

# Delegate Biographies by Country

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## AFGHANISTAN

**Palwasha Kakar, The Asia Foundation**



Palwasha Kakar is the Director of Women's Empowerment and Development at The Asia Foundation. She has deep experience working with women's issues and gender in Afghanistan, specifically with regard to engaging traditional culture and local communities in development processes. This experience along with her extensive knowledge of women in Islam and the interaction of gender, politics, and religion, allows her to speak authoritatively on the role of religion in women's rights.

## BOTSWANA

**Musa W. Dube, University of Botswana**



Professor Musa W. Dube is a scholar of the New Testament at the University of Botswana. Her research interests include feminist, translation, HIV&AIDS and gender studies. Her community engagement has been largely in the area of HIV&AIDS and gender issues. She has worked with the World Council of Churches on mainstreaming HIV&AIDS and gender in the academic and faith-based programs Africa wide and trained trainers for the same. Prof Dube is the founder of *Talitha Cum: Association of Women in Faith*, which seeks to document, research, analyse and train women of faith in various issues of their concerns. Professor Dube has published widely and she is an internationally-sought speaker, who has given talks in about thirty countries. She is an active member of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**Claudia Furaha Nfundiko, Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace**



Claudia Furaha Nfundiko leads the advocacy programs related to the prevention and fight against sexual and gender-based violence for the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace (CEJP) in Bukavu, South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Her work includes expanding services to the children of victims of rape, who are often marginalized in their communities. CEJP is an initiative of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops with the goal of serving the cause of justice in society through the light of the Gospel.

**Joséphine Ngalula, NGO Forum de la Femme Ménagère "FORFEM"**



Josephine Ngalula Kabeya is the president of the Congolese organization *Forum de la Femme Ménagère* (FORFEM) that works to promote and defend women's rights. She is an expert in women's socio- economic development, and has been a leading human rights defender in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 1994. Ngalula is a focal point of the Carter Center's Alert and Protection System in Kinshasa, and FORFEM has been a member of the Human Rights House for many years. She holds a masters degree in political science and public administration.

**Mambo Zawadi, Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix Intégrale**



Mambo Zawadi is the program coordinator of Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix Intégrale (Women's Solidarity for Peace and Integral Development - SOFEPADI). Since, 2003, she has worked to protect women's rights, specifically through awareness-raising campaigns and shepherding survivors of sexual violence through the judicial process.

**EGYPT**

**Sheikh Dr. Mahmoud Azab, Al-Azhar**



Dr. Mahmoud Azab is Advisor to the Grand Imam for Interfaith Dialogue and Professor of Comparative Languages at Al-Azhar University. Al-Azhar University is among the world's oldest universities and is the foremost seat of learning in Sunni Islam, Al Azhar is led by Grand Imam Ahmed Muhammad Ahmed el-Tayeb. The 2011 Egyptian Constitution stipulated that Al-Azhar be consulted on matters of Shari'ah, to which legislation must comply. Dr. Azab was delegated to represent Al-Azhar at this forum.

**Sheikh Dr. Abdel-Dayem Nossair, Al-Azhar**



Dr. Abdel-Dayem Nossair is Advisor for Scientific Research to the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar. A mosque and a university that teaches both religious and modern scientific subjects, the scholars and imams of Al-Azhar have traditionally been sought from afar for their expertise in all areas of Islamic law and history. Dr. Nossair was delegated to represent Al-Azhar at this forum.

### **Ambassador Abdelrahman Moussa, Al-Azhar**



Ambassador Abdelrahman Moussa is Advisor for International Affairs to the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar. He is the former Assistant Minister of foreign affairs and served as an Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Poland and Czech Republic. Ambassador Moussa served as Director of Security and Strategic Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was delegated to represent Al-Azhar at this forum.

### **Dr. Nevine Saad, Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt**



Dr. Nevine Saad is a psychiatrist at the Maamoura Psychiatric Hospital in Alexandria, as well as the founder and head of the St. Joseph Counseling Centre at the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria, Egypt, which provides marriage and family counseling to Coptic families. Through her practice she deals frequently with cases of female abuse and domestic violence.

