



# NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

Supporting the United Nations & Communities Globally

*“Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change”*

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## “Health, Human Rights & Dignity for All”



**H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto, Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations (2013-2017).** During his tenure at the United Nations, Dr. Otto was well known as an outspoken advocate for health in all its manifestations - physical, mental, and spiritual, climate action, oceans, tobacco control, breastfeeding, the human right to water and sanitation and the rights of children and women. During the intergovernmental negotiations for Agenda 2030, Dr. Otto spearheaded with Dr. Judy Kuriansky the successful effort to include mental health and well-being into the Agenda (Target 3.4). He also advocated strongly for a stand-alone goal on peaceful and stable society grounded on tolerance, acceptance and understanding (Goal 16). With the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), he advocated for a stand-alone goal on Oceans and Climate Change (Goals 13 and 14). Dr. Otto was a public health physician and former Director of the Public Health for the Republic of Palau where he represented Palau in the World Health Assembly for a number of years. After retiring from the Ministry of Health in 2003, Dr. Otto served as Senator in the Palau National

Congress. Dr. Otto was active in the Palau Conservation Society serving as a long-time board member and later, Executive Director. He was active in the Olympic movement serving on the board of the Palau National Olympic Committee and the Oceania Olympic Committee. Dr. Otto was a founder of the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Palau and a lead negotiator on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, for which he received the WHO Director General Award in 2003. He championed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Palau, translated the Convention into Palauan and was one of the authors of the first report of implementation of the Convention. His advocacy for human rights includes work on the Implementation of the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes as the means to ensure the rights of infants to breastmilk, work on Rights of Persons with Disability, Women’s rights under CEDAW and rights of the Indigenous People, including protection of traditional and cultural heritage. He was proud to be an Honorary Adviser of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY with their dedicated and passionate team for change. Dr. Otto passed away after a short illness at his home in Palau on 28 October 2018.



**Dr. Judy Buster-Otto, former Adviser to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations.** Dr. Otto covered the Third Committee (social development and human rights), Fourth Committee (decolonization), oceans and fisheries issues within the UN. She holds a Ph.D. in public health specializing in prevention of chronic diseases with a focus on environmental determinants of health with special attention to walking and walkable communities. At the United Nations, she has been an active partner with Drs. Otto and Kuriansky and the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY team in promoting the human right to mental health. Dr. Otto is also an outspoken advocate for children and women’s rights having served for 10 years as UNICEF’s Program Officer for the Pacific Island Region. She is active in sports and the Olympic movement and received the 2017 Women in Sports award from the IOC. Born and educated in West Virginia, she moved to the Pacific Islands in 1976 where she met and married Former Ambassador Dr. Caleb Otto in 1979.



**Dr. Padmini (Mini) Murthy, MD, MPH, MS, FAMWA, FRSPH Professor and Global Health Director at New York Medical College School of Health Sciences and Practice.** Dr. Murthy is a physician (a trained obstetrician and gynecologist) and an activist who did her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology. She has practiced medicine and public health for the past 28 years in various countries. She has been working in various arenas of the health care industry and worked as a consultant for UNFPA. She has a MPH and a MS in Management from New York University. Dr. Murthy serves as the Medical Women’s International Association NGO representative to the United Nations. She also serves a member of the Executive Council of the NGO CSW Committee of NY, the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY Executive Board and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee of NY at the United Nations. Dr. Murthy is widely published and is the author and editor of *Women’s Global Health and Human Rights* (Jones and Bartlett publisher) which is used as a text book worldwide and she serves as a peer reviewer for several publications. Her poetry book *Mini’s Musings* was published in 2012. She is currently working on her 3rd

book on the use of technology in promoting health. She has made over 150 presentations on women’s and children’s health nationally and internationally in scientific conferences and in the United Nations and countries where she has been invited to speak. She has been working to promote safe motherhood and other health initiatives focused on women in India, Malawi and Grenada. Dr. Murthy has been the recipient of numerous national and international awards. She was the 1st American woman physician to receive the Jhirad Oration Award (in Seoul, Korea) conferred at an international conference in recognition of her service and work to MWIA. She has also been the recipient of the Soujourner Truth Pin which is given to those women who excel in community service. In June 2015, she was presented Millennium Milestone Maker Award at the 9th Annual Women’s Symposium at Sias University, China. In 2016, she was the first Indian born American in over 70 years to receive the Elizabeth Blackwell Medal from American Medical Women’s Association for her work in promoting women’s health globally. She is the recipient of the Lalita Pawar memorial award in 2016 conferred by the Association of Medical Women in India Nagpur for her work in promoting women’s health and human rights. In 2017, Dr. Murthy was conferred the prestigious Dr. Homi Colabawall Oration in Mumbai India for her work on promoting women’s health. In 2018, she received a mentor ship award from the Australian medical students and Exceptional Woman of Excellence Award at the Women Economic Forum in New Delhi. Dr. Murthy is currently chair elect of the International Health Section of the American Public Health Association which is one of the largest associations of public health professionals in the world. Dr. Murthy is married to a physician and is the mother of a daughter who works in international development and education.



