

# WITH US & FOR US

## Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises

### Speakers' Bios



#### **Jayathma Wickramanayake** *United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth*

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake was appointed as the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in June 2017 at the age of 26. She is the youngest senior official in the UN and the first woman to hold this position. In this role, Jayathma works to expand the UN's youth engagement and advocacy efforts across all four pillars of the organisation's work — sustainable development, human rights, peace and security, and humanitarian action — and serves as a representative of and advisor to the Secretary-General. Organisational.

In 2019 Jayathma was recognised by Time Magazine as one of the "Time 100 Next: Rising stars shaping the future" and in 2020 she was recognised by Forbes magazine as part of its "30 under 30" list.

Originally from Sri Lanka, Ms. Wickramanayake has worked extensively on youth development and participation, including playing a key role in transforming the youth development sector in her home country.

Prior to taking up her post, Ms. Wickramanayake was instrumental in creating the movement for civic and political engagement of young people, especially young women, in Sri Lanka through the "Hashtag Generation" movement. Previously, she advocated for global youth development on an international level including as the first-ever Sri Lankan Youth Delegate to the United Nations and as the youth lead negotiator and member of the International Youth Task Force of the World Conference on Youth 2014 where she played a critical role in mainstreaming youth in the Post-2015 Process and in the establishment of World Youth Skills Day.

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**Mark Lowcock**

***UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and  
Emergency Relief Coordinator***

Mark Lowcock of the United Kingdom assumed office as the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and Emergency Relief Coordinator in September 2017.

As chief coordinator of the world’s humanitarian response to urgent crises, Mr. Lowcock holds oversight for all emergencies requiring United Nations humanitarian assistance. He advocates in the United Nations Security Council for people affected by conflicts and disasters, and through discussions with Member States, donors and the media. He also mobilises resources for global humanitarian action, pooled funds and OCHA, and leads the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), a forum of United Nations and non-United Nations humanitarian organisations focused on strengthening humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Lowcock has more than 30 years of experience leading and managing responses to humanitarian crises across the globe, as well as wider strategic leadership in international development. Prior to taking up his role at OCHA, he was the Permanent Secretary of the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID).

Mr. Lowcock began his career at DFID (formerly the Overseas Development Administration) in 1985, and served in a range of roles, including postings in Kenya, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

He holds a Master of Science in Economics from the University of London and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and History from Oxford University. He is a chartered accountant.

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**Valentina Bianco Hormaechea**  
**Argentina, Youth Compact Champion – Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action**

Valentina Bianco Hormaechea is a human rights activist from Argentina, currently volunteering in Lesbos Island, Greece to work with young refugees. She has worked alongside young people for more than eight years in different capacities, including in the humanitarian crisis that Wichi indigenous people face in Salta Province, Argentina. In 2020 she was awarded one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons by Junior Chamber International Salta to contribute to human rights.

As a Fulbright scholar, Valentina graduated with a master's degree in Non-proliferation and Terrorism Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies. In 2019, she interned at the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre to work on the Syrian war and the UN Peacekeeping Operations. Since 2013, she has been an active member of the Argentinian Youth Organization for the United Nations as a Secretary of Youth Human Rights Advocacy and actively participated in initiatives related to youth empowerment, youth community mediation, inclusion youth-at-risk and gender equality.



**Henrietta H. Fore**  
**Executive Director, UNICEF**

Henrietta Fore became UNICEF's seventh Executive Director in 2018. In her more than four decades of public service, private sector and non-profit leadership career, she championed economic development, education, health, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. She served between 2001 and 2009 as the: first woman Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development and Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance; Under Secretary of State for Management; Chief Operating Officer for the U.S. Department of State; and Director of the U.S. Mint in the Department of the Treasury. Immediately prior to UNICEF, she was Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Holsman International, a manufacturing and investment company. She also served on the boards of a domestic and international public corporations. Immediately prior to her appointment with UNICEF, Ms. Fore was Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Holsman International, a manufacturing and investment company.

Ms. Fore has a Bachelor of Arts in History from Wellesley College and a Master of Science in Public Administration from the University of Northern Colorado. She is married and has four children.



### **Jan Egeland**

#### ***Secretary-General, The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)***

Mr. Jan Egeland has been Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) since August 2013, leading humanitarian operations with some 14,000 relief workers serving nine million people in need across the world. From 2015 to end 2018, he was Special Advisor to the UN mediation efforts in Syria and chaired the 23-nation humanitarian task force for the protection of and access to Syrian civilians.

Mr. Egeland served as UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator during 2003-2006, where he spearheaded a reform of the global humanitarian system. He has been Europe Director of Human Rights Watch (2011-13), Executive Director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (2007-11), was Secretary General of the Norwegian Red Cross (2002-03) and served as the UN Secretary General's Special Adviser for Colombia (1999-2001).

