



**MANDELA WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP**
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

**Mandela Washington Fellows
Civic Leadership Institute
2017**

RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY



Abraham Matteta (Zimbabwe) is a legal practitioner and disability rights' activist. Currently, he is a disability rights consultant at Muvingi and Mugadza law firm. Abraham is also secretary to the Lawyers with Disabilities Association Zimbabwe Trust which advances the rights of lawyers with disabilities to increase their visibility in courts and other key decision-making institutions. As a visually impaired person himself, Abraham fights against discrimination from first-hand experience. He advocates for others with his writings and advocacy work to challenge anti-disability practices and policies. Abraham holds a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Zimbabwe and a Master's degree in Human Rights Law from the University of Leeds. He intends to use the Mandela Washington experience to sharpen his advocacy skills in areas such as public interest litigation, disability mainstreaming and networking.



Agatha Ada Levi (Sierra Leone) is a dedicated individual with over six years' experience in advocacy and lobbying with special reference to children and women's rights. She is the Country Coordinator for FemWorld International Sierra Leone, an organization which focuses on adolescent sexual reproductive health rights through the formation of peer educator clubs in schools and communities. Agatha holds a first class degree in Mass Communications from the University of Makeni. During Agatha's early days of university education, she was a victim of a university gang rape and teenage pregnancy, thus she is using her background in communication to advocate for victims of rape and teenage pregnancy by sharing her story to motivate, inspire, and help them to get back to normal life. Agatha has the desire to work with the poorest communities and believes in teamwork by positively influencing others, creating acceptance, and garnering support for ideas. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Agatha plans to continue her work with rape victims and teenage mothers by providing them with a safer space to share their stories and moral support to aid them back to normal life.



Ayanda Simangele (Swaziland) has over four years of experience in the community development sector, specifically focusing on championing equal rights and advocacy. Currently, Ayanda is a peer educator for the Rock of Hope under The Family Life Association of Swaziland, where she focuses on advocacy campaigns, peer support groups, and issues of acceptance. Ayanda holds a degree in industrial sociology from the University of Zululand where she focused on research and labor law within the workplace. Driven by her commitment to social equality, she one day hopes to witness a completely equal and accepting society. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Ayanda plans to pursue a path in implementing the equality side of Labor Law in the workplace with a focus on advocacy for women's rights and the LGBTQI community.



Daouda Gueye (Senegal) holds a master's degree in Business Administration, Marketing-Management from Institute Supérieur de Management (ISM) and a Master of Art from Cheikh Anta Diop University. He is a Project Coordinator at the Institute for Health Research in Epidemiology Surveillance and Training (IRESSEF) with ten years of experience with international partnerships, working in behavior change, directly working with health staffs and at risk populations, and with private and public sector marketing. He has experience working with a variety of partners, including funding organization, researchers, members of key populations, and private sector stakeholders. Daouda is involved in developing strategies and monitoring tools for implementing activities at all levels, including conceptualization, translation, monitoring and evaluation, quality assurance, analysis, and interpreting results into understandable language for multi-lingual audiences. Upon the completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Daouda would like to play a vital role in creating a society based on justice and equity by building awareness and capacity strengthening processes within the community. He wants to prepare communities for the pertinent role they can play to promote social values for a better living such as awareness of violence against women and children and access to health care services for key populations, including female sex workers and adolescent girls.



Dolly Siwundla (South Africa) is a passionate Social Entrepreneur and is the founder of Bright Reader. She is a Reading Coach and runs reading clubs that equip children with the very important skill of literacy. Her mission is to ensure that every child in South Africa can read for meaning by the end of Grade 3. Passionate about children, community and families, her life philosophy is, Ignite passion in self and others.



Elielle Ilboudo (Burkina Faso) has over 10 years of experience working with the youth community. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Economic Development. Elielle's work includes development projects with the United Nation's Development Program (UNDP). After returning from the MWF, Elielle wants to establish a center in Ouagadougou that will welcome young people who need counseling and educational support in the field of the arts.



