

Dialogue on Education: Meeting New Challenges



H.E. Dr. Michal Mlynar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations. Dr. Mlynár, presented his credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres on August 17, 2017. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Mlynár was Slovakia's Director-General for International Organizations, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid between 2015 and 2017. From 2012 to 2015, he was Ambassador to Kenya and to the United Nations agencies in Nairobi. Dr. Mlynár held several positions from 2010 until 2011, including Head of the Project Team for Security Sector Reform, Deputy Chef de Cabinet in the Office of the Minister, and Head of the Unit for Coordination of Candidatures and Cross-Cutting United Nations activities. Between 2004 and 2009, Dr. Mlynár was Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, and his delegation's political coordinator on

the Security Council from 2006 to 2007. He was also Deputy Chef de Cabinet and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister between 2002 and 2004. Dr. Mlynár holds a master's degree in teaching and a Ph.D in the theory of teaching foreign languages from Coenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. (UN Photo: Mr. Evan Schneider.)



Mr. Ramu Damodaran, Chief, United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Outreach Division, United Nations Department of Global Communications. Ramu joined the United Nations Department of Global Communications in 1996; his responsibilities in the Department have included oversight of relationships with civil society, the creative community and celebrity advocates, publications (including as Chief Editor of the *UN Chronicle*), the Dag Hammarskjold Library and the United Nations Academic Impact which he was asked by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to devise and lead. He has also been secretary of the United Nations General Assembly's Committee on Information since 2011. His earlier Secretariat assignments included the Departments of Special Political Questions and Peacekeeping as well as speechwriting in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. He was spokesman for the "Durban Review" human

rights conference in 2009 and has fulfilled a range of speaking engagements on behalf of the Organization over his career. As a member of the Indian Foreign Service, where he was promoted to the rank of ambassador, he served as executive assistant to the Prime Minister of India between 1991 and 1994 and earlier in the Ministries of External Affairs, Home Affairs, Defence, Planning and Human Resource Development. Before joining government service in India, he worked as a television news anchor, radio producer and host, and university correspondent for All India Radio and the Hindustan Times Evening News. His radio feature on university students in Delhi won the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union award. Ramu is President of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council.



Dr. Miriam Westheimer, serves as the Chief Program Officer of HIPPY International. Dr. Westheimer has served in leadership capacities in the fields of education, social service and nonprofit management serving as a founding executive director, international director, board president, project manager and organizational/educational consultant. She has spent the last 20 years adapting and disseminating a home-based, early childhood program (HIPPY) first in the USA as the founding executive director and later built the international network of HIPPY programs among the 14 participating countries. She had an independent consulting practice that allows her to work with diverse organizations and individuals as advisor, mentor, manager and facilitator. Her consulting clients include Arkansas Children's Hospital, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Family Support America, Families and Work Institute, The Finance Project, Jewish Theological

Seminary of America and Quality Evaluation Design. Dr. Westheimer co-authored the best-selling international textbook and multi-media series, Focus on Grammar, now in its third edition. Additionally, based on her experience teaching English in Israel, she helped conceive and create a global course to teach teen-agers and adults how to communicate effectively in English. She has taught at the elementary, junior high and high school levels. Her graduate level courses include teacher supervision, staff development, program evaluation, curriculum development, and early childhood development at Teachers College, Bank Street College of Education, Jewish Theological Seminary of America and Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She travels widely for work and pleasure and lives with her husband and near her children in New York City.



Ms. Carolina Andueza Executive Director of CMPC Foundation & Director of HIPPY Chile. Carolina is an Educational Psychologist with Studies in Social Policies, Leadership & Coaching. She will begin studies at the Harvard Graduate School of Education for a Masters in Human Development in September 2021. She has more than 17 years' experience working in early childhood education through programs and institutions that support public education in vulnerable contexts, working along with stakeholders, principals, teachers, preschool educators and families. She led the process of bringing the first HIPPY program to Chile from exploratory research to full program implementation and is now reaching out to partners to expand HIPPY nationally. She is a mother of three children and loves the outdoors.



Ms. Judith Cunningham, is the Founder and Chief Strategy Officer of Youth for a Better World – Montessori Model UN and Youth Impact! Forum. YFBW is a 501 c3 organization NGO with Special Consultative status with ECOSOC of the UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs. Youth for a Better World delivers an educational platform that connects, inspires and empowers youth from 9-18 years of age. YFBW is the parent to Montessori Model United Nations, designed for 9-15-year olds and Youth Impact Forum for students 12-18 years. Together these programs are interactive, international experiences that create student awareness, understanding of global/ local problems and then provide the tools for students to take action to solve problems in their community. YIF aligns the idealism and capacity of

adolescents to understand global problems, to identify local problems that break their hearts and then to take action to have an impact on the world they want. Judith holds an AMI Elementary Diploma, a Master's Degree in Education, post graduate work in Alternative Dispute Resolution. She is a board member of Montessori Europe and Youth for a Better World. Prior experience includes 17 years as a Montessori teacher for elementary and middle school, 15 years as a Montessori Head of School in the US and Canada, and 16 years as a Teacher Trainer.



