

## SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE JANUARY 28-29, 2014 BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELISTS



# Penny Abeywardena, Associate Director, Girls and Women Program, Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)

Penny Abeywardena leads the Girls and Women program and is Associate Director of Commitments at the Clinton Global Initiative, a non-partisan organization that convenes global leaders to devise and implement innovative solutions to the world's most pressing problems. She has led the growth of girls and women-related

commitments; advised multinational corporations, philanthropists, NGOs, and multilateral institutions to increase investments in gender-focused development initiatives; and increased the community of CGI members who are incorporating a gender lens in their work. She is a member of the World Bank's Advisory Council on Gender and Development, a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a contributing author of the book *Women in the Global Economy: Leading Social Change*.



# Angelika Arutyunova, Bridging Knowledge and Practice Manager, Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

A women's rights advocate, Angelika has worked both in Uzbekistan and the United States, and leads AWID's *Where is the Money for Women Rights?* initiative. She is coauthor of the latest research on the subject. She also oversaw the creation and development of FRIDA|The Young Feminist Fund. Prior to joining AWID, Angelika worked for the Global Fund for Women, where she was Program Director for the Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States grantmaking portfolio. Angelika is an

advisor with Urgent Action Fund for Women's Rights and Mama Cash, and supports several national and regional women's funds in a consulting capacity. She has served on the Steering Committee of the Grantmakers East Forum and the European Foundation Center, as well as on the board of Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy.



### Rini Banerjee-Conway, Director, Foundation for a Just Society

Rini Banerjee is Executive Director of the Foundation for a Just Society. Previously, she served as Senior Program Officer at the Overbrook Foundation, where she oversaw grantmaking for human rights, youth development, reproductive rights, trafficking, and progressive movement building. From 1998 to 2002, Rini held the position of Program Director at the New York Women's Foundation, where she directed and managed the Foundation's grantmaking and technical assistance programs. In addition to previous

posts with the United Nations Development Program and the United Nations Children's Fund, Rini has worked with grassroots and community organizations both in the United States and abroad. A current

trustee at the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Rini's prior broad experiences include: board chair, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy; co-founder, Asian Women's Giving Circle; board member, South Asian Youth Action; and member, Funders Collaborative on Youth Organizing. She received a Master's degree in Human Rights and Economic Development from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, and a Bachelor's degree in Finance from New York University, Stern School of Business.



## Maya Berry, Executive Director, Arab American Institute

Maya Berry is Executive Director of the Arab American Institute, a non-profit, nonpartisan national leadership organization created in 1985 to nurture and encourage the direct participation of Arab Americans in political and civic life in the United States. With a passion for issues that concern Arab Americans and U.S.-Arab relations, Berry co-founded her own consulting company (MidAmr Group) and served

as Legislative Director for Congressman David E. Bonior of the U.S. House of Representatives. She started her career in public service working for ACCESS, the nation's oldest and largest Arab American human services non-profit organization.



# Rajasvini Bhansali, Executive Director, International Development Exchange (IDEX)

Rajasvini, or Vini, has served as IDEX's Executive Director since February 2010. Vini is a passionate advocate for participatory grassroots-led social change and movement building. In a wide-ranging career devoted to social and economic justice, she has led a national social enterprise, managed a public telecommunications infrastructure fund addressing digital divide issues, and worked as a researcher, planner, policy wonk,

management consultant, and technical writer. Vini also worked alongside community leaders as a management capacity builder for youth polytechnics in rural Kenya for over two years. Born and raised in India, Vini earned a Master's degree in Public Affairs with a focus on technology and telecommunications policy from the Lyndon B. Johnson Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, and Bachelor's degrees in astrophysics and interdisciplinary studies from the University of California, Berkeley. Vini has been involved in community organizing and volunteer board roles for the last two decades. She is currently active on the board of directors for CUSO International, a civil society development organization that works through volunteers; on the board of Voice of Witness, which works to illuminate human rights injustices through oral history projects; on the steering committee for the Bay Area Justice Funders Network (BAJFN); and on the advisory board of the International Fund to Amplify Agroecological Solutions. Vini has spoken at various fora and universities and is also a published poet, essayist, storyteller and popular educator.



