

Bios of speakers, moderators and facilitators

at the 5th European Policy Dialogue Forum

in Rotterdam, Netherlands, on 13-15 November 2023

Last update: 10 November 2023

Sherin Ahmed, Chairwoman, Coexister Germany



Born in Munich in 2000, Sherin grew up in Cairo (2005-2011) and moved back to Germany as a result of the Arab Spring. She came into contact with interculturality and the importance of peace at an early age. While living in France (2018-2020), she got to know the association Coexister France. Enthusiastic about the idea of active coexistence, she founded this association with others during the pandemic (February 2021) in Germany. Today, she is the chairperson of the board. She is also studying social work in Freiburg and works as the regional coordinator for southern Germany in the Liberal Islamic Federation.

Jovan Aksentijević, Secretary of the Council for Gender Equality, Serbia



Born in 2001 in Arandjelovac, Jovan finished high school with exceptional success. He is currently at his 4th year of academic studies at the Faculty of Diplomacy and Security in Belgrade. Since 2014, he has been dealing with the topics of youth policy, inclusive education, human and minority rights, protection from violence and discrimination, gender equality, as well as regional cooperation in the Western Balkans. He speaks English, Italian and is a certificated peer educator. During his engagement in the Municipal Administration of Arandjelovac, he participated in various projects, like: 1) Promoting dialogue and social cohesion between the Republic of Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina; 2) Mitigating the negative consequences of internal migration in the territory of the Municipality of Arandjelovac, 3) Support Local Self-Governments in Implementation of Social Protection Services, 4) Empowerment of women in rural areas of the municipality of Arandjelovac in a social and entrepreneurial context.

Teresa Albano, Europe Region Programme Officer, KAICIID



Teresa Albano, Europe Region Programme Officer at International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), has extensive experience gained in the Balkan and Mediterranean regions, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, at the service of international and regional organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the International Organization for Migration. Ms. Albano is an expert in humanitarian aid, migration governance and anti-trafficking. A lecturer at the Vienna Diplomatic Academy, at Sapienza and Tor Vergata Universities and other think tanks on migration governance and trafficking-related topics, she is the author of various publications, including articles and academic papers.

Emiliano Alessandri, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)



Emiliano Alessandri is a policy specialist with over fifteen years of experience in national and multilateral settings. He has worked in various capacities for renowned foreign policy think tanks and international organizations. As a senior fellow and a senior officer - among other roles - he has found himself on the cusp between research and policy on a number of issues, from migration management to security policy - assisting high level executives, including the Secretary General of the OSCE, with policy formulation. Emiliano has also been teaching at the graduate level and offered executive education courses in the field of international affairs. He earned a PhD in International History from Cambridge University in 2010, a Master of Arts in International Economics and International Relations from SAIS- Johns Hopkins University in 2005 and BA in Political Science from the University of Bologna in 2003.

Thomas Andersson, Member of social committee, City of Östersund (Sweden)



Thomas is 51 years old, living in the village Fåker outside of Östersund in northern Sweden. He has been engaged in civil society since being teenager and was elected chair of the local youth association of the Centerparty in his region between 1996-1999. He has been a local and regional elected politician since 1996. During the years 2018 – 2022 he was the president of the region of Jämtland Härjedalen, Sweden. He was the chair of the current affairs committee of the Congress of the Council of Europe until July 2023. This committee is responsible among others for LGBTI+, youth, gender and civil society within the Congress. Andersson is now a member of the social committee in the city of Östersund working with social welfare, inclusion and labour market.

Gabriel Andrei Brezoiu, President, Group of European Youth for Change (Romania)



Gabriel is a Romanian trainer and project manager specialised in the non-profit field at national and European levels. With over 15 years of experience in youth projects focusing on democracy, digital and entrepreneurship, he is one of the founders of GEYC and the initiator of the PRISMA European Network. He has been trained in over 15 European countries on various topics, with a geographical focus on the Mediterranean area and the Latin America. Back in 2010, he founded the GEYC Community - an innovative platform dedicated for young people in Romania - one of the first European initiatives of digital youth work. In 2018, Gabriel was included in the "Forbes 30 under 30" ranking, most successful youth in Romania.

Alice Cardoso, Youth Net, COMECE



Alice Cardoso, 25 years old, is currently working as a freelance translator from English and German to Portuguese. She worked as a Youth Pastoral member in the Diocese of Coimbra and participated in several Portuguese religious activities. Alice is the former director of a youth group in her parish. She was highly involved in the preparation of the World Youth Day Lisbon 2023 edition for three years. Currently she is representing the Portuguese Bishops' Conference in COMECE and volunteering as a Catholic scout's leader.

Felipe Carvalho, Director of students and young lawyers, Lawyer's Christian Fellowship



Felipe Carvalho is a legal researcher and human rights advocate with a focus on freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) and international refugee law. He currently serves as Director of students and young lawyers at the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship and is a PhD candidate in Public Law at University of Coimbra. Prior to this, he served as Legal Counsel and Executive Director at ANAJURE, where he helped implement a Program designed to resettle and integrate refugees in Brazil, especially victims of religious persecution. In addition to providing legal advice, he has liaised with a variety of organizations to contribute to their integration and co-wrote the book 'Refugees in Brazil'. As part of his engagement with youth, Felipe has co-founded a fellowship program for emerging human rights leaders, which aims to strengthen the advocacy skills and professional network of students and early career lawyers. The

program has trained over 250 delegates in six years.

