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** part of the WYDE Civic Engagement, the Youth Participation in Public Affairs programme of
the EU's Women and Youth in Democracy Initiative*

Biographies

Network of Young Decision-Makers

WYDE Civic Engagement

Network of Young Decision-makers

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CLUB DE MADRID

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY

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1. Nicolás Albertoni, Uruguay

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay



Nicolas Albertoni is the current Uruguay's Deputy Foreign Minister. He holds two PhDs: in political science and international relations from the University of Southern California (USC) -where he received the Order of Arethe, the highest honour accorded to graduate students-, and in Business Administration from The Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina (UCA). He is the author of three books about trade policy in Latin America and Uruguay: "*Uruguay como solución*" (Penguin Press, 2019), "*Instrucciones para inventar la rueda*" (Penguin Press, 2014) and "*Entre el barrio y el mundo ¿Mercosur o el modelo chileno?*" (Penguin Press, 2011). In 2018 he was recognised by the Global Americans Journal as one of the 20 New Generation of Public Intellectuals of Latin America. The

same year he received the US National Council on International Trade Development Award for his research on the impact of trade protectionism in Latin America.

2. Sabir Ali, Pakistan

Political Activist and lead member of the Chief Minister Special Committee on Youth Reforms (Government of Sindh)



Sabir is a young political activist striving for youth civic engagement and youth participation in policy-making and decision-making in Pakistan. Sabir is a lead member of the Chief Minister Special Committee on Youth Reforms (Government of Sindh) and is advocating for youth inclusion in policy-making and decision-making at the Provincial and National levels. He is also providing recommendations to government departments on policy reforms and recommendations which improve youth engagement and participation in political processes and civic spaces. Sabir has a Master of Philosophy in Sociology degree, has strong research and communication skills and started his political activism through engagement with a student's union where

he strived to improve youth engagement in the political process and engagement in political campaigns. He advocates for improved youth civic engagement, improving policy gaps and enabling a conducive policy which promotes youth civic engagement and youth participation in policymaking and the decision-making process. Along with the Special committee role, Sabir is actively engaged in civil society, which includes organising campaigns for voter registration, organising workshops for youth to participate in the electoral process as a voter as well as electoral candidates and has actively campaigned during Pakistan's general election 2018 to improve youth participation in the political process. He is also actively engaged in combating

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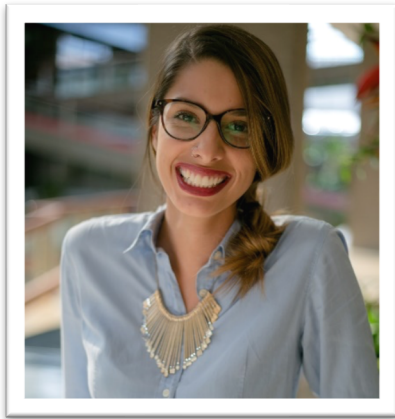


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climate change through youth engagement and is advocating for improved youth participation in climate change policy-making and decision-making processes at the local and provincial levels. Despite facing challenges and in his society, Sabir remains determined to make a difference. He believes that the youth can be the driving force behind change and that their voices must be heard in the political process. Through his dedication and leadership, he has become an inspiration to many young people in Pakistan who are looking to make their voices heard.

3. Alejandra, Arbuola Cabrera, Costa Rica.

Diplomatic and consular advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



A young diplomat, feminist advocate, and political advisor inspired by gender equality and education, she has been a social activist for the last ten years. Alejandra has a bachelor's degree in French, a bachelor's degree in French teaching, and a master's degree in Diplomacy, and she is a fourth-year law student at the University of Costa Rica (UCR). She began her activism in the Student Movement of the UCR and later she founded the organisation *Acción Respeto*, where she promoted the presentation and approval of the bill on Sexual Street Harassment and works training workshops, and campaigns, supporting the creation of inclusive public policies on gender equality. From 2015 to 2018, she served as an advisor at the Vice-Ministry of the

Presidency Political Affairs and Citizen Dialogue, where she participated in the co-creation of an indigenous consultation mechanism, the request for the OC-24 on LGTBIQ rights before the IACHR Court and the implementation of the National Open Government Strategy. In 2018, she worked as a sexual gender-based violence prevention officer, at RET International, with migrant and refugee women. From 2019 to 2022, she worked as a legislative advisor in the office of Congressman Enrique Sanchez Carballo on Human Rights, Security and Higher Education issues. Alejandra developed, evaluated and processed law initiatives at a technical level, projects such as Menstruation and Justice, Extension of the deadline to report sexual harassment, Hate Crimes and Recognition of Migration due to climate crisis. Alejandra is an alumni of the Change Agents and FESminism programs of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and Young Leaders of Women Deliver. She is currently a member of Global Shapers, the WEF's youth network and Manifestate, FES's network of young politicians.

