

Rise Up's Global Leaders at Women Deliver

June 2-6, 2019 | Vancouver, Canada

A delegation of powerful Rise Up leaders from Ethiopia, India, Malawi, Pakistan, and the United States, who are championing change for girls, youth, and women in their communities and countries, will participate in Women Deliver, the world's largest conference on gender equality.



MARTA TSEHAY SEWASEW Rise Up Youth Champion | Ethiopia
National Project Coordinator, International Labor Organization

Marta has devoted her professional career to education, economic empowerment, leadership, and reproductive health for women, girls, and youth. As a Rise Up Youth Champion, Marta initiated the "Mobile for Students Reproductive Health" program, which benefited over 2,500 university students. Marta has been internationally recognized as a MILEAD fellow, a Mandela Washington Fellow, and one of 50 influential young leaders from Africa by the One World Foundation. Marta has a master's degree in social work and a bachelor's degree in sociology.



YOADAN WORKNEH Rise Up Youth Champion | Ethiopia
Manager, Department for International Development

Yoadan is a proud pan-African youth who currently manages a refugee and migration program. As a Rise Up Youth Champion, Yoadan advocates for youth engagement initiatives focused on literacy, Sustainable Development Goals, and youth sexual and reproductive health. Yoadan has an educational background in law, and peace and security studies, and extensive leadership experience, including with rotaract clubs in Ethiopia, Voice Africa's Future, A World at School, Horn of Africa Leadership and Learning for Action project, World Economic Forum Addis Ababa Hub, and as a Young African Leaders Initiative East Africa fellow.



TANIA FERNANDES ECHAPORIA Rise Up Leader | India
Head of Youth Engagement and Outreach, Red Dot Foundation (Safecity)

Tania leads Safecity's Youth outreach activities and manages engagement with partner organizations worldwide. She has an extensive background in designing and implementing trainings for both adults and youth through the Red Dot Foundation. A trained counselor, Tania works with adults and youth on leadership development, gender equity, and human rights. Her passion for women's and girls' rights drives her to work toward creating an equitable environment where women and girls can break their silence about sexual harassment and violence.



JASMINE LOVELY GEORGE Rise Up Youth Champion | India
Founder, Hidden Pockets

Jasmine is a lawyer, feminist, and activist who uses her legal acumen to improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls in India. She is interested in leveraging new technologies and media, such as virtual reality and podcasts in Hindi, for youth populations in spaces where talking about sexuality is taboo. As a Youth Champion, Jasmine piloted a project titled Bodies and Cities to develop a radio show to discuss issues related to sexual and reproductive health relevant for Indian youth.



FRANKLIN PAUL ANAND GNANAMUTHU Rise Up Youth Champion | India
Monitoring, Evaluation & Research Manager, Restless Development

Franklin is an experienced sexual and reproductive health and rights trainer. As a Rise Up Youth Champion he has improved sexual and reproductive health knowledge among youth through M-Sathi, an innovative mobile app that helps young people access sexual reproductive health information in one of the poorest areas of Bihar State in India. He has been recognized as a World Contraception Day Ambassador, as a Young Leader by Women Deliver, and as a Values Champion by Restless Development.



SABAH KHAN Collective Impact Partnership Leader | India
Co-Founder and Managing Trustee, Parcham

Sabah is a dedicated feminist activist with an extensive background working with developmental organizations in Mumbai on issues of urban poverty and women's rights. She is currently consulting on a project that seeks to create a model of inclusive urban development in the poorest municipal ward in Mumbai. She also co-founded Parcham, a group dedicated to breaking religious, class, caste, gender and other stereotypes to create a society respectful of diversity. Parcham is best known for introducing a football initiative for adolescent girls in Muslim slums. Sabah has a postgraduate degree in social work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences.



GAYATRI PARAMESWARAN Rise Up Youth Champion | India
Co-Founder, NowHere Media

Gayatri is an award winning immersive journalist, who co-runs NowHere Media, a storytelling studio in Berlin specializing in documentaries and social impact, and exploring taboo topics such as war, intimate partner violence, and abortion. Gayatri's work has been exhibited at the Venice International Film Festival, SXSW, the United Nations, and beyond, and she has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards in her field. Gayatri has been a Rise Up Youth Champion, a German Chancellor Fellow, an Erasmus Mundus scholar, and a gold medalist at University of Mumbai.



