

### Charbonnel Nodjigoto

**Association Jeunesse pour la Paix et la Non Violence**  
**Chad**

Charbonnel is the founder, executive director, and the head of the psychosocial rehabilitation department of the Association Jeunesse pour la Paix et la Non Violence (AJPNV). The mission of the organization is to combat torture, including sexual and gender-based violence. In addition to its advocacy efforts, the AJPNV provides multi-dimensional services to victims of human rights abuses, such as psychological, legal, and social services. AJPNV also works on women's rights and human rights awareness projects. Charbonnel serves as the Sub Saharan Africa Council member of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims and as a regional leader of the Global Human Rights Project.

Charbonnel holds a bachelor's degree in electromechanical and computer data processing from the Institut Universitaire des Sciences et Techniques d'Abéché (Chad). In 2012, Charbonnel completed online courses in conflict analysis, negotiation and conflict management at the United States Institute for Peace. As a former fellow of the York University's (UK) Centre for Applied Human Rights Protective Fellowship Scheme for Human Rights Defenders, Charbonnel is a member of the Human Rights Hub at York University.



### Cecilia Ramírez Pérez

**International Indigenous Women's Forum**  
**Mexico**

Cecilia is the coordinator of the Indigenous Women's Global Leadership School at the International Indigenous Women's Forum, a global network that links local, national, and regional indigenous organizations around the globe and advocates for indigenous women's issues at the international level. She previously worked as a literacy educator in indigenous languages, while also delivering lectures on indigenous languages at national and international colloquia and conferences. In 2015, Cecilia contributed to the creation of a community library for indigenous children and youth in her hometown.

Cecilia has a bachelor's in political science and public administration from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Cecilia belongs to the Mixtecos.



## **Ektaa Deochand**

### **Section 27**

#### **South Africa**

Ektaa is an attorney in the public health department at Section 27, a public interest organization that provides legal assistance and advocates for social justice with a focus on access to health care services and education for vulnerable communities. Ektaa is responsible for leading strategic impact litigation, policy formulation, and legal and field research. She specializes in litigation for access to health care services, including sexual and reproductive health rights, migrants' access to health care, and access to education for learners with disabilities. Previously, Ektaa served as an attorney at the Legal Resources Centre's KwaZulu-Natal satellite office, where she conducted strategic impact litigation and facilitated community outreach initiatives. Ektaa also assisted the African Centre for Migration and Society's research project documenting refugees' experiences with corruption at refugee reception offices.

Ektaa holds a bachelor of laws and is currently completing a master of laws degree in constitutional and human rights litigation at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Howard College. Ektaa is an alumna of the Bertha Justice Fellowship, a two-year program for emerging lawyers interested in working on social justice and constitutional rights issues.



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## **Joanita Warry Ssenfuka**

### **Freedom and Roam Uganda**

#### **Uganda**

Joanita is the executive director of Freedom and Roam Uganda, a lesbian, bisexual, and queer (LBQ) diverse persons' organization that advocates for the respect, protection, and fulfillment of their rights and reinforces feminist culture and narrative. Over the past eight years, Joanita has led the LBQ community by empowering its members and seeking synergies between the LGBTI and feminist movements. Her areas of expertise are organizational leadership, administrative and financial management, human rights advocacy, and civic activism.

Joanita holds a certificate in non-governmental organizations and civic activism from the Institute of International Education (USA). She earned a diploma in telecommunications engineering at the Uganda Institute of Information and Communication Technology.



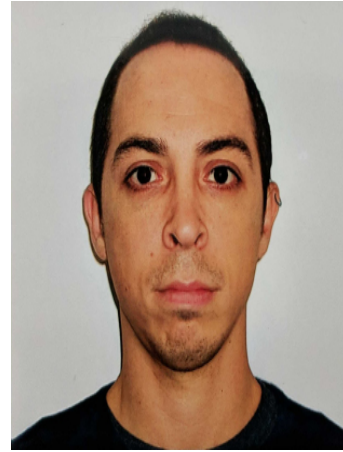
# Mariano Ruiz

## International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia Committee

### Argentina

Mariano is the Latin America and Caribbean outreach and communications officer and board member of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia Committee (IDAHO Committee) in Argentina, and a member of the secretariat of the international relations department at the Argentinean Federation for Lesbian, Gays, Bisexuals and Transsexuals (FALGBT). He was also one of the coordinator-professors of the higher diploma program in sexual diversity and human rights from the FALGBT, the IDAHO Committee, and the Latin America Council of Social Sciences for LGBT activists from Latin America and the Caribbean. From 2016 to mid-2019, he served as technical assistant and communications officer at the Latin America and Caribbean Trans Network.