From 1990 to 1997, he was State Secretary in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he co-organized the Norwegian Channel that led to the Oslo Agreement between Israel and the PLO (1993) as well as peace agreements in Guatemala (1996) and elsewhere.

He has received a number of international awards. In 2006, Time Magazine named Egeland as one of the '100 people who shape our world'. His memoir "A Billion Lives" was published by Simon and Schuster in 2008.

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### **Shahidullah Zaland**

#### ***Afghanistan, Youth Compact Champion - Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action***

Shahidullah Zaland is an active young leader having background in community organization, response to and managing humanitarian crises, making social change for inclusion, and building peace and resolving conflicts. He obtained his bachelor degree in human sciences and literature.

Shahidullah has been actively working with many local, national and global entities and organizations both as professional and volunteer. For the last five years, he has participated in several leadership, management, capacity building and advocacy training and programmes which helped him to develop a great mindset and build a strong character which in turn had a positive impact on the activism and work.

He would describe himself as a dedicated person to making a most peaceful, harmonious and inclusive world. He has successfully implemented several community-based initiatives for contributing to the capacity building of his community change making youths.

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**Mary Ndiritu**  
*Global learning Consultant, ActionAid*

Mary Ndiritu, a feminist and a youth activist from Kenya with a specialty in capacity building and learning. Currently she serves as Global Learning Consultant for ActionAid with a focus on building and empowering young people - especially young women who are marginalized and vulnerable to crises.

Mary supports ActionAid's Global Platforms, which are youth hubs in currently 21 countries across South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. She helps build young people's knowledge and skills to take action against injustices in their communities.

Recently, Mary has been running global capacity development events for young people on Covid-19 response as a way to support the many young activists, youth organisations and young individuals who have taken action against the pandemic



**Nada Al-Nashif**  
*United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights*

Nada Al-Nashif was appointed United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights on 6 December 2019. Ms. Al-Nashif has over 30 years of experience within the United Nations system around the world. As an economist and development practitioner, Ms. Al-Nashif has led strategic organisational transformation processes.

From 2015-2020, Ms. Al-Nashif served as Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO in Paris. Prior to that, she served as Assistant Director-General/Regional Director of the International Labour Organization's Regional Office for Arab States, based in Beirut, Lebanon (2007–2014). She previously worked at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and in various headquarters and field assignments from 1992 until 2006.

She holds a B.A. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (1987) from Oxford University and a Master's in Public Policy (1991) from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Ms. Al-Nashif is bilingual in English and Arabic, with working knowledge of French.



### **Mai Nasrallah**

#### ***Youth Advisor-Jordan, The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)***

Mai Nasrallah is a Youth Advisor for the Norwegian Refugee Council in Jordan. The programme works through partnerships to provide structured and accredited learning pathways for young people towards social engagement, employability and further education in camps and in hosting communities. Mai holds an MSc in human rights from London School of Economics and Political Science.



### **Sima Sami Bahous, PhD**

#### ***Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations***

Dr. Sima Sami Bahous was appointed as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations in New York in August 2016. Prior to this position she served in ministerial posts in Jordan and in high level Arab League and United Nations positions. She has a distinguished career in public service, politics, multilateral diplomacy, media and communication, and international development cooperation.

From June 2012 till August 2016 Dr. Bahous served as the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States.

From 2008 to 2012, Dr. Bahous served as Assistant Secretary-General at the League of Arab States and headed the Social Development Sector.

From 2001-2008, Dr. Bahous served in two ministerial level posts in Jordan: as Adviser to HM King Abdullah at the Royal Hashemite Court (2005-2006), and as President of the Higher Media Council (2006-2008). She also served as Media Advisor and Head of His Majesty King Abdullah's Media and Information Division at the Royal Hashemite Court (2001-2005).

Between 1986 and 2001 Dr. Bahous held various positions which included Executive Director of the King Hussein Foundation and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Professor of Development and Communication at Yarmouk University and Petra University, member of the Board of Trustees of a number of academic, media and NGO organizations, including the Jordan University for Science and Technology, Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, the Jordan River Foundation, the Higher Population Council and the Higher Commission for Women. She also worked in the fields of Development and Communication with a number of UN Organizations in Jordan and other Arab countries.





### **Tirtha Raj Koirala**

#### ***Nepal, Youth Compact Champion - Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action***

Tirtha Raj is the Program Coordinator at Youth Advocacy Nepal(YAN), a youth-led movement-based organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights of young people through advocacy, campaigns and capacity development. He is also the founder of a group named "HerPad" that works on promoting dignified menstruation by providing awareness related to menstruation and menstrual hygiene, which also promotes reusable sanitary pads by providing training on the ways to prepare reusable pads using materials available at home.

