Global Youth Summit
23 -25 April 2021
globalyouthmobilization.org

Speakers Information

COVID-19 and Youth: How the Pandemic Changed Our Lives
(Friday, 23 April)

Estrella Gutierrez, WAGGGS
Ms Gutierrez is a young doctor who spent the last year fighting Covid as a frontline worker in a hospital in Houston. She joined Guías de México at age 6, when her mom opened a group in her city. Guías de Mexico is a member organisation of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). Throughout her girl guiding journey, Ms Gutierrez represented Guías de México at events internationally in Canada, Switzerland, Grenada, Guatemala and Costa Rica, and at only 19, she was elected to the Executive Board of the WAGGGS Latin-American Gathering, where young women leaders raised their voices and shared their ideas on how they can contribute to shaping a better world. At the most recent WAGGGS Western Hemisphere Regional Conference, she led the Cultural Connections program. This program empowered young women from around the world to continue to grow on their leadership journey. Ms Gutierrez is completely convinced that being a Girl Guide made a difference during the pandemic as Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting gives you a package of tools that you can use at any time. “You work for the good of everyone and it allows you to zoom out and focus on the bigger picture, thinking about solutions. It 100% made a difference to how I approached my experience. It was not just one week, not one month -- it was almost a year. I was lucky to serve and learn.” – Estrella Gutierrez.

Tamarus Darby Jr, YMCA
For several years, Mr Darby Jr has focused his career path and academic pursuits on politics and law because he comes from a long line of lawyers, judges, police officers, politicians and magistrates. This gave him the ground to stand on when it comes to being a voice to and for the people, but also gives him knowledge of how local and state governments are run. He wants to be able to work on major issues such as climate change, abortion, equal rights, health care, immigration, economic disparities and the way the education and criminal justice systems are run. His ability to focus with clarity and precision on any issue that he is presented with to bring about the best solution possible along with his commitment to serve others in need allows him to help many get through their rough stages in life. He is an open-minded, compassionate and charismatic person and has put others before himself and righteousness before his own desires. Mr Darby Jr is an active member of his local YMCA branch.

Elahi Rawshan, IFRC
MD Elahi Rawshan has joined the Red Cross Red Crescent movement in 2005 at the age of 10 as a school volunteer. Over the years, he has served the movement on many fronts and became the Vice-chair of the first-ever National Youth Commission of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS). At present, Mr Rawshan is representing BDRCS at the South Asia Youth Network (SAYN) of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Disaster response, community development, social inclusion, youth empowerment, policy advocacy, mental health and educational research are some of his key areas of work. Mr Rawshan has been playing a significant role in combatting the new coronavirus pandemic from the very beginning. He was one of the first responders of the BDRCS COVID-19 operation as well as an active member of the team to educate volunteers about the response procedures. Mr Rawshan is an inclusion activist and highly passionate about disability and gender inclusion. He completed his bachelor’s in Special Education followed by his Master’s in Educational Psychology &
Guidance. He is now working at the Headquarters of the world’s largest NGO BRAC, as an Inclusion Specialist. Mr Rawshan is also an alumnus of the Swedish Institute Leader Lab (Gender Advocate).

**Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, COVID-19 Technical Lead, World Health Organization**

Maria Van Kerkhove, PhD is an infectious disease epidemiologist and the COVID-19 Technical Lead at World Health Organization (WHO).

Dr Van Kerkhove specializes in outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging pathogens. She completed her undergraduate degree at Cornell University, a MS Degree at Stanford University, and a PhD in infectious disease epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Apart from being the Technical Lead for COVID-19, Dr Van Kerkhove is also the Head of the Emerging Diseases and Zoonoses Unit and the MERS-CoV Technical Lead in the World Health Organization’s Health Emergency Program.

Dr Van Kerkhove’s main research interests include zoonotic, respiratory and emerging/re-emerging viruses such as avian influenza, MERS-CoV, Ebola, Marburg, plague and Zika. She is particularly interested in investigating factors associated with transmission between animals and humans, the epidemiology of zoonotic pathogens, and ensuring research directly informs public health policies for action.