Josh Cass, Interfaith Expert



Josh is an experienced interfaith professional currently serving as an advisor (on matters including interfaith dialogue, Freedom of Religion or Belief, faith engagement, and charity strategy) to a number of organisations including the Sigmund Sternberg Charitable Foundation, Culham St Gabriel's, Plan4Peace and Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. In the past he has worked with OSCE/ODIHR, the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations, the British Council's Bridging Voices Programme and the Faith and Belief Forum amongst others. He holds an MA in International Studies and Diplomacy from SOAS, where he wrote his dissertation on embedding religious literacy best practice within Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

Rachel Cohen, Senior Programme Coordinator, Faiths and Belief Forum



Rachel is the Senior Programme Coordinator at the Faith and Belief Forum, where she runs the UN award-winning interfaith leadership programme, ParliaMentors. Rachel was born and raised in the Jewish community of Toronto. She holds a BA in Peace, Conflict, Justice Studies and Philosophy from the University of Toronto, and a MSc Conflict Studies from the London School of Economics. Rachel's passions are experiential education and peacebuilding. She has facilitated dialogue programs between Israelis and Palestinians, run backpacking programmes that explore the roots of conflict and possibilities for peace in Israel-Palestine, and she was the Manager of Communications for a grassroots peacebuilding initiative in the West Bank. She has also taught Jewish education in Toronto, been the leader of a youth movement, and delivered many projects that focus on cultivating social leadership amongst young

people of all backgrounds.

Ilan Cohn, Director, HIAS Europe



Ilan Cohn is the Director of Brussels-based HIAS Europe, the humanitarian arm of the European Jewish community. Previously he worked internationally on a broad range of migration and integration issues through a number of intergovernmental organizations (UN, UNHCR, IOM, EU, OSCE/ODIHR). As an extension of his commitment to build inter-faith alliances to promote tolerance and social inclusion, Ilan recently joined the Network for Dialogue.

Emilio Dogliani, Policy Adviser for Culture and Youth, COMECE



Emilio Dogliani is Policy Adviser for Culture, Education and Youth at the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE). Before working at COMECE, Emilio pursued his Bachelor's in European Languages and Cultures at the University of Groningen (Netherlands) and completed his Erasmus Mundus Master's Degree in Euroculture at the Universities of Göttingen (Germany) and Strasbourg (France). Emilio also worked at the European Commission as a Blue Book Trainee in the area of Communication, Outreach and EU student programmes. As part of his work at COMECE, he works on promoting dialogue between the EU Bishops' Conferences and the European institutions in the areas of Education, Culture and Youth policies, in cooperation with experts from the EU Member States and through different projects, such as the COMECE Youth Platform and the COMECE Youth Net, which aim to engage with young Catholics from all over the EU.

Xavier Donker, Board Member, European Network for Anti Racism (ENAR)



Xavier Donker (1983, Netherlands) received his Bachelor's in Communication Studies in 2008 at Arnhem Business School and his Master's in American Studies with a concentration politics and economics in 2012 at Radboud University Nijmegen. He has been trained in International Politics at Clingendael - the Netherlands Institute of International Relations in 2022. In 2014 he joined the staff of the grassroots Stichting Ocan foundation in The Hague as a communications advisor. Here he has been able to continue his interests in racial studies, discrimination and the socio-economic position of the Dutch Caribbean diaspora in the Netherlands as well as gain a deeper understanding of Afrophobia at the European level having become coordinator on behalf of Stichting Ocan with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), based in Brussels, in 2016. Donker became a Board Member at ENAR in 2021.

Jennifer Ndzana Eloundou, Founder, Safe for Youth (France)



Jennifer is a Junior Researcher and advocate for gender equality. Her academic background focuses on a holistic approach to Law, International Relations and Gender Issues. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Public Law and a MA Degree in Global Affairs from Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Morocco. Jennifer is pursuing a Master's Degree in Political Science with specialization in International Cooperation and NGOs at Sorbonne Paris North University. Currently, she serves as the Program Director at Politics4Her, a feminist youth-led movement dedicated to gender equality and inclusive participation of women and girls in politics. Jennifer has extensive experience in project management and advocacy research, including working with international organizations, think tanks and youth-led initiatives. She is an adventurer and philanthropist who believes in the power of women and young people to bring about meaningful change. As part of her work and personal interests, she is also involved in education in Africa.

H. Em. Metropolitan Emmanuel, Metropolitan Elder of Chalcedon



Born in 1958, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel was elected as the Metropolitan Elder of Chalcedon in 2021 and the Metropolitan of France, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 2003. Currently residing in Istanbul, Turkey, His Eminence has ardently served as an advocate for peace and dialogue throughout his life. Among his many roles, His Eminence has been the President of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops of France, and the Co-President of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP). Additionally, His Eminence directed the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union in Brussels and spearheads the Interreligious Dialogue initiative with Judaism and Islam on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Vera Ferreira, Head of Regional Programmes, KAICIID



Vera is the Head of the Regional Programmes and Oversight Section at KAICIID. Ms Ferreira has over 12 years of experience developing human rights and peace education and facilitating training programs, dialogues and consultations with faith actors, educators, youth and adults in interreligious contexts in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribe and the Middle East, managing programs, facilitating processes and fostering its sustainable implementation and scaling up. Preceding her engagement with KAICIID, Ms Ferreira served as Head of Programmes at Arigatou International and as Secretary General of the International Movement of Apostolate of Children, managing educational grassroots projects for children all over the world in citizenship education. Vera holds a degree in Psychology and a Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resources specialising in Training Management.

