

BIOGRAPHIES

U.S. Fellows

Wanika B. Fisher

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A proud daughter of immigrant parents **Wanika B. Fisher** is a lawyer, community advocate and coalition builder. Wanika represents the residents of Prince George's County Maryland, District 47B in the Maryland House of Delegates and is a member of the House Judiciary committee. She graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park with a B.A. in Government and Politics and African American studies. She then received her law degree from Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law. Wanika has a breadth of experiences on the county and state level before seeking elected office.

As a staffer on the Prince George's County Council, Wanika helped protect senior citizens' leases and contributed to the banning of coal tar in Prince George's County. While working in the State Senate, Wanika worked on the Justice Reinvestment Act and the Trust Act, helping reform the criminal justice system and protect immigrants. As an assistant state's attorney, she spent each day targeting serious crimes while providing nonviolent offenders with paths to rehabilitation. Currently, Wanika represents clients in criminal and civil proceedings. Wanika is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Iota Gamma Omega chapter of Prince George's County. She continues to give back by serving on the University of Maryland, College Park, Alumni Association's Board of Governors.

Peter Kim

Mayor
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Peter Kim was elected to the La Palma City Council in La Palma, California in November 2012 and was re-elected in November 2016. He currently serves as Mayor of the City of La Palma, a position he also held from 2014-2015. Peter is also a Director of the Orange County Sanitation District, where he is the Chair of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee and a Member of the Steering, Administration, and Audit Ad Hoc Committees. Professionally, Peter is the Chief of Staff for California State Assembly member Tyler Diep. Prior to working for the State Assembly, Peter worked 12 years for the California Department of Tax and Fee

Administration and the California State Board of Equalization, the agencies in charge of administering the state's sales and use tax. Peter is also a Block Captain for the La Palma Neighborhood Watch and served as a Founding Director of the La Palma Community Foundation. Peter graduated from the University of California at Irvine with a bachelor's

degree in political science and is currently pursuing his master's degree in public administration at California State University, Fullerton. He is fluent in Korean and is certified by the Los Angeles Unified School District's Bilingual Testing Service.

Samuel Kohn

Attorney

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Samuel Kohn is an attorney based in Denver, Colorado. He has served as a managing associate in the Native American Law and Policy group at Dentons US LLP, in San Francisco, and as a Staff Attorney at the Native American Rights Fund. Sam is an enrolled member of the Crow Tribe of Montana (Apsalooke Nation). As of June 2020, he is looking for his next opportunity. Sam was born and raised in on the Crow Indian Reservation in southeastern Montana and has served as a judicial law clerk in the District of Montana and to the Montana Supreme Court. Sam's legal practice focuses on Indian law, with experience in fee-to-trust, tribal courts, tribal gaming, tribal governance, and tribal sovereign immunity. Sam also

has experience in administrative actions, especially those under NEPA, NHPA, and arising from FOIA, on behalf of Indian tribes. Sam has litigated in administrative forums, and federal, state, and tribal courts across the United States on behalf of tribal interests. Sam also has served as an advocate for Indian tribes before the United States Congress and federal agencies, and has experience advising clients on issues related to trademark protection and the Indian Arts and Crafts issues.

Girmay Zahilay

Councilmember

King County, WA, USA

King County Council

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Girmay Zahilay is a Councilmember governing 2.4 million people in King County, Washington. Girmay was born in Sudan to Ethiopian refugee parents and was raised in low-income public housing in Seattle, Washington. After graduating from Franklin High School, he received degrees from Stanford University and UPenn Law School, and worked in the Obama White House. His experiences growing up in public housing and going to public schools inspired him to pursue anti-poverty work through the Congressional Hunger Center and also to found Rising Leaders, Inc., a nonprofit that equips underserved middle school students with mentors and life skills training. Girmay ran for


King County Council to offer bold solutions to problems that need immediate regional leadership. He wants to build and maintain affordable housing for communities experiencing displacement, invest more in youth opportunities, build public transit in neighborhoods that have the highest need, reform the criminal legal system, and make the political process more inclusive across communities and generations.