Mariano has attended the Salzburg Global Seminar, the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program, the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Rights' Rainbow Academy, and Human Rights Campaign's Global Innovative Summit.



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## Maria Abrahamyan

### For Equal Rights Educational Center

#### Armenia

Maria is the human rights programs coordinator at For Equal Rights Educational Center, a non-governmental organization based in Yerevan, which promotes civic consciousness and capacity building in human rights as well as democratic accountability. Maria manages the Article 3 Human Rights Club, which provides space, education, and networking opportunities for human rights activists, the media, and civil society organizations. Maria also led the organization of the first Human Rights Festival in Armenia. As a member of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Task Force-Armenia in 2016, Maria co-authored and presented recommendations on the implementation of the CEDAW in Armenia at the United Nations.

Maria received a master's degree in law from the American University of Armenia and a bachelor's degree in economics from the Armenia State University. She is a member of the European Women Lawyers' Association.



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## Platon Shamaev

### Algys-Blagosloveniye (Algys-Blessing)

#### Russia

Platon is a member and volunteer at Algys-Blagosloveniye (Algys-Blessing), a regional public interest organization based in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), that provides legal counseling and raises awareness about the culture and traditions of the indigenous peoples of Russia, including the Yakut people to which Platon belongs. Platon is currently a lawyer at the Moscow Chamber of Advocates where he specializes in civil, criminal, and arbitration cases. He previously worked as an investigator at the prosecutor's office of Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), and as legal counsel at the Russian State Social University.

Platon holds the higher education diploma in law from the North-East Federal University and has completed various professional development courses at the Institute for Law and Public Policy.



# Wisdom Kwame Bebli

## Solace Initiative

### Ghana

Wisdom is the executive director of Solace Initiative (formerly Solace Brothers Foundation), an advocacy and community-based organization focused on the LGBTI+ community in Ghana. The organization's main objectives are overcoming the stigmatization and vilification of LGBTI+ persons, advocating for public policy changes, and implementing Ghana's international human rights obligations. The organization also provides paralegal and psychosocial counseling to victims of hate crimes against LGBTI+ persons and contributes to capacity building for community members. Wisdom previously worked as project & minority rights officer at the Human Rights Advocacy Centre, a national legal NGO that provides free legal counseling to victims of human rights abuses. Prior to joining the Solace Initiative, Wisdom volunteered as senior peer educator and focal zonal leader for the Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights where he contributed to the implementation of health intervention projects funded by the Global Fund, USAID, and the Ghana AIDS Commission, while also serving as the lead field research assistant for human rights and key population research studies.

Wisdom holds a diploma in business administration from the Association of Business Executives at the Zenith University College. In 2018, Wisdom attended the U.S. State Department's International Visitors Leadership Program.



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## Ying Xin

### Beijing LGBT Center China

Ying is the executive director of Beijing LGBT Center. Since 2009, she has been actively campaigning for LGBT rights in China. At the Beijing LGBT Center, Ying has led advocacy and awareness campaigns against conversion therapy for LGBT persons and for the removal of homosexuality from the Chinese Classification of Mental Disorders. Ying also co-curated the China Women's Film Festival and co-founded Wuhan Rainbow, a community-based LGBT organization. Ying was an initiator of the National Survey on Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression in China conducted in partnership with the United Nations Development Program and Peking University. She also initiated the first National Survey on Living Conditions of Transgender People in China.

Ying holds a bachelor's and master's in public administration from Zhongnan University of Economics and Law and a bachelor's in Japanese from Huazhong University of Science and Technology.



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