

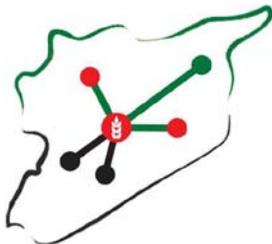
# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Yvonne Akoth**

Yvonne Akoth is a Post-2015 Ambassador of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and Chair of the Pan-African Youth Leadership Network of the UN for the implementation of the MDGs–Kenyan Chapter. She served the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS as the regional focal point for Eastern Africa. Akoth has sat in various committees including the World Health Organization–Violence Prevention Alliance and as a member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, where she contributed to the development of a non-formal educational curriculum called ‘Voices Against Violence,’ which was developed in partnership with UN Women. She has represented Kenya in various regional and global conferences and participated as a key speaker in global events that include the First Global Forum on Youth Policies, the Second World Human Rights Forum, and the 2015 ECOSOC Youth Forum. She was recently selected as a Akili Dada Fellow by the Akili Dada Institute where she will join a team of young women

in East Africa to lead social change development projects of their choice. Yvonne is an avid campaigner of a violence free society for women and girls, and has demonstrated passion for her work by developing and implementing innovative youth led projects with partners that include UN Women in Kenya and the North and South Council of Europe.



**Saniya Alhalabia (Pseudonym)**

Born in Aleppo, Syria, she lived in Germany during elementary school, returned to Aleppo for middle school, and moved to Saudi Arabia for high school. She graduated from Aleppo University’s medical school and later traveled to the United States where she earned her certification in Internal Medicine. When the war started in Syria, she volunteered with several Syrian non-governmental organizations to help provide relief assistance to Syrians.

Currently she resides in Gaziantep, Turkey, near the northern border with Syria, where she is a full-time volunteer working with Syrian refugees and is Chief Executive Officer of the Syria Relief Network. Established by a number of Syrian non-partisan and non-profit NGOs, Syria Relief Network is working inside and outside of Syria—in all Syrian territories and all regions where Syrian refugees have relocated—to provide relief to Syrians in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.



**Maria Alexandra Arriaga**

Arriaga has served in leadership positions at the White House, U.S. Congress, and at non-profit organizations. She has vast expertise on global rights issues and a proven record developing organizations, building grassroots campaigns, and attaining policy goals. Arriaga is a managing partner at Strategy for Humanity, a consulting firm that provides non-profit institutions with policy, advocacy, and structural strategies to achieve their full potential. In this capacity, she also serves as a senior advisor for Futures Without Violence where she has created and led strategies that enhance the U.S. government’s investment and institutional approaches for preventing and responding to gender-based violence globally. During her

tenure as director of government relations, policy and advocacy at Amnesty International USA, The Hill recognized her role in positioning AIUSA as a top human rights lobby in Washington. Previously, Arriaga was appointed as Special Assistant to President William J. Clinton, and chief of staff to the President's Special Envoy for the Americas, after serving as senior adviser in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. Department of State where she was U.S. Delegate to the UN Commission on Human Rights and Executive Director of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad. Arriaga began her career in the U.S. House of Representatives as director of the bipartisan Congressional Human Rights Caucus, increasing Member participation to encompass a majority of the Congress and expanding congressional activities on human rights to over 100 countries and myriad issues. Arriaga has received numerous awards and serves on Boards focused on international human rights, education, and disability rights. A graduate of the University of Virginia and a former scholarship recipient with the Joffrey School of Ballet, Alex is first generation American of Spanish and Chilean descent.

### **Nangyalai Attal**



Nangyalai Attal, who grew up in the Afghan countryside, Chak Valley, Wardak Province, is one of the United Nations' Youth Courage Awardees, A World At School Ambassador, a Fulbright Fellow at Golden Gate University, and a Visiting Student Researcher at UC Berkeley. Born to illiterate parents, Attal was encouraged by his mother to open the first school for local girls in their kitchen when he was just a boy. He graduated from Kabul Education University, with a bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature. While studying in college, he taught English at the National Institute of Management and Administration.