European Fellows

Samir Beharić

Schuman Trainee
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Samir Beharić is an award-winning youth activist, a TEDx speaker and a recent Global Studies graduate with a joint degree from the University of Vienna and Leipzig University. He is currently working as the Schuman Trainee at the European Parliament in Brussels. Prior to this, he served as the Lantos Congressional Fellow at the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C. As someone who has attended a segregated primary school in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Samir has been highly involved in fighting against ethnic segregation in the Bosnian educational system. In November 2018, the OSCE and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs awarded him the 2018 Max van der Stoep Award in recognition of preventing further segregation of schools in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He has been engaged in civil society and particularly interested in youth activism and student issues. As a board member within the Western Balkans Alumni Association, he has been openly advocating for improving mobility, brain circulation and regional cooperation in higher education in Europe and beyond. Samir received his B.A. from the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Sarajevo. He studied abroad in Austria, Germany, Turkey and Italy as a scholarship holder of the European Commission, German Government and Turkish Government.

Rami Belaid

Analyst
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Paris, France



Rami Belaid is a construction and civil engineer from the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées in Paris and in cooperation with the National Engineering School of Tunisia. Rami had a dream to combine multiple expertise and to contribute to making people's lives better and easier. For these reasons, Rami joined Meridiam and started acquiring skills around infrastructure project finance and learning how to align investors and local communities' interests. His first experience was in the Tramway of Florence in Italy; a project that resulted in a significant social and environmental welfare and contributed to enhance the mobility in the city. Currently, he is working on the development of NeuConnect, which is the first electrical link between Germany and the UK to transport 1.4 GW of capacity through 720Km of offshore Cable. This project will enhance the security of supply, reduce electricity prices by coupling the markets and promote the use of renewable energies. As part of his social involvement, Rami contributed to several events held by the Junior Chamber International in Tunisia to help disabled people.

Nemanja Bisevac
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Nemanja Bisevac is a representative of the City Council of North Mitrovica and is a native of Kosovska Mitrovica. He graduated from the University of Pristina in Kosovska Mitrovica in 2017 with a degree in Serbian Literature and Language. In 2020 he earned a master's degree and became a professor in Serbian Literature and Language. From 2015-2017 he worked as an assistant manager on a project founded by the European Union called "Green Mitrovica". Since 2017 he has been working as an administration officer in the Faculty of Philosophy in Kosovska Mitrovica. In 2019 he became Vice President of SKONUS (Student's Conference of Serbia). Nemanja is also a student vice-rector of the University of Pristina in Kosovska, Mitrovika. Prior to this, he was Student Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy. In 2017 Bisevac became a member of the City Council in Kosovska Mitrovica. He is an expert in the Serbian language, which is his native language, and also speaks English fluently. His skills in information technology and work on computer are outstanding. He is responsible, initiative driven, and objective oriented.

Benjamin Bodson
Researcher and Elected City Councilor
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Benjamin Bodson is a member of the City Council of Liège (Belgium). Benjamin's decision to run for office was driven by the increasing deep inequalities between people of different origins, and between the rich and the poor, as well as by the consequent rise of populist parties. In his political duties, Benjamin strives for inclusion, respect for people and appeasement. Benjamin aims at challenging the establishment that applies old methods to new problems. He strongly believes that only thought-provoking solutions can make a change, and that it requires cross-border collaboration to succeed in front of nationalist leaders. Benjamin believes access to quality education is the key. This is the reason why he has been volunteering for several years in a primary school endowed with a specific inclusion program, where he puts his legal skills at the service of the school community. Moreover, Benjamin lectures and conducts research on EU Law at UCLouvain and HEC Paris. He holds degrees from the London School of Economics and Political Science (MSc in International Relations Theory, 2015) and the University of Liège (Master's in Law, specialised in Public Law, 2014). Benjamin is also an associate fellow at Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations.



