

## NGOCSD-NY UN75 Dialogue Series

# COVID-19 Impact on Climate Change & Our Communities

Updates: **UN75 People's Forum for the UN We Need**

**Thursday, April 30, 2020 - 1PM to 3:30PM**



**Prof. Jan Dash PhD is Editor of the [World Scientific Encyclopedia of Climate Change \(2020\)](#).** He was Directeur de Recherche at the Centre de Physique Théorique in Marseille France, and [published over 60 scientific papers](#). Subsequently, he worked for many years on quantitative finance and risk management. His book on the subject includes a [chapter on Climate Change Risk Management](#). He was Adjunct Professor at the Courant Institute, NYU. He did the [math](#) behind the [Bloomberg Climate Clock](#) and spoke on a panel at the 2015 Paris Climate Conference. He has been a long standing member of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and honored to be their Lead Expert Adviser on Climate Change.



**Harriet Shugarman, Founder & Executive Director of ClimateMama and Chair of the Climate Reality NYC Metro Chapter.** Harriet was a 2019 featured speaker at the [Global Engagement Summit](#) at United Nations Headquarters, she is a sought after speaker, recognized nationally as an *influencer and connector* in the climate movement. ClimateMama, is an on-line community that reaches individuals in over 110 countries and all 50 states. As a leader and mentor with The Climate Reality Project, Harriet chairs the Climate Reality NYC Metro Chapter and was the recipient of the Climate Reality 2017 Green Ring Award. Harriet is also profiled in Mr. Gore's 2017 book: *An Inconvenient Sequel, Truth to Power*. Her writing and thought pieces on climate solutions appear in national and regional publications on-line

and in print and her 2020 book: *Talking to Your Kids About Climate Change, Turning Angst to Action* will be out May 5th. Harriet has worked for more than 25 years in Canada and in the United States with governments, international organizations, and educational institutions on climate and sustainability issues as an economist, policy analyst, informal educator and an adjunct professor. Harriet teaches world sustainability and climate change and society at Ramapo College of New Jersey.



**SaulPaul, Founder of Be The Change Network.** SaulPaul is a 2020 Grammy Nominee. Poet. Singer Songwriter. Artist, Activist, Entrepreneur. Award Winning Musician. 2 #1 Songs on Sirius XM. 1 Top 5 & 1 Top 15 album on iTunes. National Tours. International Tour. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. America's Got Talent. SaulPaul's list of musical accomplishments goes on and on, but he's more than a musician. He's a Musician with a Message. SaulPaul is a success coach, author, and motivational speaker. His inspiring backstory of transitioning from prison incarceration to graduating from the prestigious University of Texas at Austin has been told on screen via the documentary Tower to Tower, his memoir Be The Change and his TEDx Talks. SaulPaul was named 2017 Austinite of the

Year and in 2018 he was awarded the Texas Civil Rights Project Rising Star Award. In 2019, his company SaulPaul Productions was highlighted by the Austin Young Chamber as a Top 5 Best Community Minded Company. He has always been passionate about servant leadership. Recognizing an inherent responsibility to give back, SaulPaul founded the Be The Change (BTC) Network. Local to Global, the BTC Network is everywhere. It all started when SaulPaul, *A Musician with a Message*, began traveling the world entertaining, inspiring and empowering others. From then til now, thousands of #ChangeMakers from the BTC Network have impacted millions of people, around the world, through acts of kindness, volunteerism and philanthropy. As individuals, organizations and corporations take action and choose to #BeTheChange, the BTC Network is here to broadcast that and amplify the good.

***"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"***

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**Robert Gierke, Founder & CEO of Purenessity, MBA.** Purenessity, is a business consulting company focusing on purpose-driven brand building. Robert's life's purpose is to drive consciousness development and to steward businesses to make a positive impact towards the 17 UN SDGs. Being a global citizen, having strong business skills and speaking 6 languages he dedicates his work to contribute to a dignified life in the world. Robert was born in East Germany in 1977. He grew up in socialism-communism until the Berlin Wall fell when he was 12 years old. Following his high-school graduation he went to Northern Arizona University in the US to study Business Administration. After a first work experience in the San Francisco Bay Area he returned to Northern Arizona University in 2000 to earn his MBA. In

2001, he joined the Salt Lake Organizing Committee to stage the 2002 Winter Olympics and Paralympics. In 2002, he returned to Germany and started a 14 year career at global sports brand Adidas where Robert worked in various positions within global marketing and finance. He left Adidas in 2016 to pursue his life's purpose. In late 2016 he served as a volunteer in the medical area at the refugee camp Moria in Lesbos, Greece. Following this profound and humbling experience Robert founded his purpose-driven consultancy Purenessity in 2017. Motivated by his concern about climate change and his love for nature he became a Climate Leader in the Climate Reality Project in 2018.



**Dr. Andrise Bass, BSCJ, MBA, Ph.D. is President and Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Vice President of ASPAFrique and a Climate Reality Project Mentor/Leader.**

She is on the Global Board of Advisors for the SDG Impact Awards. 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.



