

## 2020 Dialogues for Peace & UN75



**Natalie Samarasinghe, Deputy to the Special Adviser on Preparations for the Commemoration for the UN's 75th Anniversary.** Natalie served as Chief Speechwriter for the President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. She has been the Executive Director of the United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK) working with United Nations Association, since 2006. She is currently on leave of absence from UNA-UK. As the first woman to head the United Nations Association-UK, she has had overall responsibility for UNA-UK's programmes, with particular focus on advocacy, strategic communications, human rights, peace and security, and UN reform, including the Together First campaign on the Organization's 75th anniversary in 2020. She is a regular commentator on UN issues, and has edited or contributed to publications including the SAGE Major Work on the UN, The Oxford Handbook on

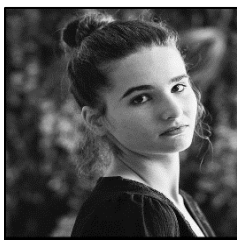
the United Nations and the "Global Goals" and "Climate 2020" series. She has advised or served as a trustee for organisations including the Association of Citizenship Teaching, Sri Lanka Campaign and the Doc Society film foundation. In 2013, she co-founded the 1 for 7 Billion campaign for a more transparent and inclusive process to select the UN Secretary-General. In 2018, she was awarded a prize by the Global Challenges Foundation for a proposal to open up UN decision-making and delivery to external stakeholders.



**Steven Aiello, Founder and Director of Debate for Peace.** Steven, 31 years old - founded his organization four years ago. He has a BA in Economics (NYU), MA in Diplomacy and Conflict Studies (IDC), and currently studies Islam at Tel Aviv University. He has been involved in Jewish-Arab MUN work in Israel since 2011. Steven is Jewish and Italian-American, from NY, now living in Tel Aviv. He has run dozens of conferences and about 15 youth delegations. More info: [Debateforpeace.org](http://Debateforpeace.org),



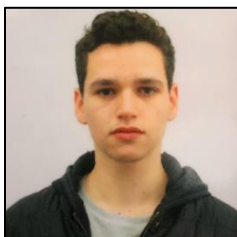
**Hassan Hassan, 29 years old** - Hassan double majored in English and Arabic at Haifa University, and is now an MA student in Linguistics. Originally from the Golan Heights, he has been teaching English in the Bedouin sector in the Negev for several years.



**Gaia Kinrot, 17 years old** - Gaia is a Jewish Israeli student from the Tel Aviv suburb of Holon. Gaia is of Czech background, speaks French and understands Spanish. She studies at Mikve Israel High School. Gaia loves studying diplomacy and biology and playing sports, and works as a waiter in a cafe.



**Hosne Grere, 15 years old** - Hosne is an Arab student from Lod, Israel, studying at Saint George School. Hosne is from a Muslim family, but is an atheist himself. He enjoys Art, English, and debating, as well as cartoons.



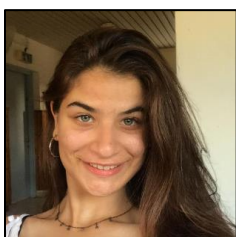
**Yoad Hershkovits, 17 years old** - Yoad is a Jewish student from Kefar Warburg in southern Israel. He studies at Be'er Tuvia Regional High School in Be'er Tuvia. His grandparents came from Tunisia, Belgium, Romania and Egypt. Yoad speaks Hebrew, English and French. He plays 4 different instruments and loves studying the history of the Middle East.



**Romi Rachel Merhav**, 17 years old - Romi is an Atheist, conservative Jew. She lives in Pardes Hana Karkor and studies in Ort Binyamina.



**Mostafa Hassan**, 17 years old - Mostafa is Muslim with a Syrian background, living in the Golan Heights, in Ghajar Village. He is currently studying in Salman Khatib Comprehensive School.



**Laila Khaled Jabali**, 16 years old - Laila is from Taibeh City. She studies at Givat Haviva international School and she is a Muslim Palestinian Arab citizen of Israel.



**Ori Sinvani**, 16 years old - Ori studies at Yachad High School in Modiin. His Jewish family emigrated from Yemen to Israel.



**Shahaf Navon**, 16 years old - Shahaf lives in Petah Tikva, Israel. He studies software engineering at Ben Gurion High School. He is Jewish and his family is originally from Germany and Yugoslavia - they moved to Israel after surviving the Holocaust.



**Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY**, the Director of UN Relations for Global Family, the Chair of the Board of Advisors for Youth for a Better World/Montessori Model UN/Youth Impact! Forum and she represents the Huairou Commission at the UN. Margo is Co-Founder/CSO of the SDG Impact Awards & Annual Celebration. She is a Coordinating Partner of UN2020 and the Convener of the NGO Major Group Urban Cluster. She has over thirty years of experience at the United Nations working in the UN Community as a Chief Developer of meetings, conferences and Special Events with all stakeholders developing impactful programs and projects that include the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Margo is mainly focused on connecting the 17 SDGs with communities globally. She champions SDG 17 on Partnerships and she believes in the NGOCSD-NY motto: "Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change." She has recently initiated bringing entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into United Nations discourse to foster support for Cultures of Peace and the success of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, to "Leave No One Behind" & the UN75 Dialogues for the UN We Need.

***"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"***

<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>