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4. João Kanda Bernardo, Angola.

Member of Angolan Parliament Peace Ambassador



João Kanda Bernardo was born on April 3, 1990, in Luanda. He has an Alma Mater from Leipzig University, Germany, in African Studies and Alma Mater from FernUniversität in Hagen, Germany, in Political Science, Public Administration and Sociology. He is an alumni of the Transparency International School on Integrity, Mykolas Romeris University. João Kanda Bernardo is a Former United Nations Fellow for Human Rights at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. Since September 2019, an Ambassador for Peace named by Universal Peace Federation, an NGO in General Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council

(ECOSOC). Since September 2022, a Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Angola, National Constituency, UNITA Parliamentary Group. Secretary of the Commission on Human Rights, Petitions, Complaints and Suggestions of Citizens of the Angolan Parliament. Secretary of the National Monitoring Group of the National Parliament for International Organizations: United Nations and its specialised agencies, Interpol, World Bank, IMF, G20, BRICS, RIO+, BEIJING+ and MERCOSUR. the Founder and President of the Humanitarian Organization Kanda-Initiative, in Angola. Secretary of the Presidency of the UNITA Party (main Opposition Party in Angola) for Multilateral Organizations and Peace and Security Policies. Member of the National Committee of the UNITA Youth Organization

5. Syed Saddiq Bin Syed Abdul Rahman, Malaysia

Member of Parliament for MUAR and President of MUDA



Syed Saddiq bin Syed Abdul Rahman is a Malaysian politician who was born on 6 December 1992 in Pulai, Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia. He is the youngest of four siblings, and his father was a construction worker in Singapore while his mother was an English teacher. Saddiq studied at the Royal Military College before continuing his studies at the International Islamic University Malaysia, where he obtained his Bachelor of Laws (LLB). During his time at the university, he participated in various debate competitions, winning the United Asian Debating Championship and the Asia Best Speaker award at the Asian British Parliamentary (ABP) Debating Championship three times.

Saddiq came to prominence in 2016 when he joined a group of 24 other youths who called themselves Change Led by the Young Generation (Challenger) and published a statement rejecting Najib Razak's leadership over the scandal of 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB). He became the leader of ARMADA, the youth wing of the Malaysian United Indigenous Party

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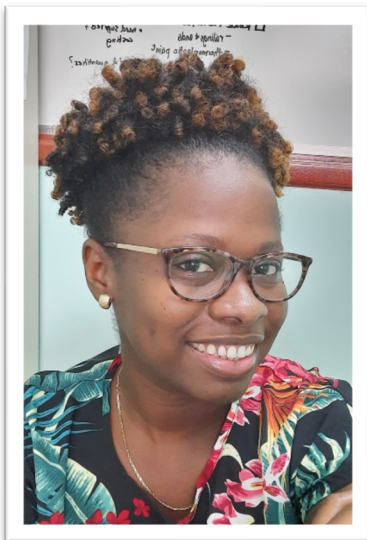


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(BERSATU), and was elected as the Member of Parliament for Muar in the 2018 general election. He was appointed as the Minister of Youth and Sports in the Pakatan Harapan (PH) administration, making him the youngest-ever federal minister in 2018 since Malaysia's independence. During his tenure as the Minister of Youth and Sports, Saddiq pushed for a lower voting age in Malaysia, from 21 to 18 years old, which was eventually passed by Parliament in July 2019. However, he was terminated as a member and first youth chief of BERSATU in May 2020 and became an Independent. He then founded a new political party called the Malaysian United Democratic Alliance (MUDA) in September 2020 and has served as its first president since then. Saddiq is widely known for his contributions to the field of politics and has successfully completed the Lee Kuan Yew Senior Fellowship in Public Service Programme at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, in April 2021. As a young and dynamic leader, he is committed to bringing positive change to Malaysia's political landscape, with a focus on empowering the youth and promoting social justice.

6. Kashieka Broaster, Belize.

Social Inclusion and Gender Integration Specialist at the Belize Compact Development Team



Kashieka Broaster is a Social Specialist with over 10 years of experience working with several social service agencies (transnational, governmental and non-profit) in Belize to analyse inequality, redress discriminatory practices and understand the needs of the most vulnerable population. Kashieka Broaster's professional experience includes working with RESTORE Belize as an assistant Human Development Officer. She has done volunteer work with agencies like UNICEF, Red Cross and Secondary Schools, collaborating with RESTORE Belize. Applied experience in the use of sociological/social work principles, policies, interventions, and techniques to address complex cases and community issues in rural and urban areas of Belize. These include the implementation and supervision of community enhancement activities and infrastructural development projects. She takes pride in working with communities as it facilitates the creation

of programs and policies that are tailored to fit communities' needs. Her passion for youth development and sexual and reproductive rights lies in reaching a younger audience and laying strong foundations for sexual and reproductive health.

