

Peace Direct Global Advisory Council



Quscondy-Mohamed is a Regional Adviser at Freedom House, where he focuses on building and supporting grassroots human rights initiatives to amplify local voices and improve evidence-based self-advocacy. He was a Research and Advocacy intern in Washington with Peace Direct in the summer of 2017, where he implemented Sudan advocacy and research activities. Quscondy-Mohamed spent more than 10 years in the East and Horn of Africa Sudan, Ethiopia, and Uganda, working on peacebuilding,

youth leadership, and human rights advocacy. He was the founding staff of Sudan Democracy First Group (SDFG), a Sudanese advocacy and think tank organization, where he supported youth and women-led initiatives with leadership programs. Before joining SDFG, he was a Sudan Human Rights Monitoring Associate at the African Center for Peace and Justice Studies (ACJPS). Quscondy-Mohamed began his human rights and peace activism at Khartoum university in 2003, where he co-founded the Darfur Students Movement against the genocide in Darfur. He is the winner of the Civil Society Leadership Award from the Open Society Foundation in 2016 for his role in youth and civil society leadership for peace and democracy in Sudan.

Rehema Mussanzi has been the Coordinator of Centre Resolution Conflicts (CRC) since June 2019. CRC is an NGO of peace, justice, and community development active in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu, eastern DR Congo, since 1997. The organisation's vision is that of a world of peace and love with a mission of helping individuals, communities, and institutions to resolve their conflicts peacefully in order to create environments that are conducive to community development. CRC's work focuses on rebuilding trust between communities, reintegrating ex-combatants and former child soldiers, training people from different tribes to live together peacefully, and among others. Rehema works closely with CRC's board, directors, and partners in overseeing the development and implementation of the organisation's short, medium, and long-term strategies. Prior to joining CRC, Rehema worked in banking and medical device consulting in the UK and the Netherlands respectively.





Binalakshmi "Bina" Nepram is an indigenous scholar and human rights defender, whose work focuses on deepening democracy and championing women-led peace, security, and disarmament in Manipur, Northeast India, and South Asia. She is the founder of three organizations: the Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network, the Control Arms Foundation of India, and the Global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples, Gender Justice, and Peace and authored and edited five books, including *Deepening Democracy, Diversity, and Women's Rights in India* (2019), *Where Are Our Women in Decision Making?* (2016), and *South Asia's Fractured Frontier* (2002). Her work has garnered international recognition,

including the Anna Politkovskaya Award (2018), Women have Wings Award (2016), CNN IBN Real Heroes Award (2011), Ashoka Social Innovators Fellowship (2011), and the Sean MacBride Peace Prize (2010).

In 2013, the U.K.-based Action on Armed Violence named her one of "100 most influential people in the world working in armed violence reduction." Ms. Nepram served as an IIE-SRF Visiting Scholar at Connecticut College in 2018–2019 and at Columbia University in 2017–2018. She is a board member of the International Peace Bureau, the 1910 Nobel Peace Laureate.

Sawssan Abou Zahr is an independent Lebanese journalist who perceives her profession as a medium to promote democracy, peace and human rights and exert social activism. Her writings in Arabic focused on Arab Spring issues and emerging democracies, women causes and human rights, Syrian and Palestinians refugees and Islamic radical movements. Through her work, she covered political and human rights issues from several countries around the world and notably from Afghanistan and Libya, where she focused on new political systems, women rights and peace building efforts after the wounds of war. Sawssan works on mapping local peacebuilding actors in the Middle East as a local partner in Lebanon for Peace Direct. She served in 2016 and 2018 as a jury member for Tomorrow's Peacebuilders Award. She was a speaker at World Press Freedom Day in Jakarta in 2017 on portrayal of Syrian refugees in Lebanese media, a topic she is still following in her work. She is a 2018 BEYOND BORDERS fellow on UN Resolution 1325 and women in conflict.

Sawssan works with Women Human Rights Defenders in the MENA region and the regional coalition supporting them.