Ernest Futta (Tanzania) has over four years of experience in advocating for women and girls' empowerment in his community. He is the founder and Executive Director of the Passion for the Needy Community Organization, an NGO that focuses on empowering girls in rural areas through supporting and advocating for girls' education and improving the quality of life for women in the rural areas of Tanzania. He is also in charge of promoting, supporting, inspiring, and mentoring girls' education in the rural areas of Tanzania by providing sponsorship, fighting against early marriages, and educating the rural communities on girls' rights and importance of girls' education. Ernest is building a platform for girls and women to make a positive impact in their communities by promoting girls' education, encouraging women's participation in entrepreneurship, and gender equality. Ernest holds a master's degree in Law. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, he plans to continue his work towards empowering women economically in the rural areas and supporting girls' education.



Ethel Ella Mbewe (Zambia) is an Information Communication Technology Specialist who is passionate about supporting girls and encouraging their involvement in ICT. She is a Co-founder of Asikana Network, a girls in technology organization. She resides in Lusaka and works with some schools across Zambia by providing computer literacy training and mentorship for young girls. While on the fellowship, Ethel hopes to enhance her leadership and advocacy skills in order to reach more girls by providing access to useful technologies. After the Mandela Washington Fellowship, she plans to broaden the scope, reach and quality of programs that the Asikana Network has in Zambia. Ethel holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computing with Honors from the University of Greenwich.



Evelyn Amoako (Ghana) has over eight years' experience in nursing, working in under-served communities. Currently working at St. Dominic Hospital, Evelyn specializes in HIV testing and counselling as well as the provision of anti-retroviral therapy to persons living with HIV. She is also an Associate of Step-Up Foundation, a non-governmental organization involved in the provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education to adolescents and linking them to services as well as implementing programs to support teenage mothers living with HIV in rural communities. Evelyn holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen and specialized in Health Systems' Policy and Management. Her research focused on the stigma and discrimination encountered by persons living with HIV while accessing health care in Ghana. Evelyn is passionate about reducing new HIV infections among young people, girl child education, and preparing the youth to have a healthy sexual and reproductive life.



Guleid Ahmed Jama (Somalia) is the co-founder and chairperson of Human Rights Center (HRC), a leading human right advocacy organization based in Somaliland. HRC monitors human rights violations in Somaliland and assists victims of human rights abuses. Guleid is also a practicing lawyer. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Laws and Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy. After completion of the Fellowship, Guleid will continue his human rights work to strive for full respect and protection of human rights, and the end of human rights violations.



Harrison Gwamnishu (Nigeria) works as a state coordinator at the Stephen and Solomon Foundation. He is committed to solving the social problems of recidivism within the Nigerian prison system. Harrison Gwamnishu has been offered admission to study Peace and Conflict Resolution at Afriford University. He is driven by his commitment to see that indigent and innocent, awaiting-trial prisoners get legal representation. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington fellowship, Harrison plans to continue his work in making sure Nigerian prison inmates are fully reformed, rehabilitated and reintegrated back into society for a sustainable crime-free life after regaining their freedom.



Ivoline Budji Kefen (Cameroon) has over 12 years of experience as a teacher and volunteer. Currently, Ivoline works as a peer educator/facilitator, artistic director, editor, and resource person for Education for Life (EFL). The EFL organization works to foster holistic growth and capacity building, especially in the fields of education/literacy, reproductive health, and mentorship. Ivoline teaches high school, writes fiction, and does research work. She holds a BA in English and Literature, a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Journalism and Media, and an M.Sc in Anthropology. Ivoline hopes to run media clubs in schools so that young Cameroonians may be more attuned to using media for positive change and development. After the fellowship, Ivoline plans to open a production house for movies and documentaries, and a resource center for mentorship. Her hope is that young people will learn to use their talents and abilities to make their voices heard, break societal constraints, and build a better life for themselves and society.



Janet Gbam (Nigeria) has over three years' experience offering pro bono legal service to indigent persons in her community, specifically focusing on the rights of women. She is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. She is also certified in Basic Counseling and Rehabilitation skills from the Benue State University in Partnership with the United States Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Currently, Janet leads the pro bono unit at the law firm of Ovbagbedia & Co. where she focuses on securing the freedom of incarcerated persons facing trial without legal representation as well as the rehabilitation and reintegration of these clients back into society. She hopes to see a society where people will not be deprived access to justice because of financial impairment. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Janet plans to collaborate with organizations that offer pro bono legal services and rehabilitation with a focus on making justice available to all.