Prof. Nazila Ghanea, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief, United Nations



On 1 August 2022, Ms. Nazila Ghanea assumed her mandate as Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. She is Professor of International Human Rights Law and Director of the MSc in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford. Her academic work has often connected with multilateral practice in international human rights law. She has contributed actively to networks interested in freedom of religion or belief and its interrelationship with other human rights and has advised states and other stakeholders. She has researched and published widely in international human rights law and served as consultant to numerous agencies.

H.Em. Mufti Dr. Nedžad Grabus, Mufti of Sarajevo



Dr. Nedžad Grabus, Mufti of Sarajevo, Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-Chair of the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council, Vice President of Religions for Peace: a Professor of theology at the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Sarajevo and the editor of the first interreligious programme in Sarajevo that covered both Islamic and Christian issues, Dr. Grabus is the former Chairperson and a current member of the Assembly of the Interreligious Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina and holds the position of Mufti of the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Member of the Institute for Ecumenical Theology and Interreligious Dialogue as well as of the editorial board of the Journal for Ecumenical Theology and Interreligious Dialogue “Unity and Dialogue” in Maribor, Slovenia.

David Grob, Committee and Board Member, Reformed Church Zürich



Growing up in Switzerland, Mr. Grob has been living in Zurich for 7 years. During this time, he obtained a master's degree in art history at the University of Zurich and a degree in social work with a focus on resocialization and delinquency at the University of Applied Sciences. Mr. Grob started his work experience with the Reformed Church as a youth worker, and today works with homeless people and people suffering from addiction in a diaconal, private institution. David Grob is still active in the Reformed Church, but in a strategic position as a committee member and board member in decision-making bodies.

Alexandre Guessel, Special Representative on Antisemitic, anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes, Council of Europe



Alexandre Guessel is the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (CoE) on antisemitic, anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes, since 1 January 2023. Mr. Guessel started working in the CoE in 2000 in the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner. From 2008 to 2010 he served as the CoE's Anti-terrorist coordinator. After having served as adviser in the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General from 2010 to 2012, Alexandre Guessel was appointed Director of Political Affairs of the Council of Europe. He remained at this position before being recently appointed as SRSR. Alexandre Guessel graduated from Paris II Assas Law University and has been a member of the Paris Bar Association before joining the Council of Europe.

Chief Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister, Community Rabbi of Vienna and Board Member, MJLC



Chief Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister has been the Community Rabbi of Vienna since 2008. He has received various rabbinic ordinations in different theoretical and practical areas of Jewish Law from some of the most prominent rabbinic authorities. He is a Board Member of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER); the President of the Union of Mohalim in Europe (UME); the Chief Rabbi of Lower Austria, Burgenland, Styria and Carinthia; the Secretary General of the Rabbinical Court of Austria and also the highest rabbinic representative of the Jewish Community of Austria in all interreligious and socio-political matters. He is a lead advocate for interreligious dialogue within the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council.

Maryana Hnyp, President, European Network on Religion and Belief



Dr. Maryana Hnyp is Founder and Chair of the KU Leuven Lifestance Network and coordinator of inter-religious and ecumenical relations at KU Leuven. She assumes the post of President of the European Network on Religion and Belief (ENORB). Maryana is Adjunct Professor of Catholic social ethics at the Ateneo university in Manila (Philippines). She holds a PhD in Theology with the specialisation in social and personalist ethics, and an Advanced MA in European Studies from KU Leuven with the specialisation in fundamental rights of the European Union. Dr. Hnyp is also serving as a transcultural psychosocial and psychoeducation consultant for the Ukrainian displaced people at the Centrum Geestelijke Gezondheidszorg Vlaams-Brabant Oost (Vluchtelingenteam). Previously Maryana worked at Caritas Europa, at the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COM-

ECE), and also assumed served as Director of Religious Education for the international students within the University Chaplaincy of KU Leuven.

Mostafa Hilali, Colonel Lieutenant, Dutch Ministry of Defence



Mostafa Hilali, born in Meknes, Morocco, is a lieutenant colonel in the Dutch Army. He has served in Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Ukraine. After pre-university education and a dropped out of English studies, he decided to work for the Royal Netherlands Army in 1996. More than twenty years later he is still working for the Army. He has been on missions a number of times in the context of international peace operations. He has also worked abroad for many years. Mostafa is also active in the social field, including the Internet initiative Nietmijnislam and the Netherlands Red Cross. Mostafa has also completed an academic degree in History and Middle Eastern Studies. He is divorced and has a son.

