

# Of Heaven and Earth

Religion, Belief and Women's Rights



The Carter Center  
Atlanta, Georgia  
April 3-6, 2011



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**Agnes Umunna**, Founder and Director, Straight for the Heart, Liberia

**Missy Ward**, Master of Divinity Candidate, McAfee School of Theology, USA

**Andrea White**, Professor of Theology, Emory University, USA

**Andy Yentriyani**, Chairperson of Education and Public Participation, Komnas Perempuan, Indonesia

## Participants Bios



**Zarizana Abdul Aziz** is a practicing lawyer in Malaysia and a director of Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML). Ms. Abdul Aziz is actively involved in numerous human rights and women's rights activities nationally and internationally. Her primary areas of interest and expertise include issues of legal reform, particularly in relation to gender equality, religion and gender, violence against women, family laws, and the adoption of international human rights standards into domestic laws. Ms. Abdul Aziz is a former President of the Women's Centre for Change, Malaysia, member of the Bar Council of Malaysia, and co-chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of the Bar Council.



**Dr. Maha Alsenan** is a visiting Post Doctoral fellow at the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University. Her project focuses on Islam and Contemporary Arts in Saudi Arabia. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor at Princess Noura Bint Abdurrahman University. Through her weekly columns in Aljazeera and as a member of several cultural organizations, she has discussed and supported the role of women in Arts. Dr. Al-Senan has also designed and coordinated an art program for gifted girls in Saudi Arabia.



**Professor Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im** (from Sudan) is the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory Law School, Associated Professor in Emory College of Arts and Sciences and Faculty Affiliate at the Emory University Center for Ethics. His research interests include constitutionalism in Islamic and African countries, secularism, and Islam and politics. Professor An-Na'im's current research projects include a study of American Muslims and the secular state, and human rights, universality and sovereignty. He continues to further develop his theory of Islam and the Secular State (Harvard University Press, 2008), also published in Arabic and Indonesian.



**Eddie Avila** is a Bolivian-American activist, who maintains the blog Barrio Flores, while living in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Mr. Avila is the Regional Editor for Latin America and the Spanish language editor for Global Voices, an international community of bloggers who report on blogs and citizen media from around the world. He is also the founder and director of the Voces Bolivianas project, which teaches the use of citizen media to underrepresented groups throughout Bolivia, with the help of a network of national bloggers.



**Rev. Dr. Randall Bailey** is the Andrew W. Mellon professor of Hebrew Bible at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. He teaches courses in the Pentateuch, historical books and new methodologies of interpretation of the Hebrew Bible. He concentrates on the relationship of Ancient Africa and the Hebrew Bible and he specializes in ideological criticism, especially as regards the points of intersection of race/ethnicity, gender, class, sex, sexual orientation and power in the biblical text.



**Professor Soumaya Belahbib Tlemcani** is Vice-President and a founding member of the Association Chaml for Women and Family, created in 1998. Association Chaml's latest achievement is the opening of a Center for Women's Rehabilitation, which offers women in difficulties judicial and psychological counseling as well as

literacy classes and training workshops in various manual activities. Prof. Belhabib also has more than twenty years teaching experience within the department of English Language and Literature, Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra, Morocco. Her main area of research revolves around the concept of gender. To promote research and academic activities on gender, she initiated the creation of a 'Gender Studies' research group within the university in 2007.



**Dr. Michael Best** is assistant professor at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and the School of Interactive Computing at Georgia Institute of Technology where he is also research faculty with the GVU Center and directs the Program in Information and Communication Technologies for Development at the Center for International Strategy, Technology and Policy. He is also a Faculty Associate of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University and is co-founder and Editor-in-Chief of the journal, *Information Technologies and International Development*. He is a frequent consultant to the World Bank, ITU, and USAID. He holds a Ph.D. from MIT and has served as Director of Media Lab Asia in India and head of the eDevelopment group at the MIT Media Lab.



**Alison Boden** serves as Dean of Religious Life and the Chapel at Princeton University. She has previously served as Dean of the Chapel and Sr. Lecturer at the University of Chicago and as University Chaplain at Bucknell University. Her writing and teaching interests have focused on such topics as human rights and religion, religion and violence, religion in the academy, and a variety of social justice issues. She is the author of *Women's Rights and Religious Practice* (Palgrave, 2007) and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.