Ms. Daria Kimuli, Co-Founded of the St. Philip Neri Primary School in Kenya. Daria was born on 17th May 1984 in Topolcany, Slovakia. She graduated from Trnava University, Faculty of Healthcare and social work with a master degree from social work in 2009. She is a professional social worker and humanitarian worker and she is working for St. Elizabeth University College in Bratislava, Slovakia. She has been working in Africa since 2009 in various health and social projects mainly in Kenya and South Sudan. The last 7 years she has been coordinating various projects of Slovak agency for International Development Cooperation (Slovak aid) mainly in health, social and educational sector. In 2013 she co-founded with her co-worker a primary boarding school St. Philip Neri Primary School for

stigmatized and marginalized children in the society in Kenya and she is currently managing the school and the sponsorship programme within the school. The school is providing quality education for nearly 600 children and it's one of the best schools in Machakos county. Daria always had passion working with the children and disadvantaged communities and believed in equality. She is currently pursuing her PhD. Degree in social work.



Mr. Desderio Njiru, is the 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 school in Machakos County that offers quality education to nearly 600 children from vulnerable families. Mr. Niiru was born in 1982 in Kenya.



Mr. Steven Aiello, Founder and Director of Debate for Peace in Israel. Steven is dedicated to Building Cultures of Peace - He, 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. Ameen Agbaria, 16 year-old, Debate for Peace Youth Delegate, Palestinian citizen of Israel. Ameen is from Nazareth, a city located in northern Israel, and attend Alahliya Atid high school in Um AlFahem. Ameen speaks Arabic, English, and Hebrew. Ameen's interest in diplomacy led him to join the Salam Center for Peace Youth Delegation to the United Nations where he joined panel discussions focused on the SDGs and global issues like climate change and global migration policies. Ameen founded the Model UN club at Alahliya Atid High School, and has trained its members to compete nationally. In January 2021, Ameen won Honorable Mention in the Arab League simulation at YaleMUN 47. He was also part of a Jewish-Arab team that was named as a finalist in the Yale 47 Social Impact Challenge. Ameen is the founder of a

global issues, and promote youth involvement in implementing the SDGs.



Revd Dr. Carrie Pemberton Ford, Executive Director CCARHT, Senior Fellow of the Margaret Beaufort Institute, University of Cambridge, UK. Dr. Ford is the Executive Director of the Cambridge Centre for Applied Research in Human Trafficking - CCARHT developing the research programmes and projects which the CCARHT has pursued since 2008 when the Centre was established. Dr. Ford has been building its affiliate network over the last 15 years. A popular speaker, (Ted X University of Cambridge 2018), and a prolific author, with numerous policy evaluation and strategic direction papers submitted to a range of enforcement, International, Governmental and non-governmental organizations. Dr. Ford has been a panelist and platform speaker on events addressing counter trafficking in Switzerland, Cote d'Ivoire, Romania, Moldova, North Macedonia, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium, developing papers on issues

pertaining to effective protection, children's rights, resilience to organ trafficking and prevention of a range of human trafficking abuses across these territories. She initiated the original 'Not for Sale' programme in the UK in 2003, developed the prototype for the VITA translation tool now deployed by the UN in multiple locations worldwide, and established the network faith-based provided safe houses with professional safety and rights protection protocols, which alongside the 'Poppy project' constituted the back-bone of safe housing provision in the UK (2005-2009). Dr. Ford held a UNITAR fellowship, (2017-2018) advising the UN Institute for Training and Research in issues pertaining to Human Trafficking and Gender Equality particularly in relation to the Peace Keeping and Sustainable Development Goals being supported by UNITAR into UN member states and has been a NATO high level panelist on the Balkans. More recently, *CCARHT's Chapter 17* seeks to address Human Trafficking through connecting with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, with the core social justice themes embedded in the faith communities being engaged. *Chapter 17* delivered its initial work during the annual CCARHT symposium in 2020, where the SDGs were addressed in relation to Human Trafficking with over 85 International panelists contributing to the project. CCARHT has innovated across this last year of enforced Covid 19 lockdown, to commence online Masterclasses, in its mission to hone the skills of research students and support their sponsoring departments, in the tricky matter of researching trafficking: particularly in obtaining ethical clearance for, whilst securing safety protocols for researchers and their research subjects during field work. With over 40,000 on-line students accessed in on-line webinars co-delivered with Indian, Cypriot, Italian and American Universities during the Covid months of 2020, CCARHT has pivoted with some nimbleness in learning how to deploy IT to enhance its reach and *knowledge sharing over this last challenging pandemic year.* *The Centre is currently curating the products of its last five years of symposia, the dedicated annual Thomas Clarkson Modern Slavery lecture, as well as a number of the high-level commissioned reports it has undertaken on risks, capacities and gaps in provision of various initiatives undertaken by UN, DG and Religious Congregation sponsored projects.* These can be accessed on www.ccarht.org/ccarht-reports. This year's symposium to be held online in June 2021 will address the 'Body in Trafficking' – this is an open symposium to all who are eager to raise their understanding on the Trafficking Matrix of abuse.