Prior to WHO, Dr Van Kerkhove was the Head of the Outbreak Investigation Task Force at Institut Pasteur’s Center for Global Health where she was responsible for establishing public health rapid response teams for infectious disease outbreaks. She was previously employed by Imperial College London in the MRC Center for Outbreak Analysis and Modelling where she worked closely with WHO on influenza, yellow fever, meningitis, MERS-CoV and Ebola Virus Disease.

**Session: Building Youth Movements (Friday, 23 April)**

**Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization**

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected WHO Director-General for a five-year term by WHO Member States at the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017. In doing so, he was the first WHO Director-General elected from among multiple candidates by the World Health Assembly, and was the first person from the WHO African Region to head the world’s leading public health agency.

Born in the Eritrean city of Asmara, Dr Tedros graduated from the University of Asmara with a Bachelor of Biology, before earning a Master of Science (MSc) in Immunology of Infectious Diseases from the University of London, a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Community Health from the University of Nottingham and an Honorary Fellowship from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Following his studies, Dr Tedros returned to Ethiopia to support the delivery of health services, first working as a field-level malarialogist, before heading a regional health service and later serving in Ethiopia’s federal government for over a decade as Minister of Health and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

As Minister of Health from 2005 to 2012, he led a comprehensive reform of the country’s health system, built on the foundation of universal health coverage and provision of services to all people, even in the most remote areas.

Under his leadership, Ethiopia expanded its health infrastructure, developed innovative health financing mechanisms, and expanded its health workforce. A major component of reforms he drove was the creation of a primary health care extension programme that deployed 40 000 female health workers throughout the country. A significant result was an approximate 60% reduction in child and maternal mortality compared to 2000 levels.

As Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012 to 2016, he elevated health as a political issue nationally, regionally and globally. In this role, he led efforts to negotiate the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in which 193 countries committed to the financing necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prior to his election as Director-General of WHO, Dr Tedros held many leadership positions in global health, including as Chair of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, Chair of the
Roll Back Malaria Partnership, and Co-chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Board.

After taking office as WHO Director-General on 1 July 2017, Dr Tedros initiated the most significant **transformation** in the Organization’s history, which has generated a wide range of achievements.

**Dr Shakira Choonara, Independent Public Health Practitioner**

Dr Choonara is an award-winning independent public health practitioner, bold activist, renowned public speaker and Operation Smile Ambassador for South Africa (SA). She is a dynamic and budding social entrepreneur, the recent founder of a development consultancy firm. In 2018-2020 she served on the inaugural African Union Youth Council and is presently the AMREF Africa AHAIC Commissioner for universal health coverage. This past year she has also served as the Guest Editor of the Feminist Journal, Agenda published by Taylor and Francis.

Dr Choonara is a recipient of a number of prestigious awards including being listed as the Mail and Guardian 50 Most Powerful Women, Destiny Magazine’s Most Powerful Woman under 40, 100 influential Young Africans and the Woman of the Year in Health in SA.

Dr Choonara attained her PhD (Public Health) at the age of 27, an Honours (Cum Laude) and Masters in Demography from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. She is widely recognized for her work and experience in health policy and systems research, specifically universal health coverage, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health rights, non-communicable diseases, HIV and youth development.

**Ehab Badwi, Syrian Youth Assembly and WOSM**

Mr Badwi is the Founder and President of the Syrian Youth Assembly and member of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY). He’s a strong believer in the role of young people in transforming societies, and is an advocate for young people’s involvement in peacebuilding processes.

He is one of the key informants in the "The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security" and served as a youth representative at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul.

Mr Badwi is a Youth Representative for the World Organization of the Scout Movement, one of the faces of the Movement who represent a network of 54 million Scouts around the world.

A Syrian by birth, he has worked and studied in the Ivory Coast, Turkey, and now Germany, where he studies Political Science.

**Zeineb Dahmoul, WAGGGS**

Zaineb Dahmoul is a youth advocate with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), based in M’saken, Tunisia. She speaks Arabic, French, and English.