Frans Jennekens, former Head of Diversity and Editor-in-Chief, Dutch public broadcaster NTR



Frans Jennekens is an expert in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He was head of diversity and editor-in-chief at Dutch national public broadcaster NTR. He was also for many years chairman of the Intercultural and Diversity Group from EBU. He commissioned many programs on prime time like Bimbo's and Bourka's, The country of Arrival, Girls of Halal and Danny in Arabistan. Jennekens is an award-winning radio and television documentary maker. He developed and organized the ongoing and strategic approach of Diversity and Inclusion based on a companywide Unconscious Bias Policy. As co-founder of the Unbias team (www.unbiasteam.com), his motto in life is: Diversify or Die.

Sandra Kluivers, Project Assistant, IOM Office in the Netherlands



Sandra Kluivers works as a project assistant at IOM the Netherlands, focussing on social inclusion initiatives for migrants in the European region. She has extensive research and project management experience, having organized, implemented, and evaluated research-based projects in multiple countries, including South Africa, Brazil, the Netherlands, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, on topics such as police brutality and racism, migration and social inclusion, and gender and democracy in post-conflict countries. Ms. Kluivers has an MSc. in Global Development from the University of Copenhagen and has previously worked at the University of Copenhagen and 9to5 Working Women.

Protodeacon Mladen Kovačević, Saint Sava Cathedral, Serbian Orthodox Church



Protodeacon Mladen Kovacevic was born in Bosnia and Hercegovina in 1983. In 2002 he graduated from the Orthodox seminary school in Cetinje, Montenegro. He received a master's degree from the Moscow Theological Academy in 2006. From 2010, he studied Russian language and literature. After moving back to Bosnia and Hercegovina he worked as teacher of Orthodox catechesis. During his engagement as teacher, he also was active in public life, coordinating the work of orthodox youth organizations in his local community. In 2011 he got married and started church service as deacon. In 2015 he was promoted by church authorities to Protodeacon. In 2019 he moved to Belgrade and become deacon of Saint Sava Cathedral, which is one of the main centres of the Serbian Orthodox Church's liturgical and cultural life. He is engaged in the organising of cultural events and in the sector for tourism and

public relations.

Johannes Langer, Europe Region Senior Programme Manager, KAICIID



Johannes Langer is the Senior Programme Manager of the Europe Region Programme at the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) focusing his work on issues of social cohesion, from countering hate speech to migration. Before joining KAICIID in 2019, Johannes was Managing Director at Initiatives of Change (IofC) Switzerland and organised Towards an Inclusive Peace at the Caux Forum to transform violent extremism. Earlier, he worked as an Associate Professor at the Universidad de San Buenaventura in Bogotá, Colombia, on transitional justice and historical memory, namely on the impact of truth commissions. With more than 14 years of experience in international organizations, NGOs and academia, Mr. Langer wrote two books and published several journal articles on peacebuilding, historical memory and European integration. He is a former Fulbright scholar with 3 master's degrees, who lived in 10

countries on 4 continents.

Sofia Lanza, Volunteer Co-ordination & Community Outreach, Edinburgh Interfaith Association



Sofia Lanza, is originally from Italy, now pursuing Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Edinburgh. For the past years, her academic journey and interests have revolved around interfaith and intercultural communication. She serves as the Secretary and Interfaith Officer of the Catholic Student Union, actively promoting understanding and dialogue among different faith communities. She is also an active committee member for the Coexistence Initiative, where they work to foster harmony among diverse cultures. Beyond her activism among the Youth and studies, Sofia has worked with the Edinburgh Interfaith Association, primarily on community projects to bring religious groups together all around the city, and leading the befriending project to support lonely individuals and encourage dialogue and belonging. She is the host of the 'Future of Faith' podcast by EIFA, addressing issues relevant to young

people, and is involved in international projects to support interfaith and intercultural efforts.

Marko Lončar, Advisory Board on Youth, Council of Europe



Marko Lončar was born in 1998 in Teslić, Republika Srpska (RS), Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). He graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Banja Luka, BiH, and has a master's degree in European Studies from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade, Serbia. He founded Youth Club Teslić, a youth organization in his hometown, and served as its president for five years. He represents the RS Youth Council, one of youth umbrella organizations in BiH, in the Advisory Board on Youth of the Council of Europe. He also worked for the political section of the EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and collaborated as a consultant with several NGOs and think tanks from both BiH and Serbia on political education and research projects.

Kishan Manocha, Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, ODIHR



Dr. Kishan Manocha, Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department at the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR): with degrees in psychology, medicine and law, Dr. Manocha has extensive experience in Europe, North America, the Middle East, North Africa, Central and South Asia as a policy adviser, advocate, researcher, and trainer. A Fellow at the Centre for Religion and Values at Dublin City University, he is a member of the Global Steering Committee of the UN Plan of Action for Religious Leaders to Prevent Incitement to Violence, of the International Religious Freedom Alliance's Global Council of Experts, and a trustee of the Freedom Declared Foundation. He served as Director of the Office of Public Affairs of the British Bahá'í community.