Attal briefly served for the Afghan government with the Independent Directorate of Local Governance and then worked for the United Nations, primarily for the International Labor Organization in Kabul. He has participated in panel discussions on the future of Afghanistan at the Commonwealth Club, World Affairs Council, UC Berkeley, and UC Center in Washington, D.C. He was recently invited by Secretary of State John Kerry to join him for a dinner in honor of H.E President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah of GoIRA. Attal is currently writing a research paper on the state of the labor movement in Afghanistan at the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment) and is pursuing a Master of Science in Human Resources at Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

### **Luis Benveniste**



Luis Benveniste is Education Practice Manager for Global Engagement and Knowledge at The World Bank, and a core author of The World Bank's World Development Report (2012). His research work has focused on teacher policies and student assessment practices. He has published extensively on schools and teaching approaches in Cambodia and Laos; accountability and the organization of public and private schools in the United States; and globalization and educational change. He holds a Doctorate in International Comparative Education from Stanford University and a B.A. *Magna Cum Laude* in Psychology from Harvard University.



### **Theresa Betancourt**

Theresa S. Betancourt, Sc.D., M.A., is Associate Professor of Child Health and Human Rights in the Department of Global Health and Population at the Harvard School of Public Health and Director of the Research Program on Children and Global Adversity. Her central research interests include the developmental and psychosocial consequences of concentrated adversity on children and families, resilience and protective processes in child and adolescent mental health, refugee families, and applied cross-cultural mental health research. She is currently Principal Investigator of an ongoing project to integrate an evidence-based behavioral intervention for war-affected youth (the Youth Readiness Intervention) into education and employment programs in Sierra Leone. One of Dr. Betancourt's longest standing projects (begun in 2002) is a longitudinal/intergenerational study of war-affected youth in Sierra Leone. Dr. Betancourt has written extensively on mental health, child development, family functioning and resilience in children facing adversity including recent articles in *Child Development*, *Lancet Global Health*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, *The Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, *JAMA Psychiatry*, *Social Science and Medicine*, and *PLoS One*. Dr. Betancourt completed her doctoral work in Maternal and Child Health with concentrations in Psychiatric Epidemiology and Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health.



### **Christine Brennan**

Christine Brennan is an award-winning national sports columnist for *USA Today*; a commentator for ABC News, CNN, PBS NewsHour, and NPR; a best-selling author; and nationally-known speaker. Twice named one of the country's top 10 sports columnists by the Associated Press Sports Editors, she has covered the last 16 Olympic Games, summer and winter. Brennan was the first woman sports writer at *The Miami Herald* in 1981 and the first woman to cover Washington's NFL team as a staff writer at *The Washington Post* in 1985. She was the first president of the Association for Women in Sports Media and started a scholarship-internship program that has supported more than 130 female students over the past two decades. Brennan is the author of seven books, and is a leading voice on some of the most controversial and important issues in sports. Both the NCAA and the Women's Sports Foundation honored her in celebrations for the 40th anniversary of Title IX in 2012. Brennan earned undergraduate and Master's degrees in journalism from Northwestern University. She has received honorary degrees from Tiffin (Ohio) University and the University of Toledo and is a member of Northwestern's Board of Trustees.



### **Mary Bridger**

Mary Bridger is the Gender Equality Research and Campaigns Officer for Plan International. In this role, she works within the Global Gender team, helping to coordinate the Because I am a Girl campaign, in addition to contributing to Plan's extensive research and advocacy work on gender and girls equality across the globe. Bridger has significant experience in the field of gender equality, youth engagement, advocacy, and education development. Prior to joining Plan International, she spent several years engaging with these issues around the world in countries such as China, Jordan, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. During this time, she worked with UNESCO, UN Women, several smaller CSOs, and different government partners.