Zaineb is a national spokesperson and advocate for the promotion of the global sustainable development goals (SDGs). She participated at the commission on the Status of Women 65 (CSW65). She has been a leader in launching advocacy campaigns across Tunisia, speaking to groups of young women and men on the importance of encouraging Youth activism.

Zaineb is a Business Studies student, a volunteer for the Tunisian Future Leaders project, and works directly on the international Scouting partnership between Tunisia and Denmark. She runs regular programmes with youth groups, as a Girl Scout leader with Les Scouts Tunisiens, on the importance of freedom of speech, youth activism, climate activism, and consumerism.
Prashan de Visser, Sri Lanka Unites and Global Unites

Prashan is the Founder and President of Sri Lanka Unites (www.srilankaunites.org), a youth movement for hope and reconciliation, in Sri Lanka. He is also the Founder and President of Global Unites (www.globalunites.org), an international youth movement for transforming conflict, with established and emerging movements in 13 countries across the world. These movements collectively directly engages over half a million youth (pre-COVID-19) 300,000 youth across the world each year. Recently Sri Lanka Unites was named one of the Top 20 youth movements of the Commonwealth region and one of the Top 8 Youth movement models to follow. Prashan was the recipient of the Queen’s “Points of Light” award in 2018, awarded by Her Majesty the Queen of England for his exemplary voluntary service to his nation through his work at Sri Lanka Unites and Global Unites.

Prashan completed his MA at the University of Notre Dame in Peace Studies and Public Policy. He was selected as a TEDx speaker at UND and has been featured on NBC, BBC and Al Jazeera for his innovative peacebuilding approach. Prashan worked part time as a TV host on Channel One Sri Lanka. He was the host of Good Morning Sri Lanka (2009-2012). He was also the co-host and co-producer of a foreign policy show named Global Perspectives, which was the highest rated show of the year 2011 on Channel one. Prashan is also an international speaker and trainer in conflict transformation and proactive youth leadership. He has spoken at international youth conferences in Kenya, Pakistan, India, Australia, Uganda, Rwanda, DRC, Malaysia, Indonesia, Canada, UK and USA.

Session: Achieving Policy Change from the Inside (Saturday, 24 April)

Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN 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 organization’s work — sustainable development, human rights, peace and security, and humanitarian action — and serves as a representative of and advisor to the Secretary-General.

In 2019 Jayathma was recognized by Time Magazine as one of the “Time 100 Next: Rising stars shaping the future” and in 2020 she was recognized 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.
Djuna Bernard, Vice-President, Chamber of Deputies, Luxembourg

Djuna Bernard is a Luxembourgish Green Party (dèi gréng) politician. She has been an MP since 2018 and has held the office of Deputy Speaker of Parliament since October 2019.

As the former Chairperson of the Conférence Générale de la Jeunesse (General Conference of Luxembourg Youth Organisations), she is an advocate for social justice and shows a strong commitment to defending the rights of children and young people. This commitment already became apparent during her pre-parliamentary career during which she worked as teaching assistant and later as project manager for both the Red Cross and the St. Elisabeth Foundation. In Parliament she assumes the role of Deputy Chair of the Committee for Education, Childhood, Youth, Higher Education and Research.

Since 2019 she has been the co-Chair of the Luxembourg Green Party and currently, she also chairs the Committee on Culture in Parliament.

She has been a committed member of Fédération Nationale des Eclaireurs et Eclaireuses du Luxembourg, the National Guides' and Scouts' Federation since a young age and was proud to be elected Chairperson of the Interparliamentary Scouts' Federation in 2018.

Safaath Ahmed Zahir, Founder, Women and Democracy, Maldives

Safaath Ahmed Zahir is a leading women’s rights activist dedicated to elevating the role of women in her country. Through her civil society activism, she has pioneered efforts to raise the profile of women’s economic empowerment in the Maldives.

“I come from a household of all women, but a society where men are in charge,” a reality that lit a fire in Safaath from a young age. After completing her studies abroad, the 25-year-old “democracy-driven, proud feminist” returned to the Maldives to lead Women on Boards, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting gender diversity in the workplace and inspiring Maldivian women to accelerate to the next level, no matter their position or economic standing. Through capacity development workshops, scholarship programs and advocacy campaigns, Women on Boards has pioneered efforts to raise the profile of women’s economic empowerment in the Maldives.