# Kyra Busch, Program Officer for Agrobiodiversity & Food Sovereignty and Resilient Biocultural Landscapes, Christensen Fund

Kyra Busch is Program Officer for Agrobiodiversity & Food Sovereignty and Resilient Biocultural Landscapes at the Christensen Fund, working to support indigenous innovation in food, land, and livelihood processes. Prior to joining the Christensen Fund, Kyra fostered local food sovereignty for over a decade. Alongside the Alternative Agriculture Network of Thailand and Educational Network for Global and Grassroots

Exchange, she worked on successful initiatives to certify and import Fair Trade Thai jasmine rice to the

United States and to prevent an inequitable U.S.-Thai free trade agreement. With the White Earth Land Recovery Project in northern Minnesota, Kyra spearheaded the nation's first indigenous farm-to-school program and managed a culturally appropriate food delivery program for diabetic elders on the White Earth Reservation. She has represented the Republic of Maldives in international climate change negotiations and has worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency promoting tribal water quality standards. Kyra holds a Master's degree in Social Ecology of Conservation and Development from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where she wrote her thesis on the Kuna's groundbreaking biocultural curriculum in Kuna Yala, Panama. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Environmental and Social Justice from Indiana University.



### Shahid Buttar, Executive Director, Bill of Rights Defense Committee

Shahid Buttar leads the Bill of Rights Defense Committee (BORDC) and its national grassroots network in their efforts to defend civil liberties and constitutional rights threatened by law enforcement and intelligence agencies. He is a constitutional and civil rights lawyer, independent columnist, grassroots organizer, movement strategist, hip-hop and electronica MC, and spoken word poet. Before joining BORDC in 2009, Shahid directed a national program to combat racial and religious profiling, after serving for three

years as Associate Director of the American Constitution Society for Law & Policy. He previously pursued public interest litigation (advancing marriage equality for same sex couples and campaign finance reform) in private practice at Heller Ehrman LLP. He received a Law degree from Stanford Law School in 2003, where he served as executive editor of the *Stanford Environmental Law Journal* and a teaching assistant for constitutional law. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Loyola University in Chicago with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Creative Writing in 2000. In addition to his work leading BORDC, Shahid also serves on the advisory bodies of the Rights Working Group, the National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms, the National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights, and South Asian Americans Leading Together. He also serves on the board of the Fund for Constitutional Government.



#### Aldo Caliari, Director, Rethinking Bretton Woods Project

Aldo Caliari has been Director of the Rethinking Bretton Woods Project, focused on linkages between trade and finance policy, global economic governance, debt, international financial architecture, and human rights in international economic policy. He previously worked with the Washington, DC-based Center of Concern. Aldo has engaged in a variety of public speaking opportunities, which range from popular workshops to academia and closed government briefings. He has also edited four books

on linkages between trade and finance and one on regional and global liquidity arrangements. Aldo's writings have been published in books, academic and specialized journals, and the media. He has been a consultant to several intergovernmental organizations, including UNCTAD, UNDP, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in addition to governments, civil society networks and foundations. Originally from Argentina, Aldo holds a Master's degree in International Policy and Practice from George Washington University, with a focus on economics and finance. He also holds a Master's degree from the Washington College of Law, American University, on International Legal Studies, where he was honored with the Outstanding Graduate Award. He earned his first law degree in Argentina, at the Universidad Nacional de Tucuman Law School.



# Lesley Carson, Program Director of International Human Rights, Wellspring Advisors

Lesley Carson has directed the International Human Rights Program at Wellspring Advisors, a philanthropic consulting firm, since 2007. She provides strategic direction on work in four thematic areas: human rights in the global economy, disability, human rights defenders, and accountability. Lesley also serves on the steering committee of the International Human Rights Funders Group. Lesley has over 20 years of experience in international public service, field experience in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe,

and policy- and grant-making experience in the United States. For six years, she was Founding Director of Forefront, an advocacy, training, and protection network of frontline human rights defenders from around the world. She has also worked for Amnesty International USA and served on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee with U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy. She taught a course on the role of civil society in human rights at New York University and speaks Spanish. She has a Master of International Affairs degree from Columbia University and a Bachelor's degree from Harvard University.



#### Cascada de Flores

Cascada de Flores is a musical ensemble dedicated to the exploration, preservation and dissemination of Mexican and Caribbean traditional music and dance. Arwen Lawrence (voice) and Jorge Liceaga (guitar) are the creative force behind Cascada de Flores, celebrated for their heartfelt and authentic approach to old classics from Mexico and the Caribbean (ranchera, bolero,

guaracha) weaving in traditional poetic dance music from the countryside (son). They have entertained and educated people of all ages and languages: From concert halls like the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, NM to community arts centers such as La Pena and the Freight and Salvage of Berkeley; from a 7:00 am concert/sing-along for day laborers at the Graton Labor Center to getting elderly Latinos up to dance at the 30th Street Senior Center in San Francisco, the music they play resonates beyond cultural differences. The sound of Cascada de Flores echoes the golden radio age of Latin America, where jazzy bolero and earthy traditions from the countryside were joyously juxtaposed.



