

Member Reference Group participant biographies

Adwoa Kwateng-Klavitse

Head of Global Advocacy, FORWARD and *Girls Not Brides* UK National Partnership Co-Chair

Dr Ashok Dyalchand

Director, Institute for Health Management Pachod (IHMP)

Helena Minchew

Helena Minchew joined the International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC) in January 2013 and works as a Program Associate in IWHC's DC office. Lena provides strategic and administrative support for IWHC's U.S. foreign policy portfolio through work with a number of technical and advocacy coalitions, including as a co-chair of Girls Not Brides USA, and helps to define IWHC's engagement with Members of Congress and Administration officials. Lena also contributes toward achieving IWHC's advocacy objectives for sexual and reproductive health and rights at the international level, having represented IWHC at the UN in New York, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Geneva, Switzerland.

Lena has her B.A. in Psychology and International Communication from Marist College and a Masters in International Human Rights from the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies, where she acted as Associate Managing Editor for Human Rights and Human Welfare, an online publication dedicated to human rights topics and issues. Lena has also worked internationally in India and Switzerland, and was a Princeton in Asia fellow in Nan, Thailand.

Jude Thaddeus

Jude Thaddeus Njikem is the Organisation of African Youth – Cameroon Country Coordinator, Commonwealth Youth Gender and Equality Network member and holds other posts of responsibilities as Board Member and Advocacy Team Member of several other organizations notably United Network of Young PeaceBuilders, Centre for Education and Entrepreneurial Development and Associate Fellow at the Royal Commonwealth Society. Jude Thaddeus is a youth worker and youth leader with over half a decade of experience on issues of Human Rights, Gender and Youth Participation. While in secondary school Jude started an initiative called Youth for Equality, which was a student initiative that raised awareness on the rights of young people.

In his role as Country Coordinator of Organization of African Youth – Cameroon, Jude has carried out extensive research into child marriage and the role of young people in ending child marriages. He has also held several community dialogues with community leaders, women and youth on ending inequalities faced by women and how cultural settings could support women in the advancement of their rights.

Moussa Sidikou Gade

President of CONIDE Niger (Coalition des Organisations Nigériennes des Droits de l'Enfant)

Persilia Muianga

Persilia Muianga is a child rights specialist with 9 years' experience in the field of community centred child rights development in Mozambique. She started her journey in child rights programming in 2007, working first as a psychosocial support coordinator (OVC project) for World Vision, then as a child protection coordinator for Plan International, and is currently a child protection senior manager at World Vision Mozambique.

Persilia has completed her full Degree in Accounting and Auditing at the Midrand Graduate Institute, South Africa, and is now studying for her Masters Degree in Social Rights at the UEM University in Mozambique. While at Plan International, she was integral to founding the national child marriage coalition and was nominated as Co-Chair to support the coalition's internal growth and members' coordination. While working for World Vision she has represented the national coalition at the *Girls Not Brides* Global Members Meeting in Morocco and participated in the 23rd session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child during the Alternative report discussion in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2013.

In 2011 she received a global award (Plan International) for her excellent work and engagement during the Sub-Regional Child Trafficking Campaign "Protecting Children on the Move" led by Plan International and SANTAC prior to 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Qamar Naseem

Mr. Qamar Naseem is a human rights defender and works as a Program Coordinator with Blue Veins – a women's rights group based in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan. He has a background of activism and human rights and is actively involved in defending the rights of girls and women, sexual minorities, and other vulnerable groups in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA). His sincere and genuine concern for the human rights of all people has enabled him to build bridges between religious circles and human rights defenders.

He is working hard to strengthen the women's movement within the challenging environment of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Federally Administrated Tribal Areas. Qamar Naseem has over 10 years of experience of handling and leading challenging projects. Qamar Naseem is also the Coordinator of MEN UNiTE (Men Against Violence and Abuse Alliance), the focal point for a range of alliances focused on ending various forms of violence against women and girls.

Sonali Khan

Vice-President and Country Director, Breakthrough India