

**SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE
JANUARY 24-25, 2013**

BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELISTS



Galina Angarova, Russia Program Director, Pacific Environment

Galina Angarova is Pacific Environment's Russia Program Director. Her work in the Lake Baikal region has concentrated on issues surrounding resource extraction and impacts of development on indigenous and local communities in Siberia and the Russian Far East. She has directly helped to organize, encourage and support a highly effective coalition of indigenous and environmental organizations working on these issues, including activist opposition to the dangerous Altai pipeline project. Angarova previously worked for the Red Cross and the Asia Foundation and has several years of experience in non-profit management and a strong background in environmental activism and indigenous rights in the Buryatia and Irkutsk regions of Russia. Angarova also currently serves on the board of International Funders for Indigenous Peoples. In October 2010, Angarova was awarded the Young Non-Profit Professional Network's award for outstanding achievements as a non-profit employee. In 2002, Angarova received an Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship from the U.S. Department of State to complete a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of New Mexico.



Evelyn Arce, Executive Director, International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP)

Evelyn Arce, of Chibcha descent (Colombian-American) has been leading International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) since 2002. Prior to IFIP, Arce was a communications consultant for the Iewirokwas Program, a Native American midwifery program and coordinated the American Indian Millennium Conference held at Cornell University in 2001. She was also a high school teacher of science, horticulture, and independent living for seven years. Arce was chosen to participate in the Donella Meadows Fellowship Leadership program, a systems think tank on creating sustainable ways to effectively make long-term changes through leadership. Arce obtained her Master's degree in Teaching at Cornell University with a concentration in Agriculture and Adult Education.



Alejandro Argumedo, Director, *Asociacion ANDES* (Peru)

Alejandro Argumedo is Director of the *Asociacion ANDES*, a Cusco-based indigenous peoples' NGO working to protect and develop indigenous peoples' bio-cultural heritage. Argumedo is also Founder and Coordinator of the International Indigenous Peoples Bio-cultural Climate Change Assessment Initiative. He is Founder of the Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network and the Call of the Earth Group, global

coalitions of indigenous peoples working towards the shared goals of protecting and nurturing biodiversity and protecting their bio-cultural innovations and intellectual property. He is also currently President of the Global Coalition for Bio-Cultural Diversity of the International Society of Ethnobiology. He previously served as Executive Director of Cultural Survival Canada and the Indigenous Knowledge Program. Argumedo has written extensively on diverse themes such as genetic resources and community-based conservation, indigenous agriculture, climate change, and protected landscapes; has served on expert panels of the UN and other relevant bodies; and has been a consultant for various international institutions. He graduated from McGill University with a degree in Agriculture.



Katalin Barsony, Executive Director, Romedia Foundation (Hungary)

Katalin Barsony is Executive Director of Romedia Foundation, a Budapest-based Roma media organization. In 2012, Romedia organized the Budapest leg of “Requiem for Auschwitz,” a series of events including a concert, a film festival and an art exhibition that toured Europe. Barsony created the first-ever documentary series on Roma communities around the world to be broadcast on a mainstream television channel. *The Mundi Romani – the World through Roma Eyes* series was broadcast monthly between 2007 and 2011 (42 episodes were shot in 28 countries) and won worldwide recognition for its innovative quality, cinematography and the untold stories the films uncovered. In 2010, the *Mundi Romani* series was awarded the UNESCO Prize for the Rapprochement of Cultures. Barsony is completing her doctoral dissertation in Communications and Behavioral Science at Corvinus University in Budapest.



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

Rajasvini Bhansali has served as IDEX’s Executive Director since February 2010. Bhansali 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. Bhansali also worked alongside community leaders as a management capacity-builder for youth polytechnics in rural Kenya for more than two years. Bhansali 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; and on the board of Voice of Witness that works to illuminate human rights injustices through oral history projects; and on the advisory board for the International Fund to Amplify Agroecological Solutions. Bhansali earned a Master’s degree in Public Affairs with a focus on technology and telecommunications policy from the LBJ 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.