### **Dr. Marilyn Ekladios, Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt**



Dr. Marilyn Ekladios is an Adjunct Professor at Nova Southeastern University, where she teaches graduate courses in Public Policy. She is also a member of the Faculty of the Family Ministry Program, an affiliate of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States, a diaspora community of the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church, where she teaches courses on Contemporary Issues. As the Editor-in-Chief of the *Mighty Arrows Magazine*, a diocesan publication, she oversees the journalistic reporting of current events in the Coptic community and in the world. She is also the coordinator of the St. Verena Resource Ministry, a collaboration and network of social service professionals.

### **Dr. Salah-eddin Elgawhary, Biblioteca Alexandrina**



Dr. Salah-eddin Elgawhary is a Principal Advisor at the Biblioteca Alexandrina in Egypt. He has previously worked with the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other organizations of the United Nations, and has advised both the Egyptian and United States governments. His work is currently focused issuing a selection of Modern Islamic Classics as part of efforts to establish a Center for the Studies of Islamic Civilization and Contemporary Islamic Thought at the Biblioteca Alexandrina.

**Dr. Maha Ibrahim Ghanem, Biblioteca Alexandrina**



Dr. Maha Ghanem is Director-General of Tanta University Libraries and Advisor to the Biblioteca Alexandrina. Dr. Ghanem is an expert in children's literature, library, and information sciences and works with several organizations in Egypt concerned with the rights of children and women.

**Dr. Riham Bahi, American University in Cairo**



Dr. Riham Bahi is an Associate Professor of International Relations in the Faculty of Political Science at the American University of Cairo. Her research interests include Islamic feminism, global and transnational aspects of political Islam and U.S. relations with the Muslim world. Dr. Bahi's work includes papers on Islamic and secular feminism and Muslim women's movements.

**GHANA**

**Chief Sidiq Gimala III, National Council of Muslim Chiefs**



Chief Sidiq Gimala III leads the delegation from Ghana of His Eminence Sheikh Dr. Osman Nuhu Sharubutu, National Chief Imam and Grand Mufti of the Republic of Ghana. Chief Sidiq Gimala III is acting President of the National Council of Muslim Chiefs in Ghana.

**Sheikh Mustapha Ibrahim, Islamic Council for Development and Humanitarian Services**



Sheikh Mustapha Ibrahim is Chairman of the Islamic Council for Development and Humanitarian Services and SONSETFUND and is also a key member of the Advisory Board of His Eminence the National Chief Imam of Ghana.



### **Alhaji Khuzaima Mohammed Osman, Islamic Peace and Security Council**



Alhaji Khuzaima is Executive Secretary of the Islamic Peace and Security Council (IPASEC), charged with implementation of the National Chief Imam's Peace and Security Project. The organization is working to sustain and maintain peace and security through collaboration with law enforcement and work within the Muslim and Zongo communities in Ghana. Alhaji Khuzaima is personal assistant to the National Chief Imam of Ghana.

### **Rashidat Muhammed, Answarudeen Women**



Rashidat Muhammed is a human rights activist in the Muslim community in Ghana and co-founder of Answarudeen Women. She is a member of the delegation of the National Chief Imam of Ghana.

### **Abdul Majeed Abdul Mumin, Assistant, National Council of Muslim Chiefs**



Abdul Majeed Abdul Mumin is Assistant to Chief Sidiq Gimala III, acting President of the National Council of Muslim Chiefs. He is a member of the delegation of the National Chief Imam of Ghana.

### **Abdul Basit Rufai**



Abdul Basit Rufai is Assistant to Chief Sidiq Gimala III, acting President of the National Council of Muslim Chiefs. He is a member of the delegation of the National Chief Imam of Ghana.