Ms. Marija Marinovic, Graduate Student of Criminology from the University of Cambridge, UK. Marija is currently based in Montenegro, in the Eastern Balkans. A recent law graduate from the University of Cambridge, Marija graduated First-Class Honours building on her experiences derived from several internships in disparate areas of the legal portfolio, which exponentially enhanced her understanding of practical law. She has interned with the Permanent Representation of Montenegro to the Council of Europe, attended committee meetings and compiled reports presented to the Montenegrin Ambassador a wonderful insight into the workings of intergovernmental institutions. She interned in some of the top suite of law firms Latham & Watkins in Dubai and Clyde & Co in London. In 2020 she has been volunteering in CCARHT assisting in event development, conference organisation and researching areas of law around

adoption as a Junior Research Associate. At the invitation of CCARHT director Revd Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford and her co-director in the new advocacy work of GenderWise CIC, Mary Honeyball (a former UK MEP). Marija is fluent in several European languages and will be continuing to intern across Europe during 2021 and 2022 in order to further develop her exposure to the panoply of law which awaits her the other side of her intended Masters' programme which she is hoping can be undertaken in the US with Harvard University as her top choice. Her next stop is Rome, where she will be interning with UNIDROIT under the mentorship of Mr Carlo di Nicola. And the future? She intends to make her impact felt in an international organisation undertaking work with a Human-rights, Gender based protection, and socially protective framing.



Dr. Andrea Mlynarova, Lecturer of Mathematics at CUNY Baruch & Hunter College and President of UN Delegations' Women's Club. Dr. Andrea Mlynarova's professional relationship with Mathematics began at the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, where she received her Master's Degree in Teaching Mathematics and Chemistry. Andrea then received her Doctor of Natural Sciences Degree at the Safarik University in Kosice, Slovakia in 2001. She is currently studying to obtain her Ph.D. in Statistics for Public Health and she works as an Adjunct Lecturer of Calculus at two City University of New York colleges: Baruch and Hunter. She has more than 20 years of teaching experience at all school levels (middle school, high school, college) in Slovakia, Kenya and the United States. She has led and coordinated many programs for her students, such as "Neighbors in Europe", an international student exchange project of seven

neighboring European countries sponsored by the Socrates Program of the European Union. In 2016-2017, Dr. Andrea served as a Coordination Officer at the Slovak National Commission for UNESCO with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Andrea provides a lot of support to her husband Michal, who has served as Slovakia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations since 2017. In addition to serving as President of the United Nations Delegations' Women's Club (UNDWC) since September 2019, she is also a Board member of Women's International Forum (WIF) – two unique platforms of spouses of UN Ambassadors and women of NYC promoting wider participation of women in global affairs and enhancing their role in today's world. She is a Governor and Board member at Off the Record - the longest running women's foreign policy lecture forum in the U.S., created in 1938 under the aegis of the Foreign Policy Association.



Mr. Jeffery Huffines is Senior Advisor of the Coalition for the UN We Need and Together First. Since 2017 the civil society-led UN2020 initiative had facilitated discussions with member states, UN officials and civil society advocates 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. In December 2020, the UN2020 campaign was renamed the Coalition for the UN We Need. Together First is a network of individuals, civil society organizations, practitioners, parliamentarians, business leaders and activists from all regions of the world committed to fair, open and inclusive solutions to improve global governance. Jeffery had previously represented CIVICUS as UN Representative (NY), where he was an organizing partner of the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016) responsible

for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs in the lead up to Rio+20 through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. He was Chair of the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference, "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda", UN HQ NY, 27-29 August 2014. He was also Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011), helping to organize the annual UN DPI/NGO Conferences hosted abroad in Paris (2008), Mexico City (2009), Melbourne (2010) and Bonn (2011). Jeffery was previously UN Representative (NY) for the U.S. Baha'i Community (1996-2009) 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 Coalition Partner of the Coalition for the UN We Need and 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 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 is a Designer and Artist with a career in Film, Theatre & TV production. In addition, she is an activist dedicated to supporting the causes related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. She has worked

within the UN Community as a Chief Developer of meetings, conferences and Special Events with over thirty years of experience at the United Nations. She collaborates with all stakeholders in developing inclusive and impactful programs and projects. The NGOCSD-NY has been proud to be a Partner of the UN Secretary General's UN75 Anniversary Dialogues and the UN Friends of World Oceans Day/Month initiatives. Margo is mainly focused on connecting all areas of the 17 UN SDGs. She passionately champions SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and 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 support for the success of the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, so we "Leave No One Behind."

"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"

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