Sumka Bučan, Program Director/Country Representative, CARE International North West Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Sumka Bučan is Program Director/Country Representative at CARE International North West Balkans. She has been a CARE employee since 2002 assisting program development and program management, as well as providing technical support provision to staff and partners. She has participated in the development of CARE's Gender Equality and Socio-Economic Inclusion program strategies for the Balkans and is responsible for their implementation in accordance with high-level programming principles and standards adopted by CARE. In 2007, Bučan developed a framework for CARE's Roma Women Empowerment project which aim was to strengthen the position of Roma women in the Western Balkan societies through supporting efforts of organizations, institutions and Ministries involved in anti-discrimination, empowerment and minority rights promotion in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. Prior to CARE, Bučan worked at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Occupying different positions within the Election Department, she had been engaged in organizing the first post-war democratic elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as post-election good governance promotion throughout the country as Public Finance Advisor within OSCE's Democratization Department. Bučan holds a post-graduate degree from the University of Delaware.



Larry Cox, Senior Consultant, Sunrise Initiative for Human Rights in the United States

Larry Cox has been working for peace, justice and human rights around the world for more than four decades. He is currently a senior consultant at Public Interest Projects, serving a new collaborative fund, the Sunrise Initiative, supporting human rights work in the United States. Prior to this, Cox served as Executive Director of Amnesty International USA from 2006 to 2011. In assuming leadership of AIUSA, Cox returned to the movement he had helped to develop over 14 years in a variety of positions. In 1976, he joined the organization as its first press officer. During the next nine years, he established the AIUSA Program to Abolish the Death Penalty, served as Communication Director, and Deputy Executive Director. He was then appointed Deputy Secretary General at Amnesty International's world headquarters in London. For the next five years he led numerous international missions raising human rights concerns in a wide range of countries. In 1990, Cox became the Executive Director of the Rainforest Foundation, an international organization working with indigenous peoples in the Brazilian Amazon to protect their rights and environment. During his five years, the Rainforest Foundation achieved the demarcation of a vast indigenous territory in Brazil and began to expand its work to other countries. In 1995, Cox began an 11-year term as Senior Program Officer for Human Rights at the Ford Foundation. He initiated new programs on international justice, economic, social and cultural rights, and human rights in the United States. Cox holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from Mount Union College, and has done graduate work at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. He is currently completing a Master of Arts at Union Theological Seminary in New York, where he is also working to create a new center on religion and human rights.



Ellen Dorsey, Executive Director, Wallace Global Fund

Ellen Dorsey has 25 years of experience promoting international human rights, and advocating for environmental sustainability. Dorsey is the Executive Director of the Wallace Global Fund, a private foundation located in Washington, DC, that focuses on environmental sustainability, corporate accountability, women's human rights, criminal justice, media reform and civic participation. Dorsey came to the Fund from The Heinz Endowments in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, serving as Senior Program Officer for the Environment Program. Dorsey has served on the boards of numerous non-profit organizations promoting human rights and sustainable development, including serving as chair of the board of Amnesty International USA. She has written extensively on effective strategies of non-governmental organizations and social movements. Most recently, Dorsey is co-author, with Paul J. Nelson, of *New Rights Advocacy: Changing Strategies of Development and Human Rights NGOs*. Dorsey has a doctorate in political science from the University of Pittsburgh, was selected as a Fulbright Research Fellow in South Africa, and has served on the faculty of several universities.