**Sophie Borel-Ghosn** is the Field Office Director for The Carter Center's Human Rights Program in DRC. She maintains TCC's relationships with government officials, international representatives, political party representatives, civil society leaders, project partners and other human rights organizations in the DRC, both domestic and international. Previously, Borel developed civilian protection training modules for MONUC and served as the regional program advisor for child protection and education issues for Save the Children in the Middle East and North Africa region. Additionally, Borel implemented programs aimed at providing technical and financial support to local civil society actors for the European Commission in Yemen and Jordan, creating sustainable NGO networks and coordination mechanisms that are still active today.



**Samuel Boroso** is the tribal chief of the Eringeti district in DRC. He has collaborated with SOFEPADI, since 2005, to raise awareness about violence and abuses committed against women and to provide appropriate care and shelter to victims. Mr. Boroso has been trained and equipped by SOFEPADI and other organizations. Through his social status as a tribal chief, he is able to work towards restoring women's dignity by furthering the understanding and the awareness of other local leaders.



**Professor Elizabeth Bounds** is Associate Professor of Christian Ethics at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Her interests include peace-building and conflict transformation, restorative justice and the prison system, democratic practices and civil society, and transformative pedagogical practices.



**James Byensi** is currently the Pastor in charge of Missions in the Evangelical Church in Central Africa, Assistant pastor of Bunia Evangelical Church, a Leadership Consultant and trainer and the founding director of The Rebuilders Ministry, a local Christian NGO majoring in leadership development, peacebuilding, aid to vulnerable women and children and reconstruction of destroyed infrastructures in Eastern DRC.

Byensi holds a diploma in Christian ministries, a B.A. in Theology and a MA in Leadership Studies with a focus on conflict resolution from Nairobi International School of Theology. Byensi has a passion for leadership development, social justice, peace and reconciliation and transformation.



**Jimmy Carter**, 39th President of the United States and Founder of The Carter Center served as president from Jan. 20, 1977, to Jan. 20, 1981. Significant foreign policy accomplishments of his administration included the Panama Canal treaties, the Camp David Accords, the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel, the SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union, and the establishment of U.S. diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. On the domestic side, the administration's achievements included a comprehensive energy program conducted by a new Department of Energy; deregulation in energy, transportation, communications, and finance; major educational programs under a new Department of Education; and major environmental protection legislation, including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. He became Georgia's seventy-sixth governor on Jan. 12, 1971. He was the Democratic National Committee campaign chairman for the 1974 congressional and gubernatorial elections. In 1962 he won election to the Georgia Senate. President Carter is the author of 23 books, including recent publications, "Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis," 2005; "Palestine Peace Not Apartheid," 2006; "Beyond the White House: Waging Peace, Fighting Disease, Building Hope," and, "A Remarkable Mother," 2008. In 1982, he became University Distinguished Professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., and founded The Carter Center. Actively guided by President Carter, the nonpartisan and nonprofit Center advances efforts to resolve conflict, promote democracy, protect human rights, and prevent disease and other afflictions. Through the Global 2000 programs, the Center promotes health and agriculture in the developing world and has spearheaded the international effort to eradicate Guinea worm disease, only the second disease in history to be eliminated. President Carter and The Carter Center has engaged in conflict mediation interventions and sent 70 election-monitoring missions to the Americas, Africa, and Asia. On Dec. 10, 2002, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2002 to Mr. Carter "for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development." He attended Georgia Southwestern College and the Georgia Institute of Technology, and received a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1946. In the Navy, he became a submariner, serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and rising to the rank of lieutenant. Chosen by Admiral Hyman Rickover for the nuclear submarine program, he was assigned to Schenectady, N.Y., where he served as senior officer of the pre-commissioning crew of the *Seawolf*, the second nuclear submarine. On July 7, 1946, he married Rosalynn Smith of Plains; the couple has four children, eleven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