### **Bob Cohn**

*The Atlantic's* president and chief operating officer, Cohn oversees business and revenue operations for the company's print, digital, and live-events divisions. He came to the job in March 2014 after five years as the editor of Atlantic Digital, where he built and managed teams at TheAtlantic.com, *The Wire*, and *The Atlantic Cities*. Before coming to *The Atlantic*, Cohn worked for eight years

as the executive editor of *Wired*, where he helped the magazine find a mainstream following and earn a national reputation. During the dot-com boom, he was the executive editor of *The Industry Standard*, a newsweekly covering the Internet economy. In the late 1990s, he served as editor and publisher of *Stanford* magazine. He began his journalism career at *Newsweek*, where for 10 years he was a correspondent in the Washington bureau.

In 2013, TheAtlantic.com won the National Magazine Award for best website. During Cohn's tenure at *Wired*, the magazine was nominated for 11 National Magazine Awards and won six, including honors for general excellence in 2005, 2007, and 2009. As a writer, Cohn won a Silver Gavel Award from the American Bar Association for coverage of the Clarence Thomas confirmation process. A graduate of Stanford, Cohn has a Master's in Legal Studies from Yale Law School.



### **Brisa Liliana De Angulo**

Brisa De Angulo is Founder and Co-President of Breeze of Hope. The organization's mission is to implement and support projects that provide free comprehensive services to child and adolescent victims of sexual violence; work to eradicate sexual violence through trans-disciplinary prevention strategies; and promote healthy, comprehensive childhood development. In the summer of 2004, De Angulo founded Centro Una Brisa De Esperanza (CUBE), the first center in Bolivia to provide free comprehensive services to child and adolescent victims of sexual violence. Before A Breeze of Hope, these young victims had nowhere to turn—there were no organizations in

Bolivia specializing in the treatment of sexually abused children. De Angulo has dedicated her life to making the world a safer place for children and brought about sweeping legal changes to bring about a more sympathetic justice system.



### **Mary Ellsberg**

Mary Ellsberg is the Founding Director of the Global Women's Institute at The George Washington University. Previously, Ellsberg served as vice president for research and programs at the International Center for Research on Women. Ellsberg's deep connection to global gender issues stems from her academic work and from living in Nicaragua for nearly 20 years leading women's advocacy. She was a part of the research team of the World Health Organization's study on domestic violence and women's health. Widely regarded as an expert on violence against women and girls and an advocate for women's empowerment, she was recently published in *The Lancet's* groundbreaking series on violence against women and girls in November 2014 and helped develop the "I am Malala" resource guide, which aims to empower women through education.



### **Zinhle Essamuah**

Zinhle Essamuah is a writer, orator, photographer, filmmaker, and student in her third year in the School of Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University (GWU). Essamuah is graduating one year early in May 2015. Next year she will remain at GWU as one of six Presidential Administrative Fellows. Essamuah will be obtaining her Master's in Media and Strategic Communication and Documentary Filmmaking.

Currently, Essamuah is in post-production for part one of her documentary film *Hands Up*. *Hands Up* is a film documenting the Ferguson community response to the death of Michael Brown, and the Black youth response to the #BlackLivesMatter movement. In fall 2014 Zinhle worked for CNN's *The Situation Room*. During her tenure at GWU, Zinhle has been involved in multiple facets of the university—serving as an active student leader in academic, religious, music, and multicultural student organizations. In her free time Zinhle works as a freelancer and performer.



### **Kula V. Fofana**

Kula V. Fofana was born and raised in Liberia. At age two, she was nearly forgotten on a farm in Grand Cape Mount County when crisis broke out and rebels overtook her village. Little did she know that the rest of her life would be lived in a series of crises through wars, violence, forced displacement, and refugee camps.

She is an advocate and activist for young people's issues, with a special emphasis on young women and girls. She now heads the Paramount Young Women Initiative in Liberia, which seeks to advocate, educate, and empower young women and girls. In 2013, she led a process to develop the Liberian Youth Common Position on the United Nations' post-2015 Development Agenda as a national consultant. Her work engages Liberian youth throughout the country in a robust consultation process to contribute their voices to the Common African Position on the Post 2015 Agenda. In 2012, Fofana was appointed by President Ellen Johnson

Sirleaf to Co-Chair Liberia's Vision 2030 Committee. As the only youth representative on that committee, she worked to develop the country's postwar long-term development plan. She worked with the Ministry of Gender to establish the Adolescent Girls Unit and became its first coordinator; working to formulate and revise policies and as an advisor to the government on adolescent girls and young women's issues.