## Marta Liseth Coloc Chicop, Youth Coordinator and Accountant, Women's Association for the Development of Sacatepéquez (AFEDES)

Marta Liseth Coloc Chicop is a 27-year-old indigenous Mayan Kaqchikel youth leader, currently studying accounting at the University of San Carlos in Guatemala. After high school, Marta Liseth joined the team of the Women's Association for the Development of Sacatepéquez, Guatemala (AFEDES) and was responsible for their Savings and Credit Program. In 2009, she became the organizational accountant for AFEDES, as well as the main facilitator for workshops targeted at youth in the family gatherings that AFEDES

organizes. Marta Liseth has participated in the School of Feminist Economy and has been part of AFEDES' training program in sustainable agriculture. In November 2013, she participated in the First Encounter of Young Women for "Recognizing my Sexuality" coordinated by the national Guatemalan feminist movement, the Political Alliance of the Women's Sector. In 2008, Marta Liseth was selected to the youth board of her church, where she now serves as Board President.



#### Ireen Dubel, Senior Advisor, Women's Rights, Hivos

Ireen Dubel has over 25 years of professional experience in the field of women's rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and LGBT rights through her work at the Dutch Platform Population Politics, the Institute of Social Studies, and Hivos. She was appointed as an independent expert by the UN Secretary General for the 2008 Commission on the Status of Women Annual Session, on the topic of financing for gender equality and empowerment of women. She also initiated the formation of

WO=MEN, the Dutch Gender Platform. Ireen is co-author of several policy briefs on gender mainstreaming, and co-author and co-editor of several books, including *Urgency Required, Gay and Lesbian Rights are Human Rights* (2010).



Justus Eisfeld, Co-Director, GATE - Global Action for Trans\* Equality
Justus Eisfeld is Co-Director and Co-Founder of GATE – Global Action for Trans\*
Equality. He was the first co-chairperson of TransGender Europe and initiator of
Transgender Netwerk Nederland. Previous positions include policy officer for the Dutch
national LGBT organization, assistant to European Parliament member Emine Bozkurt,
the trans advisor of LGBT studies for the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, and the
Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. He is a board member of
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center in New York, a member of the International Day

Against Homophobia and Transphobia Committee, and a frequent speaker at international events.



### Yael Falicov, Executive Director, EcoViva

Yael has been working as an international grantmaker for 12 years. Since 2009 she has been at the helm of EcoViva, a public foundation supporting community-led organizations working for sustainable development in rural areas of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Prior to her time at EcoViva, she worked for seven years at International Development Exchange (IDEX), first as Latin America Programs Director and then as Director of Programs. Prior to IDEX, she worked as a program manager at

community health, youth empowerment, and immigrant rights organizations in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. A daughter of Latin American immigrants and a lifelong environmentalist, Yael has dedicated much of her career to addressing the root causes of migration through promoting sustainable development and human rights. She received her undergraduate degree in International Development at University of California, Berkeley and her Master's degree in Public Health at University of California, Los Angeles.



### Rebecca Fox, Program Officer, Wellspring Advisors

Rebecca Fox works as a program officer at Wellspring Advisors. In this position, she focuses on advancing LGBT issues. Prior to coming to Wellspring, she was Executive Director of the National Coalition for LGBT Health, leading organizations nationwide to work together to improve the lives and health of LGBT people through advocacy, outreach, and education. She was also an adjunct professor at George Washington University. Rebecca serves on the board of directors of Funders for LGBTQ Issues.



# Gigi Francisco, Coordinator, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)

Gigi Francisco has been Coordinator of the Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) since 2008. DAWN is a network of scholars and activists that apply Global South feminist holistic analyses to global issues. A founding member of the International Gender and Trade Network, she served as its Coordinator for Asia from 2001 to 2005, collaborating with feminist economists and activists in opposing the

World Trade Organization and regional trade and investment agreements that are harmful to women's livelihoods. With a group of women's rights activists, she formed the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development, which views development finance as interlinked with trade. Gigi is the Chairperson of the International Studies Department in Miriam College, a women's college in the Philippines.