## IRAQ

### Sheikh Ali Abed Naem Al-Khafaji, Islamic Gathering for Reform and Peace



Sheikh Ali Al-Khafaji is the Secretary-General of the Islamic Gathering for Reform and Peace in Iraq. As one of Iraq's most prominent voices, Sheikh Ali pursues reconciliation and demonstrates inter-denomination, inter-ethnic, and inter-faith peacemaking. Sheikh Ali promulgates that theology would strengthen the recognition of human rights, including women and children's rights. He also spearheads initiatives in orphan care in sixteen provinces in Iraq.

### Jeremy Courtney, Preemptive Love Coalition



Jeremy Courtney is co-founder and Executive Director of the Preemptive Love Coalition in Iraq, which trains Iraqi heart surgeons and nurses in the skills necessary to treat the prevalence of heart defects in children, a terrible consequence of the recent conflict. Jeremy's vision is driven by his Christian faith, both he and his wife Jessica see their work with the PLC as a way to strive in pursuit of the Christian mission of healing and love.

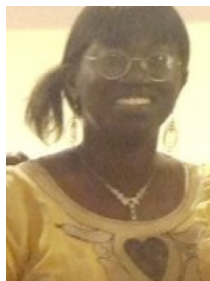
### Dr. Samira Al-Alaani Abdulghani, Fallujah General Hospital



Dr. Samira Al-Alaani is a pediatrician at Fallujah General Hospital and part of the Preemptive Love Coalition who has first-hand experience treating the birth defects brought on by the war in Iraq. She has documented the increase in rates of birth defects in Fallujah, reporting an astonishing 37 anomalous births in one three-week period in her hospital alone.

## LIBERIA

### Frances Greaves, Voice of the Voiceless



Frances Greaves is the founder of an inter-denominational women's organization in Liberia called Voice of the Voiceless, which was involved in working with women who testified at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), providing medical referral for war victims of sexual and gender-based violence and infusing women's views into the final recommendations of the TRC report. She has previously served as project coordinator and consultant on women's issues with numerous organizations. She is now vice-chairperson of the Board of Directors of an umbrella organization that brings together over 75 women's, community and faith-based NGOs.

### **Ella Musu Coleman, National Traditional Council of Liberia**



Ella Coleman is Assistant Secretary General for Social Services at the National Traditional Council of Liberia. Previously, she has served as a member of the Task Force for Free and Compulsory Primary Education in Liberia, encouraging young people, especially girls, to go to school. Mrs. Coleman has also served as a Community Coordinator assigned in West Point Township under the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), encouraging girls to go to school and monitoring students on the various campuses to ensure safety from sexual harassment. In addition, she works to educate women from traditional communities on their rights and responsibilities.

### **Chief Zanzan Karwor**



Chief Zanzan Karwor is National Chairman of the National Traditional Council of Liberia and the country's head Zoe (spiritual leader). In 2012, the Liberian National Legislature created the independent National Council of Chiefs and Elders of which Chief Karwor is also Chairman. The function of the new council is to help preserve positive aspects of Liberia's traditional culture, to assist the Government in achieving sustained peace and reconciliation, and to provide independent advice on national issues. The Carter Center has partnered with the National Traditional Council at national and local levels for the past four years in a dialogue on issues related to custom and the rule of law, including women's rights and traditional practices, and has supported the council at national and local levels to resolve disputes and improve local governance.

### **Pewee Flomoku, The Carter Center**



Pewee Flomoku is a Carter Center program officer and native Liberian who is now helping to coordinate the Liberia justice project. The project is focused on strengthening the rule of law in Liberia through partnering with grassroots civil society organizations.

## **MALAYSIA**

### **Zainah Anwar, Sisters in Islam and Mussawah**



Zainah Anwar founded Sisters in Islam 25 years ago in Malaysia to advocate for a women's rights framework within Islam and is also a founder of Musawah, a global movement focused on equality within the Muslim family, launched in 2009. As a Muslim and a feminist, she sees her faith and the Qur'an as an asset in the struggle for social justice, arguing that oppressive Muslim practices are a perversion of the true message of Islam.