Building on this success, Safaath is establishing the NGO Women and Democracy, drawing lessons from Women on Boards to increase female representation in policy and decision-making.

Safaath believes that equitable participation of women in politics and government is essential to building and sustaining democracy. Her version of success: “More women in parliament, more women in policy-making, more women as Ministers, and more women Presidents.”

Emma Theofelus, Deputy Minister, Information, Communication and Technology, Namibia

Honourable Emma Inamutila Theofelus is a young, 24-year-old Namibian born in Windhoek, Namibia and is currently a Member of Parliament and the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology in the Republic of Namibia.

Before her appointment, Honourable Emma was always policy adjacent and was a Youth Activist around issues of gender, children’s rights, sustainable development and youth unemployment. She served as the Deputy Speaker of the Youth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia and the Junior Mayor of the City of Windhoek amongst other roles. Emma holds an LLB Honours Degree from the University of Namibia, a diploma in Business Management from Amity University and a diploma in Afrikan Feminism and Gender Studies from the University of South Africa.

In her new role, Emma plans to better communicate the activities and programs of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and assist in preparing the Namibian nation for the 4th Industrial Revolution.
Session: Local Solutions for Global Challenges (Saturday, 24 April)

Nour Awad, Medical Student, University of Balamand, Lebanon

Nour Awad is a second year medical student at the University of Balamand in Lebanon. She earned her Bachelor degree in Psychology from the American University of Beirut. Nour is actively engaged in community development and strongly advocates for better mental health access across communities in Lebanon.

She earned certifications in Psychological First Aid (PFA), Gender Based Violence training (GBV) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). She has also been volunteering with different Lebanese NGOs such as Kayani, Embrace and Be Brave Beirut.

Through her volunteering, she has been working with refugee children to develop and practice healthy coping mechanisms to promote mental health wellbeing. She currently provides psychological support to distressed individuals affected by the Beirut blast, the economical crisis and the pandemic.

Ian Soh, MoreViralThanTheVirus, Malaysia

Mr Soh is a Malaysian medical student studying at St George’s, University of London. As acclaimed by the Telegraph for his movement’s efforts for being one of the 2020 good news round up, his presence is no stranger to the BBC, Aljazeera, South China Morning Post and others.

With a belief that young people can be an alternative voice and the key through the pandemic, Mr Soh has certainly demonstrated the impossible through his work at MoreViralThanTheVirus, an independent Global COVID Youth movement with no funding whatsoever. In just 10 days since MoreViralThanTheVirus’s initiation, despite the historical global lockdown, he and other medical students united and established a network of young people from over 100 different countries, who helped provide translations in over 50 different languages.

His work mainly surrounds infodemic management, tackling mental health, bridging the gap between the World Health Organisation, leaders and young people. Having spearheaded and sustained the movement for over a year now since 22 March 2020, he implores leaders and stakeholders to realise the essential role of young people and their meaningful engagement. As for his peers, he hopes to call upon more conversations about mental health, collaboration and solidarity for vaccine equity.

Ahmed Abdulkadir, Street2School, Nigeria

Abdulkadir Ahmed, is a 21-year-old final year undergraduate student in Banking and Finance in the University of Maiduguri. He is a social entrepreneur and an advocate for quality education for all, especially young boys and girls from marginalized communities in North East Nigeria.

As team lead of Team MUDA and one of the co-founders of Street2School, he worked closely with his peers in very challenging times during COVID-19 to see his team through the bootcamp and incubation period during which they developed a blended online and offline community learning hub to support and provide out-of-school children and adolescents access to basic foundational (literacy and numeracy), soft and life skills through alternative learning pathways.
Chris Milligan, Counselor to the Agency, USAID

Chris Milligan is the Counselor to the Agency. A member of the Senior Foreign Service, he has a deep wealth of development experience, having led and contributed to high-priority initiatives throughout his USAID career.