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7. Edison Broce, Panama

Member of Parliament in Panama



At 32, Edison Broce is a prominent Panamanian politician, lawyer, and environmental advocate, currently serving as a Parliamentarian (2019-2024) and running for Mayor of Panama. As the Head of the Independent Caucus from 2020 to 2022, he championed impactful, sustainable development policies, including Panama's first E-Mobility, Recycling, and Single-Use Plastics Ban laws, as well as Tax Incentives for Industrial Recycling, Paper Reduction in the Public Sector, and a Regional Law on Reducing Marine Pollution in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Latin American Parliament. Since he got elected to parliament, he renounced to all privileges enjoyed by parliamentarians, such as the exemption of the import tax, use of public funds, paid phones, and others. Edison's academic excellence and visionary leadership earned him prestigious scholarships from the U.S. (Global Ugrad, IVLP) and British (Chevening) governments, the latter funding his master's in public policy at the University of Oxford. He is dedicated to youth empowerment, actively supporting young independent candidates who are running for parliament and for local governments, and establishing a public-private alliance granting over 120 scholarships for young people. He initiated his environmental activism very young. As president of Law School and of the Student's Federation, he founded the university's first environmental group that operates to date. Also, in 2018 he launched the 'No Straw, Please' Campaign, which helped raise awareness about plastic pollution nationwide. As an independent, he is required to seek thousands of signatures for 11 months, and the three most signed persons are the ones who can officially become candidates. Edison is currently the most signed independent candidate for Mayor of Panama and is visiting the communities to keep building a strong structure that can compete with political parties. Edison has received national and international recognition, including Outstanding Youth by the Junior Chamber International (2017), one of 30 global youth change-makers by Financial Times (2019, 2020), and one of 8 worldwide young leaders by British Vogue (2020). His accomplishments reflect his profound commitment to creating a more sustainable future for all.

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8. Gomin Camacho, Guyana

CEO of Ethnic Relations Commission Of Guyana



Gomin Camacho possesses over 10 years of experience in developmental work in Guyana, both at the grassroots and policy levels, focusing on project management and fostering multi-stakeholder cooperation in Guyana. She developed extensive knowledge and robust networks in various sectors, including within the extractives industry, financial transparency, environmental and youth development, public diplomacy, and international affairs. In her professional career, she has broken many gender stereotypes and held various leadership roles at a young age, such as Head of Public Diplomacy within the Foreign Ministry and Founder and Director of Guyana Environment Initiative- a female-driven organisation that focuses on

environmental education. Her variety of experience and knowledge avidly demonstrate my passion and interest in the development of Guyana, which drives her motivation in every task she undertakes.

9. Camila Carrasco, Chile.

Public Administrator. Head of Studies and Development at the Environmental Impact Assessment Service of Chile.



Camila is a Public Administrator from the University of Santiago, Chile. During those years, she stood out, not only due to her academic qualifications but also for becoming Vice President of the student federation. She holds a Master's in Public Policy Research from the Latin-American Faculty of Social Sciences and has obtained two academic diplomas in Transformational leadership from the University of Santiago; and in Political Analysis from the University of Chile. During her professional career, she worked as Deputy Director

of the Division of Social Organizations at the Ministry Secretary General of Government and as Legislative Advisor for the former parliamentary representative, and current Minister of Defence, Maya Fernandez. She has also acted as Advisor for the cabinet of the current Chilean Ambassador of the UN, Paula Narvaez when she was Minister Secretary General of Government (2016-2018). In the year 2019, she represented Chile at the "Young Global Changers, Global Solutions Initiative" held at the World Forum of Public Policies in Berlin, Germany. Finally, during the years 2020 and 2022, she worked in the Centre for Public Policy of the Catholic University of Temuco, Chile, where she developed several academic publications on public policies, environment and climate change. Among these, the coordination of "Chile, Climate Change: Thinking locally acting global" and the co-edition of the book "A New Constitution: a proposal from the Araucanía". Her chapter for the book "New Voices from Foreign Policy: Alternatives and Proposals for Chile" was published in the

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chapter: “Our House on Fire: a turquoise foreign policy as an Answer to the climate crisis”. She also co-authored the chapter: “The adaptation policies to the climate crisis in Latin America: green and Decent Jobs for a new labour paradigm” from the book “Economy in Time of Crisis: perspectives for the socioecological transition in Chile”. Among the journal articles, her article in The Extractive Industries and Society journal, called “How transparency enhances public accountability: The Case of environmental governance in Chile”. She currently is working as the Head of studies and development at the Environmental Impact Assessment Service of Chile.