Kessy Martine EKOMO-SOIGNET has 10 years of experience in the field of development and research on issues of peace and security and more specifically on youth and civil society in Central African Republic. She is a community leader and founder of the national NGO URU, which works for the effective participation of young people in the peace and recovery process in the Central African Republic. She is also the LPE for Peace Direct in the Central African Republic. In 2015, she was a member of the civil society expert group that helped update the United Nations Peace Building Architecture (PBA), sponsored by the Security Council.

In 2016, she was appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations (Ban Ki-moon) as an expert on the Study on Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (Youth, Peace and Security). She has since been a member of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security. Through its commitment, it becomes the focal point of the United Nations Headquarters for the implementation of Agenda 2250 in the Central African Republic and briefed, in plenary session, the Security Council on the urgency of strengthening efforts to help young people contribute effectively to the resolution and prevention of conflicts around the world. She worked as a national consultant to the government of the Central African Republic in the development of its first national strategy for the prevention of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism. Since then, she has accompanied the strategy implementation committee by supporting training by the security forces and civil society.

Séverine Autesserre is an award-winning author, peacebuilder, and researcher, as well as a Professor of Political Science at Barnard College, Columbia University. She is the author of *The Trouble with the Congo* and *Peaceland*, in addition to articles for publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Foreign Policy*.

Autesserre has been involved intimately in the world of international aid for more than twenty years. She has conducted research in twelve different conflict zones, from Colombia to Somalia to Israel and the Palestinian territories. She has worked for Doctors Without Borders in places like Afghanistan and Congo, and at the United Nations headquarters in the United States. Her research has helped shape the intervention strategies of several United Nations departments, foreign affairs ministries, and non-governmental organizations, as well as numerous philanthropists and activists. She has also been a featured speaker at the World Summit of Nobel



Peace Laureates and the U.S. House of Representatives. For more information and updates on her work, please see her website www.severineautesserre.com or follow her on Twitter at @SeverineAR.



Marc Batac is a peacebuilder and organiser-activist based in the Philippines. He is the Programmes Manager of the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), a Philippines-based regional peace building and advocacy institution promoting human security, democratization and people-to-people solidarity, and working towards inclusive peace processes and conflict transformation in Southeast Asia. He is also the

Regional Liaison Officer for the GPPAC-Southeast Asia network, Steering Group member-at-large of the Generation Peace Youth Movement-Philippines, and head of resource development team of the Network of Young Democratic Asians (NOYDA). He focuses on the practice and study of contentious politics, conflict/violence and peace processes, and social movements.

Peacebuilder, Environmental Activist and Pan-Africanist, **Landry Ninteretse** studied communication and international development in Burundi and Uganda. Having grown up in a context of war and conflicts, Landry has been working since 2007 to build a generation of peacebuilders, supported by Peace Direct. Although most of his work has been targeting youths, his experience and connections led him to form a national network of 20 civil society groups working on an early warning and early response project following the 2015 electoral and political crisis.

Landry is also an active member of several regional and environmental networks. He has been working with 350.org since 2009 to build and grow the regional climate movement. In 2019, he helped launch AfrikaVuka a regional platform of over 100 civil society groups working to stop fossil fuels development and promoting alternative clean energy solutions across Africa. He currently serves as the 350.org Africa Regional Director.





Lina María Jaramillo is a Colombian woman, mother, peacebuilder, political scientist, and master's in international development. As a recipient of the Chevening scholarship for postgraduate studies in the United Kingdom, Lina conducted an analysis of youth-led peacebuilding initiatives implemented by civil society groups in Cyprus. Some years later she was awarded by the Korean Cooperation Agency with a training course in local economic empowerment in South Korea, following the experience of post-war recovery of this country. In Colombia Lina has worked for more than 10 years on contributing to implementing projects related to peacebuilding, conflict prevention, poverty reduction and protection of migrant's human rights. She has authored school materials on peacebuilding for children and has supported different young-led peacebuilding initiatives, including the facilitation of the global forum, Young Peacebuilders Forum 2019. During the last three years Lina contributed to monitoring the implementation of the peace agreement in Colombia and she has worked as local peacebuilding

expert at Peace Insight for the last 5 years.

Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge

is a founder of Embrace Dignity, a women's human rights NGO, campaigning for the enactment of the Equality Law to end the oppressive prostitution system. She taught a 2020 Spring Semester Course on South Africa's Peaceful Transition at Haverford College, to a diverse group of students from the Tri-Colleges (Haverford, Bryn



Mawr and Swarthmore Colleges). The course, named "After the Sunset - Lessons in Transition to Peace - The South African Example" provided an opportunity to reflect on the achievements and shortcomings of the negotiated settlement, thirty years into that transition. She was one of few women at the negotiations for South Africa's transition as part of CODESA (the Convention for a Democratic South Africa) and as a Member of Parliament and the Executive in the transition from apartheid, she served for fifteen years as a Member of Parliament in the South African parliament (1994 – 2009). In 2008 she was elected Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. Prior to that she served as Deputy Minister of Defence and as Deputy Minister of Health. Nozizwe was a delegate at

the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), a multi-party negotiations platform of all political stakeholders, which negotiated South Africa's transition from apartheid. During the transition she worked as Managing Secretary of the Transitional Executive Council's Subcouncil on the Status of Women. In 1994 she was elected onto the Constituent Assembly which drafted and adopted South Africa's new Constitution. She is a recipient of the Tanenbaum Peacemakers Award and an honorary doctorate from Haverford College, Pennsylvania. She has a Bachelor of Social Science honours degree from the University of Cape Town.



Gulalai Ismail is the founder and Chairperson of Aware Girls; a young women-led organisation working towards gender equality and peace which she established at the age of 16. She is a highly motivated women's rights and peace expert, founder of the first even young women and girls led organisation Aware Girls working for women empowerment, peacebuilding and countering violent extremism, with over 13 years of experience of human rights and peace work. She is among the young people who advocated for a UN Security Council Resolution on "Youth, Peace and Security #2250". She is now advocating for Youth Peace Policy of FATA and Khyber Pakhunkhwa. In 2009, she established a Youth Peace Network in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Afghanistan to counter violent extremism through promoting peace activism among young people,

preventing young people from joining extremism groups, promoting non-violence and pluralism and engaging young women in peacebuilding process. In 2015 she extended Youth Peace Network to Afghanistan to work with young people of Afghanistan on non-violence and conflict resolution. In 2017 she established Pak-Afghan Pul-e-Niswan Baraye Aman (Pak-Afghan Women Peace Network) to bridge women peace activists of Pakistan and Afghanistan for countering radicalization and violent extremism. She has received 2009 YouthActionNet Fellowship, 2012 International Democracy Award, 2014 Humanist of the Year Award, 2015 Commonwealth Youth Award for her efforts in building peace, gender equality, and development. She has been recognized among 100 Leading Global Thinkers by Foreign Policy, 2013 and among "30 Under 30" youth activists by National Endowment for Democracy, USA. She received Chirac Peace Prize for her work on building peace, conflict resolution and countering violent extremism.

Rosalba Ato Oywa has many years of experience in rural development, organisational Development, humanitarian aid, research and documentation, peace-building/conflict transformation. Rosalba founded People's Voice for Peace (PVP), a local NGO based in Gulu City, Northern Uganda together with other concerned women. The organisation was born out of the need to give voice to the voiceless and contribute to prevention of violence, peace building and post-



conflict recovery processes through promoting peace work that exploit people's knowledge, experiences, culture and traditions to forge peace and harmony amongst families, communities and groups. The activities include advocacy and influencing; provision of holistic psychosocial support to severely traumatized individuals and groups; facilitating the community reintegration of formerly abducted children by rebels groups; skills training for conflict transformation/peace building; encouraging the representation of local grassroots perspectives and inclusion of women and their organisations to prevent violence, manage and resolve conflicts and violations of their rights.

The amplification of people's voice was achieved by mobilizing and engaging victims in undertaking thematic participatory research projects and documenting oral testimonies of people's experiences to analyse the impact of armed conflict on ordinary people. The analytical foundation was utilized as the basis for the development of a long-term proactive preparedness including the development of appropriate interventions (provision of practical support, advocacy, lobbying and activism), skills and knowledge transfers, cooperative partnership building, coordination and organization development to support long-term involvement and sustainability.

The role played in peace building at different levels have earned her international acknowledgement and recognition to be among the **"2005 1,000 Women Nobel Peace Prize Award.**