Mr. Milligan previously served as the Acting Mission Director of USAID/Madagascar. From 2012-2016, as USAID’s first Mission Director to Burma in 24 years, he integrated assistance with diplomatic efforts to advance Burma’s historic reforms. Mr. Milligan directed institutional reforms that revamped State and USAID strategic processes and improved the effectiveness of foreign assistance while serving as the Senior Development Advisor for the first Quadrennial Diplomatic and Development Review (QDDR), and the Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator in USAID’s Bureau of Policy, Planning, and Learning. Mr. Milligan deployed to Haiti as the U.S. Response Coordinator overseeing $1 billion in U.S. relief efforts following the January 2010 earthquake. He has been posted to overseas missions in Indonesia, Zimbabwe, and Ecuador, and served as Deputy Mission Director in Iraq. Mr. Milligan also has served as the Regional Director for the Near East in the Office of the Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance (F) in the State Department, and as the Acting Administrator for USAID’s Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs.

Mr. Milligan joined USAID as a Presidential Management Fellow in 1990. Mr. Milligan has a Bachelor’s degree from Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service, a Master’s degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and is a distinguished graduate of the National War College.

Sanjay Wijesekera, Director of Programme Division, UNICEF

Mr. Sanjay Wijesekera is currently the Director of Programmes at UNICEF Headquarters in New York. Prior to this, he was UNICEF Representative in South Africa. Before that he was serving as the Chief of Section for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Associate Director of Programmes in New York.

Before joining UNICEF, from 2005 to 2011, Mr. Wijesekera was working for the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), where he was responsible for managing overall policy and global programmes related to achieving the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals. He also worked for DFID in Ghana as an infrastructure adviser, where he helped coordinate a Joint Assistance Strategy for the donor community and was the lead donor representative for the water sector.

Between 2003 and 2005, Mr. Wijesekera worked for UNICEF as a water and sanitation adviser in Nigeria. From 2000 to 2002, he worked for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in South Africa, supporting newly formed local governments to take on the responsibility for delivering water and sanitation services, and helping to regulate public and private sector service providers. He also worked on emergency programmes in Rwanda for Oxfam in 1994 and for UNICEF, supporting post-tsunami reconstruction, in Sri Lanka in 2005.
Andrea De Remes, Erandi Aprende, Mexico (moderator)

Andrea is a 25-year-old Mexican young woman and co-founder of the personalized STEM e-learning education platform Erandi Aprende. A global winner project of the Youth Challenge 2.0, she and her team have designed a personalized education platform, that provides resources, tools and educational programs to awaken an interest in science and technology within young girls aged 8-12. Their aim is to provide a first approach to science and technology subjects in a fun and innovative way, from an early age in order to make children perceive themselves as actors of change, by inviting them to solve problems in their community with the help of STEM.

After completing her MSc in Political Science, Andrea has worked with various non-profit organizations that help children with special needs, promote gender equality, quality education and fight climate change and she currently she holds the position of Program Manager at UNITE 2030. Andrea has lived in three different continents and hopes to leave her mark in our planet through her work.

Session: Every Mind Matters (Sunday, 25 April 2021)

Ann Erb-Leoncavallo, Head, Advocacy Communications Unit, Humanitarian Office, UNFPA

Ann Erb-Leoncavallo has more than 30 years of experience within the United Nations. She served as Chief Speechwriter for UNFPA, the UN Population Fund, and UN Women. She has been a radio producer, senior adviser, and writer and editor at UN News. She oversaw the media set-up and press conferences at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. She is now Head of Communications and Advocacy for the Humanitarian Office of UNFPA, and is working on a campaign for mental health in humanitarian crises.

Vera Syrokvash, YWCA

Ms Syrokvash is a member of YWCA Belarus and Y-Peer Belarus. She has a proven track record of studying, advocacy, policy-making and campaigning about gender based violence and SRHR on a local and regional level, with the prioritization of the mental health of young people as a key value. She has implemented numerous initiatives devoted to promotion of gender equality, reproductive rights and mental health awareness in Belarus and beyond. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and a Master’s degree in Population and Development.