10. Agostina Dasso, Argentina.

Director of Analysis of Geopolitical Transformations - Secretariat of Strategic Affairs of Argentina



Agostina Dasso is an internationalist from Buenos Aires, Argentina. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from Universidad Torcuato di Tella and a Master's degree in International Politics and Economics from Universidad de San Andrés. She has been working at the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs of Argentina since 2021 in foreign affairs advising roles, and in December 2022, she assumed the position of Director of Analysis of Geopolitical Transformations where she conducts research and high-level advising on Argentinian foreign policy in a context of great power competition. Before working at the Secretariat, she had several roles at public policy and NGO consulting. She has taught courses on International Affairs and International Security at Universidad Torcuato di Tella and on Research Design at

Universidad de San Andrés. Her expertise relies on foreign policy, international security and Latin American politics and democracy. Her work is focused on contributing to the intersection between academia and policy-making in order to nurture politics with theoretical and empirical knowledge. She has published several articles in journals and magazines on militarisation in Latin America and has written a chapter to the book “The Military and Governability: How are Civil-Military Relations Changing in Latin America?” published by FES on Bolivia’s civil-military relations since its return to democracy. In September 2023, she will start her PhD in Public Affairs at Princeton’s School of Public and International Affairs.

11. Oluwaseun Fakorede, Nigeria.

Commissioner for Youth and Sports, Oyo State

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Dr. Seun Fakorede, R.Eng, MNSE, M.ASCE, IIHP, JP is the Hon. Commissioner for Youth & Sports, Oyo State Government, Nigeria and a United Nations Ambassador for Peace. He is the Founder of Home Advantage Africa, a Social Development and Youth Empowerment Advocacy non-profit organisation. Seun is a recipient of the highly sought-after Politician of The Year Award 2022 by One Young World and the prestigious Future Awards Africa Prize for Governance 2020. He is the "Irawo Oodua" (Shining Star) of Yoruba Land and the recipient of the Royal African Young Leadership Award by the Ooni of Ife, HIM, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II. Seun believes more African Youth will lead a tremendous impact in the next few years of human history than ever before — His responsibility is to raise more men and women to lead this vanguard. His passion and work has promoted leadership development and accountability for Millennials as critical indices to Africa's development through seminars, conferences and other platforms. He is a registered Engineer, Entrepreneur, Consultant and Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration (Honoris Causa). Seun is a Fellow of the Institute of Intrapreneurship Management and Human Resources Development Professionals — He is deeply invested in grassroots community development and advocacy in Nigeria. His non-profit, Home Advantage Africa, is centred around Sustainable Development Goals 2, 4, 5 & 8 and the early engagement of young people in leadership, social entrepreneurship, politics and governance. As a proactive, seasoned and dedicated professional with almost a decade of experience providing comprehensive administrative, operational and managerial support to various organisations and governments — Seun's expertise lies in coordinating and leading administrative and operational functions for senior-level personnel and executives. Backed by exceptional communication and multitasking capabilities, he excels at delivering remarkable results and driving optimal efficiency and success. Seun Fakorede, as he is professionally known, enjoys focusing on Sustainable Development and Leadership that result in national socio-economic transformation, with an incorruptible passion for Youth Empowerment, Good Governance and Nation Building.

12. Laura Florez, Colombia.

Office of the Youth Advisor for the Presidency of Colombia.



13. Jo-Anna Sue Henley Rampas, Malasya

Deputy Head of the Women's Youth Wing of Parti Warisan Sabah

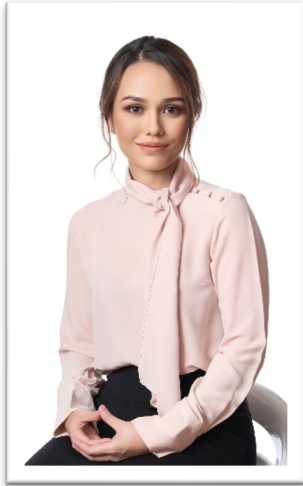
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Jo-Anna Sue Henley Rampas is a young politician from Sabah. She holds a law degree from the University of London and completed a Master of Laws from the University of the West of England. Throughout her career, Jo-Anna has held several political positions, including serving as the Deputy Head of Wirawati of Parti Warisan Sabah and as the former Political Secretary to the Chief Minister of Sabah, YB Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Shafie Apdal between 2018-2020. Additionally, she has been actively involved in welfare and community programs in empowering interior locals of Sabah, women and youth. As a young Sabahan, Jo-Anna has been actively advocating for the implementation of Sabahans' rights as per the Malaysian Constitution and the Malaysian Agreement 1963, which were integral to the establishment of The Federation of Malaysia in 1963. Jo-Anna has also expressed a strong stance on the urgent requirement for the improvement of Sabah's fundamental