### **Nora Fyles**

Nora Fyles is Head of the Secretariat for the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), a multi-stakeholder partnership committed to improving the quality and availability of girls' education and contributing to the empowerment of girls and women through transformative education. Fyles functions as Senior Education Advisor to UNICEF, which hosts the UNGEI Secretariat in New York. Before joining UNGEI, Fyles headed the Education Policy team for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and also served previously as the Senior Education Specialist for CIDA's Asia Program. Prior to her time at CIDA, Fyles consulted with UNICEF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and a number of NGOs, educational institutions, and government ministries with a focus on education and gender issues, including extended residential assignments in Vietnam,

Belize, Bangladesh, and Indonesia. In Canada, Fyles worked as a Senior Policy Analyst for the Status of Women Canada, taught children and adults, and managed community-based literacy programs. Fyles holds an MA in International Affairs from the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University, and a MEd from the Ontario Institute for the Studies of Education, University of Toronto.



### **Girl Be Heard**

Girl Be Heard is a non-profit theatre company that brings global issues affecting girls center stage by empowering young women to tell their stories.

It's been an exciting time at Girl Be Heard ([girlbeheard.org](http://girlbeheard.org)). What began in 2008 with twelve girls is now a renowned theatre company of 170 girls and global movement that engages audiences at the White House, United Nations, State Department, TED conferences, US Embassies, refugee camps and in underserved communities locally and globally. Today's performance features Breani Michele, Iqra Shafiq, Melanie Thompson, and Kezia Tyson. Jessica Greer Morris is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Girl Be Heard, and Abigail Ramsay is the General Manager of the Theatre Company and Director of Global Partnerships.



### **Julie T. Katzman**

Julie T. Katzman is the Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). She joined the IDB Group in 2009 as General Manager of the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF). Eighteen months later, she was appointed Executive Vice President of the IDB and is currently responsible for managing the overall operations of the Bank. She is pioneering an institutional transformation to further the IDB's emphasis on achieving, measuring, and reporting tangible results, and improving access and availability of these results. She has also been championing progressive diversity, inclusion, and women's economic empowerment agendas.

Currently, Ms. Katzman serves on the Boards of Directors of the MacArthur Foundation and the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and the Board of Advisors of Instituto de Empresa in Madrid.



### **Wynnette LaBrosse**

In sixteen years of venture philanthropy, Wynnette LaBrosse has committed herself to giving voice to the voiceless, especially women and girls in the developing world. She believes everyone has a right to be at the table of discussion and share in the decision-making that has an impact on their lives; hence the name of her organization—Open Square. She also has a strong passion for ending the violence that plagues women across the globe. For the last six years, Open Square has focused this vision on giving voice and visibility to the women and girls of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where violence against women is epidemic. Through Open Square Charitable Gift Fund, she makes grants to a variety of NGOs, some working directly in DRC and others doing advocacy with the United States and DRC governments and the United Nations. A graduate of Michigan State University, Wynnette was a founding Director of Finisar, a high-speed communications company in Sunnyvale, California. She has three adult children and three young grandchildren who are the joy of her life.



### **Susan Markham**

Susan Markham is the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. In that role, she is working to improve the lives of citizens around the world by advancing equality between females and males, and empowering women and girls to participate fully in and benefit from the development of their societies. Susan comes with an extensive background in both domestic and international women's political empowerment. She most recently served as Director of Women's Political Participation at the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Susan previously directed EMILY's List Campaign Corp program and later the Political Opportunity Program to recruit, train and support women candidates running for statewide, legislative and local offices in 35 U.S. states. She also worked at the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, managed several statewide campaigns, and served as a senior strategist for the Child Nutrition Initiative, California List and the New Organizing Institute. Susan started her career as a political fundraiser, serving as the finance director for the Ohio Democratic Party, and executive director of Participation 2000 (a multi-candidate political action committee). Susan has a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies from the Ohio State University. She received her Master's degree in Public Policy and Women's Studies from George Washington University.