## Mark Freeman, Executive Director, Institute for Integrated Transitions

Mark Freeman is Executive Director of the Institute for Integrated Transitions. Mark is an international lawyer and leading expert on human rights issues in contexts of democratic and post-conflict transition. During the last 15 years, he has worked extensively with societies in transition, including Algeria, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Colombia, DR Congo, El Salvador, Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Serbia,

Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Turkey, and Zimbabwe. Mark helped launch and direct the International Center for Transitional Justice in New York and Brussels, and is the author of several leading texts on issues of political and post-conflict transition, including *Necessary Evils: Amnesties and the Search for Justice* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) and *Truth Commissions and Procedural Fairness* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), which received the American Society of International Law's highest award. Mark previously served as Chief of External Relations at the International Crisis Group and has taught courses at Queen's University, Central European University, and University of Leuven. Mark holds a Bachelor's degree from McGill University, a Juris Doctor from the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, and a Master of Law degree from Columbia University Law School, where he was a Human Rights Fellow and James Kent Scholar.



### Ellen Friedman, Executive Director, Compton Foundation

Ellen Friedman serves as Executive Director of the Compton Foundation, which seeks to ignite change toward a sustainable, just, and peaceful future. The Compton Foundation's program strategy supports transformative leadership and courageous storytelling in the areas of peace, environment, and women's reproductive health, rights, and justice. Previously, Ellen served as Executive Vice President of the Tides Foundation where she worked for 23 years with individual donors and social change

activists. Ellen brings to her work a deep interest in organizational design and leadership, innovative grant program development and implementation, and a passion for transformative social change around the world. She is a trustee of Futures Without Violence (formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund), New Field Foundation, and the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. She holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of California, Los Angeles.



#### Gan Golan, Artist & Author, Director of Training, Beautiful Trouble

Gan Golan is a *New York Times* bestselling author, artist, and agitator. His books include the smash hit, *Goodnight Bush*, and the critically-acclaimed graphic novel, *The Adventures of Unemployed Man*. As a graphic artist, he has created music posters for Erykah Badu, Queen Latifah, and Willie Nelson. As a direct-action activist, he created the fake baseball team, the corporate 'Tax Dodgers,' which, to the surprise of both sports fans and activists alike, was installed in the National

Baseball Hall of Fame. He is currently the Director of Training for Beautiful Trouble, teaching organizations and organizers across the country how to strategically employ art and culture in their activism. In 2011, he moved to New York City after getting his dream job on Wall Street: occupying it.



## Sarah Gunther, Associate Director of Programs, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

Sarah Gunther is Associate Director of Programs at the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, where she leads grantmaking to LGBTQI groups and movements working for racial, economic and gender justice. Prior to joining Astraea, she served as Director of Africa Programs at the American Jewish World Service, where she oversaw a \$3.6 million grantmaking program to grassroots groups in Africa, and played a key role in

developing its global sexual rights strategies with a focus on LGBTQI rights, trans\* justice, and sex worker rights. Before taking up that role, Sarah built AJWS's grants portfolio in East Africa as a program officer. Sarah holds a Bachelor's degree in feminist, gender, and sexuality studies and African American studies from Wesleyan University and is pursuing a Master's degree in human rights studies from Columbia University.



# Robert Herman, Vice President for Regional Programs, Freedom House

Robert Herman is Vice President for Regional Programs at Freedom House, where he oversees programs in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, Eurasia, and Asia. He has more than 25 years of experience in democracy promotion and human rights. Before joining Freedom House, he was Senior Technical Director for Democracy and Governance at Management Systems International. He was Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Democracy Coalition Project, a global democracy promotion initiative of the Open Society Institute, and previously served on the State Department's Policy

Planning staff, working on democracy and human rights and playing an instrumental role in launching the Community of Democracies, the first-ever gathering of democratic states dedicated to strengthening democratic institutions, practices, and values worldwide. As Senior Social Scientist with USAID's Bureau for Europe and the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union, Robert helped to craft U.S. assistance strategies to countries making the transition from communist rule. He has held positions with the Brookings Institution, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels, and served as a staff member in the U.S. Congress. He earned his Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University, having written his dissertation on the political and intellectual origins of the Gorbachev Revolution. He received a Masters degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and a Bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College.