infrastructure and development. This is necessary to bridge the developmental disparity between Sabah, Sarawak, and Peninsular Malaysia, which are equal partners in the Formation of Malaysia. Jo-Anna assumed the position of Chairperson for the Sabah State Level Unduk Ngadau Kaamatan in 2019-2020, which is a highly esteemed cultural event within the Kadazan Dusun community residing in Sabah. Despite her Anglo-Dusun heritage, Jo-Anna is an unwavering supporter of safeguarding the identity and cultural heritage of this ethnic group, as well as ensuring the preservation of their language for generations to come. In 2021, Jo-Anna has been actively engaged with the Sabah Women's Action Resource Group in drawing attention to crucial matters that warrant the attention of voters, including corruption, the need for good governance, the underrepresentation of women and youth in politics and state elections. Amidst the 2020-2021 Movement Control Order, Jo-Anna has come to appreciate the significance of quality early childhood education in her capacity as a new mother. Jo-Anna has demonstrated a profound interest in the significance of Early Childhood Education to the extent that she has enrolled in a part-time Diploma program in the field. Given that Sabah is the second most economically disadvantaged state in Malaysia, Jo-Anna espouses the view that education represents a crucial means of breaking the cycle of poverty. Specifically, she believes that early childhood education interventions can have a profound and enduring impact on a child's life trajectory, ultimately enabling them to make meaningful contributions to society. With her diverse background and experience, Jo-Anna strives towards having a deep understanding of the needs of her community and having a clear vision for the future of Sabah.

14. Asanda Luwaca, South Africa

Executive Chairperson of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)

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Asanda Luwaca began her activism whilst pursuing her qualification, wherein she participated in the life of Youth Organisations. She later continued with her activism in the political space, where she served across various leadership structures. She completed her BA in Politics qualification in 2012 and later pursued her Honours qualification in Politics. Over the years, she has obtained additional qualifications in the following areas: Evidence-Based Policy Making and Implementation at the Nelson School of Government at the University of Cape Town; Policy Research Training at the University of Stellenbosch; and Academic Writing Skills at the University of Stellenbosch. Her activism in politics saw her participating in the 2015 #FeesMustFall movement, where she later contributed a chapter in a published book

titled 'We Are No Longer At Ease: The Struggle for #FeesMustFall'. She later relocated to Cape Town to join the ANC Parliamentary Caucus, where she worked as a Researcher. Some of her achievements include her being one of the winners of the International Organisation for Migration Competition, where she, alongside progressive youth in South Africa, was awarded an all-expenses Educational Trip to the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa in, Ethiopia. She was also a Finalist for the Moremi Initiative Women's Leadership in Africa (MILEAD) 2015 Fellows Programme. She was appointed by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, where she currently serves as a Council Member at the Ingwe TVET College as Chairperson of the Donor Funding and Stakeholder Relations Committee. In 2021, she was appointed by HE President Cyril Matamela Ramaposa to serve as the Executive Chairperson of the Board of Directors at the NYDA, where she is currently serving.

15. Bunisa Mamadalieva, Kyrgyzstan

Chairwoman of the Standing Commission on Social Issues of the Jalal-Abad city Kenesh council

Bunisa Mamadalieva Saidillaevna was born in 1986, in the Alamedin village, Alamedin district, in the family of a mechanical engineer. Kyrgyz. In September 1993, she went to the first grade of secondary school No9 in Jalal-Abad city. In September 1999, entered the Kyrgyz-Turkish girls' high college in Jalal-Abad and graduated with honours. In 2016 she graduated from the Academy of Law, Business and Education with a Bachelor of Economics degree with honours. In 2019 she graduated from the International University. K.Sh. Toktomamatov in the "Master of Economics". From 2006 until 2015, she held different positions in an International Educational Center, in a law firm, as Human Resources and as a financial manager. In 2015 she started social activities and decided to try politics. She worked at the central headquarters of the political party SDPK during the elections to the Zhogorku Kenesh. In 2016 Political Party colleagues nominated her as a candidate for deputy to the local Kenesh. In January 2016, she became a member of the JIA Business Association in Jalal-Abad. She actively participated in all events; started attending training seminars on financial literacy, self-development, business projects, etc. That period was the turning point in her life. A lot changed from there. She had the opportunity to meet very good people and successful business representatives. From August 2019 to 2021, she was a member of the general and regional board of the JIA Business Association, on the general republican board of 15 people, as the only woman entrepreneur. In January 2019, she studied Mediation, became