Pavlo Bogachenko

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Pavlo Bogachenko is a young civil society leader from Ukraine, co-founder and vice-president of the Debate for Changes NGO. He became involved in civil society initiatives in 2011 and since then has engaged in various national and international educational projects in Ukraine, including cooperation with British Council Ukraine, Embassy of Finland in Ukraine, Ministry of Youth and Sports Ukraine, Impact Hub Odessa. In 201, he started working on the PROVODNIK project, which is aimed to contribute to the development of accessible urban infrastructure in Ukraine. PROVODNIK is an interactive map (web platform) for people with mobility limitations to help them find the best possible routes in the cities of Ukraine using the crowdsourced data, map and review the accessibility of places, send automatic complaints (requests) to government bodies. The PROVODNIK project received the 2019 EU Digitalisation for Civil Society Award and Pavlo was selected as EaP Civil Society Fellow. Pavlo also holds an LL.M degree in Trial Advocacy and works as a practicing attorney at a leading international law firm in Kyiv.

Adam Bouzi

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Growing up, I considered the library my second home. Inspired by Roald Dahl’s Matilda, I voraciously devoured book after book in the hopes of also gaining telekinetic powers. While I never developed the ability to move things with my mind alone, I did fall in love with literature. One book in particular kept me company during most nights; The Iliad. Reading about Achilles’ exploits during the Trojan War or Odysseus’ ingenuity piqued my interest in the history surrounding the myths. And thus started my lifelong passion for history. From obscure Hittite rulers to Bismarck, they all had an impact on how I saw the world around me, while making me realize the omnipresence of politics and its role in shaping all those events I read about. To quote Napoleon: “the reading of history very soon made me feel like I was capable of achieving as much as the men who are placed in the highest ranks of our annals”. This led to me to undertake my first steps in politics. After a couple of years of growing my network – backed by my political science studies - I finally managed to get myself a candidacy for the European Elections as youngest candidate of Europe. I didn’t get elected, but I had my first taste of what politics was really like, and I loved it. Following the elections, I decided to start taking on more international projects in the hopes of expanding my network outside of Belgium. I am currently working with multiple NGO’s and hoping to launch my own, which will focus on civic participation and economic development in the MENA region, by the end of 2020.

Yavor Bozhankov

Member of Parliament

National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

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Yavor Bozhankov is a Bulgarian politician, lawyer, chairman of the Association of the Recycling Industry in Bulgaria, A member of the 44th National Assembly and a member of the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Committee on Environment and Water. As an MP, his focus is on environment and law. He works to impose the principles of the circular economy, carbon-neutral industry and healthy environment, and focuses on the fight against corruption, strengthening democracy. He is also a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where his main activity is in the field of rights of immigrants and the sustainable development of democracy in Europe. Yavor is the chairman and founder of the Association of the Recycling Industry, which is the largest NGO in the field of waste management and environmental protection in Bulgaria. He co-founded and is a member of NGO "With faith in the good". Through his organization he initiated a number of charitable initiatives. Lastly, he was awarded with "Worthy Bulgarians" award by the president of the republic of Bulgaria. He is married, with one son.

Brajan Brković

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Brajan Brković began his engagement in activism and the fight for human rights and the rights of young people in high school, then he founded the informal association of citizens "Reaction". Reaction was aimed at encouraging young people that their tomorrow lies in their hands. He was also the president of the student parliament of the gymnasium "Uroš Predic" in Pančevo, as well as the president of the student parliament of the Faculty of Management in Novi Sad. He was a member of the Executive Committee "1 od 5 Miliona" protests in Novi Sad. In May 2019 he became a member of newly founded Freedom and Justice Party. He became the president of the city initiative committee in Novi Sad for Freedom and Justice Party. He led the student protests of 2019 in Novi Sad, he is the founder of the student movement "Youth Student Action" in Novi Sad. OSA NS aimed to promote the idea of education activism, human rights and critical awareness among students.