Cylcia Manwa, Councillor, Thurroch Council, UK



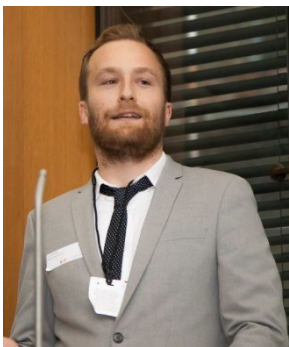
Councillor Cylcia Manwa is an elected representative from Thurrock, Essex in the United Kingdom. At the age of just 19, she was elected in the May 2023 local election, and is one of the youngest elected representatives in the country. She is also a second-year undergraduate at the London School of Economics, where she is studying Politics and International Relations. She initially began her work in the local youth cabinet, where she represented the voice of young people in council forums and meetings, helped to organise outreach programmes in schools and visited local community actors. She developed her passion for local advocacy here and is now actively working within her role to advocate for greater representation and democratic participation for young people, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds.

Aleksandra Djurić Milovanović, Network for Dialogue Coordinator, KAICIID



Dr. Aleksandra Djuric Milovanovic, Network for Dialogue Coordinator, International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) and Senior Research Associate, Institute for Balkan Studies: social anthropologist, Senior Research Associate at Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Project Manager at the International Dialogue Centre KAICIID, PhD in ethnology and anthropology (2012), her areas of academic research include: anthropology of religion, religious studies, Eastern European history, nationalism, migration studies, interreligious Dialogue, human rights. Visiting professor at many universities, including University College Cork (Ireland) and Trinity Hall at the University of Cambridge (UK), she has published three monographs, over 50 academic articles and book chapters and one manual for Interreligious Dialogue.

Tim Mortimer, Europe Region Programme Officer, KAICIID



As the son of two vicars, Tim has a lifelong curiosity about how faith and belief impact people's lives in different ways. He is an interreligious practitioner, with a particular interest in youth voice and multi faith social action. Tim is currently working as a Programme Officer for the Europe Region at the International Dialogue Centre, KAICIID and previously led interreligious youth programming at the Faith & Belief Forum in his home country, the UK. He is also a Visiting Research Assistant at the Centre for Religion and Public Life, University of Leeds.

Roshn Najmeddin, Member of Moving the Middle 'Migrant Ambassador Advisory Board'



Roshn Najmeddin is a member of the Moving the Middle 'Migrant Ambassador Advisory Board' (MAAB) since 2022: "From a young age, my fascination with understanding the 'why' behind the way things are and my drive to pave the way for a more equitable and sustainable future propelled me towards studying Human Geography & Urban Planning and International Development. This journey has always been underlined by my unwavering passion for improving the human experience and its balance with our environment."

Iva Naskova, former Youth delegate, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe



Iva Naskova, at 22 years old, is a first-year Master's student in International Relations, Diplomacy, and European Integration and a Young European Ambassador from North Macedonia, committed to regional development. Iva Naskova is an advocate for local governance and had the opportunity of being the Youth Delegate of the Macedonian Delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. Moreover, she was one of the youngest participants at the European Parliament's Young Political Leaders programme, which aims to build a dialogue between future political leaders. Iva's deep-seated understanding of democratic processes, honed through work at the Institute for Democracy "Socetas Civilis" IDSCS in Skopje, and her close work within the Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia, underpins her diplomatic finesse. Her unwavering dedication is a beacon, illuminating a path towards a prosperous future for the Western Balkans.

Imam Yahia Pallavicini, President, Comunità Religiosa Islamica Italiana (COREIS) and EuLeMa



Imam Yahya Pallavicini is President of COREIS, the Islamic Religious Community of Italy. It is one of the principal organizations of institutional representation of Islam in Italy with a vocation for theological training, ecumenism, and intercultural education. Imam Pallavicini has been a member of the Italian Minister of the Interior's Council on Islam in Italy since 2005. He is a member of the European Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL) and ICESCO Ambassador for Dialogue among Civilizations. Since 2015, in cooperation with KAICIID and other partners, he has participated in the writing of a Plan of Action for Religious Leaders to Prevent Incitement to Violence that could lead to Atrocity Crimes. Since 2018 he is deputy co-chair of the Muslim Jewish Leaders Council (MJLC) and he is also the President of the European Muslim Leaders Majlis (EuLeMa).

Lídia Pereira, Member of European Parliament



Born in 1991 and raised in Coimbra. Lídia Pereira graduated in Economics at the University of Coimbra and holds a Master's degree in European Economic Studies from the College of Europe (Bruges, Belgium). She worked as a consultant in the financial sector. Since 2018, she serves as President of the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP). She was elected as a Member of the European Parliament in 2019. She is a Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and a Substitute Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. She is a Member of the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China.

Milica Pešić, Executive Director, Media Diversity Institute



Ms. Milica Pešić is the Executive Director of Media Diversity Institute (MDI), an international organization specialized in the inclusion of diversity through media and media education. She designed and supervised multi-national, multi-annual diversity media development programmes in Europe, NIS, MENA, SEA, Sub-Sahara, West Africa, and the Caribbean. As a journalist she has reported for the BBC, Radio Free Europe, the Times HES, and TV Serbia. Milica has also worked for New York University, the International Federation of Journalists (Brussels), and the AIM (Paris). She has co-designed an MA course in Media and Diversity taught at the University of Westminster (UK), and provided media training for the UN, Council of Europe, UNICEF, OSI, EBRD, Internews, Freedom Forum, and the IFJ. Her interests are currently in hate speech / extreme expressions, cancel culture, woke movement, audience education and conflict-reporting.

education and conflict-reporting.

Andreea Petre- Gonçalves, President and Founder, Flare Governance



Andreea is a communications expert with a passion for societal narratives. She knows they can shift fast, and when they do, they make deep policy change possible. For two decades she worked in international development, human rights, health and sustainability in the EU institutions and international NGOs. In 2019 she set up Flare, a Brussels-based think-and-do tank that experiments with practical ways of shifting the collective ideas we hold of what is normal and desirable. This work builds on 15 years of her researching and writing about framing, dialogue and societal narrative shifts. She is a BMW Foundation Responsible Leader and a member of Global Diplomacy.

Denis Piplaš, Deputy Secretary-General, Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)



Mr. Piplaš is currently the Deputy Secretary-General of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), an intergovernmental organization that promotes the spirit of reconciliation and regional cooperation in the Western Balkans. He is an experienced democratization expert with a track record in managing and implementing regional cooperation, transitional justice, and European integration projects. Before joining RYCO, he was working for the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Dialogue Southeast Europe, the Cabinet of President Martin Schulz in the European Parliament and for the UN ICTY in The Hague. He is a published author writing on issues related to political developments in Southeast Europe and the integration of the Western Balkans in the EU. Mr. Piplaš holds a Master's degree in EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Sarajevo.

Saji Prelis, Director, Children & Youth Programmes at Search for Common Ground (SFCG)



Saji has over 25 years of experience working with youth movements in conflict and transition environments in over 35 countries. He has advised governments about ways to engage young people. As the Co-Chair of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security he co-led successful advocacy for the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015), Res 2419 (2018) and Res 2535 (2020). Saji is also the director of children & youth programs at Search for Common Ground (SFCG). Prior to joining SFCG, he was the founding director of the Peacebuilding & Development Institute at American University in Washington, DC. Over 11 years at the university resulted in him co-developing over 100 training curricula exploring the nexus of peacebuilding with development. Saji received the distinguished Luxembourg Peace Prize for his Outstanding Achievements in Peace Support and obtained his MA Degree in International Peace & Conflict Resolution from American University in Washington, DC.

Imam Sayed Razawi, Chief Imam and Director-General, Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society (SABS)



Chief Imam Dr. Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi is the Chief Imam and Director-General of SABS. He is also a director and associate at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, as well as being a Visiting Scholar at the University of Strathclyde. Nationally, he has served as an advisor on the United Kingdom's Independent Sharia Review commissioned by Theresa May and participates as a member of the Oxfam GB Zakat Advisory Panel. Internationally, Imam Razawi is a trustee and member of multiple international organizations and non-governmental bodies including an International Trustee of Religions for Peace (RfP).

Joachim Roth, EU Integration Affairs Coordinator, NALAS



Joachim Roth joined NALAS in October 2015 as an integrated expert of the German International Cooperation (GIZ/CIM). His tasks as an EU Project Officer are centered in the positioning of NALAS vis-a-vis EU institutions and other relevant entities. He has more than 20 years of professional experience with emphasis on democratization and decentralization processes, good governance and state modernization working for the German International Cooperation and EU institutions in Europe and abroad. He holds a MA in Political Science from the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, a postgraduate degree in Political Science and a French & European Ph.D. in Law from Aix-en-Provence University in France.

Barbara Ruiz-Bejarano, Director, Fundación Las Fuentes (Spain)



Dr. Barbara Ruiz-Bejarano is honorary professor at the UNESCO-University of Alicante Chair “Islam, Culture and Society”. She holds a PhD in Islamic Studies and her main research is focused on Muslim communities in non-Islamic societies. She is also the Director of Fundación Las Fuentes. She works mainly in global Islamic Economy and Halal Markets, and occasionally delivers lectures or takes part in projects related to policy making, Muslim minorities in Europe, Islamophobia, economic development, female and youth empowerment or regional cooperation. She formerly worked in several European programmes for research, development, co-operation, and education. Her expertise includes Halal Markets, Products and Service Development, Policy Making and Regulatory Affairs, and Co-operation. She has presented lectures at numerous international events and published over 20 papers throughout her career.

Alba Sabaté Gauxachs, Vice Director, Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture



Alba Sabaté Gauxachs is the Deputy Director of the Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture in Barcelona. She holds a PhD in Communication and is the Coordinator of the Global Communication Management Degree at the Blanquerna School of Communication and International Relations of the Ramon Llull University, where she also teaches in the Journalism Degree and works as the Assistant Editor of the communication journal Tripodos. KAICIID European Fellow 2019, she is also a member of the Global Board of Directors of the World Association for Christian Communication and UNAOC (United Nations Alliance of Civilizations) Fellow 2020. She was a visiting scholar at Boston College (2018) through a grant from Sociedad Económica Barcelonesa de Amigos del País. Her research interests are in the fields of media, journalism, religion, interreligious dialogue and migration.

As a journalist, she collaborates with the platform Catalunya Religió.

Amjad Mohamed Saleem, Global Manager of the Volunteer, Youth and Education unit, IFRC



Dr. Amjad Mohamed Saleem is the Global Manager of the Volunteer, Youth and Education unit at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Geneva looking at youth innovation, volunteer management and the provision of education. Amjad sits on the board of Eduspots and Muslim Aid. He is an alumni of the International Visitors Leadership Program, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and a Hive Global Leaders Fellow. Amjad has an M.Eng from Imperial College, London, a MBA from U21 Global Singapore and a PhD from Exeter University.