### **Terri McCullough**

Terri McCullough is the Director of No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project, a Clinton Foundation initiative led by Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton. No Ceilings brings together partner organizations to evaluate and share the progress women and girls have made in the 20 years since the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and chart the path forward for full participation in political, civil, economic, and cultural life for women and girls in the 21st century. Terri joined the Foundation from the Tory Burch Foundation,

small which works to support women entrepreneurs in the United States through loans, mentoring, and entrepreneurial education. She previously served as chief of staff, advisor on women's issues, and in a number of other roles in the office of Representative Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader of the United States House of Representatives. Her non-profit experience includes positions at NARAL Pro-Choice America, PENCIL (Public Education Needs Civic Involvement in Learning), and Anna Deavere Smith's Institute on the Arts and Civic Dialogue. She has a B.A. in Politics from the University of California at Santa Cruz and lives in New York City with her husband, daughter, and son.



### **Nadine Niyitegeka**

Nadine joined Akilah as Communications Associate after graduating from Akilah in December 2013. She had an exciting job offer from Marriott International at Dubai, but was inspired by her experience as an Akilah student to stay and contribute developing the next generation of female leaders in Rwanda.

Nadine was born into a single-parent home in Kigali, the second oldest in a family of four children. Growing up, Nadine's mother worked temporary jobs to support the family. Now 23 and a graduate of Akilah's Hospitality Management major, Nadine has become the primary income earner in her family, providing for her mother and siblings. After the 1994 genocide, Nadine's family struggled to make ends meet. Already a budding leader, Nadine did not accept dropping out of school for lack of money. She took action and spoke to her district mayor, who helped find sponsors for both Nadine and her older sister to continue their education.

At Akilah, Nadine served in student government as Student Welfare Minister. Her confidence, poise, and outspoken nature quickly opened doors, such as speaking at an Akilah fundraising event in Hong Kong and representing Akilah at a women's leadership conference in Malaysia. She has spent the past eight months honing her communications skills, helping students write their personal stories, organizing info sessions for the recruitment team, and serving as campus photographer during events.



### **Baroness Lindsay Northover**

Baroness Lindsay Northover was appointed as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development in November 2014. She is a Liberal Democrat member of the House of Lords. She was previously Lead Government Spokesperson in the House of Lords for DFID, lead Government Spokesperson for Women and Equalities, and government whip and spokesperson for Justice, Law Officers, DFID, DCMS, Defra, Health, Women

and Equalities, Education. Baroness Northover studied at Oxford University, later winning scholarships to the USA where she gained an MA and PhD. Baroness Northover entered the House of Lords in

2000 and was appointed Health Spokesperson. In 2002 she became Liberal Democrat Front Bench Spokesperson on International Development. She has also been Chair of Women Liberal Democrats, the Health and Welfare Association and a trustee of the Liberal Democrats. Baroness Northover was a lecturer at University College, London, and the Wellcome Institute. She is a former trustee of UNICEF and the Tropical Health and Education Trust, a council member of the Overseas Development Institute and Vice Chair of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.



**Claudia Piras**

Claudia Piras is Lead Social Development Economist for the Social Sector at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Her work at the IDB has focused on the areas of gender, labor markets, entrepreneurship and youth in Latin America, in which she has both research and policy experience. Some of her recent projects have developed innovative approaches to promote girls empowerment. Piras edited the book *Women at Work: Challenges for Latin America* and is the co-author of the reports “The Gender Divide: Capitalizing on Women’s Work” and “Women’s Economic Opportunities in the Formal Private Sector in Latin America: A Focus on Entrepreneurship”. Before joining the IDB, Piras headed the research department of the competition agency in Venezuela and taught microeconomics at Universidad Católica Andres Bello and Universidad Central de Venezuela. She holds a Master’s degree in

Economic Policy Management from Columbia University and a MBA from IESA (Venezuela).