PATRICIA CHIMZINGA Malawi
Rise Up Project Coordinator

Patricia supports Rise Up's work to reduce child marriage and improve girls' health and education outcomes in Malawi. She began her career as a teacher in rural Malawi and has nearly a decade of experience working with young people and communities on improving access to education and healthcare. Patricia holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Malawi, Chancellor College.



ZIONE MATALE Rise Up Leader | Malawi
Executive Director, Lojeso Association

Zione is a committed advocate for girls and women with a background in organizational management, education, and youth empowerment. As the Executive Director for the Lojeso Association, a community-based organization focusing on education, human rights, health, youth empowerment, agriculture, and environmental management, she works with key stakeholders – village chiefs, parents and guardians, and school authorities – to help girls and young women who have faced gender-based violence return to school.



FAITH PHIRI Rise Up Leader | Malawi
Executive Director, Girls Empowerment Network

As the Executive Director of Girls Empowerment Network, Faith leads a grassroots network of young women advocates seeking to improve girls' and young women's health, education, and livelihoods through empowerment and advocacy initiatives. Faith holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in public health from the Malawi College of Medicine specializing in gender and maternal health.



NAUREEN LALANI Rise Up Youth Champion | Pakistan
Sexual & Reproductive Health Manager, Aahung

Naureen is a powerful leader and advocate who trains healthcare workers on rights-based, holistic approaches to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and is a trained nurse with a wealth of clinical and programming experience. As a Rise Up Youth Champion, she promoted SRHR for people living with physical disabilities in Karachi by developing user-friendly resources and by building the SRHR capacity of people who work with and for people with disabilities. She has a master’s degree in health and hospital management from the Institute of Business Management.



NEELAM PUNJANI Rise Up Youth Champion | Pakistan
Ph.D. Student & Research Assistant, University of Alberta

Neelam is deeply committed to advancing youth sexual and reproductive health and rights, and is a certified master trainer of human sexuality. Her current research focuses on improving the quality of life for adolescents and women by integrating sexual and mental healthcare, and translating evidence into practice. As a Youth Champion, she worked with nurses, teachers, and community workers, training them to provide sexual health education to youth. Neelam is also a Youth Champion for the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership. Neelam earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing from Aga Khan University in Pakistan.



ALI RIZVI Rise Up Youth Champion | Pakistan
Filmmaker/Director, Ehsas Films Project

Ali is a passionate filmmaker who advocates for sexual and reproductive health and rights in Pakistan through his films and public campaigns. Ali founded Ehsas Films Project in 2015. His first film, *Sapna*, showing a day in a trans person’s life in Karachi, won the best film award at International Travel South Asia Film Festival in 2016. His work is rooted in public health and social justice. Through his films, he is busting taboos around gender and sexuality in South Asia.



MELANIE POWERS Rise Up Youth Champion | United States
Program Manager, AIDS United

Melanie is a native of New Orleans with an extensive background in HIV prevention and education, and comprehensive sex education advocacy. As a grantmaker, Melanie is committed to ensuring that those who are most deeply impacted by HIV in the US South are represented at decision-making tables. She is grateful to be able to work in partnership with groups and organizations across the US South fighting for the health and rights of their communities. Melanie has a master’s degree in public health.



DR. DENISE RAQUEL DUNNING United States
Rise Up Founder and Executive Director

Denise is a passionate advocate for girls, youth, and women, who founded Rise Up in 2009. Denise works to amplify the voices and impact of girls and women who are improving health, education, and equity globally. Denise is a former Fulbright scholar, a Social Entrepreneur in Residence Fellow at Stanford University, and a 2017 recipient of the Powerful Women of the Bay Area Award. She received a bachelor’s degree from Duke University, a master’s degree from Princeton University, and doctorate from UC Berkeley, and now teaches classes at University of California San Francisco.

ABOUT RISE UP

Rise Up activates women and girls to transform their lives, families, and communities for a more just and equitable world through investment in local solutions, strengthening leadership, and building movements. Since 2009, Rise Up’s powerful network of over 500 leaders has directly benefited 7 million girls, youth, and women, advocating for over 100 laws and policies impacting 115 million people in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and the U.S.