Mónica Enríquez-Enríquez, Program Officer, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

Mónica Enríquez-Enríquez is a program officer at Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice and has an extensive background in grassroots organizing, both within the United States and on the international front. Prior to joining Astraea, Enríquez-Enríquez was Co-Coordinator at Streetwise and Safe (SAS), a collaborative multi-strategy initiative to develop leadership skills among LGBTQ youth of color who are criminalized for their involvement or perceived involvement in the sex trades. Enríquez-Enríquez has also worked at the Global Fund for Women as part of the Latin America and Caribbean Region Program team and at the Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training, learning how to mobilize communities to resource movements and organizations. Enríquez-Enríquez is also a member of Community United Against Violence, the New York Coalition against S-Comm (the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency's "Secure Communities" deportation program), and the Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project as a festival curator and volunteer. She earned a Master's Degree in Fine Arts in Digital Arts and New Media from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2008.



Jaune Evans, Managing Director, Tamalpais Trust

Jaune Evans is Managing Director of Tamalpais Trust, which supports indigenous-led organizations outside of the United States in the areas of human rights, traditional knowledge and education, indigenous rights, cultural integrity, protection of sacred lands and waters, and gender equity. She has worked in philanthropy and public service for the past 25 years. Prior to joining Tamalpais Trust, Evans served as Executive Director of Lannan Foundation and Executive Director of the New Mexico Community Foundation. She also served as Deputy Director of Public Health for the State of New Mexico with a special focus on public policy and services for people with HIV/AIDS. Evans has extensive experience working with fine arts, human rights, cultural organizations, and indigenous and

environmental groups. Her interest is in innovative projects that mobilize the creativity of individuals and communities that result in holistic and progressive social, ecological and economic change.



Melissa Extein, Director of Strategic Learning, Research and Evaluation for International Programs, American Jewish World Service

Melissa Extein is Director of Strategic Learning, Research and Evaluation for International Programs at American Jewish World Service (AJWS), where she has worked since 2007. She brings more than ten years of consulting and teaching experience, including involvement in courses on leadership and group dynamics at The Wharton School and the School of Social Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. Extein earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Yale University and her Doctorate in Organizational Psychology from the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers University, where she based her dissertation on her experience as an AJWS Volunteer Corps member in Thailand.



Yonaton Gordis, Managing Director and Senior Consultant, Center for Leadership Initiatives

Yonatan Gordis is Managing Director and Senior Consultant at the Center for Leadership Initiatives, a consulting firm specializing in organizational change, with unique expertise in the fields of philanthropy and the design of strategic processes. He has worked with hundreds of organizational leaders and non-profits, from start-ups to organizations with global reach. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University and is an ordained rabbi.



Vineeta Gupta, Program Officer for Asia, The Global Fund for Children

Vineeta Gupta is Program Officer for Asia at The Global Fund for Children (GFC). Prior to joining GFC, Gupta directed the Stop HIV/AIDS in India Initiative and practiced medicine in India for 16 years. She has more than 20 years of experience in organizational management in India and internationally, and she has traveled widely in Europe and the United States addressing the impact of international policies on the Global South. In 2001, she received the Rotary Service to Humanity Award. Gupta holds a Master's Degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Notre Dame; a Bachelor of Law (equivalent to a Juris Doctor degree); and a dual Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery from India.



Morton H. Halperin, Senior Advisor, Washington Office, Open Society Foundations

Morton Halperin is a senior advisor to the Open Society Foundations (OSF). In this capacity, he provides strategic guidance on U.S. and international issues. Halperin previously served as Director of U.S. Advocacy for OSF. He has had a distinguished career in federal government, having served in the Clinton, Nixon, and Johnson administrations. In the Clinton administration, Halperin was Director of the Policy Planning Staff at the Department of State (1998–2001), Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Democracy at the National Security Council (1994–1996), and a consultant to the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (1993). Halperin also has a long record as a Washington advocate on national and international issues. He spent many years at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), serving as Director of the Washington office from 1984 to 1992, and served as Director of the Center for National Security Studies from 1975 to 1992. Halperin has also been associated with a number of universities and think tanks, including Harvard University, where he taught for six years (1960–66), the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Center for American Progress. He has been widely published in newspapers and magazines across the world, and has authored and edited more than a dozen books. The recipient of numerous awards, he serves on the boards of the Center for Democracy and Technology, Disability Rights International, J Street, ONE, the Partnership for a Secure America, and The Constitution Project. He is also the chair of the advisory board of the Center for National Security Studies. Halperin holds a Doctorate in International Relations from Yale University. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia College.