Patricia Caro

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Patricia Caro is a parliamentary advisory of the equality commission in the Spanish National Parliament (The Congress of Deputies). She studied psychology and is currently doing a M.A. on “Relations with stigmatized groups”. Her research area focuses on the relationship between racism and sexism from a psychosocial perspective. She has carried out research on the emotional health in two neighborhoods of Barcelona, the intersectional perspective in the political frameworks of Roma integration and the analysis of the Spanish Roma women civil society in Spain. She is part of the Europe and Central Asia Civil Society Advisory Group of the United Nations – Women. She has been one of the promoters of the Roma feminist movement in Spain and has coordinated the first declaration on violence against Roma women and girls at the European Parliament. She also has been a Junior Expert in the Office for Institutions Democratic and Human Rights of the OSCE and has collaborated with organizations focused in women's rights such as Women's Link World Wide or Veus Gitanes. Likewise, she supports the Romapop anti-racist alliance on fair representation of Roma people with an intersectional perspective in popular culture and mass media. Finally, she has written articles for various newspapers and media outlets such as Más de la Mitad, Eldiario.es, El Salto and Píkara Magazine. Recently, she has been awarded as the first finalist in Oxfam's award “Avanzadoras”.

Mete Coban

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Mete Coban is the founder and chief executive of My Life My Say, best known for founding the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Better Brexit for Young People and for contributing to the increase of turnout for young people at the 2017 and 2019 UK General Elections. The youngest ever elected Councilor in the London borough of Hackney at the age of 21, he is also Chair of the Skills, Economy & Growth Commission. Previously, he worked on the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan's election campaign, leading on youth engagement. In the New Year 2020 honors list, Mete received an MBE for services to young people recognizing his efforts to make politics more accessible for the younger generation. He also received the UK Government's National Democracy Change-Maker of the Year Award in 2018. Mete has been shortlisted for One Young World Politician of the Year 2019, which celebrates the most impressive, impactful, young politicians around the world.

David Cousy

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David Cousy lives in Créteil where he grew up and where he is a local community leader. He is currently working at the Federation for Education in Europe (FEDE) as a Communications and Development Officer. In 2015 he decided to create the organization 'Créteil 3.0' in order to organize citizens to participate in public policies and became its president. He has been involved in his city for more than 5 years, particularly on issues such as ecology, housing, living and play areas for children and parents, as well as on the issue of public spaces and citizen's participation in public policies. In 2016, through the NuitDebout movement, he participated in the practice of a more direct, representative and inclusive democracy and in the organization of citizens' assemblies through the #BanlieuesDebout movement that he launched. In Créteil, with its citizens' collective and the ecologist movement, they decided to organize their local community in order to take back in hand the management of their city. He was therefore a candidate for mayor in the 2020 municipal elections in Créteil.

Andrea Durán Rodríguez

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Andrea Durán has more than 7 years of experience working for visually impaired people in Spain. She works every day to improve the employability of people with disabilities. Since September 2015 she has been working for the ONCE Social Group, where she has held various positions across different business lines. From March 2018 she has been working as a Human Resources Expert Technician in the Corporate Management of People, Organization and Resource Management of Ilunion. Ilunion is a business project that combines economic and social profitability in their businesses and is a reference of accessibility in Spain and the social economy. She has a degree in Business Science, specializing in Human Resources (HR), from the University of Vigo, a Master's degree in Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility from the UNED and the University Jaume I of Castellón (UJI), and an Executive Master's degree in Human Resources from the Garrigues Study Centre in Madrid. Andrea has experience as a leisure time monitor, planning and organizing activities for visually impaired and blind people. She is an executive member of UP Madrid; Unidad Progresista (UP), a Spanish association of around 32,000 people with visual disability or total blindness.



Darina Dvornichenko

Assistant Professor
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Darina Dvornichenko is a motivated leader in the field of education. She has over 12 years of an in-depth experience in academic work and research in Ukraine as well as 4 years of experience in project management dealing with implementing successful educational projects funded by the EU, USAID etc. She has been a guest lecturer at the University for Foreigners in Perugia and University of Zagreb within ERASMUS+ Project, is a member of the Ukrainian Association of Professors and Researchers on European Integration as well as an author of over 35 publications on the issues of European integration, media literacy and digital activism.