#### Taryn Higashi, Executive Director, Unbound Philanthropy

Since 2008, Taryn Higashi has served as Executive Director of Unbound Philanthropy, a global family foundation dedicated to ensuring that migrants, refugees, and their families are treated with respect and dignity; are able to contribute fully in their new communities; and can ultimately thrive in a society that values diversity as a source of strength. The foundation has offices in New York City and London. Taryn is also a member of the Advisory Committee for the International Migration Initiative at the

Open Society Foundations and a member of the Advisory Board for the Receiving Communities Initiative created by Welcoming America. From 1997 to 2008, Taryn worked at the Ford Foundation, where she managed the migrant and refugee rights portfolio and served as deputy director of the human rights unit. From 1999 to 2008, Taryn served as a board member of Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, where she was co-chair from 1999-2005. In 2009, Taryn, together with her colleague Geraldine Mannion from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, received the Robert W. Scrivner Award for Creative Grantmaking for founding the Four Freedoms Fund, a funder collaborative. In 2008, Taryn and Geraldine also received the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Change Championship Award from the Center for Community Change.



#### Andrew Hudson, Deputy Executive Director, Crisis Action

Andrew Hudson is an international human rights lawyer with over 15 years of varied UN and international advocacy experience. Andrew is Deputy Executive Director of Crisis Action and, previously as its New York Director, led Crisis Action's outreach to the United Nations and the organization's work on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Lord's Resistance Army. Prior to Crisis Action, Andrew worked for four years at Human Rights First (HRF) in New York, where he coordinated UN advocacy, managed the Human Rights Defenders Program, and led HRF's work in Latin America.

Andrew was previously a lawyer in Australia representing indigent clients and refugees and spearheading major law reform projects. He has also worked with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Ecuador, the UN Regional Commission in Thailand, the Australian delegation to the UN General Assembly, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions. Andrew holds honors degrees in politics and law from the University of Melbourne and a Master of Law degree from New York University School of Law.



### Natasha Jiménez, General Coordinator, Mulabi: the Latin American Hub for Sexualities and Rights

Natasha Jiménez has been a trans/intersex activist for over 20 years. From and based in Costa Rica, she is General Coordinator for Mulabi: the Latin American Hub for Sexualities and Rights. She is also the representative in Central America for the International Association of Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, and Intersex. Natasha has been active at the LGBTTTI Coalition of the Organization of American States and has

done UN advocacy to denounce violations of the rights of trans and intersex people in Latin America. She started her activism doing HIV and AIDS prevention and care work, and has been active in various feminist women's and LGBT movements.



# Bern Johnson, Executive Director, Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW)

Bern Johnson directs the work of the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) and develops initiatives to protect the environment and human rights through law and science. Bern was the first staff attorney at ELAW before assuming the position of Executive Director in 1993. He has traveled in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, the South Pacific, and Central and South America to work with local

partners and help them secure the resources they need. Prior to joining ELAW, Bern practiced law in Seattle. He was President of the Environmental Law Society at Harvard Law School, where he graduated cum laude. Before attending law school, Bern worked on environmental issues in the U.S. Congress as a legislative assistant to Representative James Weaver. The Harvard Law Bulletin, Stanford Social Innovation Review, Grist, Christian Science Monitor, and E Magazine have reported on Bern's work with ELAW.



### Michele Lord, President, Public Interest Projects

Michele Lord has worked in the philanthropic sector since 1993. During the past decade, she has led Public Interest Projects through a period of dramatic growth in its program offerings. She has helped create and manage Public Interest Projects' ten signature collaborative and partner funds that together have raised more than \$100 million in new money and engaged more than 100 national, state and local foundations, family foundations and individual donors. In January 2011, Michele

transitioned into a co-leadership model – with the organization's Deputy Director – both becoming President of the organization. She is also director of the Ottinger Foundation, a small New York-based family foundation that supports work in the areas of economic justice, civic participation and environmental justice. Prior to joining Public Interest Projects, Michele served as director of the Norman Foundation from 1993 to 1999, and has served as chair of the Funders' Committee on Civic Participation. She has also overseen program evaluations on behalf of the Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation and the Open Society Institute. Before shifting to the philanthropic sector, Michele worked in city and national government. From 1990 to 1993 she was deputy director of Health and Human Services in the New York City Mayor's Office of Operations under Mayor David Dinkins. She served in the U.S. Congress from 1984 to 1988 as director of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Michele began her career as a legal services lawyer in Houston specializing in immigration and welfare law. She holds an undergraduate degree from Brown University and a law degree from the University of Florida.