Susan Henderson, Executive Director, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

Susan Henderson has been with the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Inc. (DREDF) since 1997. At DREDF, her work includes direction of the Children and Family Advocacy and the Media & Disability Programs. In 2006, she helped start DREDF's Foster Youth Resources for Education (FYRE) project to heighten awareness and protect the rights of children with disabilities in the child welfare system. Henderson has worked in non-profit and law firm management and finance for 20 years. She serves on the board of the Ed Roberts Campus, a collective of seven non-profit agencies in the disability community that are collaborating on the construction of a universally-designed building in Berkeley, California. She serves on the board of Community Resources for Science, an agency dedicated to strengthening science education in elementary schools. Henderson received her undergraduate degree in Anthropology from the University of California at Davis. She holds an Master of Business Administration degree from California State University, Hayward.



Jerry Hildebrand, Founder and Executive Director, The Global Center for Social Entrepreneurship, University of the Pacific

As Executive Director of the Global Center for Social Entrepreneurship, Jerry Hildebrand has introduced such breakthrough programs as TEDx, Ambassador Corps International Internship Fellowship, Fair Trade University, Mentorship Program, Hunger Banquet, Grassroots Soccer Tournament, Business Basics Boot Camp for non-business

students, Student Consultancy Social Enterprise, community-based microcredit funds, and online Certificate Program in Social Entrepreneurship. Previously, Hildebrand was CEO of the Katalysis Bootstrap Fund, a microfinance organization providing training, technical assistance, and credit to non-governmental microfinance institutions in Central America. He was one of pioneering Peace Corps volunteers in the early 1960s where he worked in the Andes Mountains of Peru with Aymara Indians on the shores of Lake Titicaca.



Annie Hillar, Learning and Evaluation Specialist, Mama Cash

Annie Hillar is Learning and Evaluation Specialist at Mama Cash, the oldest international women's fund, established in the Netherlands in 1983. In this role, she focuses on developing strategy and policy in the area of learning and evaluation and supports staff in developing tools for organisation-wide learning, decision-making, and accountability to stakeholders, including grantees, donors and other allies. Prior to this role, Hillar served as Director of Programmes at Mama Cash from 2008 until October 2012. Hillar also has extensive experience in fostering women's rights, specifically in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. She has worked as an independent consultant to various independent foundations, local women's NGOs and women's funds in Central and Eastern Europe in the areas of strategic fundraising and evaluation. She has also served on the advisory boards and councils of numerous women's organizations.



Sarah Hobson, Executive Director, New Field Foundation

Sarah Hobson is Executive Director of New Field Foundation, which supports rural women and their organizations in sub-Saharan Africa. Previously, she was Executive Director of the International Development Exchange (IDEX), partnering with community organizations in Asia, Africa and Latin America on grassroots economic development. She was a consultant to the UN agency, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and is Founder and Advisor to Open Channels, a British NGO working with indigenous peoples in Africa to define their lands, resources and rights. She was for many years a writer and filmmaker, bringing the stories and perspectives of rural communities, particularly women, to the mainstream media.



Sarah Holewinski, Executive Director, Center for Civilians in Conflict

Sarah Holewinski has served as Executive Director of Center for Civilians in Conflict since 2006. The Center advocates for warring parties to be more responsible for civilians before, during, and after armed conflict. Prior to joining the Center, Holewinski was a member of the White House AIDS Policy team throughout President Clinton's second term. Holewinski has consulted for Human Rights Watch and the Institute for State Effectiveness and the Clinton Foundation in Rwanda, where she managed an HIV/AIDS awareness initiative for 40 African First Ladies. Holewinski received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Theory from Georgetown and her Master's degree in Security Policy from Columbia University.



