

AMwA's Online Advocacy Training on SRHR.



MEET THE FACULTY



Saoyo Tabitha
Griffith



Maria Alesi



Judicaelle Irakoze



Sofia Rajab-Leteipan



Solome Nakaweesi
Kimbugwe



Saoyo Tabitha Griffith

LLB (Moi University), Post Graduate Diploma (Kenya School of Law) LLM (University of Pretoria) Aspen New Voices Fellow 2019, Law Society of Kenya Pro-Bono Jurist 2019.

Ms. Saoyo is a lawyer by profession with over eight years' experience navigating the policy, human rights and health governance spaces in East Africa. Her special bias is in Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, particularly having engaged in programs targeted at addressing unsafe abortion, sexual violence, forced sterilization and teen pregnancies. Professionally, Saoyo has previously worked in private practice, served at the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)-Kenya and consulted for UNDP in contextualizing HIV and the linkages to sexual and gender-based violence. Until recently, she was the Deputy Director and Head of Programs at KELIN, a Kenyan NGO working on health-related rights.



In her spare time, she enjoys teaching and has been a visiting lecturer at the Strathmore Law School, University of Pretoria and Riara University School of Law.



Maria Alesi

A development practitioner, feminist, and social justice activist. Maria is a political junkie who is interested in policy and legal reform aimed at ending patriarchy, capitalism, and imperialism.

Maria possess 5 years' experience working on human rights, feminism, youth participation in politics and access to information. She is a trainer on transformational feminist leadership. She currently building her knowledge and experience in feminist economics and global political power relations as a way to end patriarchy, capitalism and imperialism.

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Maria loves money,
wine and food.



Judicaelle Irakoze

A recognized organizer, a thought leader on women's rights, feminist movement building, African politics affairs, youth development, immigrant rights, project building, women's entrepreneurship, sexual and reproductive rights, and many more.

She is an advocate whose work exists at the intersections of human rights and social justice. Her purpose-filled activism has sparked national and global dialogue on gender-based violence, racial equity, economic and social development of the African continent and global diaspora. Judicaelle has worked on different research projects, from documenting, organizing case studies, evaluating, monitoring and baseline recommendations mostly offering disruptive community-led change. She works as a facilitator, engaged in critical analysis and the collective organizing part of different movements. She is known for her online presence, educating on issues centering feminisms, African politics, and more. She is a grassroots organizer who believes in community-led movements.



Sofia Rajab-Leteipan

Managing Partner of Leteipan & Associates Advocates, a bespoke law firm that focuses its practice on constitutional, public and international human rights law. She is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, a feminist human rights lawyer and a fierce champion for the protection, promotion, respect and fulfillment of the human rights of women and girls.

She specializes in litigation, advocacy, research as well as legal and policy reform on sexual and reproductive health and rights sexual and gender-based violence and the rights of sexual minorities. She works on a range of issues such as sex trafficking, domestic violence, sexual violence, female genital mutilation/cutting, access to safe abortion and post abortion care, access to contraception, maternal health, forced sterilization of women among others.

Her practice has expanded beyond Kenya, garnering expertise on human rights advocacy and litigation within the African Human Rights System while contributing to African feminist and legal discourse. One of her notable publications is a Training Manual on Litigating before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights which includes a feminist critique of the communications concerning women's rights that have been determined at the African Commission.

She is passionate about addressing sexual harassment and dismantling the patriarchy that fuels it, and as the Creator and Host of the Dear Law podcast, has utilized storytelling, feminist and survivor-centred approaches to bring to the fore the sexual harassment experiences of women in the legal profession and the prevalence of sexual harassment in the workplace.

She holds an LLB from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and a Masters of Arts in International Studies from the University of Nairobi. She is currently pursuing a Masters in Law in Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Africa at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria.



Solome Nakaweesi

Is a Pan-African feminist activist, active participant and analyst within the women rights, human rights, sexual rights and feminist movements in Uganda, Africa and Internationally.