### Jee Kim, Program Officer, Ford Foundation

Jee Kim works on civic and political participation in the United States at the Ford Foundation. His grantmaking focuses on increasing the participation of poor and marginalized groups by strengthening organizations and networks that build and mobilize the grassroots base for social change. Prior to joining the Ford Foundation in 2012, Jee helped launch 18MillionRising.org, a national civic engagement project designed to build the political power of Asian Americans using social media and online

organizing. This effort drew upon his experience in digital community-building and media production at Pseudo.com, AsianAvenue.com, BlackPlanet.com, and BET.com. Previously, Jee served as a program officer, then program director, at the Surdna Foundation, where he managed grantmaking portfolios in youth civic engagement, community organizing in New Orleans, and nonprofit infrastructure over his eight-year tenure. He also worked in New York as a racial justice and immigrant rights organizer and as a journalist, editing the 9/11 anthology, *Another World Is Possible*, and *Future 500*, an analysis of youth activism in the United States. Jee received a Master's degree from Oxford University and an undergraduate degree from Columbia University.



### Lizbeth Mateo, Co-Founder and Organizer, National Immigrant Youth Alliance

Lizbeth Mateo was born in Oaxaca, Mexico, and moved to Los Angeles, California when she was 14 years old. Lizbeth is undocumented and is a first year student at Santa Clara University Law School. In 2008, Lizbeth became the first in her family to graduate from college, earning a degree in Chicano/a Studies from California State

University, Northridge (CSUN). During her time at CSUN, she co-founded Dreams to be Heard, a support and advocacy group for undocumented students on campus. In 2010, Lizbeth joined three others and together they became the first undocumented youth to risk deportation by conducting a sit-in inside Senator McCain's office to demand the passage of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. Despite being arrested, put in deportation proceedings, and facing the failure of the DREAM Act in 2010, Lizbeth continued to advocate for the rights of the immigrant community. In 2011, she co-founded the National Immigrant Youth Alliance, a network of undocumented youth, and DreamActivist California, an undocumented youth-led organization.



#### Nicky McIntyre, Executive Director, Mama Cash

Nicky McIntyre has been Executive Director of Mama Cash since June 2008, previously serving as Director of Development and Communications from June 2007. Prior to this, she served for one decade as Vice President of Development and Communications at the Global Fund for Women. A native of Scotland, she holds a Master's degree in Urban Affairs and Planning from the City University of New York, Hunter College, and a Bachelor's degree in History and French from Oxford University. Nicky served on the Board of the Global Greengrants Fund from 1998 to 2002. She was a board member of

the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission from 2001 to 2004, serving as its Chair from 2002 to 2004, and of Gender Action from 2007 to 2009. Nicky currently serves on the Nominations Committee of the European Foundation Centre and on the Board of the International Network of Women's Funds.



# Sarah Mendelson, Deputy Assistant Administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Sarah Mendelson currently serves as Deputy Assistant Administrator in USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance and is responsible for the Democracy, Human Rights and Governance program. She is also the agency lead on combating human trafficking. She joined the Obama administration in May 2010. At USAID, she directs a staff of nearly 100. Prior to her current position, Sarah was

Director of the Human Rights and Security Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). She has worked for nearly two decades on a wide variety of issues related to human rights and democracy, including in Moscow as a program officer with the National Democratic Institute in 1994 and 1995. Before CSIS, she was a professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. At CSIS, she conducted over a dozen public opinion surveys in Russia, tracking views on Chechnya, military and police abuse, and knowledge and experiences with human trafficking. She has researched the links between human trafficking and peacekeeping operations in the Balkans, and her work helped shape U.S. legislation and policies at NATO on this issue. Prior to joining the Administration, she served on the advisory committee for the Europe and Central Asia Division of Human Rights Watch. A frequent contributor to the media, she has authored over 70 scholarly and public policy publications. She holds a Bachelor's degree in history from Yale University and a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University.



## Alice M. Miller, Co-Director, Global Health Justice Partnership of the Yale Law School and the School of Public Health

Alice Miller is Co-Director of the Global Health Justice Partnership of the Yale Law School and the School of Public Health. In addition, she is an assistant clinical professor at the Yale School of Public Health, a lecturer at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, and an associate scholar for International Human Rights at Yale Law School. Previously, Miller taught at the University of California-Berkeley Law School, as well as Columbia University, where she co-directed the Center for the Study of Human Rights and the

Human Rights Master's Program. She teaches and writes in the areas of sexuality, rights, law, gender, health, and humanitarian issues. She combines her academic work with extensive advocacy experience. She specializes in developing a framework for human rights claims in the context of contemporary understandings of sexuality and globalized networks and advocacy work.