Karl Horberg, Program Officer, Connect U.S. Fund

Karl Horberg is Program Officer at the Connect U.S. Fund. His responsibilities include managing the Connect U.S. Fund's grant-making and the operational activities associated with human rights. Prior to joining the Connect U.S. Fund in November 2010, he held various positions in the human rights, health, and legal fields. Between 2004 and 2006, Horberg served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kyrgyzstan. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from American University and a Master of Science degree in Human Rights from the London School of Economics.



Gabriela Hrabanova, Policy Coordinator, European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (Belgium)

Gabriela Hrabanova is Policy Coordinator for the European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO) Network, a Brussels-based organization that supports and promotes grassroots Romani empowerment. After a career in advertising, she became involved in social activism by participating in and eventually leading the Romani students' association, *Athinganoi*. Hrabanova then moved to the Czech government as Director of the Office for the Council for Roma Minority Affairs, where she coordinated strategic and conceptual works related to Roma integration, and acted as Secretary of the Roma Council, chaired by the Czech Prime Minister. She was highly involved in the Czech Presidency of the European Union in 2009 and the Czech Presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion in 2011. Hrabanova is a member of the boards of directors of the Romedia Foundation, *Athinganoi*, the Decade of Roma Inclusion Secretariat, and the sub-board of the Open Society Roma Initiatives. She holds a Master of Arts degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from the New Anglo-American University in Prague.



Ricardo Jacobs, Agrarian Reform for Food Sovereignty Campaign (South Africa)

Ricardo Jacobs is a South African activist who has worked with agrarian social movements such as the Landless Peoples Movement, and is actively involved with the Right to Agrarian Reform for Food Sovereignty Campaign. He formerly headed the Research, Information and Advocacy Unit of the Surplus People Project, which advocates for pro-poor agrarian reform and supports grassroots movements of small-scale farmers. His current research interests include agrarian social movements, the agrarian question in modern times and agro-ecology for food sovereignty. Jacobs is currently a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University.



Dara Kell, Film Director, Producer and Editor

Dara Kell is a South African documentary and television editor, and Co-Director and Producer of *Dear Mandela*, an award-winning film about the activism of shack-dwellers in post-apartheid South Africa. Her editing work includes Academy Award-nominated *Jesus Camp*; *The Reckoning* (which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival) and Emmy Award winner *Diamond at the Rock*. She was a field producer for the Amnesty

International documentary *Human Rights, Human Needs* and has edited short films for Human Rights Watch and the MacArthur Foundation. Kell is also a media educator and facilitates camera and editing trainings with grassroots groups across the United States. She graduated from Rhodes University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Documentary Filmmaking and Political Science. Her thesis film, *Indlini Yam* (In My House), won the Dolphin Award for Best Documentary.



Violeta Krasnic, Program Director for Europe and Central Asia, Global Fund for Women

Violeta Krasnic joined the Global Fund for Women in September 2010 with more than 15 years of experience as a human rights advocate, gender-based violence counselor, non-profit management trainer, and video producer. In the early 1990s, Krasnic worked as a gender-based violence counselor in the former Yugoslavia where she also organized outreach and humanitarian support services for women violence survivors, as well as campaigns to strengthen civil initiatives against nationalism and war. Prior to the Global Fund, Krasnic worked at WITNESS, an international advocacy organization that empowers human rights defenders to use video as a tool for justice. Krasnic oversaw WITNESS program activities in Europe and the former Soviet Union, including partnerships with locally based human rights organizations and trainings through regional and thematic networks. She has produced videos screened at the U.S. Congress, the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and at advocacy events worldwide. Krasnic holds a Master of Arts degree from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology (Phi Beta Kappa), also from Columbia.