Right now, she is working as an extended part of the World YWCA team in the project “Young Women Changing Narratives around SRHR and mental health” as a regional coordinator for Eastern Europe. This initiative supports young women to identify and transform core, dominant cultural narratives found in policy debates, news media and social media on young women’s SRHR and mental health.
Cynthia Germanotta, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Mental Health

Cynthia Bissett Germanotta is president and co-founder of Born This Way Foundation, which she launched with her daughter Lady Gaga in 2012. Born This Way Foundation supports the mental health of young people and works with them to build a kinder, braver world. Under Cynthia’s leadership, Born This Way Foundation has reached tens of thousands of young people across the country and around the world, launched innovative youth-focused programming such as teen Mental Health First Aid, and conducted cutting-edge research to improve the understanding of mental wellness and the impact of kindness.

Cynthia and Born This Way Foundation have been the recipient of numerous honors, including the 2019 Behavior Research Foundation’s Honorary Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health for their advocacy work surrounding mental health, the 2018 Children Mending Hearts Global Changemakers’s Award for their commitment to positive change through empathy, and the National Association of School Psychologists Special Friend to Children Award.

In May 2019, the United Nations’ World Health Organization (WHO) appointed Cynthia as a WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Mental Health. In this role, she works to educate and promote healthier lives, improved workforces, and overall mental health on a global scale. Cynthia also served on the Board of the Empowerment Initiative at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is an alumni member of the Board of Governors for the Parsons New School of Design.

Cynthia is a former telecommunications executive whose career in sales and management spanned 25 years. A graduate of West Virginia University, she earned her master’s degree in public administration from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., which she considers invaluable to her work with the foundation.

Born and raised in West Virginia, Cynthia now resides in New York City with her husband, Joe Germanotta. Joe and Cynthia have two wonderful daughters, Natali and Stefani, and are owners of a charming NYC neighborhood restaurant, Joanne Trattoria. In her free time, Cynthia enjoys writing, walking, and practicing ballet, a lifelong passion. She is honored to work alongside young people, hear their stories, amplify their voices, and collaborate on ways to make the world a kinder and braver place.

Ruth Marvel, CEO, Duke of Edinburgh Award, UK

Ruth Marvel became CEO at The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award in 2019. Prior to that she held senior leadership roles at Girlguiding and the disability charity Scope.

Ruth has a wealth of experience in the youth sector, advocacy, research and public policy, including her roles as Deputy CEO and Acting CEO at Girlguiding and Director of Strategy and Innovation at the disability charity Scope, and is passionate about empowering young people.

Ruth is passionate about social justice and empowering young people and championing their rights and opportunities.
Ivy Murugi, Scouts Healing Invisible Wounds, WOSM (moderator)

Ivy Murugi, is a student of Counselling Psychology from the University of Nairobi. She is very vocal about Mental Health advocacy, Sexual and Reproductive Health advocacy and Youth empowerment. She is the Team Lead for the Scouts Healing Invisible Wounds campaign, an initiative by rover scouts that seeks to end stigma surrounding mental health and mental illness by engaging people in awareness discussions. The initiative also provides a safe space for people with lived experience to come on board and share stories about their journey so as to inspire. The campaign this far has had a reach of over 2000 youths since its inception in November 2019.

Ivy joined the Scouting movement in 2018 at the University of Nairobi, and served as a council member for her crew. She led her patrol in representing Kenya at the East African Regional competitions held in Rwanda. For her, Scouting has been an amazing platform for growth and learning, and has provided her with so many opportunities to touch lives and create smiles.

She currently works at Mental Haven, an organization that provides mental health related services as a Social Media manager. She has also been a panelist on several discussions on mental health matters for different age groups.

Ivy is 22 years old, and is fully committed to working to see to it that youth become vocal mental health champions, and become resilient enough to handle whatever setbacks life throws at them, while being fruitful in their lives.

She strongly believes that there is no health without mental health, and always endeavors to be the sun in the gray skies of those whom she comes across, spreading love, cheer and hope to those going through struggles.