# Geetanjali Misra, Executive Director, Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA)

Geetanjali Misra is co-founder and Executive Director of CREA. She has worked at the activist, grantmaking, and policy levels on issues of sexuality, reproductive health, gender, human rights, and violence against women. She writes on issues of sexuality, gender, and rights, and has co-edited *Sexuality, Gender and Rights: Exploring Theory and Practice in South and Southeast Asia* (2005). Before joining CREA, she was the

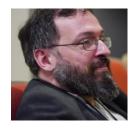
Sexuality and Reproductive Health Program Officer at the Ford Foundation. In 1989, she co-founded SAKHI for South Asian Women, a non-profit organization based in New York, committed to ending violence against women of South Asian origin.



### Alvin Mosioma, Director, Tax Justice Network-Africa

Alvin Mosioma is Founder and Executive Director of Tax Justice Network-Africa, where he is the leading voice on tax policy in Africa and has led numerous civil society campaigns in Africa since 2007. Alvin has also facilitated and conducted capacity building seminars for community organizations across Africa and helped to establish national tax justice platforms in many African countries. His special interest areas include fiscal policy, international taxation, financial regulation, and natural resource management. Over the six past years, he has written a number of articles and reports

on fiscal policy in Africa and co-authored two books on taxation and development in Africa. He holds a Master's degree in Economics from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.



## Danny O'Brien, International Director, Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)

Danny O'Brien has been an activist for online free speech and privacy for over 15 years. In his home country of the United Kingdom, he has fought against repressive anti-encryption laws, and helped to make the UK Parliament more transparent with *FaxYourMP*. He was EFF's activist from 2005 to 2007, and its international outreach coordinator from 2007-2009. After three years working to protect at-risk online

reporters with the Committee to Protect Journalists, he returned to EFF in 2013 to supervise EFF's global strategy. He is also the co-founder of the Open Rights Group, Britain's own digital civil liberties organization.



## Ariadne Papagapitos, Program Director, Peacebuilding, Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Ariadne Papagapitos is Program Director for the Peacebuilding program of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF). Prior to joining the Fund in 2007, she helped lead a microfinance project with a nongovernmental organization in Bangalore, India. She has also worked as a researcher for a human rights lawyer in London, at the United Nations Population Fund, and at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Athens, Greece. Ms. Papagapitos was also a manager in the Media Villages department of the

2004 Athens Olympic Committee where she helped coordinate the international press delegations' reporting from Greece. She holds a Master's degree in Human Rights with a concentration in Human Rights Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a Bachelor's degree in Classics from Union College, where she studied and worked in Kenya. She currently serves on the board of Rising Tide Capital, an organization that assists struggling entrepreneurs in distressed urban communities to establish strong businesses and create sustainable neighborhoods, and she represents the RBF on the Peace and Security Funders Group Steering Committee.



### Favianna Rodriguez, Artist, Director, CultureStrike

Favianna Rodriguez is a transnational interdisciplinary artist and cultural organizer on a mission to create profound and lasting social change in the world. Her art and collaborative projects address migration, global politics, economic injustice, patriarchy, and interdependence. Rodriguez lectures globally on the power of art, cultural organizing, and technology to inspire social change, and leads art workshops at schools around the country. In addition to her art practice, Rodriguez partners with social movement groups around the world to create art that's visionary, inspirational, and

transformational. When Rodriguez is not making art, she is directing CultureStrike, a national arts organization that engages artists, writers and performers in migrant rights. In 2009, she co-founded Presente.org, a national online organizing network dedicated to the political empowerment of Latino communities.



## Lindsay Ryder, Program Associate, Security & Rights Collaborative

Lindsay joined the Proteus Fund staff in 2012, having previously served as a consultant. Lindsay is Program Associate with the Security & Rights Collaborative, a funding collaborative working to build the capacity of Muslim, Arab, and South Asian community organizations that are challenging post-9/11 profiling and discrimination. In this role, Lindsay provides programmatic and partnership development support, including developing grant recommendations, monitoring and researching field developments, and managing relationships with donor partners. Prior to joining the

Proteus Fund, Lindsay worked as a legal associate at Alliance for Justice, where she performed legal research on state and federal issues, monitored legislation, and developed resources to support progressive nonprofit organizations engaged in lobbying, advocacy, and election activity. Lindsay has held legal internships at the ACLU, ARTICLE 19, the Innocence Project, and South Brooklyn Legal Services. Lindsay holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from New York University, and a Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School, where she was a founding officer of the school's Amnesty International chapter and a recipient of an international human rights fellowship and the Class of 2010 Public Service Award.