Pasha Shah, Head of Faith, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (UK)



Pasha Shah OBE is the Assistant Director responsible for Faith and Community Insights at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Prior to this, he was Head of community engagement. Before joining the civil service Pasha undertook research on socio-economic and community development programmes on behalf of and in partnership with major Universities and Charities. He also has a distinguished background in international development having led development projects in Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East. In 2022, Pasha was awarded an OBE for services to faith communities.

Mohammed Shehadat, Director, Youth for Peace Initiative (Switzerland)



Mohammad Shehadat is a refugee youth and peacebuilding activist, Founder of Youth for Peace Initiative which aims to promote peacebuilding activities among refugee youth and the host communities and to empower them to become leaders and global citizens. Mohammad is a member of the UNESCO Global Youth Community, In 2022 Mohammad was recognized as a Kofi Annan Changemaker.

Father Andrew Small, Secretary *pro tempore*, Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors



Father Small, originally from Liverpool, England, has served in parish ministries in Brazil and the United States. Furthermore, Fr. Small has also served as the Director for the US Bishops Office for Latin America and as Policy Advisor for Latin America in the Office for International Justice and Peace (2004-2011). As the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies (2011-2021), Fr. Small continued to gain knowledge of the Church in the Global South and of raising awareness for safe-guarding structures in these countries. Fr. Small was appointed Secretary *pro tempore* of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors in June 2021. Fr. Small's background includes law degrees from both Sheffield University and Georgetown University Law Centre and a doctorate in systematic theology from the Catholic University of America, and has been complemented by a wide-ranging experience in developing and adapting ecclesial structures.

Dževada Šuško, Chief of Office for International Cooperation, Islamic Community of Bosnia



Dževada is the Chief-of-Office for International Cooperation at the Department for Foreign Affairs and Diaspora at the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is former Assistant Professor in International Relations at the International University, Sarajevo, and former Director of the Research Institute IITB, Sarajevo. She grew up in Germany having completed most of her studies in history, political science, and cultural anthropology at the universities of Heidelberg and Hamburg. In 2022 she received a fellowship from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to conduct research on the Bosniak diaspora at CETOBAC in Paris. Her academic focus is on Islam and Muslims in Europe; migration and diaspora; and interreligious relations. She is the author of publications including: *Coexistence of Jews and Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Examples of Tolerance from the 16th Century until Today*; and *Both Muslim and European: Diasporal and Migrant Identities of Bosniaks*.

Both Muslim and European: Diasporal and Migrant Identities of Bosniaks.

Isabel Tootill, Process Director, MEERU | Abrir Caminho (Portugal)



Moved by her humbleness and determination, Isabel Tootill is part of the team of MEERU | Abrir Caminho, an NGO which aims to promote communities through dialogue and proximity. She was one of the co-founders, in 2019, and she currently occupies the role of Process Director.

Neringa Tumėnaitė, Fulbright-Schuman Fellow, FXB Center for Health & Human Rights – Harvard



Neringa is a Ph.D. candidate at SOAS University of London and a Fulbright Schuman fellow at the FXB Center for Health & Human Rights, Harvard University. She is also an advocacy advisor for the UNIT-ED for Intercultural action and the coordinator of Erasmus+ worldwide initiative, which aims to advance youth participation in peacebuilding. Previously, Neringa served on the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, focusing on the No Hate Speech Movement and Roma youth participation. Neringa holds an MSc in Violence, Conflict, and Development from SOAS, where she investigated the impact of critical media literacy of Buddhist monks and young people on conflict resolution in Myanmar.

Rev. Stina Tysk, International Youth Committee, Religions for Peace



Rev. Stina Tysk is ordained in the Church of Sweden and serves in the Diocese of Gothenburg. She holds a MA in Theology from the University of Gothenburg majoring in biblical studies with focus on eco-theology. Stina has been member of the International Youth Committee of Religions for Peace since 2019 and was part of the European Regional Committee of World Student Christian Federation in Europe between 2019-2023. She is one of the coordinators for Creation & Existence, an ecumenical network working with sustainability and eco-theology. She has attended several interreligious and ecumenical events globally and contributed as a speaker in her role as youth and a religious leader.

Marianne Vorthoren, Chair, Multicoloured Religions Foundation Rotterdam



Marianne Vorthoren is chair of the Multicoloured Religions Rotterdam Foundation. This ngo's core business is organising visits to the rich diversity of houses of worship in Rotterdam. They do so for mostly youngsters, as part of their educational program. In this way, thousands of youngsters visit synagogues, churches, mandirs, temples and mosques in Rotterdam every year. Crossing this threshold has a positive effect on fighting prejudice, promoting mutual understanding, and discovering common ground within a diverse context. She is also a member of the citizens' advisory board of the mayor of Rotterdam and works for the Association of Dutch Municipalities.

Prof. Howard Williamson, Professor of European Youth Policy, University of South Wales, UK



Dr Howard Williamson is Professor of European Youth Policy at the University of South Wales in the United Kingdom. He is a qualified youth worker and ran a youth centre for 25 years in parallel with his academic research. He has advised many levels of governance on youth policy issues, from the Welsh and UK governments, the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the United Nations. He co-ordinated the Council of Europe's international reviews of national youth policy. He is a Vice-President of the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services, and the Restorative Justice for All International Institute. He is a board member of Grassroots – the Cardiff City Centre Youth Project, the European Forum Alpbach Foundation, the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award for Young People, and Learn About Britain. He is also co-chair of the Africa Network of Youth Policy Experts.