She is also the founder of the “Agents of Change!”, a nongovernmental organization that promotes non-formal education in Ukraine by organizing workshops, trainings, summer schools as well as charity speaking clubs. Since 2019, she is a fellow of Democracy Study Centre and a member of WeForWomen Initiative which focuses on educating and empowering young women with necessary knowledge and skills in order to enhance their career opportunities. She holds her PhD in political science complemented by certified programs at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, European Academy of Diplomacy (Warsaw) and British Law Centre.

Javier Guardiola

Deputy of Madrid Region
General Secretary of the Socialist Youth of Madrid
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Javier Guardiola has been a member of the Madrid Regional Parliament since 2019, being the youngest deputy of the XI Legislature. He is the spokesperson for the Youth Commission and a member of the University of Science and Research Commission and the Sports and Transparency Commission. He has worked in defense of the rights of younger people, both betting on housing policies as well as creating quality jobs, access to culture and public leisure, the fight against drugs and addictions or equality of opportunities for everyone to have access to education.

In 2011, at the age of 19, he joined the Spanish Socialist Workers Party and since 2017 he has been the leader of the Socialist Youth of Madrid. With a degree in Business Administration and Management at the Rey Juan Carlos University and with a degree in Sports Science at the European University. He stands out for his role within the university, as a representative of students defending rights from different types of change, both as a representative or creating and directing various associations and clubs in defense of human rights and freedoms. At the international level, he has got international projects off the ground in Nicaragua and South Africa. And he has also been an active part of European conferences with the Committee of the Regions.

Amalie Gunnufsen

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Amalie Gunnufsen was born and raised in Kristiansand, in southern Norway. This is where her political engagement started and from the age of fifteen, she has been strongly engaged in the youth wing of the Norwegian conservative party. As she turned nineteen, she became an elected member of the municipal council. She also took a break from her studies in economics to work as a political advisor for the mayor of Kristiansand, and is currently working as an advisor for Høyres group in the standing committee on finance in the parliament.

Amalie also has a proven record of strong international engagement. At high school, she participated in the IB Diploma Programme, a rigorous program with the vision of education for a better world. At university, she has studied Arabic language in both Oslo and Egypt. In 2019, she was the Norwegian youth delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. In the youth party, (Unge Høyre) Amalie has held several positions, but is currently acting as a member of the central board and international secretary and a position as member of the council in the Youth of the European People's Party. In addition, Amalie has a strong commitment to Unge Høyres democracy projects in Nairobi and Ramallah.

Esra Karakaya

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Esra Karakaya is a journalist, video producer and founder of the youtube talkshow BlackRockTalk/KARAKAYA TALK. The show discusses all topics from pop culture to politics and creates an online space for those who are generally underrepresented and marginalized in German mainstream media. BlackRockTalk/KARAKAYA TALK does not back down from uncomfortable conversations and never forgets to incorporate humor and ease into their talks cultivating a practice of respectful and empathetic discussion. Karakaya also

works as a video producer for Datteltäter, a youtube channel for the empowerment of German muslim youth.

Esra Karakaya has been awarded multiple prizes for her work, including the Grimme Online Award (2020), Germany's most renowned prize for online productions, the „30 under 30“ award of ZEIT CAMPUS publishings (2019), the “30 under 30“ award by the Hertie Foundation (2019), and the „25 Women“ Award by Edition F (2019).

Meri Katvalyan

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Meri Katvalyan is a Senior Integrity Officer and currently works for the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia and responsible for the integrity policy of public services and individual integrity plans and ethical codes for civil servants. She is also the responsible secretary of the Public Council under the Minister of Health. Meri is also an expert on integrity in the project of “Women in Politics” implemented by UNDP. Meri has graduated from Public Administration Academy of the Republic of Armenia, holding Master’s degree in Public Administration with honors.