**Catherine M. Russell**

Cathy Russell currently serves as the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues. Prior to assuming this position in August 2013, she served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden focusing on military families and higher education. During her tenure at the White House, Ambassador Russell coordinated the development of the Administration’s strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally. She previously served as a Senior Advisor to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on

international women’s issues. During the Clinton Administration, Russell served as Associate Deputy Attorney General. She has also served as Staff Director of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senior Counsel to Senator Patrick J. Leahy. She received a B.A. in Philosophy from Boston College and a J.D. from The George Washington University.



**Marcela Sanchez**

Marcela Sanchez, Communication Officer at the World Bank, is in charge of media relations with Latin American media. Before joining the Bank, Sanchez worked as a Washington syndicated columnist first for the *New York Times* and more recently with *The Washington Post*. Her work has been distributed both in the United States and Latin American markets.



### **Karen Sherman**

Karen Sherman is Executive Director of the Akilah Institute for Women and a Senior Associate at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. An entrepreneur, strategist and executive level manager, Sherman served as Chief Operating Officer then Executive Director for Global Programs at Women for Women International (WfWI), an organization that enables women war survivors to restart their lives. Sherman's work resulted in measurable impacts on women's income, health, decision-making, and social networks. Before joining WfWI, Sherman served as Executive Vice

President at Counterpart International.

Sherman has served as a thought leader and spokesperson on global women's issues through the media, public appearances, and diverse social media platforms. She has been featured in multiple publications and was Executive Producer of *The Other Side of War: Women's Stories of Survival and Hope*, published by National Geographic. Sherman serves as Board Chair of FAIR Girls and on the board of trustees of Mary Baldwin College. She holds a Master's Degree in Russian and East European Studies from The George Washington University and a Bachelor's Degree from University of Oregon.



### **Esta Soler**

Esta Soler founded Futures Without Violence over 30 years ago with a mission of preventing violence against women and children. Soler was instrumental in the passage of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994—the nation's first comprehensive response to gender-based violence. Now, she is committed to passage of the International Violence Against Women Act to prevent gender-based violence across the globe.

Soler's work to prevent violence against women has been featured on MAKERS, an innovative video and documentary project launched by AOL and PBS to showcase stories from trailblazing women. Recently, she delivered a TEDTalk charting 30 years of tactics and technologies—from the Polaroid camera to social media—that have shaped the movement to end domestic violence.

Soler's many awards include a Kellogg Foundation National Leadership Fellowship, a Koret Israel Prize, and a University of California Public Health Heroes Award. She is also the recipient of the Leadership Award from the Coro Center for Civic Leadership and the Mathew O. Tobriner Public Service Award from the Employment Law Center in San Francisco for pioneering work on behalf of women and children. Soler holds an honorary doctorate from Simmons College in Boston.



### **Willington Ssekadde**

Willington Ssekadde is the Program Manager for the Good School program at Raising Voices Kampala, Uganda. He works daily with a wide range of stakeholders engaged in transforming children's experiences of school, including young boys and girls, teachers, parents, and policy makers. A social worker by profession, Willington has led the successful and revolutionary work of transforming the operational culture of Ugandan schools. Through the use of the Good Schools Toolkit, his work aims to create violence free and gender equitable learning environments at

schools. Starting with seven schools in 2008, the Kit is currently being used by over 600 schools in Uganda and has attracted interest within other East African countries and some parts of South Africa. Willington will share Raising Voices' experience of promoting this work and creating safe space for children to thrive from a developing country's perspective.



### **Donald Steinberg**

Donald Steinberg is president and Chief Executive Officer of World Learning, an international nonprofit organization that provides education, exchange, and development programs in more than 60 countries. Steinberg brings more than 35 years of experience in government and nongovernmental organizations, and expertise in the fields of international relations and development. Prior to World Learning, Steinberg served as Deputy Administrator at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), where he focused on the Middle East and Africa; organizational reforms under the USAID Forward agenda; the inclusion of

women, people with disabilities, LGBT persons, and other marginalized groups into the development arena; and expanded dialogue with development partners.

