and vulnerable children and youth around the world. Neil's experience and expertise span the nonprofit, government and private sectors. He has successfully launched and grown several nonprofit and for-profit operations from the ground up and has created internal structures, teams, business models and strategies to reach organizational goals. He is a bridge builder with expertise and networks in the United States, Asia, Europe, Australia, Latin America and Africa. Neil grew up in India and started a local grassroots organization to empower children and youth when he was 14. His childhood experiences spurred his involvement in the international development field, after spending more than a decade in the private and government sectors. Neil was previously Executive Vice President of Global Fund for Children, which works with child-focused community-based organizations

around the world, and served for nine years as CEO of SNV USA, which addresses systemic poverty on a global scale. He founded Global Youth Initiative, a youth empowerment social enterprise, and Globe Trade Network, a management consultancy, and has consulted for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Deloitte, Citibank and others. Neil is a Certified Management Consultant with an MBA in international business and an MS in management information systems. He has been featured and published by media outlets in the U.S. and abroad, including CNN, Devex, the Washington Post, the Huffington Post and Stanford Social Innovation Review



Ms. Mary Muia, a Soroptimist International UN Rep, UNEA Nairobi. Kenya Public Health & Social Entrepreneur. Mary is a 2019 Evolution Business Council (EBC) Membership Award nominee as an emerging global leader and is the first EBC member in Africa. She lives in Nairobi, Kenya East Africa region. Mary is passionate about 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 a founder director of WEMA, a community-based organization working to transform the lives of adolescent girls and young women to access education, prevent gender-based violence, early child

marriages, teenage pregnancies, female genital mutilation (FGM), and other harmful practices through social entrepreneurship and economic resiliency initiatives. My 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 recently appointed to serve as a director for Soroptimist International (SI) Board starting January 2021.



Mr. Dennis Wong, Co-Founder of the Rotary Action Group for Peace. The For Cities of Peace, NGO representative to the United Nations ECOSOC & a member of Rotary E Club of World Peace, and one of about two million Rotarians in one of 35,000 Rotary clubs around the world. Founded in 1905, Rotary is known for its many service activities. Rotarians were participants in the creation of the United Nations in 1945. Furthermore, Rotary has been a driver with WHO and the Gates Foundation for the eradication of polio. He holds a BA in political science from Northwestern University and an MBA in marketing from Michigan State University. He served eight years in the U.S. Navy and completed his service as a Lieutenant Commander. He is currently a consultant on business strategy and marketing communications. He lives in Fairfield, Connecticut. Dennis is an advocate for the Rotary principles as an approach to peacebuilding,

problem solving and conflict transformation. The Rotary mission is the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace. The Rotary goal is develop programs and solutions beneficial and fair to all concerned. The Rotary approach is built on trust and empathy based on integrity, ethics and respect and from fellowship and friendships. The Rotary principles complement The Culture of Peace that is a set of values, attitudes, modes of behavior and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations. Last but not least, Rotary 7 Areas of Focus match up well with the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



Mr. Steven Aiello, Founder and Director of Debate for Peace in Israel. Dedicated to Building Cultures of Peace - Steven, is a 32 year-old, educator and conflict resolution specialist based in Tel Aviv. Steven has been leading Jewish-Arab MUN programs since 2011. He founded Debate for Peace in 2016 and has run over 20 MUN conferences and led 10 international delegations, engaging more than 2,000 students from nearly 100 cities and towns. Steven is an Honorary Advisor for the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Project Officer and Dialogue Expert at Asfar, Head of the Model UN Program at the Academy for Young Diplomats (Petah Tiqva, Israel). He was founding co-Editor of the WIIS Israel Middle East Review, and the first Middle East Desk chief for Wikistrat. Steven has been a panelist at the UN, European Parliament, and Almedalen Week as a guest of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. His writing has

appeared in the Iran Human Rights Review, Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, the Center for Islamic Pluralism, and Jurist.org, the Jerusalem Post, Diplomacy.co.il, and the Times of Israel. Steven has a BA in Economics (NYU), MA in Diplomacy and Conflict Studies (IDC). He has also spent years studying Judaic and Islamic studies and co-founded the Jewish-Muslim study group at Tel Aviv University. Some of his work is available on the SSRN, where he ranks among the top 10% of authors. Jewish and Italian-American, Steven is originally from Brooklyn. He speaks English, Hebrew and Arabic



Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Senior Advisor of the Coalition for the UN We Need and Together First.

Jeffery represented CIVICUS at the UN High-Level Political Forum since its inception and was an organizing partner at the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016) responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs during the lead up to RIO+20 through the adoption of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Jeffery joined CIVICUS in 2009 as UN Representative (NY). Since 2017 the civil society-led initiative UN2020 has facilitated discussions with many member states, UN secretariat officials and civil society on the need for a robust, well prepared 75th Anniversary commemoration for the UN in 2020, one that includes a meaningful process of stocktaking, review and strengthening of the organization. He was Chair of the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference, “2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda,” UNHQ NY, 27-29 August 2014. Previously,

Jeffery was elected Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011), when the Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference was hosted abroad in Paris (2008), Mexico City (2009), Melbourne (2010) and Bonn (2011). He had previously served as Main UN Representative for the U.S. Baha'i Community where he led a number of NGO initiatives as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court (FENICC); Chair of the UN Association/USA's New York Council of Organizations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs; and co-founder of the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace.



Ms. Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY.

She is Co-Founder & CSO of the SDG Impact Awards Community. Margo is a Coordinating Partner of the Coalition for the UN We Need. She is the Director of UN Relations for Global Family, and Chair of the Board of Advisors for Youth for a Better World/Montessori Model UN, Youth Impact! Forum and she represents the Huairou Commission at the UN. She is proud to be a Board member of Soroptimist International Metro New York Chapter and a Climate Reality Project Leader. She is a Designer/Artist & Activist who has been dedicated to impactful causes including the SDGs with over thirty years of experience at the United Nations and globally. She has worked within the UN Community as a Chief Developer of meetings, conferences and Special Events. She collaborates with all stakeholders in developing inclusive and impactful programs and

projects that include the UN Sustainable Development Goals. She is the Convener of the NGO Major Group Urban Thematic Cluster, as well as a member of the Women's Major Group for the UN High Level Political Forum. Margo has been mainly focused on connecting all areas of the 17 SDGs. She passionately champions SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and she believes in the NGOCS-D-NY motto: *"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change."* The NGOCS-D-NY has been proud to be a Partner of the UN Secretary General's UN75 Anniversary Dialogues and the UN Friends of World Ocean Day/Week initiative. Margo brings entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into United Nations discourse to foster support for the success of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, so we "Leave No One Behind."

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Our Partners: NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Coalition for the UN We Need, Global Family, Together First, SDG Impact Awards Community, Soroptimist International, World Federalist Movement-Canada, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Debate for Peace, COVIDxNOW, EBW, Huairou Commission, Youth for a Better World:/Montessori Model UN, Youth Impact! Forum, Global Assembly of Partners, NGO Major Group Urban Cluster, Global Family for Love & Peace, ICW, CoNGO, and UNA-USA Council of Organizations.

"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"

<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>