## NIGERIA

### Hauwa Ibrahim, Harvard Divinity School and Aries Law Firm



Hauwa Ibrahim is Visiting Lecturer on Women's Studies and Islamic Law at Harvard Divinity School. She is also Senior Partner at Aries Law Firm in Nigeria, which she founded to continue to work for women's rights there from within the Shariah court system where she has tried over 150 cases. She has written the book on advancing women's and human rights within the Islamic court system: *Practicing Shariah Law: Seven Strategies for Achieving Justice in Shariah Courts*, published this year.

## PAKISTAN

### Mossarat Qadeem, PAIMAN Alumni Trust



Mossarat Qadeem works with religious and tribal leaders from the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA) in Pakistan to counter extremism. She founded PAIMAN Alumni Trust, a non-profit group promoting socio-political and economic empowerment for marginalized Pakistanis. With PAIMAN, she established the country's first center for conflict transformation and peace building. Her on the ground experience contributes to her knowledge in political processes and international standards for political inclusion, civic education, and women's leadership in Islam.

## SENEGAL

### H. E. Sheikh Omar Ahmed Tijani Niass, Tijaniyyah Sufi Order



Sheikh Omar Ahmed Tijani Ibrahim Niass is the Spiritual Leader of the Tijani Sufi order, one of the largest sects of Islam in West Africa with an estimated 50 million followers.

### H. E. Sheikh Omar Ben Khatab Sokhna, Tijaniyyah Sufi Order



Sheikh Omar Ben Khatab Sokhna is a spiritual leader and member of the delegation of the Tijani Sufi order.

### Sheikh Muhamed Chérif Dioup, Tostan



Sheikh Muhamed Chérif Dioup is an Islamic Rights Specialist and Child Protection Program Officer at Tostan in Senegal. He has deep understanding of Islam and Islamic education and has been active in advocating for better regulation of Islamic schools while supporting their important role in society.

### Molly Melching, Tostan



Molly Melching is the Founder and Executive Director of Tostan, named for a Wolof word meaning “breakthrough”, whose mission is a product of her vision to achieve sustainable development through respecting and empowering local communities. Molly has gained international recognition thanks to the outreach work of grassroots communities to abandon female genital cutting and child and forced marriage in Senegal, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, and Guinea after having participated in the Tostan program. Molly has been honored for her expertise in non-formal education, human rights training, and social transformation.

### Bacary Tamba, Tostan



Bacary Tamba is National Coordinator of the Diaspora for Tostan, as well Regional Coordinator of Ziguinchor. Founded in Senegal in 1990 to promote an innovative approach to development involving community empowerment through indigenous language and learning methods, Tostan’s model has now spread to programs in eight countries and 22 languages in Africa and has been widely recognized for its success in addressing the practice of female genital cutting and has been endorsed by figures such as former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

## SOMALIA

### Birima Fall, Tostan



Birima Fall is the National Coordinator of Tostan’s Community Empowerment Program in Somalia. Tostan’s program in Somalia has made considerable strides, working with the community, the culture and the religion, in beginning to reduce the practice of female genital cutting.



## SWITZERLAND

### Dr. Fulata Moyo, World Council of Churches



Dr. Fulata Moyo is Program Executive for Women in Church and Society with the World Council of Churches (WCC). In this capacity she coordinates the WCC's work around the globe with regards to women. She is a theologian, historian, activist and academic in the areas of gender and HIV/AIDS. Her work and interests have focused on gender and ecological justice and sexuality in the context of HIV/AIDS.

### Mona Rishmawi, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights



Mona Rishmawi is Chief of the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-discrimination branch of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. She has held many different positions throughout the UN system and has established herself as a leader in the field of human rights law over more than two decades, with roles such as Legal Advisor to the OHCHR and Senior Human Rights and Gender Advisor to Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Iraq, Sergio Viera de Mello.

## UNITED KINGDOM

### Dr. Ziba Mir-Hosseini, Musawah



Dr. Ziba Mir-Hosseini is a legal anthropologist and activist, specializing in Islamic law, gender and development. She works with the Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE) and is a founding member of Musawah Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family. She has held many professorships and fellowships, is an author, film director, and commentator on Iranian affairs and women in Islam, with expertise on the role of male authority in Islamic family law.