**Dr. Andrise Bass, BSCJ, MBA, Ph.D** is President and Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Vice President of ASPAFrique and a Mentor/Leader at Al Gore's Climate Reality Project. Dr. Bass is a Transformational Strategist Coach, Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist with over 28 years of experience in the business industry. She has been a community organizer, for grassroots movements, an author, a keynote speaker, a business entrepreneur for business start-ups and a business strategist for non-profits. Her passion is helping men and women become leaders in their communities. Over the past 11 years, she has trained and mentored thousands of corporate professionals and entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds and varied industries across the globe. Every day, she looks forward to helping her clients transform their lives, so they can create wealth and have a long-lasting sustainable legacy. In 2011, she was honored as a social ambassador for her humanitarian work and her positive fight on social justice in Haiti. She has a Bachelor in criminal justice, MBA in Organizational Psychology and Ph.D. in public policy and administration. Working with Al Gore she is a Mentor/Leader at Climate Reality

Project and Vice President of ASPAFrique a non-profit. As President and Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation she is continuously working to support education, poverty alleviation, human rights, climate action, and sustainable development. Dr. Bass' goal is to educate women to become leaders in being of serve to their communities.



**Dr. Verna Brooks McKenzie**, is the Director of Health Projects for Latin America and the Caribbean for Give Them a Hand Foundation. Dr. Brooks McKenzie, an Obstetrician and Gynecologist is a government of Jamaica medical scholar and graduate of the University of the West Indies with Honors in Obstetrics and Gynecology. She received her Fellowship into the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). She founded askdrverna.com, an online consultation service offering menopause, osteoporosis and weight management. The Jamaica Gleaner recognized her as a pioneer and trailblazer in the field of women's health. With over thirty years of experience in lecturing, training and public speaking, she has written many articles and is a guest on numerous television and radio programs in the Caribbean and the United States. Dr. Nafis Sadik, former Executive Director, UNFPA invited her to participate in the 1993 Expert Consultation on Reproductive Health and Family Planning. She trained doctors and women pharmacists in Ghana West Africa on Injectable Contraceptives, a USAID project in collaboration with the Ghana Social Marketing Foundation. She was Advisor to the Jamaican government, the

Commonwealth Medical Association and Medical Association of Jamaica at meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations Headquarters New York and the 1995 United Nations Conference on Women, Beijing China where she presented as a panelist at the NGO Forum, in Huairou, China. The ACOG West Indies Section Award is among her many awards for Outstanding and Distinguished Service in Women's Health.



**Dr. Cathey Eisner Falvo, M.D., M.P.H.**, is the UN Representative of Physicians for Social Responsibility to the International Society of Doctors for the Environment. Dr. Falvo is a physician who trained in pediatrics and preventive medicine/public health. She was the pediatrician for the neighborhood health center in Ossining, New York as well as professor and chair of public health and professor of pediatrics at New York Medical College School of Public Health in Valhalla, New York before resigning in 2005. She is now on the faculty of the Department of Public Health Palm Beach County, Florida Preventive Medicine Residency Program. She has worked as a clinician in several countries, including Nicaragua during the Contra Wars and later, Haiti including response to the earthquake, Albania, Algeria and Vietnam. She has represented ISDE/PSR at the UN since 1994. She received her medical degree from State University of New York Upstate Medical Center at Syracuse then trained in Pediatrics at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia and Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. Her public health degree (epidemiology) was from Columbia University School of Public Health. She served as a general medical

officer and director of community health in the U.S. Public Health Service Indian Health Service on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota.



**Dr. Roseanne L. Flores, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Hunter College of the City University of New York.** Dr. Flores received her PhD from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and more recently an Advanced Certificate in Public Administration and Public Policy as well as a Certificate in Health Care Policy and Administration both from the CUNY School of Professional Studies. She is also a Faculty Associate of the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College, as well as a member of the Human Rights faculty. She is a Developmental Psychologist by training and was a National Head Start Fellow in the Office of Head Start in Washington, DC in 2009-2010 where some of her work focused on research, practices, and policies that influenced children, families, and communities. Dr. Flores is currently serving as an ECOSOC Representative to the United Nations for the American Psychological Association as well as a member of the Coalition for Psychology in Schools and Education also at the APA. In addition, she is a member of the NGO Committee on Children's Rights, New York. She has presented and co-chaired several events at the United Nations. In 2016,

she was asked to speak at the 54th session of the Commission for Social Development which addressed "Breaking the Cycles of Invisibility for the Next Generation in the International Decade for People of African Descent." Her talk was entitled "Health and Education Disparities Affecting the Well-Being of Children and Youth of African Descent." In addition, she served as the 2016 co-chair of Psychology Day at the United Nations which addressed psychological perspectives on the global migration crisis. Dr. Flores and Dr. Neal Rubin are currently co-editing the Cambridge Handbook of Human Rights which will fill a gap within psychological and human rights scholarship.

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