

Young Leaders Think Tank for Policy Alternatives

Founding Members

Adellah Agaba, 24, holds a Bachelors Degree in Law from Uganda Christian University. Currently she is working with Uganda Debt Network under the Governance and Rights Programme as a Programme Assistant. Uganda Debt Network is a Civil Society Organisation which advocates for pro-poor policies and full participation of poor people in influencing poverty - focused policies, monitoring the utilisation of public resources and ensuring that they are managed in an open, accountable and transparent manner to benefit all Ugandan people.

Previously she worked with Advocates for Public International Law in Uganda (APILU) in advocating for respect of International law and its policies alongside the domestic law by all state parties who are signatories to the treaties under International law.



Ahmed Hadji, 27, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences Majoring in Social Administration and Gender policy development and analysis and is Presently finalizing in a Post graduate in Project Planning and Management at Uganda Management Institute(UMI).



He is currently a Program Advisor and Team Leader with African Youth Development Link and Technical Programs Manager with Youth plus Policy Network. He is also involved as Program Advisor and implementer in a Young Women Leadership Mentoring Program in Ugandan Universities funded by the International Republican Institute (IRI) Uganda.

In addition, he was contracted by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to spearhead the Good Governance thematic consultative task force in the Review of the current National Youth Council 2001 by analyzing and proposing key governance related youth issues to be highlighted in the next National Youth Policy.

Bernard Mukhone, 30, is a businessman and CEO of Elegant Group of Companies. He holds a Bachelors Degree (B.A.) in Social Sciences from Makerere University. In 2010 he was awarded a scholarship by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Uganda under which he currently pursues a Masters degree (M.A.) on Local Governance and Human Rights at Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) in Nkozi. He has previously worked as Interviewer and Team Leader with Mildmay Uganda and as a Project Assistant with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Uganda, where he was a lead implementer of an EU-funded project under the title "Strengthening Political Pluralism, Democratic Participation and Representation at Local Government Level in Uganda".



Asiimwe Esther, 20, is a third year law student at Uganda Christian University in Mukono. She strongly believes in the power of the youth to cause a fundamental change in their various societies and in the fact that for such a change to take place, both men and women are to be given equal opportunities.



Esther has undertaken several trainings organized by different organizations in Uganda including Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), Open Society Institute (OSI) and Youth Action Fund Uganda (YAF) which have left her empowered. She is currently the President of Fowode (Forum for Women In Democracy) Young Leaders Alumni Association (FYLAA) an association that aims at transforming society through building a strong cadre of leaders who will promote gender equality and social justice through capacity building, networking and research.

Brian Bwesigye, 23, is a lawyer, activist and writer with keen interest in the Kiga Cultural Identity, Indigenous Minority People's Rights, Gender Equality, East African Integration and International Justice.

Presently, Bwesigye is a volunteer advocacy officer at the Global Batwa Outreach and is also a founder member of the Innovations for Youth Empowerment and Development (IYED), a youth-oriented organisation.

In 2008/2009, he was Student President of Uganda Law Students' Society and in the past represented Makerere university at various international competitions, notably, the 3rd ICC Trial Competition, The Hague, 2010; The 18th All Africa Human Rights Moot Court and Theatre Competition, Lagos, 2009 and The 8th International Moot Competition on International Humanitarian Law, Arusha 2008.



Bunnya Wakibu, 24, holds a Bachelor of Science in Land Surveying and Geo-information Systems from Makerere University. He is the Founder and Executive Coordinator of the Open Space Centre Uganda and a Board member of Action for Fundamental Change and Development. He has been a grantee for the one year Open Space Forum project under the Youth Action Fund initiated by the Open Society Institute for East Africa and organized public lectures, debates and opinion polls in universities with the aim of promoting youth participation in democratic governance. In 2010 he was part of the 10 member delegation that represented Uganda at AFRICAMP 2010 in Nairobi which brought together over 200 youth across sub-Saharan Africa to lay strategies for popularization of the African Youth charter, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and receive hands-on training in new media.



Edna Akullo, 24, is currently a student at the Makerere University Kampala, pursuing a Master of Arts in Gender Analysis in Economics and a Pearson Fellow for Social Innovation 2011. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

She worked as the Research and Training advisor at the Advocates for Public International Law Uganda (APILU) and researched in the area of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security in Uganda. She assisted in the strategic and operational planning work at APILU. In addition, she worked at the

ministry of constitutional Affairs and Good Governance, Zanzibar, running several projects while in Tanzania, and also at the Mashiah Foundation in Jos, Nigeria. She is currently running an education project under the Pearson Fellowship called Self Help Foundation Project which aims at rebuilding post war communities of Northern Uganda through education and bridging the information and skills gap in as well as encouraging the grassroots to embrace education.

