

Webinar: Young women of faith and transformative leadership in the response to COVID-19: An Intergenerational conversation

30 June 2020 (9:30-10:30AM)



Name: Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

Position: Executive Director, UN Women

Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. She was sworn into office on 19 August 2013 and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this position, having devoted her career to issues of human rights, equality and social justice. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka has worked in government and civil society, and with the private sector, and was actively involved in the struggle to end apartheid in her home country of South Africa. From 2005 to 2008, she served as Deputy President of South Africa, overseeing programmes to combat poverty and bring the advantages of a growing economy to the poor, with a particular focus on women. Prior to this, she served as Minister of Minerals and Energy from 1999 to 2005 and Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry from 1996 to 1999. She was a Member of Parliament from 1994 to 1996 as part of South Africa's first democratic government. MS. Mlambo-Ngcuka began her career as a teacher and gained international experience as a coordinator at the World YWCA in Geneva, where she established a global programme for young women. She is the founder of the Umlambo Foundation, which supports leadership and education. A longtime champion of women's rights, she is affiliated with several organizations devoted to education, women's empowerment and gender equality.



Name: Lopa Banerjee

Position: Director, Civil Society Division & Executive Coordinator, Generation Equality Forum, UN Women

Lopa Banerjee is the Director of the Civil Society Division at UN Women. She leads UN Women's work on partnering with, supporting and strengthening women's rights groups and civil society networks as well as their contribution, participation and influence in policy discussion at global, regional and national levels. Lopa's work focuses on partnership development with civil society organizations to influence global action on gender equality, in particular related to standard setting, policy discussion and stakeholder accountability. A gender and human rights thematic expert with substantive experience in social policy and governance issues across Asia and Africa, Lopa has worked for over 3 decades on international development, policy advocacy, communication and partnership building, across the UN and in the private sector in different countries. Lopa's areas of specialization include feminist policy advocacy and analysis, and inclusive partnership development and engagement. She lives in New York City.



Name: Katherine Marshall

Position: Fellow, Walsh School of Foreign Service; Executive Director of the World Faiths Development Dialogue; Senior Fellow at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs

Katherine Marshall is a senior fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, where she leads the center's work on religion and global development, and a professor of the practice of development, conflict, and religion in the Walsh School of Foreign Service. She helped to create and now serves as the executive director of the World Faiths Development Dialogue. Marshall, who worked at the World Bank from 1971 to 2006, has nearly five decades of experience on a wide range of development issues in Africa, Latin America, East Asia, and the Middle East, particularly those facing the world's poorest countries. She led the World Bank's faith and ethics initiative between 2000 and 2006. Katherine also serves on the boards of several NGOs and on advisory groups, including AVINA Americas, the International Shinto Foundation, the Niwano Peace Prize International Selection Committee, and the Opus Prize Foundation.



Name: Ruth Gopin

Position: Events and Projects Manager, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University

Ruth Gopin is the Events and Projects Manager for Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs. Before joining the Berkley Center in August 2019, Ruth worked as an independent contractor for the World Faiths Development Dialogue, primarily organizing and writing policy briefs for the G20 Interfaith Forum. Ruth has also worked for Ashoka, a non-profit dedicated to empowering changemakers.

In 2017-2018, Ruth was a Fellow at the Pardes Center for Judaism and Conflict Resolution, where she helped develop curriculum for a program called Mahloket Matters, which utilizes Jewish texts and wisdom to increase people's motivation and ability to understand and engage more constructively with opinions that differ from their own. She holds a B.A. in international development studies from McGill University.



Name: Jamie Ahksistowaki Medicine Crane

Position: Indigenous rights activist

Jamie Ahksistowaki Medicine Crane is an activist, advocate, educator, and multi-disciplinary artist. A Blackfoot woman from the Kainai and Piikani in Southern Alberta, she was raised with traditional ways of knowing and spirituality, which have given her strength and understanding. Her traditional name, Ahksistowaki, means “brave woman.”. A life-long activist, advocating for Indigenous rights, women’s rights, human rights and justice. Her work and leadership have enhanced several national advocacy initiatives to raise awareness to end violence against Indigenous women and girls. Deeply engaged in her community through empowerment, music, dance, and community development. Jamie has been involved with the YWCA for over 20 years, serving on the boards of YWCA Canada, YWCA Lethbridge, and as Vice-president of World YWCA board, as the first Indigenous woman from North America. Jamie is very passionate in education and is currently working with NorQuest College as a curriculum developer- in regards to Indigenous education, history and perspectives, building faculty capacity, supporting curriculum development and Indigenization strategy.



Name: Martine DUSHIME

Position: Youth Leader, Anglican Church of Burundi

Acting as the Vice President of a local NGO that empowers the Burundian youth to change mindsets and bring positive change in their communities, Ms. Dushime fights for gender equality and raises awareness to gender based violence. Before that, she led the youth group at the Anglican Church of Burundi, Saint Emmanuel Parish of Gikungu for four years. In August 2013, she received a women's elite award for her excellency in the sciences at Lycée du Saint Esprit. This award themed '*For women who will change the world*' as well as in acknowledgment of the stigma and injustice she faced in her community as a female orphan since the age of three which sparked her passion for gender equality. Through her struggle for women rights, she empowers other vulnerable girls to fight for a better future. Ms. Dushime is a fifth-year medical student at the University of Burundi and was a delegate for the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nation's delegation for the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2020.



Name: Talia Kaplan

Position: Rabbinical Student, Jewish Theological Seminary

Talia Kaplan is an organizer and educator studying for rabbinic ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Passionate about building spiritually rooted communities capable of effecting social change, she comes to New York from Washington, D.C., where she did interfaith immigration advocacy and facilitated experiential education programming for the Religious Action Center. Talia currently serves as the Program Director of JustCity, which focuses on the intersection of Judaism and justice, and volunteers as a ritual immersion guide with ImmerseNYC, a pluralistic, feminist organization.

Talia graduated Phi Beta Kappa with high honors from Wesleyan University, where she studied government, Jewish studies, and Middle Eastern studies and published writing on youth group education and collective memory, as well as gender in Jewish ritual. As part of her studies, she spent a semester at the University of Haifa and a semester at an egalitarian yeshiva in Jerusalem.



Name: Naomi WOYENGU

Position: Regional Coordinator-Young Women's Leadership Program in Asia and the Pacific, World YWCA

Naomi Woyengu is currently the Regional Coordinator for Young Women Leadership in Asia-Pacific region where she works very closely with young women from various countries to advocate for and progress young women's leadership as the center of human-rights work. An active member of the YWCA of Papua New Guinea, she specializes in co-designing, implementation and evaluation of leadership programmes. She strongly believes in the World YWCA model of young women leadership which talks about transforming formal and informal power structures to transform individuals, families, communities, countries, regions and the world. For past five years, she has delivered several trainings for young women through communities and national level on issues that matter to them - sexual and reproductive health and rights, climate and gender justice, and more. As a human-rights advocate Naomi has shared stories, opinions, experiences of young women at a number of national and international platforms, including CSW Pacific Feminist Forum, Triennial Conference for Pacific Women and Ministers of Women meeting in the past few years.