She has played a fundamental role in supporting the (re)emergence of progressive social movements and organizing in the Africa region, Eastern Africa Sub-Region and Uganda. Currently, as an International Development Consultant, Solome has been working on feminist movements, women's rights organizing, SRHR, sexuality and gender diversity, progressive social movement building, organisational development, transformative leadership, human rights and governance. Solome has a proven track record in kick starting, reviving, and running successful organizations, institutions and social movements that engage with cutting edge human rights, highly contested issues and development work. She is an ardent champion on a cross range of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and has broken silences on a cross range of controversial SRHR issues. She has previously worked as Executive Director of Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA), Executive Director of Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) and Chief Executive Officer of Nnabagereka Development Foundation (NDF) and a Lecturer at Makerere University, Nkumba University and Noragric University. She has been at the centre of designing and implementation of a number of leadership development programmes and campaigns. This includes redesigning of the prestigious African Women's Leadership Institute (AWLI), developing and running of the Action-Aid International Women's Leadership Development Programme 2010, and the Ji-SORT! Capacity Building Programme for East Africa, among many others. She is also a trainer and faculty member of numerous leadership programmes, including CREA's Feminist Leadership Movement Building and Rights Institute (FLMBaRI), The African Women's Leadership Institute (AWLI) and Lead Facilitator for Akili Dada's East Africa Young Women Feminist Leadership and Mentoring Initiative (EAYWLMi). Solome was nominated as the Ugandan Professional Woman of the Year 2006 by the British Council Leadership Forum, and in 2007 was featured in the film "Change Makers" as a transformative leader in Eastern African Sub-Region by Women Direct.

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Meet the Participants



Maryjacob Okwuosa
Nigeria

Maryjacob is a radical intersectional feminist and human rights activist. A poet and writer, who believes building people's knowledge is building people's power, and their only way to truly break free. Maryjacob is an AMwA member, presently the national coordinator of Activista Nigeria (ActionAids Youth Network), Founder of Whispers to Humanity (Youth-led Feminist platform) and Conveyer of the African Youth for Education Movement.



Matida Kebbeh
Gambia

Matida is passionate about Feminism, social justice, sexual and reproductive health rights and community development. She volunteers with women lead organizations, collectives and youth groups to implement this agenda in different capacities as a volunteer; including as a deputy country director for Your Change For a Change (YCFaC), Finance associate for Equals Now and mostly an advocate and an activist in her own right for a cause she believes in as a women's rights advocate.



Matilda Cecilia Koburunga
Uganda

Matilda is a 29 year old social worker currently volunteering with Rella Women's Foundation under the Leadership and Movement Building program. She studied social administration and personal psychology and it's through this that she was able to fuel her passion for mental health awareness, and hopefully, in the future, further studies in the same field. She loves to travel, write, read and dance.



Naana Abena Afadi
Ghana

Is the Program Manager at Days for Girls International. She holds a Master of Business Administration from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi. She has certification on managing and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse from the Humanitarian Leadership Academy. She is also an alumnae of the African Women's Leadership Institute.

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Salome S. Tulay
Liberia

Salome works as an Administrator of the community Healthcare Initiatives (CHI) a Non-profit Liberian based local organization tackling issues that affects women, girls, especially their Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). She is the founder Executive Director of Women and Children Initiatives Inc. (WCI), a community-based organization that work to educate, empower and advocate for women and children.



Yasmine Bilkis Ibrahim
Sierra Leone

Yasmine Bilkis Ibrahim is an activist, feminist and educator. She is the Founding Director of Girl Up Vine Club Sierra Leone; the first United Nations (UN) foundation campaign Girl Up Club in Sierra Leone that aims to promote the health, safety, leadership and education of adolescent girls through community outreach, advocacy and public speaking workshops. She was born and raised in Normal, Illinois – USA and is of Sierra Leonean parentage. Yasmine's educational background is in French and Global Health.



Winnie Akidi
Uganda

Winnie Akidi is a Communications specialist with 5years experience in SRHR youth advocacy, youth development and community health advocacy. Winnie is the founder/ Team leader of WEtalk Series Uganda, a female led and youth serving initiative that aims at creating a platform for young people to amplify their voices, innovate for change, and meaningfully engage in civic discussions to contribute towards sustainable development in Africa. Her passion to influence change through digital media has contributed to much of her advocacy work in different communities and among young people with special abilities.