### Jimmy Carter, 39<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and Founder of The Carter Center



President Jimmy Carter served as president from January 20, 1977 to January 20, 1981. Significant foreign policy accomplishments of his administration included the Panama Canal treaties, the Camp David Accords, the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel, the SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union, and the establishment of U.S. diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. He championed human rights throughout the world. In 1982, President Carter became University Distinguished Professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and founded The Carter Center. Actively guided by President Carter, the nonpartisan and nonprofit Center addresses national and international issues of public policy. Carter Center fellows, associates, and staff join with President Carter in efforts to resolve conflict, promote democracy, protect human rights, and prevent disease and other afflictions. Through the Global 2000 programs, the Center advances health and agriculture in the developing world. It has spearheaded the international effort to eradicate Guinea worm disease, which will be the second disease in history to be eliminated.

### Rosalynn Carter, Former First Lady and Founder of The Carter Center



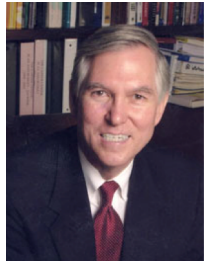
Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter has worked for more than four decades to improve the quality of life for people around the world. Today, she is a leading advocate for mental health, caregiving, early childhood immunization, human rights, and conflict resolution through her work at The Carter Center. A full partner with the president in all the Center's activities, the former first lady is a member of the Carter Center board of trustees and co-founder. She created and chairs the Carter Center's Mental Health Task Force, an advisory body of experts, consumers, and advocates promoting positive change in the mental health field.

### Karin Ryan, The Carter Center



Karin Ryan is director of The Carter Center's Human Rights Program. As director, Ms. Ryan works with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter on a range of issues, including assisting their efforts on behalf of victims of human rights violations through personal interventions with heads of state. She has represented the Center in many international negotiations, including the International Criminal Court, the human rights of women, the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, and most recently on the establishment of a U.N. Human Rights Council.

### **Dr. John Hardman, The Carter Center**



Dr. John Hardman is President and CEO of The Carter Center, providing leadership to achieve the Carter Center's commitment to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy, and improve health. He is an active participant in the Carter Center's program initiatives, including election monitoring in Asia, Africa, and Latin America; Ethiopian public health training; global development strategies and conflict resolution efforts; and agriculture programs aimed at improving food production in Africa and North Korea.

### **Larisa Friesen Hall, Sojourners**



Larisa Friesen Hall is Chief Advancement Officer for Sojourners, whose mission is to articulate the biblical call to social justice, inspiring hope and building a movement to transform individuals, communities, the church and the world. Larisa represents Sojourners around the country and is the founding chair of Sojourners' organizational taskforce to develop intercultural competency. She also leads strategic planning for Sojourners' Women and Girls Leading on Faith and Justice Initiative. Larisa has completed studies in international business and economic development from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She also participated in International Business Institute, a rigorous study program of class sessions, government lectures, and corporate visits spanning ten European countries.

### **Imam Mohamed Magid, Islamic Society of North America**



Imam Mohamed Magid serves as President of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) and as Executive Director of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society. He has a long history of commitment to public service through organizations such as The Peaceful Families Project, Annual Twinning of Mosques and Synagogues, Fairfax Faith Communities in Action, Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington Assembly and the Buxton Interfaith Initiative. Imam Magid strives to create and foster dialogue and increase understanding about Islam. Part of his work with the Buxton Interfaith Initiative included forging a partnership with Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk, then leader of the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation in Reston. Both men were recognized by the Washingtonian as "2009's Washingtonians of the Year" for building bridges between their faith communities. He continues to provide good counsel for the Muslim community through his regular contributions to ISNA's magazine, Islamic Horizons, as well as a speaker and leader of discussions on imminent issues facing the Muslim American community.