Josephine Nkurunziza (Rwanda) is a Gender and Accountability Specialist with over 10 years' experience in program management of girls and women's issues. She has counseled non-profit associations and government entities in girls and women's programming. Josephine has a Master's degree in Gender Analysis in Economics from Makerere University and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the National University of Rwanda. Josephine has four years experience in girls' empowerment through mentorship and community engagement at Girl Effect Rwanda. After the MWF, Josephine is planning to apply civic leadership knowledge, skills, and experience to empower young Rwandan women to become change-makers in their own communities.



Liberman Bhebe (Zimbabwe) is an experienced Prince2 Project Management Practitioner with more than 12 years of civil society management experience in the democracy, rights, and governance sector. He has years of in-depth research experience within the Zimbabwean and Southern African civil society. He is the founder and Executive Director of the National Youth Development Trust, a youth-focused organization committed to ensuring that young people exert their influence by taking charge of their destiny. He currently leads a team of young professionals in implementing strategic plans and pursuing the organization's vision. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, he intends to launch the inaugural NYDT school of Leadership and Entrepreneurship in partnership with a leading academic institution.



Martha Lekitony Ntoipo (Tanzania) has been working to advocate for the rights of women and girls in the Maasai community for the past 14 years. She advocates for their rights to participate in decision-making processes and own property, including land. She fights for education for girls and is involved in campaigns against female genital mutilation and forced early marriages. She is doing all this to promote gender equality and improve the status of women and girls in her community



Miryan Cassandra (São Tomé and Príncipe) has over six years' medical experience with a special focus on cardiovascular disease and lifestyle changes. She is currently the Director of Cardiology at the main hospital in her country, where she diagnoses and treats cardiovascular diseases. Miryan is committed to improving the São Tomé and Príncipe population health by promoting lifestyle changes and access to quality primary health care. Miryan's long-term goal is the eradicate rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease in her country.



Moussa Abdoulaye (Central African Republic) has over five years of experience in community work defending the rights of asylum seekers and refugees in Israel and throughout Europe with Amnesty International Israel, the African Refugee Development Center, and the Feinstein International Center. Moussa holds a university degree from El Azhar University. He is currently an active member of Coordination des Organizations de Musulmans Centrafricains (COMUC), an organization involved in defending the rights of the minority and promoting coexistence between different communities in the CAR. He is working with the Central African government to develop an education system for the nomadic, including outreach to conservative families to maintain the highest number of girls at schools. He collaborates with Columbia Law School on issues related to the right to education for Muslim students in CAR, who have experienced many forms of discrimination since the start of the ongoing conflict. He is also working to establish collaboration with Amnesty International France in the documentation field. Moussa is committed to building an effective social justice system, which he is confident his country will witness one day, and an open-minded society of equal opportunities for all the citizens regardless of their social or economic status, religion, ethnicity, and political opinion.



Mustafa Iddi (Kenya) works as a Sergeant for the Kenya Prisons Department, under the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government. Based on his professional interests, Mustafa's initiative goes beyond the rehabilitation of prisoners, extending to youth across society through integrated programs that help ex-convicts and other jobless youths use technical skills to emerge successful in their lives.



N'faly Keita (Mali) has over five years' work experience in marginalized communities, with a focus on maternal and child health. He is currently working as the Quality Improvement Manager of health care services in the poor resources community for Mali Health Organizing Project. His main duties are to strengthen the capacity of community health workers by promoting technical supports including training and quality improvement tools. N'faly holds a Doctorate Degree in Medicine from the Faculty of Medicine of Mali where he focused on the fight against blindness in the poor communities of Mali. He also holds a certification in NGO management and health administration management as well as a certificate in monitoring and evaluation of community health projects, all from Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration. N'faly is involved with volunteer associations committed to reducing child and maternal mortality. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington fellowship, he plans to continue his work in gender equality, to promote universal primary education, and to advocate for the socio-economic growth of the youth in Mali.



