

Speaker Bios: UN SCR2250 as it relates to Equitable Access to Education in Conflict and Crisis Situations: Expertise from the Field



Achaleke Christian Leke (Cameroon)

Achaleke is a youth civil society activist and peace advocate with over eight years of experience and a record of working over one million young people as a volunteer. He currently serves as the Cameroon Youth Ambassador to the Commonwealth and volunteers as a National Coordinator of a youth led civil society organization in Cameroon. He was born in 1990 in Fiango Kumba, Cameroon, a town known for its youth involvement in violent extremist tendencies such as jungle justice, kidnapping, gangs, socio-cultural conflicts, armed robbery and street fighting, just to name a few. Even though he was a victim of radicalization and violence, he succeeded in transforming himself from an agent of violence to an ambassador of peace and change. His story and achievements in the domain of peace, conflict prevention and security is a great inspiration, and surely steps on the way to a long journey to inspire young people across the world. Today, he is currently championing youth civic actions in Cameroon in the fight against violent extremism. He is a member of the Global Youth Advocacy Team of the United Network of Young Peace Builders who advocated for the adoption of Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security by the United Nations Security Council. Achaleke was a speaker at the Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism in New York City and took part in the drafting of the Youth Action Agenda to Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peace.



Saba Ismail (Pakistan)

Saba Ismail is a feminist peace activist and is working for the empowerment of young women. She completed her Master of Science in Biotechnology from COMSATS Institute of Information Technology in Abbottabad, Pakistan. At the age of 15, with other young women fellows, she founded Aware Girls, a young women-led organization

working to empower young women by strengthening their leadership capacity and enabling them to work for social change and women's empowerment and advocate for equal access of women to health, education, governance, political participation, and other social services. Her key working areas are combating violence against women, strengthening leadership skills among young women, political participation of young women, HIV/AIDS prevention among girls and women, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and peace. She is currently working as the Executive Director of the organization.

Ismail is one of the founders and working as the Vice Chairperson of Coalition on Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY). CRY is working to develop a sense of responsibility among adolescents and young people by organizing them into groups, building their capacities so that they can play their role as agents of change in their communities for promotion of rights, responsibilities and tolerance.

She is listed among the 100 Leading Global Thinkers by the Foreign Policy Magazine. She was the Hufford Youth Fellow in Washington with National Endowment for Democracy (NED) for a period of three months, conducting research and generating a series of online discussions on the role of young women in emerging democracies. She was part of the international delegation representing Pakistan in the International Visitors Leadership Program under the theme of Combating Gender Based Violence in United States in October 2012, sponsored by the State Department. She was the Youth Ambassador in the Asia Pacific Youth Network for 2012-2013. She is the member of the International Steering Group of United Network of Young Peacebuilders. She is one of the founders of the South Asian Feminist Alliance for Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. She is also the founder of Sahailee Hotline, which provides information about safe medical abortions and post-partum hemorrhage according to World Health Organization guidelines. She received an award from the British High Commission in Islamabad for contributing one of the most inspiring stories and has represented the Civil Society for the first time in the Informal Interactive Hearing of the General Assembly with non Governmental Organizations, Civil Society and the Private Sector at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in June 2010.



Rolando Jr. Villamero

Rolando Jr.'s passion for inclusive education started when he worked at GPRehab, an organization working with and for children with disabilities. The children's stories of struggles and determination motivated him to strengthen inclusive education in the province through advocacy, parent's empowerment, teacher training, and curriculum changes.

Rolando Jr. believes that in order to bring inclusive education forward, Persons with Disabilities (PWD) themselves have to be empowered to fight for their own right to education. This inspired him to found The Outstanding Persons with Disabilities of Negros Oriental Alumni Community (TOPDAC): a group of 35 PWD recognized for their personal excellence, leadership, and social responsibility. In 2012, he initiated a project to increase the capacities of student teachers to accommodate children with disabilities in the classroom. Rolando's contributions have been recognized internationally, such as by the UN Secretary General's Global Education First Initiative Youth Advocacy Group (GEFI-YAG).

Rolando Jr. was selected by the Erasmus Mundus Program in Special and Inclusive Education to be a student scholar in 2013. The program provided him the opportunity to finish his Masters Degree at the University of Roehampton London, University of Oslo, and Charles University in Prague.