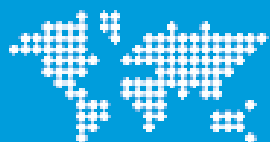


UN Women Executive Director's Civil Society Advisory Group (2017-2019)



Mervis

A committed advocate for girls' rights, Mervis, alongside the rest of her youth advocacy group and others, successfully campaigned for the age of marriage in Malawi to be raised to 18 last February.

Now the group are concentrating on closing a loophole in the law which allows under-18s to get married with parental permission. The group organized a march earlier this year to Capitol Hill for over 100 young people. They took their message demanding an amendment in the constitution to high-level policy makers including the Solicitor General, the Justice Minister, and the Minister of Gender who all agreed to meet with the young people. Mervis and the rest of the Youth Advocacy Group are currently holding a series of Girls' Conferences across Malawi to mobilize public support for their campaign.

Mervis has attended both the Commonwealth Education Ministers Meeting in 2015 and the UN General Assembly in 2016 to take her groups message to global leaders.



Lydia Alpízar Durán

Lydia Alpízar Durán is a Costa Rican/Mexican feminist activist and the outgoing Executive Director of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID). Lydia is a sociologist by training and co-founder and advisor of ELIGE-Youth Network for Reproductive and Sexual Rights. She was member of the International Council for Human Rights Policy and the Board of Directors of the Global Fund for Women for several years. She is also a graduate of the Human Rights Advocacy Training Program at the Center for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University, NYC.



Dr. Hanan Ashrawi

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi is a distinguished Palestinian leader, legislator, activist, and scholar who served as a member of the Leadership Committee and as an official spokesperson of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace process, beginning with the Madrid Peace Conference of 1991. Making history as the first woman to hold a seat in the highest executive body in Palestine, she was elected as member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 2009. As a civil society activist, she founded the Independent Commission for Human Rights (1994), MIFTAH, the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (1998) and AMAN, the National Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (1999). She serves on the advisory and international boards of several global, regional and local organizations, and she is the recipient of numerous awards from all over the world and several academic accolades, including eleven honorary doctorates from universities in the U.S., Canada, Europe and the Arab world.



Barbara Byers

Barbara Byers is the Canadian Labor Congress' Secretary-Treasurer, bringing a wealth of experience to the job as a labor leader committed to inclusiveness. In December she was named a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of her "contributions as an important voice in the Canadian labor movement." Ms. Byers has been responsible for women workers, labor education; Medicare and health care; workplace training and technology; employment insurance; apprenticeships; workers with disabilities and gay, bi-sexual, lesbian and transgender workers. For twelve years Ms. Byers also played a key role representing Canada as one of 14 worker delegates on the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization.



Dilar Dirik

Dilar Dirik was born in Antakya in 1991. She became a refugee as a child and fled to Germany with her parents. Dilar has been politically active in her community at a very young age and worked with different Kurdish organizations across Europe, focusing on women's liberation. She holds a BA in History and Political Science and an MA in International Studies. At the moment, she is working on her PhD in Sociology at the University of Cambridge and spent a year in the Kurdish regions of Turkey, Syria, and Iraq to research women's resistance in the region. Dilar is a member of the International Representation of the Kurdish Women's Movement and regularly writes for international media outlets.



Nidhi Goyal

Nidhi Goyal is a disabled feminist from India, working at the intersection of disability and gender through research, training, advocacy and art. The Sexuality and Disability Program Director at Point of View, a researcher for Human Rights Watch, and faculty at CREA Institutes on sexuality, gender and rights, Ms. Goyal advocates at policy and legislative levels in India and internationally. Ms. Goyal is on the board of 'Standing Tall,' a Handicap International affiliate; advises the "Voice" grant facility of the Dutch Ministry; and has served on the AWID planning committee. As a standup comedian, she uses humor to expand discourses around disability, gender and sexuality.



Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro

Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro is President and CEO of Global Fund for Women and a passionate advocate for women and girls' health and human rights, and social change philanthropy. Dr. Kanyoro is an accomplished leader with three decades of experience managing international non-governmental organizations, global programs, and ecumenical agencies in cross-cultural contexts. In addition to being a sought after public speaker who inspires people, mobilizes action and resources, Dr. Kanyoro has authored numerous articles, opinion pieces and written or co-edited seven books.