Noëlla Lumbala (Democratic Republic of Congo) As the cofounder and vice president of Busanga, a French/Congolese educational nonprofit organization, Elisabeth is passionate about youth development and human-centered design approaches to problem solving. She is currently the national youth program manager for DKT International in the Democratic Republic of Congo. With her Batela Lobi Na Yo (Protect your Future) youth program, Elisabeth works extensively on sexual reproductive health, gender issues, HIV prevention, communication and training to empower young people to ensure a healthy future by adopting responsible sexual behaviors. Elisabeth holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from MBA Institute of Paris. She is driven by the idea that youth can only reach their full potential as citizens and leaders by unlocking societal taboos on sexuality to transform the future of reproductive health in the DRC. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Elisabeth plans to continue her work on sexual reproductive health with a focus on advocacy to ensure sustainability for young people. She will also mentor young Congolese by sharing with them her knowledge on sexual reproductive education.



Ola Oluwadara (Nigeria) is a family medicine specialist with 5 years' experience in HIV care and related diseases. She currently coordinates a donor-funded HIV program at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Abeokuta where she advocates for prevention; she initiates, implements, and improves the care and treatment of HIV infection in the state and its environs. Ola holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Obafemi Awolowo University and has a membership in family medicine with the West African College of Physicians. Ola's passion stems from the high prevalence and burden of HIV in her environment and she believes concerted individual and community inputs will be key to achieving an HIV free world. On completion of her fellowship, she plans to expand her adolescent program into a full-fledged center with focus on right sexual practices as a means of eradicating HIV in this population.



Philippe Mensah Houinsou (Benin) has over 3 years of experience in youth development and peace building, and has trained thousands of young Africans, including leaders, entrepreneurs, and government officials, in several countries on how to be the change they wish to see in their communities. Currently, Philippe is a North, Central and West Africa Coordinator as well as Mindfulness Meditation Trainer at World Peace Initiative Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes world peace through inner peace, and self-development using meditation as tool. He is also a certified Emotional Intelligence Practitioner by Six Seconds, a California-based international nonprofit organization dedicated to the awareness of emotional intelligence worldwide. Philippe Mensah Houinsou holds a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies from the University of Abomey Calavi. He is committed to helping young Africans succeed in their endeavors towards fostering sustainable development on the continent. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Philippe plans to start a project entitled Resonant Africa, which aims to help youth led nonprofit organizations and startups Africa thrive by bringing to them the tools to develop their emotional intelligence so that they can increase their performance and thus generate more impact.



Tesfatsiyon Mammo (Ethiopia) has over five years' experience in evidence-based clinical research. He is involved in several research projects, including one published in the Emergency Medical Journal (EMJ). Currently, Tesfatsiyon is a medical doctor, lecturer, and emergency and critical care resident. Tesfatsiyon is one of the five board members with the Christian Medical Doctors and Dentists Fellowship of Ethiopia, which provides free medical services for the marginalized. Tesfatsiyon volunteers at Compassion International Ethiopia by screening the project's orphan children once a month. He holds a Medical Doctorate degree from Addis Ababa University and is currently specializing in Emergency and Critical Care at the College of Health Sciences, and the School of Medicine. Tesfatsiyon is driven by compassion towards his patients especially for victims of road traffic accidents and trauma. He advocates for patients with treatable medical emergencies who lack a well-functioning Emergency Medical Center in their country. Upon completion of MWF, Tesfatsiyon plans to continue his work together with Ministry of Health of Ethiopia to establish fully equipped and well-functioning emergency medical centers throughout Ethiopia.



Victor Charo (Kenya) has over four years of experience in the public health field. Currently, Victor is a Program Manager for the Nuru Kenya Healthcare Program, where he focuses on designing and implementing strategies that are improving maternal and child health in a scalable and sustainable manner. Prior to joining Nuru Kenya, he volunteered with the Ministry of Health, where he empowered community health volunteers and natural leaders in implementing primary healthcare activities in the community. Victor holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Health Science from Makerere University. Victor is committed to ensuring rural communities are empowered and educated on simple and practical solutions that promote public health in order to improve their livelihood. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Victor plans to use gained knowledge, skills, and connections to continue designing strategies and models in health and livelihood improvement interventions that are sustainable, scalable, gender-inclusive and impactful to alleviate poverty especially in remote, rural communities.