

YOUTH EXCEL GLOBAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEMBERS PROFILES

Council Overview

About the GYAC

The Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC) is Youth Excel's 10-member youth governance body that incorporates input from diverse youth leaders into project governance and decision-making. The GYAC will provide input into the strategic and tactical project decisions, and to Youth Excel's collaboration, learning, and adaptation approach. The GYAC scope of work includes Advisory in which Youth Excel seeks members input into its youth engagement approaches and policies; Representation by co-leading and representing Youth Excel externally; and Governance to provide input for regional grant competitions, grantee selection and project buy-ins.

About Youth Excel

Youth Excel is a 5-year global program funded by USAID. It will strengthen youth-led local development by building capacities of youth-led and youth-serving groups to conduct quality implementation research, and strengthening local systems through intergenerational dialogue and knowledge mobilization for collaborative learning, advocacy, and partnerships with diverse stakeholders.

GYAC Scope of Work _____

01 Advisory

Provide input to Youth Excel's foundational approaches and brand.

02 Representation

Co-lead and represent Youth Excel externally.

03 Governance

Decision input for the regional grant competitions, grantee selection and project buy-ins.



Meet The Members

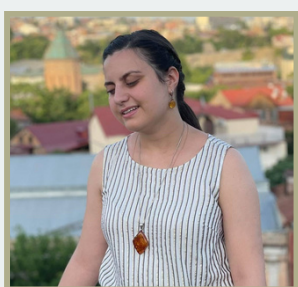


Abba Ali Mustapha (he, him, his)

Founder, Peacebuilder

Nigeria

Abba has a deep passion for data and project localization. He works on providing an Alternative Narrative and reducing the radicalization and recruitment of children and youths into the violent extremist group in Lake Chad. Abba is the founder of XPeace Associate, an indigenous innovation Centre that locally drives globally supported peace and security intervention with the aim of bridging the gap between donors, implementing partners, and target communities. He is a BEYGood African Policy Fellow with Global Citizen, a Youth Advisor with the European Union delegation in Nigeria and ECOWAS, a UNV Project officer with UNODC, and a member of the common future conversation of Chatham House.



Esma Gumberidze (she, her, hers)

Co-Founder of the Network of former Youth Delegates to the UN

Georgia

Esma is a youth activist and currently serves as a member of the European Democracy Youth Network. She is the co-founder of the Network of former Youth Delegates to the UN and a member of disability inclusion consultative mechanisms with the Tbilisi Mayor's office, the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Health. Esma chairs disabled women's organization, the Platform for New Opportunities, and is a board member at the National Network of Women with disabilities. Esma is a Youth Representative to the United Nations in Georgia and a member at the consultative Council on the monitoring of UNCRPD Implementation, Protection and Promotion with the Ombudsman's Office.

Meet The Members



Mushegh Hovsepyan (he, him, his)
President, Disability Rights Agenda
Armenia

Mushegh is a disability rights advocate and policy professional. Having worked with local and international non-governmental organizations, he has holistic perspectives and experience in human rights policy making and implementation by providing timely and policy relevant analysis and evidence-based recommendations. He is the president of Disability Rights Agenda OPD, a non profit dedicated to defending and promoting the human rights of persons with disabilities in Armenia. He is also the coordinator of the Coalition for Inclusive Legal Reforms, a union of disability rights organizations.



Najib Matar (he, him, his)
Founder, Youth Advocate
Lebanon

Najib founded Act4Impact, a youth-led initiative that champions youth participation in decision-making bodies. He is an internationally certified trainer specializing in youth and adolescents development and has been a keynote speaker and panelist at high-level summits such as the Transforming Education Summit, the Global Leadership Council, and UN General Assembly side events in New York. Najib has been appointed by UNICEF as an elected youth delegate to the GLC for a three-year, renewable term. Najib also serves as the youth country representative for Generation Unlimited's Young People Action Team and as a representative of the Youth Advisory Group in Lebanon and the MENA region. Currently, he is pursuing a master's degree in social work and community development.

Meet The Members



Nathalie Chibanguka (she, her, hers)
Founder, Youth Activist
The DRC

Nathalie is a clinical psychologist and mental health specialist. She works with several civil society organizations based in the Democratic Republic of Congo to provide psychological support to children in conflict with the law, including children living in conflict zones, particularly in eastern DRC. She has been mentoring young people for several months in the field of employability. An agribusiness entrepreneur, Nathalie is the founder of "Kivu Corporate", a start-up that aims to train unemployed girls in processing and adding value to the product chain. She devotes her time to training unemployed girls in order to give them financial independence. Nathalie is the convener of the Africa Youth Movement, a pan-African movement of young people from the continent and the diaspora.



Reshad Noori (he, him, his)
Executive Manager, Peace Advocate
Afghanistan

Khwaja Ahmad Reshad Noori from Afghanistan is a Public Policy and Administration graduate, specializing in the field of Development Management. Reshad is an Executive Manager in Youth Developers Summit (YDS), which is an Afghan version of Shark Tank. He is also an active member of Afghans for Progressive Thinking Organization (APT). Reshad advocates for peace and tolerance and trains youth on how to debate and adjudicate their debates in APT. He is also an active member of Generation of Thinkers Organization (GOT).

Meet The Members



Sanjana Chhantyal (she, her, hers)
*Youth Advocate, Financial Data Analyst,
Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Builder*
Nepal

Sanjana Chhantyal is a Private Equity and Venture Capital Professional. She also volunteers as a pro-bono consultant for international start-ups that support the attainment of SDGs. She founded the Next Steps Project and designed a Higher Education Research toolkit to help aspiring students make informed academic decisions. Sanjana was selected by UN Women Asia and the Pacific as a 30 for 2030 Youth Leader. During the pandemic, she volunteered in a community health center in the US and translated health guidelines to refugee communities from Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal to help combat misinformation. Sanjana was awarded the prestigious Fulbright scholarship and has an MBA degree from Emory University.



Sarafina Loriakwe (she, her, hers)
Data analyst, Human Rights Activist
Kenya

Sarafina Loriakwe is a data analyst, human right activist, and pan African, who advocate for girls' rights, she is currently spearheading the need for mental health for the survivors of female genital mutilation/cut and safe spaces for teen mums. She hopes to see a world where data is well-documented for future reference and sustainability to be key.

Meet The Members



Sharon Reakae (she, her, hers)

Biochemist, Disability Rights Advocate

Botswana

Sharon Reakae is a biochemist, pan-africanist and an advocate for the sexual and reproductive health rights of young people with intellectual disabilities in Botswana. Her work focuses on delivering comprehensive sexuality education to in and out school young people with intellectual disabilities through a non-profit organization called Special Olympics Botswana. She has served in various youth leadership programs and mentors young athletes at Special Olympics Botswana.



Stephanie Carvajalino (she, her, hers)

Entrepreneur, Co-Founder

Colombia

Stephanie is an entrepreneur, author and speaker passionate about transforming the world by transforming education. She is the Co-Founder of The Biz Nation, an online education platform with a presence in 9 countries and over 100,000 users. Stephanie Carvajalino and her sisters are the creators of Biz Fest, a festival that brings together more than 30 speakers and 14,000 young people in one place to have a day of entrepreneurship, leadership, and technology. Their passion for female empowerment is something that has moved them since they were little and that is why they also created the Power Day initiative, a day of education, connections and tools for women entrepreneurs.