### Diana Samarasan, Executive Director, Disability Rights Fund

Diana has over fifteen years of experience in disability, international health and human rights. In her previous position, Diana directed the Mental Disability Advocacy Center in Budapest, Hungary, a legal advocacy organization which litigates abuses of rights of persons with mental disabilities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Previous to this position, she worked with the American Refugee Committee and Doctors of the World, addressing issues such as access of vulnerable populations to reproductive health

services, tuberculosis control, and deinstitutionalization. Diana has advanced degrees in Public Administration and Psychology, and is a Board member of the United States International Council on Disability and on the Steering Committees of the International Human Rights Funders Group and Opportunity Collaboration.



## Erica ten Broeke, Partnership Development Manager, Security and Justice, Cordaid

Erica ten Broeke is Cordaid's Partnership Development Manager for Security and Justice, working on improving access to justice and contributing to a more fair justice system in fragile states. She has been with Cordaid for more than a decade, focusing on programs in Sudan, Afghanistan, and Democratic Republic of the Congo. Early in her career, she worked for Care International in Kosovo and as financial coordinator for IKV/Pax Christi, a Dutch peace movement. Erica Received a Master's degree in Humanitarian Assistance

(University of Groningen) and a Master's degree in Economics (University of Tilburg).



# Florence Tercier Holst-Roness, Director, Issues Affecting Women Program, Oak Foundation

Florence Tercier heads the Issues Affecting Women program at the Oak Foundation. The Issues Affecting Women Program primarily funds initiatives that address violence against women, intra-familial violence, and trafficking and exploitation of women. Prior to joining the Oak Foundation, Florence worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), where she worked in war-torn countries for several years and served as Women and War Advisor. In this role, she developed policies and guidance

on ICRC action in favor of women affected by war and set up an institutional program addressing rape and sexual violence. She was also a member of the Board and Vice-President of Médecins Sans Frontières-Switzerland.



### Alexandra Toma, Executive Director, Peace and Security Funders Group

Alexandra Toma is Executive Director of the Peace and Security Funders Group. She has experience at senior levels of politics, government, advocacy and philanthropic organizations, most recently as Executive Director of the Connect U.S. Fund, a donors' collaborative focused on incentivizing collaboration as a tool to meet today's human rights, nuclear nonproliferation, and climate change challenges. While Director of the Ploughshares Fund's "Peace and Security

Initiative," she launched the Fissile Materials Working Group, a non-governmental coalition of more than 75 U.S. and international organizations providing action-oriented policy solutions to keep the world safe from nuclear terrorism. Prior to her nonprofit experience, Alex served as a foreign policy advisor to Massachusetts Congressman Stephen F. Lynch. She enjoys teaching at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, and speaking and writing extensively on national security, foreign policy, and philanthropy issues. In 2011, Alex was named a "Top 99 Under 33" foreign policy leader

by *Diplomat Courier* and Young Professionals in Foreign Policy. She earned a Master's degree in Foreign Policy and Security Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs and Psychology, with a minor in French, from the University of Virginia.



## Hugo von Meijenfeldt, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Hugo von Meijenfeldt was appointed as representative for the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the 13 westernmost United States as of August 2013. He and his team, based in San Francisco and Los Angeles, focus on mutual investments in innovation: water and energy, food and nutrition, life science and health, and creative industries. Prior to his current posting, Hugo was Deputy Director-General at the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. He was also Special Envoy for Climate Change at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2009 until 2013. In this capacity, he chaired

Dutch participation in the global diplomatic activities to reach a climate agreement. Previously, Hugo was Director for Soil, Water, and Rural Environment. He also worked for several years as Deputy Director for International Affairs, Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Policy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Geneva, and Head of the European Policy Division (including the EU Presidency in 1997). From 1982 until 1991, he was Legal Council in the soil clean-up division. He is currently a member of the WorldConnectors and the Sustainability Challenge Foundation. Hugo earned his Master's degree in Public Law and Policy at the Free University in Amsterdam in 1981.