In his previous work with the United States government, Steinberg served as Director of the United States Department of State's Joint Policy Council, White House Deputy Press Secretary, National Security Council Senior Director for African Affairs, Special Haiti Coordinator, United States Ambassador to Angola, and the President's Special Representative for Humanitarian Demining.

Steinberg holds Master's degrees in journalism from Columbia University and political economy from the University of Toronto, and a bachelor's degree from Reed College.



### **Ravi Verma**

Ravi Verma is the Regional Director for the International Center for Research on Women's (ICRW) Asia Regional Office in New Delhi, India. In this role, Verma leads ICRW's local and regional efforts to conduct research, provide technical support, build capacity, and partake in policy dialogue on an array of issues, including adolescent girls, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, engaging men and boys, and economic development. Ravi is also a member of High Level Committee on the Status of Women (HLCSW), Government of India, and a member

of the Rights & Empowerment Working Group of the FP2020 Initiative.

Verma brings more than 25 years of programmatic research experience in reproductive health, gender mainstreaming, and HIV in South Asia. Prior to joining ICRW in 2007, he was a program associate with Population Council/Horizons, where he collaborated with partners to design, implement and evaluate innovative operations research projects on gender and HIV. For more than 20 years, he was a professor in the Department of Population Policies and Programs at the International Institute for Population Sciences in Mumbai, India. While there, Verma managed multi-faceted, collaborative intervention research projects and conducted national studies on reproductive health, fertility, family planning, and sexual behaviors.



### **Charity Wallace**

Charity Wallace serves as Vice President of Global Women's Initiatives at the George W. Bush Institute and Senior Advisor to Mrs. Laura Bush. Wallace is responsible for setting the vision and managing the policy engagement for the Global Women's Initiatives, including overseeing the Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon global health initiative, empowering women in the Middle East and working with First Ladies from around the world. These initiatives aim to improve access to education, health care, and economic opportunity for women and children in Africa, the Middle East, and Afghanistan. Wallace served previously as Chief of Staff to Mrs. Laura Bush, where she oversaw Mrs. Bush's wide-ranging policy agenda and the publishing and promotion of her bestselling book, *Spoken from the Heart*. During her tenure in the Bush Administration, Wallace served as Deputy Chief of Protocol of the United States, Director of Advance for First Lady

Laura Bush, and worked in public liaison positions in Presidential Advance, the U.S. Department of Education, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, and USA Freedom Corps. Wallace serves on the Board of Advisors for the School of Public Policy at Pepperdine University, the Advisory Board of ARZU Studio Hope, an organization that helps Afghan women break the cycle of poverty by providing them steady income and access to education and healthcare, and the Advisory Board of 4word Women. Wallace also wrote the foreword for the book *Work, Love, Pray*, which was released in 2011.



### **Ruth Wooden**

Ruth A. Wooden served as President of Public Agenda from 2003 to 2010. Founded in 1975 by former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and social scientist and author Daniel Yankelovich, Public Agenda works to help average citizens better understand critical policy issues and to help the nation's leaders better understand the public's point of view. Public Agenda's work overall has won praise for its credibility and fairness from elected officials from both the Democratic and Republican political parties and from experts and decision makers across the political spectrum.

Before her appointment as Public Agenda's President, she was Senior Counselor at the international communications firm, Porter Novelli, working with client business related to social marketing, social advertising, strategic philanthropy, and cause marketing. Previously, she served as the volunteer coordinator of The Crystal Team, the "Madison Avenue" advertising team for the Presidential Campaign of Senator Bill Bradley. Ms. Wooden has over 30 years experience in marketing and advertising, and served for 12 years as President and Chief Executive Officer of The Advertising Council, the leading producer of public service communications programs in the United States.

In addition to serving as Chair of the Board of Directors of Futures Without Violence, Wooden also serves on the boards of Civic Ventures (Chair), Demos, Independent Sector, TeachersCount, and Public Agenda. She is a former Director of CARE, Research! America, the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, The Harvard Business School Initiative on Social Enterprise, and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation.