



Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali
Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children
Director, Arigatou International – Nairobi

Dr. Ali is the Secretary General of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and Director of the Arigatou International Nairobi. He has served as the Secretary General of the African Council of Religious Leaders and Africa Representative of *Religions for Peace* International for the last six years.

Dr. Ali has been working to build peaceful, just and harmonious societies and promoting peaceful coexistence between faiths and communities in Africa. Together with religious leaders and multi-lateral institutions including the African Union and the United Nations, governments and partners, Dr. Ali has been extensively involved in finding ways to peacefully and sustainably address some of the most intractable conflicts in the most challenging countries and locations in Africa.

Dr. Ali is a recipient of the 2012 Coexist International Peace Prize which was awarded to him in New York, USA, to honor his action-oriented work and leadership in interfaith relations and dialogue, as well as conflict transformation in Africa. He holds a PhD from the University of Portsmouth (United Kingdom); MA in Diplomacy and International Studies from the University of Nairobi (Kenya) and a BSc. in Information Sciences from Moi University (Kenya).



Rev. Fred Nyabera
Director, Child Poverty Eradication Initiative

Fred Nyabera is currently serving at Arigatou International as the Child Poverty Initiative Consultant. He is a social scientist and a trained Theologian whose interest is in development work.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) in Sociology and Anthropology from the University of Nairobi; Bachelor of Divinity (Masters of Divinity equivalent) from Union Biblical Seminary, India, post graduate studies in Conflict Transformation with the Eastern Mennonites University, Virginia U.S.A. He is also currently pursuing a Masters in Organizational Leadership at Africa International University, Kenya.

Rev. Nyabera has previously served as a pastor at the Nairobi Baptist and Karen Community Church. He also served as an Executive Director of Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) - a regional peacebuilding and conflict transformation faith based NGO with membership in nine Eastern Africa countries. In addition, he has worked with Inua Kenya Foundation (a good governance and peacebuilding organization in East Africa) as the Executive Director.

Together with faith-based, civil society, governments, inter-governmental and multilateral organizations, Rev. Nyabera has passionately worked at improving the wellbeing of communities in Eastern Africa by supporting accountable governance and promoting peace and security for development, especially with respect to marginalized and vulnerable groups.



Mr. Mohammad Belall Maudarbux
Network and Programs Manager, Global Network of Religions for Children

Belall initially studied a Diploma in foreign languages (Arabic), then proceeded for a B.A Hons. In Theology at the University of Medina, in Saudi Arabia. He started his career as an administrator and then joined teaching in 1998. He has also taught French and Religious Education in several UK secondary schools and worked for the Cambridge Examinations Syndicate (UK) as an examiner.

He graduated with an M.A. (with distinction) in Islamic Studies with specialisation in Islamic Economics and Banking in 2001 and has read for a Phd, researching in the area of Pluralism and the integration of Muslim minorities in Europe.

In 2006 he joined the Ministry of Education in Mauritius as an Educator (Secondary) and became an executive member of the Education Officers Union in 2010.

From 2008 he acted as a consultant for the Council of Religions and later as project manager responsible for the design and implementation of the 'Peace and Interfaith Studies' course at the University of Mauritius (UOM). He also lectured at the UOM on 'Religions and conflict resolution'.

Throughout his career, he has developed an extensive experience in networking with faith-based communities and organisations to develop and implement social projects in poverty alleviation, literacy, youth empowerment and Aids awareness campaigns. He is frequently interviewed and consulted on major policy issues affecting minorities in multicultural societies.

He is currently pursuing another M.A. in Public policy and Administration and a Diploma in Educational leadership. He also lectures at the *Université populaire de l'île Maurice* on issues of Secularism and Multiculturalism



Ms. Florence Omtokoh
Executive Secretary, Arigatou International – Nairobi

Florence Omtokoh is a Kenyan national currently based in Nairobi. At the moment she serves as the Executive Secretary at Arigatou International – Nairobi.

Ms. Omtokoh has been greatly involved in several interfaith programs in Africa while she served at the African Council of Religious Leaders. She has organized local and international campaigns, fora and meetings on Orphans and Vulnerable Children, breaking barriers to education for children and the use of pre-Exposure prophylaxis in HIV prevention in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. She was at the core of the establishment, launch and development of the Youth interfaith network in Sierra Leone.

Ms. Omtokoh first trained as a teacher- a field in which she received her first degree. She then proceeded to Centre International des Etudes Pedagogiques (Reunion Islands- France) where she attained her TCF Certification in the French Language. She further went to the United States International University, Kenya for a Master's degree in International Relations.

Having previously worked as a Program Assistant, Youth Coordinator, Executive Secretary and Bilingual Administrative assistant, Ms. Omtokoh has a creative and rich mix and understanding of program and administrative work in the Corporate and NGO World and particularly within the interfaith circles. She previously worked for Shelter Afrique in Nairobi.