Gertrude Benderana, 30, is a journalist and currently working as a Project Manager with Uganda Media Development Foundation (UMDF), an NGO that aims at addressing the professional, structural and industry challenges in the media sector. Among other things, she is organising trainings for young journalists in order to strengthen their professional skills and enable them to fulfil their role in a democratic society. Among other things, she has also worked on policy dialogue to strengthen political parties' relations with the media. She is a blogger and an active member in several networks such as the Peace and Collaborative Development Network and the Africa Media Network, and a contributor of NAABUUR, the Global Neighbor Network.





Helena Okiring, 24, holds a B.A. in Procurement and Supplies Management from Makerere University Business School and works as a Project Officer for Uganda Youth Network. She is a self driven individual inspired by an inward desire to lead an exemplary, significant life. She aspires to be an Agent of Positive Social Change and Transformation where ever she can be and has chosen to dedicate her life towards pursuits and ambitions that can better life for Humanity with in and beyond her life time and generation. She embraces every opportunity to learn as a means to build her capacity for Community Leadership and Social Transformation.

Hope Kyarisiima, 26, is a female Ugandan passionate about harnessing the power of the youth and mind to alleviate the plight of young people. An information manager by profession, she currently works with an NGO in Uganda in Advocacy, Monitoring & Evaluation. She believes that young people have the potential to shape their future through influencing policies, economic empowerment and being active in civic society and this potential can be developed through confidence building and encouraging them to fully participate in all societal processes of development. Her vision is an assertive, confident and independent youth in Africa. She loves reading, travelling and interacting with people from diverse backgrounds.



Ivan Otim, 26, is a social worker and social administrator, currently with Students for Global Democracy Uganda. Through Students for Global Democracy Uganda that was initiated way back in 2006, platforms were created in student communities, secondary schools and tertiary institution as platforms of



empowering young Ugandans, principally students with the knowledge of democracy, governance and sustainable development. This has been a process that has grown through initiating student clubs and chapters to allow systematic thinking and team learning to co-create a transforming, conversational and collective thinking amongst youth in school. Over the past years, in schools and communities through community outreach programs, Ivan has worked on implementing a series of programs which have comprised advocacy campaigns on respect, promotion, protection and education initiatives on human rights, democracy, governance, environment, and policy issues among others through a participatory

community driven approach with all stakeholders through engaging students, members in schools and community members.

Kitamirike Emmanuel, 31, is a social worker and holds a B.A. in education from Makerere University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management from Uganda Management Institute. He is currently the Executive Coordinator of the Uganda Youth Network (UYONET) as Project Director he has managed over seven donor funded projects (2009 – 2011) aimed at increasing young peoples' participation in and contribution to Uganda's ongoing governance and development processes with a particular focus on supporting youth involvement in the entire election cycle.



At the core of this was leading a team of youth activists to develop the National Youth Manifesto aimed at helping youth state their demands of the Uganda they desire ahead of the 2011 general elections. Through the manifesto, Emmanuel has led a team of youth activists to push forward the agenda and make issues of youth concern mainstreamed into the political campaign ahead of the 2011 general elections.

As Executive Director of UYONET, the country's leading youth advocacy agency, his frontline performance target is to push for policy review/alternatives that ensure young people are a part of the ongoing socio-political transformations



Kaviri Ali, 21, is a Youth Activist and an active participant in the civil society movement in Uganda. He is currently pursuing a bachelors' degree of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) at Kyambogo University and working as an intern with the International Republican Institute (IRI) as well as an administrator at Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) secretariat. In addition, he has been "Mr. FOWODE" since 2010 and also works as external coordinator for Uganda youth Network (UYONET) at Kyambogo University. He was involved as a volunteer with the NGO FORUM in the "Return Our Money Campaign". He is a God fearing individual, committed to making a difference not only in his personal life but also for

those around him. He has a keen interest in social and community affairs as well as promoting gender equality issues, social justice and social transformation. Further fields of interest are politics, governance, research, public relations, and development.

Loyola R. Karobwa, 23, is a Law student at Makerere University and The East African School of Taxation. She is a founding member of Youth Arise For Africa, a non-partisan registered organization whose mission is to foster young leaders in all fields, with the target group being youths in the education system. She is also a member of Rotary International and the Rotaract Club of Kampala Ssese Islands. The ultimate aim of Rotaract is "Service above Self". It is a



platform to bring good to society through service.

Loyola strongly believes in doing her part for her country, her continent and this world. She upholds the values of democracy, protection of human rights and supporting the rule of law. She believes the way to better this world is by setting up structures, policies and laws that are effective and sustainable to achieve economic, social and political development.



Mula Anthony, 30, is currently employed with State-House as An Economic Assistant to H.E the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda since 2008. Prior to the above assignment, Anthony worked as a business representative of Pacific Consultants Ltd in 2006 and 2007. Anthony is also a member of the International Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy Program and a member of the National Monitoring and Evaluation Integrated Program since 2009. He is also a member of the Uganda Red Cross Society since 1998. Apart from his public office duty as an Economic Assistant to H.E the Vice President, Anthony heads Advocacy for Violence-free Elections (AFOVE) as President, a civil Society Organization that was instrumental in advocating for violence-free

elections during the 2011 general elections in Uganda, and he is the National Chairman of Youth Leadership of National Guidance (YLNG).