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a member of the PA "Republican Community of Mediators" of the Kyrgyz Republic, a member of the PA "National Mediation Center" of the Kyrgyz Republic, and a member of the Audit Commission of the NMC. She is currently a member of the Ethics Committee. In the same year, she was the Business Advisor of the Enactus JAGU team, Mentor for the UNDP KR program in the framework of the regional project "Aid for Trade" in the countries of Central Asia. Awarded with diplomas, diplomas for contribution to the socio-economic development of the city and active participation in the business community. By invitation, she conducted seminars on the topics of financial literacy, business plan and motivation among young people. She is the founder and director of "Nisa Trade" LLC; we are mainly engaged in the export of dried fruits. In March 2021, she was elected director of the Jalal-Abad branch of the National Mediation Center. Over the years of work as a mediator, we successfully completed the project on training journalists in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2020; she was the coordinator for the Jalal-Abad region. Jalal-Abad showed the best results in training journalists, and from April 2021 to December 2022, we are completing the project "Yntymaktuu zhashoo" (Living in peace); for about two years, she participated as a facilitator, trainer and mentor for new mediators in Jalal-Abad region. In April 2021, she decided to participate in the elections as a candidate for deputies of the Jalal-Abad city kesh (council). Her past little political experience helped and eventually received a mandate from my constituency, and I was elected deputy chairman of the Jalal-Abad city Kenesh (council). From May 2021 to September 2022, she was the deputy chairwoman of the Jalal-Abad city kesh (council). At the moment, she is the Chairwoman of the Standing Commission on Social Issues of the Jalal-Abad city Kenesh (council). Having become a deputy, deputy chairwoman of the Jalal-Abad city council, she learned to take responsibility for the well-being of the population of my polling station. During this time, she was able to achieve the solution of several acute problems.

16. Mary Marjorie Martin-Chan, Philippines

City Councilor of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan



Mary Marjorie P. Martin-Chan is a lawyer by profession and a public servant as well. Believing that she could maximise best her potential and passion for leadership by serving the community, Atty. Marj was then elected as City Councilor in 2016 up to the present. For five (5) years of service in Tuguegarao City Council, she has sponsored and authored various ordinances and resolutions. These landmark legislations include, among others: Gender-Related Ordinances, Women Empowerment, Solo Parents Empowerment, and Youth and Family Relations. She is a fellow of the Angat Bayi Women Empowerment Program and the JRMF Young Leaders for Good Governance.

Because of her wit and intelligence and to further enhance her knowledge and skills as a legislator, Atty. Marj was chosen by different institutions to be a representative of the Philippines in various

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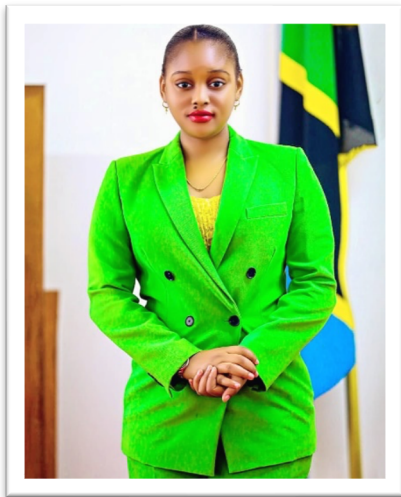


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international Fellowships, Conferences and scholarships abroad. Aside from Legislative work, she also serves various organisations. At present, she is the President of the Zonta Club of Central Tuguegarao (2022-2024). She also currently sits as the National Vice President of Luzon Island of the National Movement of Young Legislators (2022-2025). Furthering her advocacies beyond politics, Atty. Marj is also currently serving as Advocacy Consultant for the National Prosecution Development Team of the International Justice Mission Philippines.

17. Jokate Urban Mwegelo, Tanzania.

District Commissioner Korogwe



Jokate Mwegelo is the first Beauty Queen Presidential Appointee in the History of Tanzania. A Young Woman Politician, she has served as a District Commissioner (DC), since 2018 for the Districts of Kisarawe, Pwani; Temeke, Dar Es Salaam; and currently Korogwe. Jokate is a Political Scientist by profession, holding Bachelor's Degree (Honors) in Political Science and Philosophy, and has a professional interest in International Corporation and Development. Jokate pioneers Innovative Partnership Development Leadership to address challenges in Education, Health, Food Security, and Economic Empowerment through Social Enterprise Building among Youths, Girls and Women. Jokate's Approach to Political Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Development Advocacy has brought her African and International recognitions, such as

Leadership Excellence in Public Service and Community Development Award, by Pan African Leadership and Development Center, Turkey, 2021; East African Community (EAC) Women Leadership Award for Outstanding Leadership in Promoting a Gender Equal Society in East Africa, 2022; Among Top 50 Most Influential African Women, Africa by Avance Media Ghana, three times since 2019. Early on, Jokate chartered her career as a Volunteer in Development Advocacy through the United Nations Association and UNESCO. Later she ventured into Fashion Entrepreneurship, becoming a Top Fashion Socialite and Entrepreneur recognised internationally by Africa Forbes 30 Under 30 in 2017. Later Jokate partnered with Stakeholders such as the WORLD BANK, UNESCO, FEMINA, TGNP, MARIE STOPES and Foreign Embassies on Development Advocacy. Jokate pioneered a Collaborative Partnership Political Leadership approach influencing Development Stakeholders and Corporates to advance Sustainable Development interests in the Kisarawe District. She attracted various Development Partners such as the World Bank, Local Banks, Embassies, Development Organizations and Companies in various Development Campaigns and Programs across Kisarawe. Jokate pioneered a successful Award Winning Education Development campaign, 'Tokomeza Zero', which raised \$500,000USD to build a 460 Girls Only Boarding School, 'Jokate Mwegelo Secondary School' and run District initiatives to a performance by 75%, eliminating 50% of National Exams Zero. As President Samia Suluhu's newly appointed DC for Korogwe, Jokate is currently building efforts to merge Social Influence with Partnerships from Corporates, Development Partners and Governant for Korogwe District. She aspires to build and lay out Infrastructures, Facilities and Programs to drive and advance Economic Development and Food Security through Climate Based Irrigation Agriculture, Trade