**Susan Israel, RA, LEED AP, Founder and President of Climate Creatives.** Susan founded Climate Creatives to empower people to act on climate adaptation using art and design experiences. Her creative facilitation and participatory public art incorporate data translation to educate people to act on climate issues. Her flood warning installations, Rising Waters, have been in the US, Panama, Hong Kong and at the United Nations and Peace Boat. She has collaborated with over 100 partners and hosts, reaching over 500,000 people. She consults to organizations on innovation, collaboration, sustainability, and leadership. Past clients include Harvard Business School, Fidelity Investments, Consensus Building Institute, Blue Cross Blue Shield, non-profits and other groups. Susan uses a multidisciplinary design

process to help colleges embed sustainability into their curricula, and her STEAM education methodology has been used by public high schools. Susan consults on strategy with PSMJ, mentors, speaks and writes publicly, and advises on boards. Previously, Susan practiced architecture for over 20 years as Founder and Principal Susan Israel Architects and studio2sustain. She is a licensed Architect, LEED AP, Connective Leadership Institute certified trainer, Member of the Friends of UN World Oceans Day 2020 planning group, founding leadership group of Harvard Alumni Climate and Environment (SIG) and holds leadership roles in her Harvard College class. Previously Susan was a long-time member of the Harvard Alumni Association Board of Directors. She holds an A.B. from Harvard College, Master of Architecture from Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and attended the Museum of Fine Arts School in Boston. [www.ClimateCreatives.com](http://www.ClimateCreatives.com), [www.RisingWaters.org](http://www.RisingWaters.org); [www.QuarantineQuilts.org](http://www.QuarantineQuilts.org), [susan@ClimateCreatives.com](mailto:susan@ClimateCreatives.com)

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**Alexa Torres is on the Climate Reality Project NYC Metro Chapter Leadership Team**, focusing on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion within the chapter and the environmental movement as a whole. She spent the past four years between New York and Arizona, from voluntarily living in poverty as a conservation corps member camping and building trail in some of this nation's most awe-inspiring lands, to growing food and teaching NYC youth how to grow their own food as an urban farmer in the middle of the New York Harbor on historic Governor's Island, to fighting wildfires as a U.S. Forest Service wildland firefighter under the Arizona summer sun. She is a climate activist, change-agent, eco-feminist, with Taino ancestry. Drawing from her personal experience growing up in an area with increasing socio-economic inequality due to heavy gentrification, her access to education, and her diverse

experience in employment locales, she believes that climate action needs to center and uplift the voices of lower income communities, particularly BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) which have been at a historic disadvantage in this country and are disproportionately experiencing both the effects of climate change and COVID-19 due to institutionalized.



**Jeffery Huffines is Senior Advisor to UN2020 and Together First.** Jeffery represented CIVICUS at the UN High-Level Political Forum since its inception and was an organizing partner at the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016) responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs during the lead up to RIO+20 through the adoption of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Jeffery joined CIVICUS in 2009 as UN Representative (NY). Since 2017 the civil society-led initiative UN2020 has facilitated discussions with many member states, UN secretariat officials and civil society on the need for a robust, well prepared 75th Anniversary commemoration for the UN in 2020, one that includes a meaningful process of stocktaking, review and strengthening of the

organization.15e was Chair of the 65<sup>th</sup> UN DPI/NGO Conference, "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda," UNHQ NY, 27-29 August 2014. Previously, Jeffery was elected Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011), when the Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference was hosted abroad in Paris (2008), Mexico City (2009), Melbourne (2010) and Bonn (2011). He had previously served as Main UN Representative for the U.S. Baha'i Community where he led a number of NGO initiatives as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court (FENICC); Chair of the UN Association/USA's New York Council of Organizations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs; and co-founder of the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace.



**Daniel Perell, UN Baha'i International Community.** Daniel is the former NGO Major Group Global Organizing Partner for HLPF. He joined the Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office as a Representative in 2011. His areas of work include social and sustainable development, global citizenship, human rights, the role of religion in society, and defense of the Baha'i Community. He is currently a Global Organizing Partner of the NGO Major Group and the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development. In 2010, Dan received a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law and an MA in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and was admitted to the New York State Bar Association.



**Ms. Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and Co-Founder/CSO of the SDG Impact Awards.** She is the Director of UN Relations for Global Family, and Chair of the Board of Advisers for Youth for a Better World/Montessori Model UN, Youth Impact! Forum and she represents the Huairou Commission at the UN. She is a Designer and Artist with over thirty years of experience at the United Nations working in the UN Community as a Chief Developer of meetings, conferences and Special Events with all stakeholders developing impactful programs and projects that include the UN Sustainable Development Goals. She Convenes the NGO Major Group Urban Thematic Cluster, as well as a member of the Women's Major Group for the UN

High Level Political Forum. Margo's work is mainly focused on connecting all areas of the 17 SDGs. She passionately champions SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and she believes in the NGOCS-D-NY motto: "Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change." The NGOCS-D-NY is a proud Partner of the UN Secretary General's UN75 Anniversary Dialogues and the UN Friends of World Ocean Day/Week initiative and they are a Coordinating Partner of the UN2020 Campaign. Margo brings entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into United Nations discourse to foster support for the success of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, so we "Leave No One Behind."

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