He enrolled for a post graduate diploma in Financial Management at Uganda Management Institute (UMI) in 2010 that is expected to lead him to the award of a Masters degree in 2012 on completing his Academic research.

Nakandha Sharon Esther, 25, is a graduate of law from Makerere University and has recently completed the Bar course at the Law Development Centre in Uganda. Her main area of interest is human rights and democratic governance. Over the last five years, she has participated in several youth leadership activities at national and international level which have given her an opportunity to develop leadership skills that can enhance development. Currently she is a core member of the African Youth Leadership Forum and recently attended the National Student Leadership Forum in Washington DC. She is interested in pursuing a career in international human rights law and related matters.



Ojijo O.M.P. Al Amin, 27, is Founder & Team Leader of Regional Investor Education Centre, (InformedInvestors), a regional (East Africa) company promoting financial literacy and supporting investment clubs; Founder & Principal Partner, Africa Legal Research & Consultancy, ALREC, a legal support services firm specializing in research, consultancy and training in Africa; Founder & Executive Chairman, BankIt (U) Ltd, a mobile savings solution company; Co-Founder & Director, Know Your Culture Foundation, an organization promoting African cultures and history; Founder & Chief Trustee, Africans Helping Africans (AHA) Initiative, a global initiative to organize Africans to help fellow Africans through volunteering while giving the volunteers an opportunity to travel, learn and invest; Founder & Chief Trustee, Ojijo Foundation, a centre for community members to access to information for human development; Founder & Executive Chairman, My Wealthy Lifestyle, the first ever network marketing company founded by an African, dealing in personal development and highly nutritive indigenous products.



Okello Eugene Pacelli, 28, holds a Bachelor of Laws degree with second uppers class of Makerere University and a Diploma in Legal Practice of Law Development Centre. He is interested in expanding professional experience relating to his career, whether in the area of human rights and democratization, Intellectual Property, International Law, Banking and Negotiable Instruments, Legal Research, lobbying for policy and Legal reforms, Leadership and Development or other related fields. He is a member of the Knights of St. Charles Lwanga, a church based youth group carrying out volunteer out reaches to the orphans and other vulnerable

groups such as the elderly and those who need material supports, and an alumni of the scholarship exchange programme "Go Africa – Go Germany" organized by the German Federal Agency for Civic Education and initiated by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Oketa Jasper Obwot, 26, holds a Bachelors Degree in Law from Makerere University and a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice of Law Development Centre. After having worked as a legal intern at the Directorate of Public Prosecution, he is currently working as a legal associate with Impala Legal Advocates and Legal Consultants. He is actively involved in the Africa Youth Leadership Forum, a group of young like minded youths who believe and practice the position that every leader should be accountable to his peers



and as such must develop a network of friends with whom he/she can freely account. This movement is under the umbrella of the national parliamentary prayer breakfast which organizes contemporary leaders in thanks giving and unity in the name of prayer.

He is also an active member of the international Human rights movement ICMICA which is a catholic founded organization of young catholic professionals who recognize the need for human rights observance and participate as an observer organization in the OHCHR in Geneva.



Rhoda Gati, 25, is a lawyer in private practice currently working with one of the top law firms in Uganda, A.F. Mpanga Advocates, as a legal assistant. After she finished her LLB and before she joined the Law Development Centre for her post graduate diploma, she volunteered with Children's AIDS Fund Uganda, where she was directly involved in activities of raising AIDS awareness at Makerere University, which included organizing and providing platforms where university students would share experiences and knowledge about HIV and AIDS. She was also personally tasked to hold discussions with small groups of youth to discuss issues pertaining to health and sexuality. This experience enhanced her

knowledge of STIs and HIV and AIDS and greatly improved her interpersonal and communication skills, which qualities she says she will put to use if given an opportunity to participate in the Think Tank.

She also worked with Human Rights and Peace Centre as a research assistant, where she was tasked to conduct field research in the area of Human Rights and Good Governance in Kyenjojo District. Her specific task was to interpret questionnaires to the people at the grass root levels and educate them about their human rights.

Think Tank Coordinator

Mathias Kamp, 28, is working as a Project Officer with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Uganda. He holds a Bachelor degree (B.A. & B.Sc.) in Public Administration and European Studies and a Master degree (M.A.) in International Relations and Development Policy. His major fields of interest are issues of development cooperation, democratization and good governance, with a regional focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. He gained experiences in youth activities particularly through his voluntary work with the Catholic Church in Germany and Ghana. Furthermore, he is the founder of a local association for the promotion of youth culture in his German hometown and an alumni of the scholarship exchange program "Go Africa – Go Germany" under the patronage of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany.