### **Ruth Messinger, American Jewish World Service**



Ruth W. Messinger is the President and Executive Director of American Jewish World Service (AJWS), an international development organization providing support to more than 200 grassroots social change projects in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Ms. Messinger is also a visiting professor at Hunter College, teaching urban policy and politics. Prior to assuming her position at AJWS in 1998, Ms. Messinger was in public service in New York City for 20 years. She served 12 years in the New York City Council and eight years as Manhattan borough president. She was the first woman to secure the Democratic Party's nomination for mayor in 1997.

### **Dr. Laurie Zoloth, Northwestern University and the American Academy of Religion**



Dr. Laurie Zoloth is President-elect of the American Academy of Religion, the leading body responsible for fostering excellence in religious teaching and scholarship in the U.S. A professor of Medical Humanities, Bioethics and Religion, and Jewish Studies at Northwestern University, and Director of the Center for Bioethics, Science, and Society, Dr. Zoloth is a leading Jewish scholar looking at the relationship between science, ethics and religion.

### **Sister Simone Campbell, Nuns on the Bus**



Sister Simone Campbell is a religious leader, advocate, and activist working to promote systematic change in the public policy arena. In addition to serving as executive director of NETWORK, a Catholic organization lobbying for social justice, she is also an attorney and poet, and is perhaps most well known for the letter she wrote to congress in support of healthcare reform and helping to organize the “Nuns on the Bus” tour of the U.S., after American nuns of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious were chastised by the Vatican for their feminist views and activism.

### **Dr. Alison Boden, Princeton University**



Dr. Alison Boden serves as Dean of Religious Life and the Chapel at Princeton University. Her writing and teaching interests have focused on such topics as human rights and religion, religion and violence, religion in the academy, and a variety of social justice issues. She has authored a book entitled, *Women's Rights and Religious Practice*, and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.



### **Dr. Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Harvard Divinity School**



Dr. Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza is the Krister Stendahl Professor of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School and has done pioneering work in biblical interpretation and feminist theology. Her teaching and research focus is on the question of biblical and theological epistemology, hermeneutics, rhetoric, and the politics of interpretation, as well as on issues of theological education, radical equality, and democracy. Professor Schüssler-Fiorenza is a co-founder and co-editor of the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. In recognition of her work, she has received numerous honorary doctorates and awards. Her most recent book is *Transforming Vision: Explorations in Feminist Theology*.

### **Reverend Dr. Susan Thistlethwaite, Chicago Theological Seminary and the Center for American Progress**



Reverend Dr. Susan Thistlethwaite is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and a Professor of Theology at Chicago Theological Seminary, as well as its former president. She was ordained a minister of the United Church of Christ in 1974, is an author and biblical translator. Professor Thistlethwaite is now at the vanguard of the new area of public theology, an online columnist for the *Washington Post* and media commentator on matters of religion and faith.

### **Ritu Sharma, Women Thrive Worldwide**



Ritu Sharma is the President and Co-founder of Women Thrive Worldwide in Washington, D.C. Ms. Sharma is a coalition builder, political strategist, communicator and motivational speaker, as well as a co-convenor and principal of the Women, Faith and Development Alliance and the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network. She serves on the board of the U.S. Global Leadership Center (USGLC), the Pax World Women's Advisory Council, and the Advisory Council of Men and Women as Allies.

### **Dr. Seana Steffen, The Restorative Leadership Institute**



Dr. Seana Steffen is the Founder and Executive Director of the Restorative Leadership Institute. She formerly served on the faculty at the University of Colorado at Boulder as the founding director of INVST Community Studies, where she designed and delivered award-winning leadership curriculum focused on developing a more just and sustainable world. In public service, Seana co-founded Explore Expeditionary Learning School, which received the first Colorado "Commissioner's Choice Award for Getting Results," and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, the first rural regional youth corps in the country and a recipient of White House recognition for positive change in the Southwest.



## **Bani Dugal, Baha'i International Community**



Bani Dugal is the Principal Representative of the Baha'i International Community to the United Nations. As part of the community of international NGOs at the UN, she has served as the President of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and as a facilitator and advisor to numerous NGO committees within the UN system. Prior to being appointed Principal Representative, Ms. Dugal served as Director, Office for the Advancement of Women at the Baha'i International Community. Prior to relocating to the U.S. in 1988, she practiced law before the Supreme Court of India.