In 2019 Meri founded Medical Ombudsman’s institute in Armenia, which ensures protection of rights of both patients and doctors, promotes transparency, accountability and efficiency in healthcare system and introduces an alternative system of regulation of medical errors in order to distinguish medical errors from medical negligence, thus transferring the regulation of medical errors from the field of criminal law to the field of medical law. Currently, Meri is deeply involved in public administration reforms of the Republic of Armenia.

Mikuláš Lakatoš

Youth Activities Coordinator
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Mikuláš Lakatoš is an employee of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, specifically the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Roma Communities. As part of his agenda, he acts as a Youth activities coordinator. His work area is to prepare and implement youth policies aimed at youth of the Roma national minority, which aims to improve the interaction of these youth with both the Office of the Plenipotentiary and state institutions to improve reciprocal cooperation and create opportunities for personal development of these youth.

Mikuláš Lakatoš as a healthcare professional, before taking up the position of Youth activities coordinator, worked as nurse practitioner in healthcare practice, where he had the opportunity to realize shortcomings in providing health care to national minorities in the Slovak Republic, and its legislative issues of their implementation in clinical practice. Currently he works in this area as a consultant for transcultural and community nursing in the non-governmental sector. In addition to his main work focus, he also lectures in the field of providing pre-medical first aid and in the prevention of social pathological phenomena such as the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases or drug addiction.



Benjamina Londrc

Vice President

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Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Benjamina Londrc- Born in Sarajevo in 1991. She graduated from the Law Faculty of the University of Sarajevo in 2013, received her master's degree from the Law Faculty of the University of Sarajevo in 2014. Winner of the silver badge award at the University of Sarajevo for outstanding achievement during her undergraduate and postgraduate studies. In 2015 she graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo, Department of History. In 2018, she received her PhD from the Faculty of Law, University of Zenica, Department of State History and Law. After obtaining her PhD, she

was the youngest Doctor of Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the first post-war doctor of classical Roman law. Author of several publications, books, articles, and translations and reviews. She has participated in numerous international and domestic scientific conferences. She is employed at the Faculty of Law, University of Travnik, as an assistant professor at the Legal history Department. She is the vice president of the Social Democratic Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SDP BiH).

Salome Mgeladze

Director

Dialogos

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Salome Mgeladze is a co-founder and executive director of informal education center. She is a member of development movement, is in charge of foreign affairs, and is a contact person with non-governmental and international organizations. She was a member of a Georgian political party "Lelo for Georgia", where she worked in three panels: lawyers panel, panel of international relations and women's panel, wing. She worked as a lawyer and project manager in private companies. She worked in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. She graduated from the Georgian-American University and she obtained bachelor's degree in Law. She was valedictorian.

After, she graduated from University of Rome, La Sapienza, (with laude) where she obtained master's degree in European Studies. Her thesis was about "European Union and Human Rights Protection in the process of EU Integration". Currently, she is working on her PHD dissertation and she's giving public lectures about history of European Union. She is an elected member of EDYN. During the pandemic situation she started a campaign to help moms in Georgia, she raised money and helped about 80 moms in need. She is still going to continue the above-mentioned campaign. She often participates in different conferences as a speaker.



Gilberto Morishaw
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Gilberto Morishaw works at the intersection of multiple fields and believes in the power that policy has to create the conditions that allow others to change and become better. Hailing from Curaçao and based in the Netherlands, Gilberto is a policy advocate and activist in the field of human rights, social and climate justice, inclusion and a consultant on the topics of future of work, social impact and democratic innovation. He is a graduate student at Leiden University finishing his MSc. in Public Administration: International & European Governance, is the Secretary of the Supervisory Board of OCAN (advocacy bureau for the Dutch Caribbean), member of the Board of Trustees of Krijger & Partners, a John Lewis Fellow at Humanity in Action, a participant in the Global Shaper at the World Economic Forum, Climate Reality Leader and also an Ambassador for the African Caribbean Pacific Young Professionals Network. Gilberto believes in the power that every individual has to make a difference in the world that they are at through empathy and radical love. We are at the precipice of a new future and the Trans-Atlantic Union must play a key role towards the economic and social transition necessary to guarantee a just and equitable future for all.