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and Commerce, Technology Innovations and Skills Development Infrastructure to advance a new generation of young leaders in Digital Technologies. Jokate envisions a Pan African Sustainable Development Philosophy built through Collaborative Partnership Efforts organised and managed by Young Leaders across Africa. She approaches African Development challenges as opportunities for Young Men and Women to innovate, and create productive influence among various African and International Interests in such a way, practical solutions and designed, financed, developed and advanced to benefit African Populations against ills such as Poverty, Illiteracy and Diseases.

18. Doreen Nyanjura, Uganda

Deputy Lord Mayor of Kampala Capital City.



Nyanjura Doreen is the Deputy Lord Mayor of Kampala Capital City. She is serving her second term both as Deputy Lord Mayor and as the elected Local Council 5 (LCV) Woman Councilor, representing Makerere University at Kampala Capital City Authority. She is a senior member of the second biggest Opposition Political Party in Uganda (The Forum for Democratic Change-FDC), where she serves as an Executive member in charge of trade, investment and the Economy. She is an author, a Feminist and Gender Scholar at Makerere University and an Activist in the fight for Women, Youth and PWDs rights. She has been involved in the struggle for political and social change in Uganda for over ten years now. Her activism against bad governance has seen her arrested over 25 times.

19. Christopher Pappas, South Africa

Mayor of the uMngeni Local Municipality Incumbent

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Chris Pappas (31) was born in Pietermaritzburg. He grew up in Mooi River on a farm with his parents and younger sister. He attended Treverton Prep school and went on to matriculate at Hilton College in 2009. Chris spent much of his teen year in Howick. He proceeded to the University of Pretoria (UP), where he graduated in Town and Regional Planning. He got a distinction for his dissertation, which was titled “Education Planning as a tool for national development.” Chris got involved in politics at UP. He joined the Congress of the People (COPE) and was elected to the Student Representative Council (SRC) as a member of Academic Affairs. He later went on to serve as the interim SRC President. Chris secured his first full-time employment as a graduate in 2013. He was employed as a Development Economist, where he predominantly worked on socioeconomic impact studies for Independent Power Producers. The Democratic Alliance in KwaZulu-Natal offered Chris a position as a support staff

member. Chris was employed as an Operations Manager for the Durban South area (Chatsworth to uMkomaas). He later stood as a candidate for the Musgrave, Overport, and Sydenham area on Durban’s Berea. Chris was successfully elected as the youngest ward councillor at the time in eThekweni. In the eThekweni council, Chris served on the Economic Development and Planning Committee as well as the Town Planning Appeals Committee. During his councillorship in eThekweni, Chris was elected as the Chairperson of the DA’s Central Durban Constituency. He also headed the 2019 election campaign for the metro, which was the only metro where the DA increased its voter share. Chris is currently the DA’s Deputy Leader in KwaZulu-Natal. In 2019 Chris was elected as the youngest member of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature. He first served on the Agricultural Portfolio Committee and later went on to serve on the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs portfolio. In 2021 he was elected as the first DA mayor in KwaZulu-Natal. He was part of the team that took the uMngeni Municipality from the ANC with a slip of 42 votes giving the DA a one-seat majority in the council. He also serves as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and the Economic Development and Planning Committee. In 2022 Chris was invited by the US State Department as one of 6 mayors to participate in an International Leadership Programme aimed at strengthening democracy, advancing human rights and fighting corruption.

20. Gabriela Posso, Colombia

Youth Advisor for the Presidency of Colombia

21. Shanakiyan Rasamanickam, Sri Lanka.

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Member of Parliament



Shanakiyan is an elected member of the Sri Lankan Parliament by the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi since 2020. She received his primary and secondary education from Trinity College – Kandy, and his tertiary education from the University of Southern Queensland (Australia) where he pursued a bachelor's degree in commerce. He is currently completing the final year of the LLB from IDM campus in Sri Lanka. As an elected parliamentarian from the Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka, he is most passionate about ensuring the protection and upliftment of the rights of his community, and of all Sri Lankans. Further to his duties involved with local legislature, he is also an appointed

Member of the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) Committee, the Consultative Committee of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Back-Benchers Committee and the Speakers Panel.

