

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES PROGRAM

2017 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

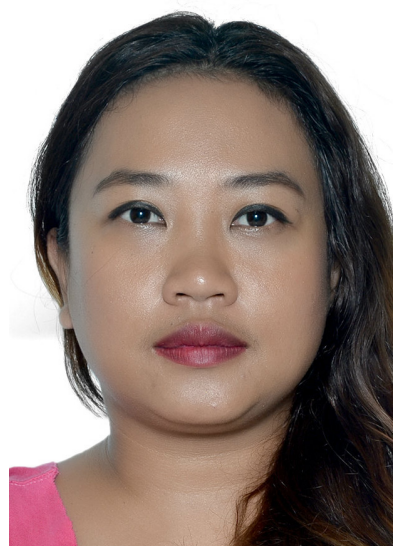
STAR RUGORI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MOUVEMENT POUR LES LIBERTES INDIVIDUELLES

BURUNDI

Star is the Executive Director of Mouvement pour les Libertes Individuelles (MOLI), which uses evidence-based advocacy to advance the rights of marginalized people in African society through advocacy, documentation, research and capacity building with stakeholders in human rights. Since 2011, their regional capacity building program has recruited more than 50 emerging LGBT activists in Francophone Central and Eastern Africa for trainings related to human rights and sexual orientation and gender identity-related documentation. MOLI has also worked on initiatives to train health care providers to integrate the specific health needs of men who have sex with men at public and private health facilities. MOLI has collaborated with organizations working on HIV and has facilitated conversations for sexual minorities to participate effectively in advocacy and key meetings with stakeholders. MOLI recently completed building a network among other Francophone Central African countries via a project entitled “Francophone LGBT Advocates Initiative,” which has secured funding to train 45 emerging human rights activists in the region. Star is an alumnus of the Sexual Leadership and Development Fellowship hosted by the Africa Regional Sexuality Resource Centre based in Lagos, Nigeria. He is also Co-Chair of Pan Africa International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association. Star holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Economics from the University of Burundi.



INNA HUDAYA

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

SAMSARA

INDONESIA

Inna is the Founder and Director of Samsara, a feminist organisation based in Indonesia that promotes body autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights. In 2007, she founded askinna.com, a website for women seeking abortion services in Indonesia. One year later, she set up Indonesia’s first hotline for safe abortion information. With Samsara, she works directly with women at the grassroots level. Inna also established the SRHR School in Yogyakarta and then expanded the program from Java to East Indonesia through the SRHR Satellite Program. In 2013, she received a fellowship from Ashoka.

KENEDY ABOR OWITI

PROGRAMME MANAGER

NYARWEK LGBTI COALITION

KENYA

Kenedy serves as the Programme Manager and Advocacy Patron at the Nyanza, Rift Valley and Western Kenya LGBTI Coalition. The NYARWEK LGBTI Coalition creates spaces for dialogue on human rights advocacy and policies. Kenedy is an expert in security and protection for human rights defenders in hostile contexts, especially LGBTQI HRDs. Kenedy has initiated several equity and equality promotion initiatives at organizations for LGBTIQ persons as well as other NGOs. Kenedy holds a diploma in Project Planning and Management from the University of Nairobi and will graduate with a degree in Sociology and Anthropology from Maseno University in 2018.



CARLOS ASÚNSOLO

HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT LEADER

RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OF THE LAW

MEXICO

Carlos is the Human Rights Project Leader at the Research Center for the Teaching and Learning of the Law (CEEAD). The center's mission is to transform legal education in Mexico to train lawyers to be committed to the rule of law and human rights in Mexico. Carlos and his team have created a working group whose members come from civil society organizations and public institutions like the Supreme Court, the National Commission on Human Rights, and universities to develop a human rights educational model for law schools. CEEAD is also developing two manuals including an e-platform for human rights education for law schools. Additionally, Carlos volunteers with a migrant shelter and holds workshops so that residents can know their rights and learn

about the legal system. Carlos holds a Masters in the Advanced Studies of Human Rights from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and a Law Degree and a Masters in Applied Public Management from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey.

MICHAEL MIIRO

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

MASAKA ASSOCIATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES LIVING
WITH HIV & AIDS
UGANDA

Michael is the Technical Advisor on HIV/AIDS, disability and sexual and gender-based violence for the Masaka Association of Persons with Disabilities Living with HIV&AIDS (MADIPHA). MADIPHA's mission is to promote access to comprehensive HIV&AIDS services by all Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) through advocacy, mobilization, sensitization and training. MADIPHA aims to fully incorporate PWDs living with HIV/AIDS into society through advocacy measures that center PWDs while targeting key government agencies, line ministries and civil society organizations like the Uganda Human Rights Commission. He has trained village health teams, health workers and police in sign language and held workshops about PWDs who are living with HIV & AIDS as well as SGBV against PWDs. He worked with the local government on anti-poverty initiatives such as obtaining a grant for PWDs to start village and loan revolving groups, and given PWDs goats, chickens, vegetable seedlings and coffee seedlings to generate income at household level. At a regional level, he worked with other stakeholders to lobby for changing policies that maintain exclusion and segregation of PWDs from society. Michael holds a post graduate diploma in community-based rehabilitation from Kyambogo University-Kampala and a Bachelor of Adult and Community Education from Makerere University-Kampala.



OLENA SEMENOVA

CO-CHAIR

UKRAINIAN LGBT ASSOCIATION LIGA
UKRAINE

Olena is the co-chair of the Ukrainian LGBT organization LIGA, which seeks to promote the interests of LGBTQ individuals, promote healthy lifestyles and diversity, and develop partnerships with state and civil bodies. One of LIGA-Ukraine's biggest achievements has been the creation of the Resource Center, designed to be a hub for young LGBT groups and organizations. Another core focus of LIGA-Ukraine is LGBTQ health, which includes HIV prevention programs for LGB, lesbian health programs, transgender health issues, and a network of friendly doctors. LIGA created the Public Centre on Monitoring of Human Rights Observation in Mykolaiv for monitoring crimes based on LGBTI-phobia. Olena is a specialist in Public Relations from Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts and a general practitioner from National Medical University in Kyiv.

JOHANNA ASARAVICIUS

FUNDRAISER

TZEDAKÁ FOUNDATION

URUGUAY

Johanna has worked on human rights education initiatives at various foundations and NGOs. She previously served as the Director of International and Social Justice at Hillel Uruguay. In Israel, she worked in the media and culture department of the Peres Center for Peace. After living in Argentina, Israel and Spain, Johanna recently returned to Montevideo. She is currently working on resource mobilization at the Tzedaká Foundation. She earned the BA in Social and Political Science at the Universidad Católica del Uruguay.



For more information on the Human Rights Advocates Program,
please visit our website.

www.humanrightscolumbia.org/hrap

