



United Nations Alliance Of Civilizations

Fellowship Program 2015

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Participants from Europe and North America (EUNA)

October 15th – October 30th 2015



Federal Foreign Office

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2015 UNAOC Fellowship Program – EUNA Participants



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Charles Holmquist (Sweden) is the Youth Engagement and Conflict Sensitivity Coordinator for Search for Common Ground (SFCG) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In his work, he employs an ability to conduct complex conflict analysis and apply his creativity to design peace-building programs and develop messages that promote peace in the DRC. He has held a longstanding interest in relations between Europe, the Middle East, North America and North Africa, and feels that people in these regions who believe in coexistence have an opportunity and a responsibility to promote understanding and respect between cultures. He holds a

BA in Politics and Philosophy and an MA in International Politics from the University of Manchester, and speaks English, French and Swedish fluently.



Daniel Overskott (Norway) is the managing director of "Christian Intercultural Association among Youth" (KIA Ung), a national youth network dedicated to improve intercultural collaborations in different parts of Norway. He is also a full time bachelor student in Economy and Administration at Hauge School of Management and a part time bachelor student in Communication and Worldviews. On his free time, Daniel is engaged in different activities related to immigration and knowledge about worldviews and apologetics.



Liam O'Doherty (Canada) is a passionate community organizer from Toronto, Canada dedicated to empowering youth to implement social change. As a Director of Digital Youth Engagement Programs at TakingITGlobal, he builds social technologies to connect young people around the world. He has been recognized by The Global Knowledge Partnership as one of the top 100 Social Entrepreneurs and by Corporate Knights as one of the Top 30 Under 30 Sustainability Leaders. Liam also has a background in sustainable development, communication theory, and theatrical improvisation.



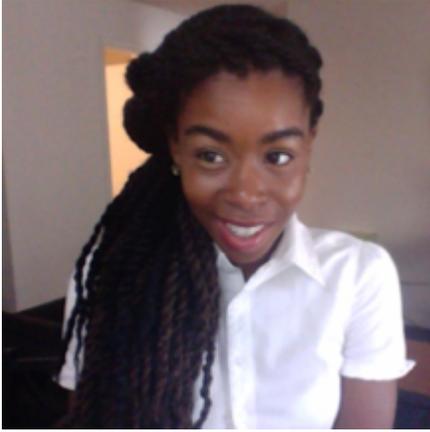
Ermanno Perotti (Italy) is directly involved, personally and professionally, within the field of Youth Development through “Youth for a United World” Movement. He developed an early interest in international relations and interdisciplinary studies. He thus decided to take courses related to Human Relations and International Cooperation. He is an MA student at the University of Florence in Development Economics. His Master thesis focuses on “Developing a Pro-Poor Value Chain”. He grew up and has been trained in an intercultural and interreligious environment, bringing him to develop a

genuine interest and a particular awareness of other people’s needs. This has brought him to travel around the world, mostly in Asia, both for professional and personal purposes. His main occupation has been in the microcredit field, which has brought him to work, after a two-month training in Bangladesh, with Grameen Bank and with people in need living in conditions of extreme poverty. He enjoys spending his time practicing different sports, getting close to nature, painting, reading and playing music.



Fatoumata Kebe (France) was trained in Space Engineering for a year at the University of Tokyo, and is currently finishing her PhD in astronomy at the Observatory of Paris, on space debris and the vestiges of human activity accumulated in space over time. Passionate about astronomy, Fatoumata has also invested herself in other areas such as agriculture. With a cooperative of women in Mali, she leads "Connected Eco" - a project focusing on the need for a new model of agriculture that could ensure both quality and quantity in food production where it is needed the most, while preserving the natural

environment. Her project also empowers women through digital training. Sensors powered by solar energy analyze soil drought level and then send the data by SMS to farmers so they can irrigate their fields properly and in due time, using a watering system connected to these sensors. Her project was awarded by the Young Innovators Competition, an initiative led by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a United Nations agency focusing on the potential of Information and Communication Technologies in solving issues. Fatoumata also dedicates her energy to inspire vocations through "Ephemerides", the association she founded in order to provide astronomy courses to high school students from disadvantaged suburbs. Her goal is to help young people embrace their ambitions and accomplish their dreams.



Jordan Muse (U.S.A.) recently received her Masters of Public Health from the University of South Carolina, and, earlier, a Bachelors of Science from Rutgers University. In Columbia SC, she was instrumental in the creation of year round youth tennis programs at the Columbia Tennis Center. These programs included summer day camps, fall and spring afterschool program and various city tennis programs. She is the owner and founder of “The Tenth Muse: Fitness Plus”, which focuses on leading a healthy life and community health development through collaboration and partnerships.

She is continually learning about public health its many components, impacts and solutions. Jordan enjoys eating, exercising, a great conversation and all types of festivals.



Josh Cass (U.K.) is an experienced project manager and facilitator working on questions of religion, society, peace-building and conflict. He is the Director of Fodip, the Forum for Discussion of Israel and Palestine, and is an Associate at 3FF, one of the UK's leading interfaith organizations. He has worked with a range of other organizations in this field, including St. Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace and the Encompass Trust. Josh is also developing, in partnership with 3FF and World Faith, a training for foreign affairs professionals that explores questions relating to

effective religious engagement. The team has led workshops in London and Washington D.C. delivering to senior government officials, academics and practitioners. Josh has a strong interest in the Arts, in particular theatre, and is interested in developing projects that use the arts to create conditions for more effective dialogue and intercultural learning. He is also a very demanded voiceover artist. A Londoner born and bred, Josh has travelled extensively in Europe and North America, and now lives in London with his wife and son.