Abril K. Muvumbi
 Regional Coordinator
 Millennials
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Mordano, Italy



Abril K. Muvumbi has worked to build bridges between her Italian and African identities. She has focused on issues such as anti-discrimination, integration, inclusion and improving relations between European and African countries. In 2020, Ms. Muvumbi founded the campaign #ImStillAlive which aims to raise more awareness about the discrimination that Black People face in Europe and to find effective political solutions. In 2018, she was selected as regional coordinator of Emilia-Romagna for the political youth organization 'Millennials' which brings Italian Youth closer to political life. Ms. Muvumbi also writes for her local newspaper E'com and for the independent blog 'La Politica del Popolo' where she contributes with articles on African politics and People of African Descent. She graduated from the University of Bologna with a degree in International Relations and Diplomatic Affairs. During her studies, she undertook an internship at the European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup, where she worked on policy and advocacy to combat Afrophobia in Europe. She was also part of the organizing team of the inaugural People of African Descent Week Event in the European Parliament which brought together over 100 Black People from Europe and the U.S. The Week was covered in major European news outlets including by the Guardian.



Mathilde Panhaleux

Political Advisor

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Confédération française démocratique du travail (CFDT)

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Mathilde Panhaleux is an elected member of CFDT, the largest French trade union. Independent and reformist, CFDT’s first aim is to obtain new rights for workers by reducing inequalities, and fighting against all forms of exclusion, inequality and discrimination. As a political advisor, Mathilde is responsible for strategic project coordination, drafting policy briefs for CFDT’s European lobbying strategy and for the relations with members of the European Parliament. She also represents CFDT in the Youth Committee of the ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation), a committee aiming to make the voice of young European workers and unemployed heard inside the trade union movement and wider society. Prior to this, Mathilde held various positions at the French Parliament, the European Parliament and the European Commission. She focused on participative democracy and making sure everyone gets a chance to be heard by policy makers. She has developed several projects tackling issues like gender equality, integration of minorities into society and political participation.

George Plevris

Political Advisor

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George Plevris is a young political advisor at the Hellenic Parliament. He currently serves as a special advisor to Dora Bakoyannis, a Greek MP, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and current Chairwoman of the Greek Delegation to Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly. At the same time, he is the alternate secretary for International & European Relations of the governing political party of Nea Demokratia. With a rich academic background in international law, security and crisis management, George Plevris has dedicated his career to international cooperation and international affairs. In 2015, he was elected as president of Awake International, a Dutch, young people-led NGO raising awareness on global issues such climate change, human rights and technology. He held positions at the UN, at the European Defence Agency, while he participated in several UN, NATO and ICC summits. The diversity of his experiences, both in workplace and in life from living in in 5 different countries between Europe and North America over the past 30 years-, have equipped him with a broad perspective, an understanding of complex issues, and a true transatlantic spirit.

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Miranda Tkabladze is the operations manager at International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Georgia. She studied at universities in Georgia, Germany, Poland, U.S.A. and Sweden. Miranda has actively been involved in local, international and civil society fields in Georgia, as well as in the U.S. Senate and Congress while studying in the U.S. Since 2001, Miranda has been working for various international and state organizations. She is constantly engaged in working with a great platform of decision makers, policy makers, and

different stakeholders, to empower women on local and national level, among them ethnic minority women and women with disabilities. She is permanent member of the task force on Women's Political Participation; and the Gender Thematic Group (GTG). Miranda has participated in conferences, seminars, trainings and volunteered in various countries throughout Europe and USA, for instance the Philip Jessup Moot Court Competition, as an exchange student under Eurasian Undergraduate Exchange Program (UGRAD) and the 15th edition of the Academy of Young Diplomats by the European Academy of Diplomacy. In 2019, Miranda was selected as a fellow of Professional Fellows Program (PFP); she has expanded her work experience with American Constitution Society. She is also Executive Board Member of U.S. Government Exchange Program Alumni Association (EPAG) Georgia and Sweden Alumni Network Georgia. In addition to her native Georgian, Miranda speaks English, Russian and German.