Dr. Kanyoro also serves on the CARE Board, the UN Women Civil Society Advisory Board, the Aspen Leaders Council, and the World Bank Group's Advisory Council on Gender and Development.



Joanna Maycock

Joanna Maycock has been Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) since May 2014. Founded in 1990, the European Women's Lobby (EWL) is the largest alliance of women's non-governmental associations in the European Union, with members throughout the EU who come together around our common vision of a Feminist Europe. A lifelong feminist, Ms. Maycock has 20 years' professional experience in senior leadership and governance positions in European and International Civil Society. She led ActionAid International's work in Europe: Developing and implementing EU campaigns on aid effectiveness, women's rights, and policy coherence for development. Ms. Maycock is also a former President of CONCORD, the European Confederation of Development NGOs. Prior to that she worked for the International Organization for Migration in Brussels.



Todd Minerson

Todd Minerson is the Executive Director of White Ribbon, the world's largest effort of men and boys to end men's violence against women. He is also the CEO of Parker P. Consulting, a social enterprise wholly owned by White Ribbon, working on gender issues with the private sector. Initiated in Canada in 1991, the White Ribbon now has a presence in over 65 countries around the world. His work also includes numerous engagements with the United Nations, including as a member of the UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group. Mr. Minerson is also a member of the Province of Ontario's Permanent Roundtable on Violence against Women, and the Advisory Council for a Federal Strategy on Gender-Based Violence with the Government of Canada. Recently Mr. Minerson was elected as the Co-Chair of the MenEngage Global Alliance, a group of 600 NGOs working on gender equality issues with men and boys. Of all these accomplishments he is most proud of being a father, a husband, and a really average hockey player.



Pat Mitchell

Pat Mitchell is known for her leadership in the media industry as a CEO, producer and curator. Her career has focused on using media as a force for social change, with an emphasis on the representation of women's stories.

Ms. Mitchell is the former president of CNN Productions, where she executive produced programs that have received 35 Emmy Awards and five Peabody Awards. In 2000, she became the first woman president and CEO of PBS. Mitchell also served as president and CEO of the Paley Center for Media. In 2011, Ms. Mitchell partnered with TEDTalks to co-curate the TEDWomen global conference, which will be held this year in San Francisco on Oct. 26th –28th. Ms. Mitchell is especially proud to have been recognized by the Women's Media Center with its first Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is given annually to other women for advancing women through media. She also advises foundations and corporations on women's empowerment issues and leadership development as well as media relations and governance. She is the chair of the Women's Media Center and Sundance Institute boards, a founding board member of V-Day, a member of the board of the Acumen Fund, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

A magna cum laude graduate of the University of Georgia, Mitchell holds bachelor's and master's degrees in English literature. She has taught at the University of Georgia, Virginia Commonwealth University, and at Harvard University's Institute of Politics.



Kathryn Mary Relang

Kathryn Mary Relang, 30 years old, is the Executive Director of Women United Together Marshall Islands. She holds an undergraduate Bachelor Degree in Anthropology and Linguistics and a certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language. Ms. Relang previously worked for WUTMI after college (since 2009) as a Project Coordinator. She is presently Vice Chair of the Marshall Islands Conservation Society and a member of The National Steering Committee of the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Program, The National Steering Committee of the PAC Waste-Atoll Waste Management, RMI Human Rights Committee and the RMI Technical Working Group for the Implementation of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act. She is also a WUTMI Representative on the Coastal Management Advisory Council and The National Steering Committee of the RMI USP-Global Climate Change Alliance. Kathryn is the proud mother of a five-year-old daughter.



Sam Vaghar

Sam Vaghar is the Executive Director and Co-founder of The Millennium Campus Network, empowering university student organizations across the United States to be effective partners for global development. In 2011, Sam was invited by the State Department as the featured speaker in a tour across Bosnia and Herzegovina. During that summer Sam met with President Barack Obama in the Roosevelt Room at the White House to share perspectives of US youth leaders. The following year, Sam was selected for the 2012 list of the “Top 99 most influential foreign policy leaders under the age of 33” by The Diplomatic Courier and Young Professionals in Foreign Policy. Sam is a 2008 graduate of Brandeis University. Sam also serves on the Steering Committee of the Opportunity Collaboration and serves as the Co-Chair of the Millennial Task Force of the Center for Social Impact Learning (CSIL) at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.