Tirtha Raj Koirala is a Public Health graduate and a Public Health Advocate. He loves to interact with young people and spread his knowledge on Public Health. He wishes to see a society that adopts sustainability and promotes healthy life through public health approaches.

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### **Niels Annen**

#### ***Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office Germany***

Since 14 March 2018 Niels Annen has been Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office. Prior to his current position he served several years as spokesperson on foreign affairs of the SPD Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag. Niels Annen was a member of the SPD's executive committee from 2003 to 2019.

His main foci of interest are Transatlantic relations and the Middle East as well as China and Latin America. From 2014 to 2018 Mr. Annen also chaired the Bundestag's Parliamentarian Friendship Group for Relations with the States of South Asia. As an advocate for a stronger German role in international diplomacy, he supports multilateral engagement as a tool for resolving today's conflicts and crises and protecting human rights.

Niels Annen was a senior resident fellow with the German Marshall Fund in Washington, D.C. (2010 to 2011), and a researcher at the International Policy Analysis unit of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (2011 to 2013). From 2001 to 2004 he was chairman of the Federal Executive Board of the Young Socialists. Niels Annen holds a Master of International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University.

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**Martin Bille Hermann**  
*Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations*

Martin Bille Hermann took up his post as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations on 1 January 2019.

Before taking up his position, Ambassador Martin Bille Hermann served as State Secretary for Development Policy in the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This position is sometimes referred to as 'Head of DANIDA'. DANIDA is the brand name for Danish Development Cooperation.

Prior to this appointment, Martin Bille Hermann served as Ambassador to Indonesia and was also accredited to East Timor and Papua New Guinea.

Before his appointment as Ambassador, Martin Bille Hermann held several positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as Head of Department for Asia and the Pacific Ocean region. Before joining the Danish Foreign Service, Martin worked for UNDP in Bhutan.

Martin Bille Hermann is an economist by profession, and also holds a Masters Degree in Development Management from London School of Economics.



**Nujeen Mustafa**  
*Germany, Youth Refugee and Disabilities Rights Advocate*

Nujeen Mustafa is an incredible young woman who, at just sixteen, made the 3,500-mile journey from Syria to Germany in a steel wheelchair. Nujeen was born with cerebral palsy and spent the majority of her life confined to her apartment in Aleppo, Syria, where she taught herself English watching shows on TV.

As war broke out, she and her family were forced to flee, first to her native Kobane, then Turkey. Her family didn't have enough money for them all to make it to safety in Germany, where her brother lives, so her parents stayed in Turkey while she set out with her sister across the Mediterranean, braving inconceivable odds for the chance to have a normal life and an education.

Nujeen's optimism and defiance when confronting all of her challenges have propelled this young refugee from Syria into the spotlight as the human face of an increasingly dehumanised crisis. Since moving to Germany, Nujeen has continued to tell her remarkable story and to capture the hearts of all who hear her speak.





## **Filippo Grandi**

### ***United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees***

Filippo Grandi became the 11th United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 1 January 2016. He was elected by the UN General Assembly to serve a five-year term, until 31 December 2020. In November 2020 the General Assembly extended the High Commissioner's mandate until 30 June 2023.

As High Commissioner, he heads one of the world's largest humanitarian organizations. UNHCR has twice won the Nobel Peace Prize. Its 17,000-strong workforce spans more than 130 countries providing protection and assistance to nearly 80 million refugees, returnees, internally displaced people and stateless persons. Some 90 per cent of UNHCR personnel work in the field, often in difficult and dangerous duty stations. The organization's needs-based budget for 2021 is US \$8.7 billion and another US \$ 455 million in additional needs for its COVID19 related activities.

Before being elected High Commissioner, Grandi had been engaged in international cooperation for over 30 years, focusing on refugee and humanitarian work. He served as Commissioner-General of the UN Agency for Palestine refugees, UNRWA, from 2010 to 2014, after having been the organization's Deputy Commissioner-General since 2005. Prior to that, Grandi served as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan, following a long career first with NGOs and later with UNHCR in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and at the organization's Geneva headquarters.

Grandi was born in Milan in 1957. He holds a degree in modern history from the State University in Milan, a BA in Philosophy from the Gregorian University in Rome, as well as an honorary doctorate from the University of Coventry.



## **Ambassador Ib Petersen**

### ***Deputy Executive Director (Management), UNFPA***

Mr. Ib Petersen of Denmark is UNFPA's Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, Management.

Mr. Petersen recently served as Director for the Department of Migration, Conflict and Stabilisation of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations from 2013-2019.