**Rosalynn Carter**, Former First Lady and Founder of The Carter Center, has worked for more than three decades to improve the quality of life for people around the world. Today, she is an advocate for mental health, early childhood immunization, human rights, and conflict resolution through her work at The Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga. A full partner with the president in all the Center's activities, the former first lady is a member of The Carter Center Board of Trustees. She created and chairs The Carter Center's Mental Health Task Force, an advisory body of experts, consumers, and advocates promoting positive change in the mental health field. Each year, she hosts the Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy, bringing together leaders of the nation's mental health organizations to address critical issues. Mrs. Carter emerged as a driving force for mental health when, during the Carter administration, she became active honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health, which resulted in passage of the Mental Health Systems Act of 1980. She served on the Policy Advisory Board of The Atlanta Project (TAP), a program of The Carter Center addressing the social ills associated with poverty and quality of life citywide, from the program's inception in 1991, until its transfer to Georgia State University in 1999. In 1988, she convened with three other former first ladies the "Women and the Constitution" conference at The Carter Center to assess that document's impact on women. Outside the Center, Mrs. Carter is president of the board of directors for the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) at Georgia Southwestern State University, established in her honor on the campus of her alma mater in Americus, Ga. Through research, education, and training, the RCI promotes the mental health and well-being of individuals, families, and professional caregivers; delineates effective caregiving practices; builds public awareness of caregiving needs; and advances public and social policies that enhance caring communities. Since graduating from Georgia Southwestern College in 1946, Mrs. Carter has received many honors, among them the Volunteer of the Decade Award from the National Mental Health Association; the Award of Merit for Support of the Equal Rights Amendment from the National Organization for Women; the Notre Dame Award for International Service; the Eleanor Roosevelt Living World Award from Peace Links; the Kiwanis World Service Medal from Kiwanis International Foundation; the Jefferson Award from the American Institute for Public Service; the Georgia Woman of the Year Award from the Georgia Commission on Women; the Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health from the Institute of Medicine; the United States Surgeon General's Medallion; and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor. In 2001 she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and is the author of four books, including "Helping Someone with Mental Illness: A Compassionate Guide for Family, Friends, and Caregivers" (with Susan K. Golant), which was selected as the winner of the 1999 American Society of Journalists and Authors Outstanding Book Award in the service category. She travels and speaks throughout the world, and is a deacon at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia.



**Ella Coleman** is currently Assistant Secretary General for Social Services at the National Traditional Council of Liberia. Previously, she has served as a member of the Task Force for Free and Compulsory Primary Education in Liberia, encouraging young people, especially girls, to go to school. Mrs. Coleman has also served as Community Coordinator assigned in West Point Township under FAWE,

encouraging girls to go to school and monitoring students on the various campuses to ensure safety from sexual harassment both at home by stepparents and at school by instructors. In addition, she also works to educate traditional women on their rights and responsibilities.



**Claire Collobert** is the Press Attaché of the Consulate General of France in Atlanta, since 2007. As Press Attaché, she is tasked with maintaining close relations with the local media and the official institutions, explaining French government policy in foreign and domestic affairs, and updating the consulate's website. Previously, she was the Trade Attaché at the French Trade Commission. Ms. Collobert holds a Masters degree in International Trade from the Universite de Nantes



**Jane Connors** is the Chief of the Special Procedures Branch at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva. She joined the United Nations as the Chief of the Women's Rights Division in the Department of Economic Affairs in 1996, and transferred to OHCHR in 2002. Prior to joining the United Nations she taught law at various tertiary institutions, spending 15 years at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. She has written widely on the human rights of women and the treaty body system.



**Tom Crick** joined the Center in 1994, first as a research assistant in the Conflict Resolution Program, becoming executive assistant to the director of the Peace Programs, assistant director of the Center's China Village Elections Project, and is now associate director of the Conflict Resolution Program. Mr. Crick has worked on numerous Carter Center election and conflict resolution projects, primarily in Africa, including the Carter Center-brokered 1995 Guinea worm cease-fire in Sudan, the Great Lakes peace initiative from 1995-1997, and the Center's mediation between Sudan and Uganda. Most recently, his work has concentrated on peace-building issues in Liberia. Mr. Crick received his bachelor's degree from Bristol University, his master's degree from the Queen's University of Belfast, and has conducted doctoral research at the London School of Economics and at Emory University. Prior to joining the Center, he lectured in political science at a number of polytechnics in the United Kingdom and worked as a journalist and as a project leader at an interdenominational youth project in Northern Ireland. Mr. Crick is a licensed mediator in the state of Georgia.

**Erin Crysler** is program associate for the Human Rights Program at The Carter Center. She joined the Center in 2007 as an intern, working in the Conflict Resolution and Democracy programs. Following her internship, she first worked as an assistant project coordinator supporting electoral observation programming in Ghana and a capacity building initiative with the African Union before accepting her current position. As the program associate, she assists in the management of initiatives focused on advancing human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and supporting global human rights defenders and the multilateral institutions on which they rely. Erin previously served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Benin for two years, concentrating primarily on secondary education, gender equality, and AIDS awareness. Erin holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Georgia and is currently pursuing a master's degree in international affairs from Georgia Tech.