Nikolina Talijan (Bosnia and Herzegovina – BiH) has worked closely with Maori communities in New Zealand, underprivileged children in the USA, Mayan women and children in Guatemala, and rural youth in India. She has also been dedicated in empowering youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2012, as an Associate for International Cooperation at Perpetuum Mobile Institute for Youth and Community Development, Nikolina monitored the implementation of youth policies in BiH. She also organized youth cultural exchanges, promoting intercultural dialogue and diversity in Italy, Slovenia,

Romania, Portugal, Germany, Serbia, Croatia, and BiH. In 2014, Nikolina was invited to the Summit for the World Alliance of Religions for Peace in Seoul, South Korea. Her current work is inspired by an inter-faith understanding. Passionate about international development and issues relating to migration, she holds a MA in International Relations and European Studies and a BA in International Studies with a focus on International Economics. She loves to travel, immerse herself in new cultures and especially new cuisines. Working with dedicated and responsible people inspires her. Nikolina believes that engaging a community can only be achieved through the understanding of broader historical, political and cultural contexts. She lives by the conviction that every new day is an opportunity to make a better tomorrow.



Nora Rahimian (U.S.A.) is a code-switcher and community-builder who helps organizations and artists develop strategies for using entertainment and the arts as tools for social change. With over 10 years of peace-building and social justice organizing experience, Nora has led workshops and projects throughout the United States and in Central America, working with youth and in communities highly affected by violence. Most recently, she lived in Liberia, where she spent three years developing alternative-education programs for higher-risk and out-of-school youth, supporting

musicians as they created infrastructure for the country's budding post-war music industry, and establishing The Hip Co Festival, Liberia's first music festival which brought together 20,000 people in 2013. She established the Hip Co Accountability Network to engage popular artists as anti-corruption and accountability ambassadors. She now manages Anti-Rape Ambassador and Hip Co Artist of the Year, Takun J. In 2014, she co-founded #CultureFix, a global collaborative network of activists, influencers, and change-makers who use arts and culture to create social change in communities around the world.



Roda Siad (Canada) is a documentary filmmaker and researcher. She is passionate about producing social impact documentaries and using media as a tool for advocacy. In 2012, Buni TV, a leading online platform that showcases best independent works produced in or about Africa, procured her short film, *In Between Stories*. That year, Reel World Film Festival selected Roda as one of Top 20 Emerging Filmmakers. She co-directed a documentary on the stigma surrounding breast cancer in immigrant communities. *Beyond the Silence* was screened for audiences across Canada. In 2013, Roda conducted research in Southern Europe and produced a multimedia project (*Living at the Border*) that documents the everyday struggles of African migrants and refugees in Italy. In 2014, the project won an Amnesty International Canada Media Award for best online journalism. She presented her research titled, “Italy’s Ten Year Emergency: Integration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in light of the Dublin II Regulation” at the 2020 Vision for Humanity Symposium in Calgary. She holds a Master’s degree in Media Production.



Taras Dzyubansky (Ukraine) holds a B.A. in Philosophy and studied at various papal institutes in the Vatican. He obtained his PhD in Theology and Interreligious Dialogue in 2012. Taras has deepened his involvement in interfaith dialogue by working in Kazakhstan and in Eastern Ukraine, and by teaching religion courses at St. Maurice Catholic School in Stamford. In 2010, he received a prestigious Russell Berrie Fellowship in Interreligious Studies which enabled him to pursue his doctoral degree and to get acquainted with the study of Judaism and other religions. Since October 2012, Taras has been working as an adviser to the mayor of Lviv for religious and ecumenical issues. In May 2013, he inaugurated an interfaith center “Libertas”, the first of its kind in Ukraine. Since its creation, the center has held over 30 ecumenical and interreligious events in view of promoting dialogue and understanding among different religious groups. Taras has been awarded with several distinctions related to his innovative approach on interfaith dialogue and social issues. He is now an adviser to the President of the Lviv Chamber of Commerce and Industry on social issues. Taras is strongly committed to promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue. He believes that people of different faiths have a lot to offer to humanity.



Tatevik Markosyan (Armenia) is a committed development specialist who has more than seven years of experience in the international development sector. As a public sector specialist knowledgeable in designing innovative and effective initiatives, she helps building strategies to engage youth in socio-economic development. Her areas of expertise include project designing and management, project strategy, resource mobilization and fundraising, implementing youth and rural development programs, conflict transformation and civil society democracy advancement initiatives, building resilient

communities toward climate change impact, usage of ICT to ensure youth engagement and community development. She holds a professional degree from Yerevan State Linguistic University (YSLU) in Russian Philology and English Language. In 2012, she obtained her second MA degree in International NGOs and International Relations from Webster University in Netherlands. Currently Tatevik contributes to the initiatives of UNDP in Armenia, while leading various start-ups as a volunteer.