22. Emma Theofelus, Namibia

Member of Parliament and Deputy Minister for Information and Communication Technology



Emma is a young Namibian woman aged 27 years' old who currently serves as a Member of Parliament and the Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology in the Republic of Namibia since March 2020. Before her current role, she served her country as a Human Rights Lawyer in the Ministry of Justice, Practicing Paralegal, the Deputy Speaker of the Youth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia and the Junior Mayor of our capital city, Windhoek. She currently possesses an LLB Honours Degree from the University of Namibia, a diploma in Business Management from Amity University, and a diploma in Afrikan Feminism and Gender Studies from the University of South Africa. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in ICT Policy and Regulation at the University of Witwatersrand and preparing to sit for the legal bar exams in 2023. In June 2022, she was awarded the Laureate in the Individual Category of the United Nations Population Award

and named as one of the BBC's 100 Most Influential Women in the World in 2021 amongst other nominations and recognitions. She is currently an Amujae Leader 2023 under the mentorship of H.E Ellen Jonson-Sirleaf and serve on the Boards of Africa REACH and NalaFEM. Her advocacy for youth empowerment and sustainable development in her country, on the continent and the globe has been consistent since 2009 when she championed the recognition of children's rights in Namibia

as well as worked with continental and global youth organisations to bring the needs and voices of young people to the attention of the world's decision-makers. She is involved in the World

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Youth Group, an organization dedicated to bringing elected youth leaders from around the world to support UN initiatives amongst other organisations that operate at a global level. She currently runs a few initiatives such as “Bring-A-buddy-To-Parly” and “Digital Nomad” that bring young people closer to decision-making bodies and teach them the skills of the future because she fully understands the global challenges young people like herself are facing today.

23. Joanne Ascencion Valdez, Philippines

Council Member, Candon City, Ilocos Sur, Philippines



Joanne Valdez is a dedicated community leader and educator who currently serves as a third-term council member for Candon City, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. She contributes to committees on Gender and Development, Women and Family, and Education. Joanne's work has been recognised with awards and honours, including the Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines, the Young Leaders Award, Award for Excellence in Advocacy Work conferred by the National Movement of Young Legislators. She has also been selected for prestigious fellowships such as the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, a program launched by the U.S. government to empower emerging leaders in Southeast Asia and Vital Voices' Engage Program, a fellowship for outstanding women political leaders across the globe. She is the founder of Candon Youth

for Empowerment Movement, a community organisation that inspires volunteers to create positive change in their respective communities. Her advocacy work includes promoting gender and development, particularly youth and women's empowerment, respecting Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression, HIV and AIDS prevention, community libraries, and youth in farming, among others. Joanne is also committed to producing videos for various advocacy projects for Non-Government Organizations, showcasing her expertise in video production. Additionally, she has served as a faculty member at St. Paul University Quezon City College of Mass Communication, where she has had the opportunity to share her insights and inspire future media professionals. Joanne is also a devoted mother, wife, daughter, and friend who values her relationships with loved ones. Her expertise and insights have led her to speak at numerous conferences and events as a resource speaker, sharing her experiences and knowledge with others.

24. Liadi Yusuff, Nigeria.

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Youth Development Expert and Founder YouthElect



Yusuff Liadi is a dynamic youth leader and activist who has dedicated his career to promoting youth participation in politics and advancing democratic values. As the founder of YouthElect under iLEAD AFRICA, he has initiated various projects and programs aimed at empowering young people to actively engage in political processes. Through initiatives like the Young Political Leaders Forum, Campus Parliamentary Mentorship Programme, National Youth Parliamentary Conference, and Youth Agenda Summit, Yusuff has created platforms for dialogue, mentorship, and capacity-building for aspiring young leaders. His advocacy for the #NotTooYoungToRun bill resulted in the reduction of the age of youth candidacy after it was signed into law in 2018. In 2019, Yusuff aspired to represent

Ibadan Northeast Constituency 1 at the Oyo State House of Assembly. With his extensive experience in training over 10,000 young people across Africa in political leadership, civic engagement, and digital advocacy, Yusuff has nurtured a new generation of civic leaders actively involved in politics. His partnerships with the United Nations SDGs Action Campaign, United Nations Foundation, and UNODC in Nigeria demonstrate his commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through empowering youth. Yusuff's remarkable contributions have been recognized with national and international honors, including the United Development Young Achiever Leadership Award, GCPIT Global Sustainability Award in India, and selection as one of the 2023 Young Global Changers for the World Policy Forum's Recouping Awards in Germany. Through his work, Yusuff continues to inspire and drive positive change, building resilient societies and shaping sustainable futures.