He started his long-serving career with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1985. Throughout his service, he held the positions of State Secretary of Development Cooperation in 2007-2009 and State Secretary for Development Policy from 2009-2013.

He holds a master's degree in Political Science from the University of Aarhus.



### **Bas van Rossum**

***Global Youth President and Member of the Governing Board, The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies***

Bas van Rossum is the Chair of the Youth Commission, and the youngest ever elected member of the Governing Board at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) where he represents the interests of young leaders, volunteers and members of affected communities in policy-making. He holds over ten years of experience in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement through various leadership roles, both nationally and internationally, focusing on empowering and enabling young people to make a difference in their lives, and that of others.

In addition, Bas is a manager at Deloitte, focused on supporting non-governmental, multilateral and bilateral organisations to analyse their data into evidence-based programming and advocacy decision-making. Bas' his achievements have been recognised globally, as among others, an honouree of the Forbes 30 Under 30 list.

He holds a master's in Business Administration from the University of Amsterdam.



### **Tijmen Rooseboom**

***Ambassador Youth, Education and Work, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands***

Tijmen Rooseboom is the Ambassador for Youth, Education and Work at the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He works on the ambition of the Netherlands to increasingly put the challenges and opportunities of young people at the heart of its international cooperation, as stipulated in the Youth at Heart strategy and the recently organized Youth at Heart virtual forum.

Prior, Mr. Rooseboom worked at the Dutch Development Bank and as the Deputy Ambassador to Somalia; also, for the EU NAVFOR mission in Kenya and the UN Peacekeeping Missions in South-Sudan and Ivory Coast.

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**Dr. Michael M. Crow**  
***President, Arizona State University***

Dr. Michael M. Crow is an educator, knowledge enterprise architect, science and technology policy scholar and higher education leader. He became the sixteenth president of Arizona State University in July 2002 and has spearheaded ASU's rapid and ground-breaking transformative evolution into one of the world's best public metropolitan research universities. As a model "New American University," ASU simultaneously demonstrates comprehensive excellence, inclusivity representative of the ethnic and socioeconomic diversity of the United States, and consequential societal impact.

Lauded as the "#1 most innovative school in the nation by U.S. News & World Report (2016-2020), ASU is a student-centric, technology-enabled university focused on complex global challenges related to sustainability, economic competitiveness, social embeddedness, entrepreneurship and global engagement. Under Dr. Crow's leadership, ASU has established twenty-five new transdisciplinary schools, including the School of Earth and Space Exploration, the School for the Future of Innovation in Society and the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, and launched trailblazing multidisciplinary initiatives including the Biodesign Institute, the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, and important initiatives in the humanities and social sciences.



**Julia Sanchez**  
***Secretary General, ActionAid***

Julia Sanchez is the new Secretary-General of ActionAid International since March 1, 2020. She is a development practitioner, feminist, and environmentalist who has been promoting equity and sustainable development for over 25 years. She has extensive experience in top-level international development program management, including many years working in developing countries with international partners and donors. Julia was recently President-CEO of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (2011-2018), a candidate for the Canadian Parliament (2019), and has also worked on the secretariat of a global climate change campaign (2009-2011) and as a senior researcher with the labour movement (2019). She is an active supporter of national and global civil society coalitions. Julia is currently serving as the Chair of the Board of CIVICUS and was previously Treasurer from 2016 to 2019. She also served as Co-Chair of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness, among others. Julia is an economist and political scientist. She holds an MA (in Economics) from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She is trilingual and has lived and worked in numerous countries in North and Latin America, Asia and Africa.



**Charles Keer Deng**  
***New York, Student and Disability Rights Advocate***

Keer Aleu Deng is an activist and disability rights advocate, former United Nations intern for Talk Radio News, and a New York City student. He was born into an agriculturalist Dinka family near a South Sudanese city of Aweil, Northern Bahr al-Ghazal. During the early 2000s civil war, Keer and his mother were taken up as slaves in Darfur, was deliberately blinded and separated from his family at the age of 12. Keer miraculously found himself in the care of Ellen Ratnor and Christian Solidarity International (CSI) and was brought to the United States in 2011 for eye rehabilitation surgery.

After the unsuccessful eye surgery to recover his sight, Keer was given the option to stay in the United States to study. He started at Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, where he attended his first classes in the American education system. It was a major transition for Keer to go from living as a visually impaired refugee and orphan in South Sudan to living self-sufficiently in a major city of the United States, but he has braved it well and has been wildly successful in his journey of advocacy for the rights of fellow people with disabilities. Keer's story has been the motivation behind his life's work, and now navigating education with a visual impairment gives him a sense of real vision and purpose. He hopes to develop a school in his native country for the people with disabilities, while he continues to educate influencers about refugees' rights in South Sudan and neighbouring East African countries.

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