Rev. Thomas Wipf, President, European Council for Religious Leaders (ECRL)



Rev. Dr. Thomas Wipf, Zurich Switzerland, is the President of the European Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL). He studied protestant theology at the Universities of Basel, Münster and Zürich. After his time as a Reformed parish pastor, he was President of the Swiss Reformed Church, the Community of Evangelical Churches in Europe and member of the Presidium of the Conference of European Churches (CEC). He is also the founder of the Swiss Council of Religions and served as its first President. For his services to European Protestantism, he was awarded an honorary doctorate in Protestant theology from the Universities of Münster (Westphalia) and Debrecen (Hungary).

Facilitators

Siobhán Anderson, Interfaith Expert



Siobhán Anderson is a facilitator and trainer working in the UK charitable sector. Siobhán runs workshops using dialogue and participatory methods to explore topics including equity and inclusion, wellbeing, faith, allyship and leadership. In 2018, Siobhán was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for Services to Promote or Defend Freedom of Religion or Belief from the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Siobhán holds an MA Religion in Contemporary Society from King's College London and BA Theology with Philosophy from University of Exeter. Siobhán is passionate about accessibility, creativity and working together to create a brighter future for everyone.

Josh Cass, Interfaith Expert



Josh is an experienced interfaith professional currently serving as an advisor (on matters including interfaith dialogue, Freedom of Religion or Belief, faith engagement, and charity strategy) to a number of organisations including the Sigmund Sternberg Charitable Foundation, Culham St Gabriel's, Plan4Peace and Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. In the past he has worked with OSCE/ODIHR, the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations, the British Council's Bridging Voices Programme and the Faith and Belief Forum amongst others. He holds an MA in International Studies and Diplomacy from SOAS, where he wrote his dissertation on embedding religious literacy best practice within Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

Daniel Eror, Vice-Chair of the Global Council, United Religions Initiative



Daniel Eror was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, obtained formal education at the University of Sarajevo, Master studies of Economy and Management as well as Master program of Interreligious Studies and Peacebuilding at Faculty of Catholic Theology Sarajevo, The Faculty of Islamic Studies Sarajevo and Faculty of Orthodox Theology Vasilije Ostroški Foča. Active member of civil society, with 16 years of progressive experience in the field of intercultural dialogue, reconciliation and peacebuilding mainly working with young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as abroad. He is a founder and president of Youth for Peace, an organisation which positioned itself as one of the most prominent youth-led organisations in BiH, working in the field of peacebuilding. Currently serving as a Vice-Chair of the Global Council of the United Religions Initiative and URI Europe Treasurer. In Religions

for Peace Europe he serves as a co-president of the Organization.

Emina Frljak, Project Coordinator, Youth for Peace



Emina Frljak is a Project Coordinator within Youth for Peace (Bosnia and Herzegovina). She also serves as Deputy Coordinator of the International Youth Committee of Religions for Peace. Her academic background is in educational sciences, interreligious studies, and peacebuilding. Her areas of work and interest are peace education, interreligious dialogue, and religious literacy. Lately, her interest is focused also on using social media for educational and campaigning purposes, with particular emphasis on countering hate speech. Emina has been a Board member of Religions for Peace Europe since January 2020. She is also a fellow with the KAICIID International Fellows Program, which is focused on equipping religious leaders, civil society actors, and academics in the field of interreligious and intercultural dialogue. She is a member of the GERIS (Global Exchange on Religion in Society) network.

Maja Nenadović, Co-founder, Reflectory



Maja Nenadović is an experienced Monitoring-Evaluation-Learning and program design consultant, facilitator, civic education and human rights trainer. As a professional with 20 years of experience, she has worked in 40+ countries worldwide. Since 2012, she has implemented "Across Divides - Training Workshops for Depolarizing Communication", a methodology she herself designed and tested. Maja holds a PhD from the University of Amsterdam, on the subject of Monitoring & Evaluation in democracy and democratization assistance. She is the co-founder of Reflectory, a consultancy in the field of conflict transformation, participatory democracy, active citizenship and social cohesion.

Khadijah Tirha, Peacebuilder, iDove-Interfaith Dialogue on Violent Extremism



Khadija is an Afro-European youth worker based in Italy. She is passionate about international cooperation, advancing diversity and inclusion, fostering interfaith dialogue, promoting global citizenship education, and empowering youth. She pursued a double Master's Degree in International Relations of the Mena Region and Comparative Analysis of Mediterranean Societies at the University of Turin and the School of Governance and Economics (EGE Rabat). Her experience includes working for multiple international organizations dealing with international cooperation and solidarity. She has participated in many international events around the world, representing Italy, over the past few years. She is also a youth delegate at the Council of Europe, a global shaper (World Economic Forum), a peacebuilder in iDove (Interfaith Dialogue on Violent Extremism), and a CWFL (Center for Women, Faith & Leadership) Alumni at the The Institute for Global Engagement (IGE).