## **ATLANTA**

### **Dr. Randall Bailey, Interdenominational Theological Center**



Dr. Randall Bailey is the Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Professor of Hebrew Bible, Area I at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. His work is focused on ideological criticism and how race, class, gender, sex, and power intersect in the Bible text. The Interdenominational Theological Center is a Christian, ecumenical, graduate professional school of theology.

### **Dr. Ann C. Kruger, Georgia State University, College of Education**



Dr. Ann Kruger is an Associate Professor at Georgia State University College of Education. Her research interests include discourse analysis and development of social cognition. She has published on cultural learning and the learning of culture and most recently on the mimetic theory of religion and culture.

### **Cheryl Deluca-Johnson, Street Grace**



Cheryl Deluca-Johnson is the Executive Director of Street Grace, a faith-based organization in Atlanta, Georgia, dedicated to ending sex trafficking of minors in Atlanta and eventually the United States. Ms. Deluca-Johnson has been responsible for the overall development of the organization's mission and priorities, and is main representative in the public arena.

### **Aaronde Creighton, Street Grace**



Aaronde Creighton is Member of the Board of Directors of Street Grace and a professional management consultant specializing in leadership and organizational development.

### **Pastor Paul Palmer, Atlanta Dream Center**



Pastor Paul Palmer founded the Atlanta Dream Center with his wife Patty after following their faith and trust in God to move to Atlanta from California, where they originally found their faith and began their ministry. The Atlanta Dream Center is a faith-based non-profit located in the Old Fourth Ward, one of downtown's most vulnerable neighborhood's. The center has had a huge impact on the community with its message and community outreach programs.

### **Dr. Sita Ranchod-Nilsson, Institute for Developing Nations at Emory University**



Dr. Sita Ranchod-Nilsson is Director of Emory's Institute for Developing Nations (IDN), a joint project started in 2006 with The Carter Center. She leads IDN in working to build a community of scholars, practitioners and policymakers who are committed to working together to fight global poverty. IDN supports multiple projects with a gender-focus, from transitional justice in sub-Saharan Africa to gender-based violence and rule of law in Liberia, as well as health initiatives. Dr Ranchod-Nilsson's previous research and experience as a professor and fellow has focused on gender politics, nationalism, and the state.

### **Dr. Dianne Diakit , Emory University**



Dr. Dianne Diakit  is an Associate Professor of Religion and African American Studies at Emory University. Dr. Diatik  has theological training with a research focus on African and diaspora religious cultures and is a former Fulbright Scholar. She has authored numerous books, articles, and essays on African religion, the formation of religious culture, and womanist theology.

**Reverend Dr. Andrea White, The Candler School of Theology at Emory University**



Dr. Andrea White is an Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture with the Candler School of Theology at Emory. Specializing in constructive Christian theology, womanist theology and perspectives and postmodern religious thought. Dr. White has authored several books on these subjects, has held several research fellowships, and is an ordained American Baptist minister.

**Dr. Elizabeth Bounds, The Candler School of Theology at Emory University**



Dr. Elizabeth M. Bounds is an Associate Professor of Christian Ethics with the Candler School of Theology at Emory. She has authored and edited numerous books and articles, including *Coming Together/Coming Apart: Religion, Modernity, and Community* (1997) and *Welfare Policy: Feminist Critiques* (1999). Her interests include peace building/conflict transformation, restorative justice and the prison system, democratic practices and civil society, feminist and liberation ethics, and transformative pedagogical practices.

**Dena Blank Kimball, Blank Foundation**



Dena Blank is an independent philanthropic consultant. Formerly, she served as the Vice President of Network Support of Teach For All, the Vice President of Alumni Affairs and the Deputy Vice President of Admissions for Teach for America, and as the Executive Director of GirlVentures in San Francisco, a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire adolescent girls to develop and express their strengths. Dena was the founding Chair of American Jewish World Service's Global Circle. She specializes in the curriculum development, management, strategic planning and development of nonprofit organizations focusing on youth.