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Laurretta Sithole
Zimbabwe

Laurretta Sithole is a 27-year-old Zimbabwean Feminist who holds a degree in Development Studies. She is an active member and believer of the youth campaign to eliminate all forms of violence and abuse against adolescent girls and young women. She is also an Orator, currently working as an Innovator Against Gender Based Violence in the rural community of Matabeleland South Province in Zimbabwe.



Harriet Kamashanyu
Uganda

Harriet Kamashanyu is a wife, mother and social entrepreneur. She is the founder and Executive Director – Rhythm of Life a social initiative that exists to break the vicious cycle of mother-to-daughter prostitution as well as empowering marginalized red-light communities with education and health care accessibility in Uganda – www.rhythmoflifeuganda.com She is currently the Adult support for the girl participants in Uganda under the SEAL Program of Heirs to our oceans.



Amolie Juliet
Uganda

Amolie Juliet Joslyn is an alumna of the African Women's Leadership Institute and an ambassador from the World Literacy Foundation. She works with the Coalition On Girls' Empowerment as an Assistant Coordinator and volunteers with International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa as a Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights advocate collecting data at different health facilities, ensuring that health services are accessed and that adolescent girls and young women living with HIV are not violated in relation to their rights.

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Shira Natenda
Uganda

Shira Natenda is a feminist, writer and women human rights defender with a Bachelor's Degree in Guidance and Counseling. Shira has vast experience in Gender Justice, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, HIV/AIDS treatment literacy and Transformational leadership. She is the Executive Director of Golden Centre for Women's Rights Uganda, a group for and by women migrant/refugee and native sex workers. She is passionate about empowering fellow women in finding their purpose.



Sharon Atyang
Uganda

Sharon Atyang is a finalist at Makerere University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Arts and Social Sciences with a Major in Gender, Development and Psychology. She is currently volunteering as Monitoring and Evaluation personnel at Restless Development under The Development Alternative Programme. She is a Menstrual Health Management practitioner and a women's rights activist. Her hobbies are watching black American movies and series, traveling, meeting new people and reading.



Harriet Karen Mukajambo
Uganda

Is a social worker graduate from Uganda Christian University. She is the founder and Executive Director Global Learning for Sustainability (GLS), a women youth-led

Organization premised on addressing challenges related to SDG4,5 and 13. She is a TuWezeshe Akina Dada fellow, 2018 and a graduate of the first batch of African Presidential Leadership Programme (APLP) from the National Training Academy of Egypt-Cairo, 2019. Currently Harriet is coordinating Diversity and Inclusion project activities in her Organization to strengthen Organization capacity towards Diversity and inclusion, and also partnering with few selected youth-led Organizations to implement more Gender Sensitive and Inclusive HR policies.

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Jenifer Alwoch

Uganda

Jenifer Alwoch is a Feminist, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Activist and an Entrepreneur. She is passionate about promoting Women and Girls' Rights and Economic empowerment. She has benefited from the Feminist and Transformational Leadership development from Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) and AMwA with support from UN Women Spotlight Initiative. These Fellowships enabled her to implement community projects to promote Girl-Child education and advance the economic psychosocial well-being of HIV/ AIDS affected women and girls in Lira district. She has experience in project design, community development in the areas of HIV/ AIDS programming, OVCs and Youths programming. Jenifer holds a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies from Gulu University with other professional trainings in Leadership, Feminism etc.



Mirabel Ngong

Cameroon

Mirabel Ngong is a communications professional and advocate for women leadership and girl's education in Cameroon. She is the founder of Community Empowerment Program; an organization that focuses on equipping women and girls with leadership skills for sustainable development. Mirabel is an alumna of the 2020 West African Cohort of the African Women Leadership institute.



Joan Amek Eoju

Uganda

Is the Cofounder and Kahuna of Rella Women's Foundation. She is passionate about the elevation of LBQ livelihoods through feminism, advocacy and entrepreneurship.

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Namata Tendo
Uganda

Namata Tendo is a feminist and women's rights activist. She is the Executive Director of Embibo Gender Initiative, a non-profit that works on gender and economic development for women and youth. She is committed and passionate about improving the plight of women in rural and slum areas.



Lisa Rwaboni
Uganda

Lisa Kanyomozi Rwaboni is a Ugandan feminist pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Governance and International Relations at Uganda Christian University. She is a content creator, blogger and feminist vlogger under *konversationswithKanyomozi*. She is a radio presenter, passionate about using communication to change narratives and hosts a late night show as well as a Sunday afternoon show that gives women a platform. She is the country head of Girl Talk Uganda, a program under Choose Yourself and also works with Hub4Her which does work advocating for sexual harassment policies in higher learning institutions. Lisa is a business owner of Oboniire, a store dealing in Afro-centric pieces. Lisa loves to learn, meet new people and lives by the quote "Your silence will not protect you."



Florence Kyokusiima
Uganda

Works as a monitoring evaluation officer for a project promoting the inclusion of vulnerable populations in SRHR programs. She holds a Bachelor's degree in population studies from Makerere university. This education exposed her to issues of fertility, mortality, reproductive health and generally population dynamics of a country. She has experience promoting SRHR for women and girls through a number of interventions like use of mass media, community dialogues and advocacy. She continues to develop her skills and embraces opportunities for growth in gender issues.

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Chimwemwe A. Fabian
Malawi

Has 12 years working experience in the development and humanitarian sector. Currently she is a Fellow at the African Leadership Centre researching Peace and Security and the Center for Reproductive Rights. The Center in solidarity with partners, seeks to strengthen the link between international human rights standards, regional human rights mechanisms and national implementation. Chimwemwe is understudying and supporting The Center to advocate for gender equitable and non-discriminatory access to SRHR services, information, and education in Africa. She is interested in researching SRHR in conflict and humanitarian contexts in order inform policy and advocacy work.



Labila Sumayah Musoke
Uganda

Is a lifelong social justice activist and a feminist lawyer of the High Court of Uganda, working as a Public Interest litigation fellow at the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) where she uses the law as a tool to bring about social justice. Her areas of research include; international health cooperation, addressing social determinants of health, and access to medicines for all. She has a postgraduate diploma in Sustainable development and global justice from Antwerp University, Belgium and a Bachelor of Laws from Makerere University, Uganda.



Maxensia Nakibuuka Takirambule
Uganda

Is a development worker with a bias on women led and women oriented projects, social justice for women, and community health for women and children in the era of HIV/AIDS. Her personal experience with the effects of HIV/AIDS inspired her to start the Lungujja Community Health Caring Organization (LUCOHECO), an initiative to fight for the plight of all women in similar situations. She is a qualified accountant, a professional secretary, home based care giver and social worker who has vast experience in community health work, social advocacy and networking, HIV/AIDS work, implementing women empowerment programs, pastoral counseling and has served in National politics culminating into the position of the National Women's leadership for the Democratic party which is one of the strongest and oldest political parties in Uganda.

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Nakyegeera Norah Ruth
Uganda

Has an education background in economics and has 4 years

Experience working in a non-profit organization focusing on raising awareness and poverty eradication of communities living in extreme poverty. She is a developmental worker and human rights advocate and is the advocacy and communication officer at the Uganda Youth and Adolescent Health Forum, which is a youth led and youth serving health and human rights organization that seeks to advance and promote quality and improved health and wellbeing of young people.

Norah works closely with people living in hard to reach areas, living in extreme poverty and minority groups. Her ultimate goal is to create a grassroots movement that understands, values human rights and takes responsibility for respecting, defending and promoting human rights. She sits on the board of Youlead Action network and is also a member of the global shapers community, an initiative by the World Economic Forum.



Margaret Joan Nafula
Uganda

Margaret Joan Nafula is an accountant by profession, human rights advocate, entrepreneur, queer feminist, LGBTIQ+ activist currently working with Kuchu Times Media Group a media platform for and by LGBTIQ+ persons. She is a Tuwezeshe Dada Fellow of 2018, an institution that improves the rights and amplifies the actions of young African women against all forms of Gender Based Violence program. She's passionate about advancing the rights of sexual minorities, women and girls.



Scovia Mwerya
Uganda

Mwerya Scovia is passionate about the rights of persons with disabilities. She is the Program officer at the National union of women with disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU). She is skilled in advocacy, lobbying, training, livelihood and inclusion. Her hobbies include reading, travelling, dancing.

