



NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

Supporting the United Nations & Communities Globally

"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"

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

GIRLS ROCK the SDGs

Wednesday, February 27, 2019



Ms. Consolee Nishimwe is an Author and a Motivational Speaker. A survivor as a young teenager of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. When Consolee was a young teenager she suffered physical and emotional torture during her three months in hiding and miraculously she survived with her mother and younger sister. Today, she is a committed speaker on genocide, a defender of women rights and an advocate for other genocide survivors. Her memoir is titled: "Tested to the Limit: A Genocide Survivor's Story of Pain, Resilience and Hope." In recognition of her courage and accomplishments, Consolee was awarded the *2013 ASALH Living Legacy Award, What better looks like Award*, and the Recognition Award from the New York City Council. She was hailed by the Together for Girls

Organization in *SAFE Magazine Issue #1*, as one of 50 Global Heroes who help stop sexual violence against children. Consolee currently lives in New York. For more updates please follow Consolee Nishimwe on Twitter: @nconsolee Instagram: ConsoleeNishimwe. Facebook: Tested to The Limit & LinkedIn Consolee Nishimwe.



Ms. Annie Deng, Producer for ICN Media Network, Youth Representative for the City College of New York and Co-chair, United Nations Department of Global Communications Youth Representatives Steering Committee. Annie is a perpetual student, activist, and artist. She graduated from The City College of New York and continued to serve as a youth representative of the school's NGO. Although a restless spirit with many passions, she devotes the majority of her time now serving to support, document, and promote the work of others. As a producer at the bilingual media network ICN, she is dedicated to sharing cultural events in New York and artistic gems of China and America with the world, via radio, video, and social media. Through her engagements at the United Nations, she is

proactively encouraging recognition of youth voices and the deepening of the connection between young advocates worldwide.



Ms. Mariana Vargas Youth Coordinator and Leader/ County Climate Coalition & Humanitarian Focus Foundation. Mariana is a freshman at Hunter College where she is double-majoring in Environmental and Urban Studies. In 2017, Mariana and her family lost their home in a fire that left them displaced and uncertain of where to go as rent in other apartments was too high. Being undocumented and homeless helped her reflect on the displacement of front line communities as climate change will force many communities of color and low-income to search for a new place to call home. Since then she has been advocating and demanding climate/environmental justice since her sophomore year of high school where she was a member of the Rooftop Garden club and Green Team, which hoped to promote

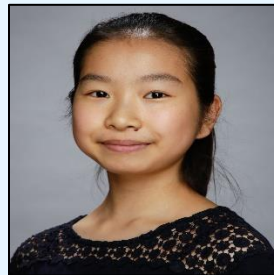
sustainability by teaching students how to properly dispose of their waste and grow their own produce in small urban spaces. In addition, Mariana is the founder of The Immigration Alliance which promoted inclusivity and support for undocumented students at her high school, who like herself had very little support with the college application process. She has also worked with various non-profit organizations such as The Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) through their fellowship program, The Nature Conservancy as the Co-chair for a program called LEAF Ambassadors and as an ambassador for a program at NYU called Teen Advocates for sustainable Corps (TASC). Through these opportunities she has obtained leadership skills that have allowed her to speak at a side panel at the UN Headquarters and share her story of endurance and commitment to ensure a sustainable and equitable future.



Ms. Nandita Sharma is the Founder of the “Psychology in Gender Project.” Nandita did her under-graduation in Psychology from a premier all-girls college in the University of Delhi and worked on an academic project titled ‘Bride and Prejudice: Does the Color of Skin Matter in Indian Marriages.’ She has also spent a year training in research at Government of India's National Brain Research Centre designing and development of an evidence-based speech-music based VR app for children with autism. She is currently finishing her master's in Clinical Psychology at Columbia University. In New York, she is working in Positive Psychology and Gender. Her project focuses on the mindset changes are necessary to achieve the SDGs so that we do not end up building the exact replications of the same world.



Ms. Julia Wykoff, Founder of Zeal Cares. Julia is a 13 year old social entrepreneur, who founded Zeal Cares at the age of 10. In 2015, Julia participated in the New York Montessori Model UN conference as a delegate of the Commonwealth of Australia. At the time she was a student at the Post Oak Montessori School in Houston, Texas participating in the program under the guidance of Maya and Errol Pinto. During this conference her eyes were opened to the many struggles that children around the world face every day. She also learned that it didn't matter if an idea was small, it just had to be relevant. She walked away from the MMUN experience determined to make a meaningful impact on the world. After hearing about the challenges of dry skin a family friend was facing during cancer therapy, Julia directed her energies towards children going through similar experiences. She started a company that makes and sells lip balm. Every lip balm that is purchased, another is gifted to a child undergoing cancer treatment. Along the way she is striving to inspire kids to realize that they are never too young to meaningfully contribute to their community in a heartfelt way. For every lip balm purchased, she gift's another to a child with cancer. She is currently partnering with hospitals like MD Anderson, Mass General, Memorial Sloan Kettering and organizations like the Ronald McDonald House and Family Reach. Today, Zeal Cares has now gifted thousands of lip balms to children around the country and is growing quickly.



Ms. Akari Tomita, 8th Grade Student of the UNIS Middle School, Member of the Student Council and the Environmental Club. Akari's love of nature was originally brought about by her family through frequent trips to her grandfather's garden in Japan as well as to parks, national parks, and forests all over the world. As a member of the UNIS Middle School Environmental Club, Akari works to raise awareness, educate, and share the EC's efforts with her peers. She has learned how to find allies and create partnerships with staff and students to promote sustainable practices. As an eighth-grader this year, Akari has been making a difference at UNIS since her elementary school years and as of last year has added service with the Student Council at her school.



Ms. Roslery Ubiñas, Youth Representative and Executive Assistant of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States. Co-Chair of the Civil Society Youth Representative Steering Committee of the UN Department of Global Communications. Roslery joined the United Nations Community in August 2017. One of her roles is to explore ways youth can contribute to the betterment of society by working with non-governmental organizations and other youth advocates on issues such as racial inequality, advancement of women, and the role of religion in society. Her previous work experience includes adolescent counseling along with development for academic and non-profit organizations. She holds a B.A. in Psychology and Africana Studies from Franklin & Marshall College. Roslery participated in the 62nd UN Commission on the Status of Women and joined the NGO CSW/NY CSW62 Planning Committee serving on the Artisan Fair and Reception sub-committees. Roslery is the Youth Co-chair of the Conference Planning Social Media Sub-committee to the 67th UN DGC/NGO Conference.

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