Christine Reeves, Senior Field Associate, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy

Christine Reeves is a senior field associate at the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) in Washington, D.C. She began at NCRP in 2009, and she continues to present high-impact strategies, research, and initiatives to funders, who serve marginalized communities across the United States and around the globe. Reeves serves as Vice-Chair of the Washington, D.C. chapter of Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy, and she served a one-year term as a grantmaker for the Funding Exchange Network. Also, she is a blog contributor for *Keeping a Close Eye*, and she is a published author for *Responsive Philanthropy*. Reeves earned a Master's degree in Public Policy from Duke University's Terry Sanford School of Public Policy and graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude from Emory University.



Diana Samarasan, Executive Director, Disability Rights Fund

Diana Samarasan is Executive Director of the Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund, which empowers disabled persons' organizations to advance the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the Global South, Middle East, and Eastern Europe/former Soviet Union. Previously, Samarasan directed the Mental Disability Advocacy Center, a legal advocacy organization in Budapest, Hungary, which litigates abuses of rights of persons with mental disabilities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. She has also worked with the American Refugee Committee and Doctors of the World,

addressing issues such as the access of vulnerable populations to reproductive health services, tuberculosis control, and deinstitutionalization. Samarasan is a board member of the United States International Council on Disability and on the steering committees of New England International Donors and the International Human Rights Funders Group. She is a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and has advance degrees in Public Administration and Psychology.



Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Olivier de Schutter has been UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food since May 2008. He teaches international human rights law at the University of Louvain and at the College of Europe (Natolin). Schutter is also a member of the Global Law School Faculty at New York University and a Visiting Professor at Columbia University.

Between 2004 and 2008, Schutter was the General Secretary of the International Federation for Human Rights on globalization and human rights. He has published extensively on the issues of governance and human rights, and on globalization and human rights.



Nina Smith, Founder and Executive Director, GoodWeave

Nina Smith is Founder and Executive Director of GoodWeave USA, and has helped to build and lead GoodWeave International's operations. Formerly, Smith was Executive Director of The Crafts Center, a non-profit organization providing marketing and technical assistance to indigenous artisans around the world. As President of the Fair Trade Federation (FTF) from 1996 to 1998, she launched FTF's first consumer awareness campaign. As a fair trade advocate and marketing professional for social change for more than two decades, Smith won the 2005 Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship. In 2012, she received The Center for Nonprofit Advancement's EXCEL Award for Excellence in Chief Executive Leadership. She is a graduate of Tufts University, and is a practitioner affiliate of the Social Enterprise Graduate Degree program at American University.



Caitlin Stanton, Senior Program Officer for Learning and Evaluation, Global Fund for Women

Caitlin Stanton is Senior Program Officer for Learning and Evaluation at Global Fund for Women. She has worked in the field of international human rights grantmaking for more than a decade and is the author of *Breaking Through: Gender Equality in Asia and the Pacific* and the co-author of "5 Principles for Global Feminist" *Philanthropy*, published in *Responsive Philanthropy*. She is a graduate of Mills College, and has studied in Okinawa, Japan and Cape Town, South Africa.



Keely Tongate, Program Director, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

Keely Tongate joined Urgent Action Fund in 2006. Previously, she worked with refugees in the United States, Moldova, and Turkey. Her experience ranges from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to Caritas, from the global level to local resettlement programs. Additionally, she has conducted research for Transparency International-Moldova and managed a pilot housing program for immigrant families in Denver, Colorado. Tongate received her Master's degree in International Human Rights from the University of Denver in 2006 and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Affairs from the University of Colorado-Boulder.



Yeshica Weerasekera, Director of Program Partnerships, International Development Exchange

Yeshica Weerasekera's experience spans more than 25 years in support of grassroots-led social change with a number of philanthropic and non-profit organizations in Africa, Europe, and the United States. Weerasekera was born in Sri Lanka, and grew up in the United Kingdom after immigrating there with her family. Based in West Africa for several years, she worked for Ashoka, Oxfam America, and RADI, a community-based organization in Senegal. In the United States, Weerasekera has worked with social change organizations such as USA for Africa, Tides Center, and Changemakers, and more recently as a deputy director at the International Forum on Globalization.