Ms. Miriam Rubino
Youth Coordinator, Global Network of Religions for Children

Miriam Rubino is an Argentinean national hailing from the capital city of Buenos Aires. She has experience working internationally and has been traveling and living in a number of countries around the world.

Miriam first studied Fine Arts in Argentina. As an artist, she had exhibited internationally. She later trained as an Addictions Counselor and earned a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Psychology at the United States International University in Kenya. She then worked in community service offering her expertise and services to disadvantaged individuals in the community. In addition, she is a certified Spanish language teacher and speaks several languages. In that capacity, she has worked teaching children Modern languages in both institutional and private settings.

Ms. Rubino has an interest in human behavior expressed through cultural manifestations. Through her travels, work and life experience, she has become in contacts with different cultures and witnessed the effects of natural disasters, economic and political upheavals, and lack of accessibility of resources in vulnerable populations, especially children and young adults.

Recognizing the importance of younger populations in the development and advancement of society, in her varied roles she aimed at supporting children and youth from diverse cultures to create a positive, empowering environment through the use of creative tools and an informed, respectful and compassionate approach to people, social issues and learning.

She comes to GNRC with the goal of promoting the wellbeing of children and youth, serving as support and a bridge between our network members, partners, and volunteers, and sharing her passion for the understanding and celebration of cultural diversity.



Lokaale Kabarach Yasin
Accountant and Finance Assistant, Arigatou International – Nairobi

In 2003, Yasin completed his Computer Application packages. He then joined Lodwar Stationery Haven & Computer Services and worked as an IT Support Staff and Accounts Assistant.

In 2010, he graduated from KCA University where he was pursuing his studies in Accounting as Certified Public Accountants (CPA). Later in 2010, he joined Khalid & Company (Certified Public Accountants) as an auditor. He has also worked with United States African Development Foundation (USADF) as the Finance Officer.

At Arigatou International – Nairobi, Yasin works to ensure an efficient, effective, reliable and transparent financial system.



Abdul Swamad Alawi
Administrative Assistant, Arigatou International – Nairobi

Abdul is currently serving as chairman of Kenya Interfaith Youth Network (KIUN), a multi-religious youth body under Inter-religious Council of Kenya (IRC-K) which works at bringing Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Baha'I youth leaders to promote their growth – socially, economically and politically.

In addition, He is also the youth representative of National Muslim Leaders Forum, with the duty of representing National Muslim leader's forum (NAMLEF) at the youth capacity.

Abdul has been successful in initiating the formation of groups of youth leaders who have managed to address the grievances of their specific county and find solutions to them.



Ms. Shillah Memusi
Intern, GNRC Secretary General Office

A proud recipient of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office Scholarship, which afforded her the opportunity to pursue a Master's degree in Poverty and Development from the University of Manchester. In addition, she holds a double major degree in Microfinance and Business Administration from Strathmore University.

With a keen interest in participatory development, she has been involved in numerous development efforts, having served as the Vice President of Strathmore University's Community Outreach Program. She has worked with children and the youth in different capacities: as a teacher at Mukuru Primary School as part of her Community Based Attachment, as a mentor with ReachOut UK and with Kwetu Home of Peace – a rehabilitation center for street children in Nairobi. She is currently volunteering as a mentor with Infomashinani in partnership with Ashoka as part of their Changemakers East Africa Initiative.

She has previously worked as a volunteer with Oxfam GB, as a Customer Service Advisor at the Consolidated Bank of Kenya Ltd and a Data Analyst at the Clinton Health Access Initiative in Kenya.

She joins Arigatou International with a passion for change in development approaches, rooted in the conviction that children and the youth are a key component in fostering active citizenship. If properly mentored and trained, they shape up a future of makers and shapers rather than as users and choosers of interventions or services designed by others. This way, issues surrounding poverty and violence will be tackled from a more 'home-grown' approach, resulting in effective policy making, one that promotes human rights for joyful living.



Stacy Ndung'u

Communications Intern, Global Network of Religions for Children

Stacy holds a Diploma in Electronic Media and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Relations and Marketing from Daystar University.

She has previously worked at Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) as a Programs editor and at the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)/ Communications department (DCPI) as an administrative assistant.

Stacy has a special interest in communication for development. She believes that it is possible to do away with poverty by working toward equal distribution of resources. In addition, she hopes to bring change to the development world by ensuring that development projects involve the affected communities (through participatory communication); which makes it possible for people to own each development initiative as well as sustainability (of any implemented project).

At GNRC, she aspires to work towards accomplishment of its vision which centers on attaining universal world peace by ensuring every religion feels a special responsibility to pray and take action so that every child could one day live in dignity, safety, well-being and joy.

She is currently pursuing her Master of Arts degree at Daystar University with a major in Communication and special concentration in development.



Joyce Owiyo
Office Attendant

At her current position she assists the Administrative Assistant in performing his roles. She joined the organization in 2013.

Joyce holds Diploma in Secretarial Administration from the Nairobi Institute of Business Studies in Kenya she is also currently pursuing a Diploma course in Travel operations. She has previously worked as Administrative Assistant at Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.