**Marie Dennis** is director of the Maryknoll Catholic missionaries' Office for Global Concerns, charged with bringing the global experience of Maryknoll missionaries into the process of shaping public opinion and policies. She is also president of Pax Christi International, the global Catholic peace movement, and a Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace. She now serves on the national boards of JustFaith and the Jubilee USA Network, and the steering committee of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network. She previously served on the White House Task Force on Global Poverty and Development. Marie holds a masters degree in moral theology from Washington Theological Union and is co-author or author of seven books.



**Professor Dianne Diakité** is an Associate Professor of Religion at Emory University. She is the author of *Three Eyes for the Journey: African Dimensions of the Jamaican Religious Experience* (Oxford University Press, 2005). Her teaching and research focus upon theologies and religious practices of the African diaspora with special emphases on Black/womanist theologies, and African-derived religions. In 2006, she conducted research as a Fulbright Scholar in the D. R. of Congo where she studied the history of religions in Central Africa during the slave period and prophetic religious movements in Congo today. She studied at Harvard Divinity School and earned her Ph.D. degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

**Demba Diawara** is a village Chief and an Imam as well as a Human Rights Activist. He has previously worked with Tostan, and has played a crucial role in initiating Tostan's campaign in Senegalese villages.

**Mamadou Diop** is an Islamic Rights Specialist and a Child Protection Program Officer at Tostan.



**Bani Dugal** is the Principal Representative of the Bahá'í International Community to the United Nations. She currently serves as the President of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief in the United States. Ms. Dugal has previously served as Director, Office for the Advancement of Women at the Bahá'í International Community. Ms. Dugal holds a Masters degree (LL.M) in Environmental Law from Pace University School of Law, New York and a law degree (LL.B) from the University of Delhi, India. She has participated to events, such as the July 2005 Conference on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace, and the Thirty-Year UN Observance Promoting Gender Equality. At the International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and Millennium Development Goals in Pakistan in March 2005, she made a presentation on the women's role in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building.



**Fatma Emam** is a Research Associate and the co founder of Nazra for Feminist studies in Egypt. She is interested in working on the intersection of gender, religion and ethnicity. She holds an MA in Human Rights and Democratization from Malta and Ghent universities and a BSc in Political Sciences from Cairo University. Fatma is an Islamic feminist and she belongs to the school of Muslim women believing in rereading the Islamic legacy to achieve the prescribed gender equality. Fatma is a networker in the international solidarity network Women Live Under Muslim Laws, and a blogger.

**Birima Fall** is the International Program Officier at Tostan.



**Pewee Flomoku** is senior project coordinator for the Center's Access to Justice Project in Liberia. He has worked with The Carter Center since 2005, contributing to the development and implementation of the Center's in-country programming. Mr. Flomoku previously worked for the United Nations Mission in Liberia as part of its Demobilization, Disarmament, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program. He is also an accomplished photojournalist. Mr. Flomoku is currently enrolled in the Kofi Annan Institute of Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation in Liberia. He has also completed studies as a summer fellow at Stanford University, receiving a certificate in Democracy, Development and The Rule of Law, and is an ABA certified mediator.



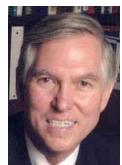
**Larisa Friesen Hall** provides leadership at Sojourners, a Christian social justice organization, in Washington, DC for women's philanthropy and constructing programs focused on the leadership development and empowerment of women and girls. Larisa represents Sojourners around the country and is the founding chair of Sojourners' organizational taskforce to develop intercultural competency. Sojourners' mission is to articulate the biblical call to social justice, to examine moral, political, social, and economic issues in a spiritual, theological, and action-oriented context, and to integrate personal faith and spirituality with social transformation and politics. Larisa has completed studies in international business and economic development from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.



**Frances Greaves** is the head and founder of an interdenominational women's organization in Liberia called Voice of the Voiceless, which was involved in working with women who testified at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, providing medical referral for SGBV victims of the war and infusing women's views into the final recommendations of the TRC report. She has previously served as project coordinator and consultant on women's issues with the Liberia Women Media Action Committee, the International Center for Transitional Justice, Mano River Union Civil Society Network and the Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia. Ms. Greaves is presently the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors of an umbrella organization of more than seventy-five women's, Community and Faith-based NGOs.



**Annie Hardison-Moody** is a doctoral student in the Person, Community, and Religious Life course of study in the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University. Her work navigates the intersections of religion, health and healing, particularly related to women's reproductive health and gender-based violence. She has worked with the Religion and Reproductive Health project, doing ethnographic work on the meaning of pregnancy to African-American homeless women in Atlanta. This work influenced Annie's dissertation, which focuses on care-giving, both in a religious and public health sense, for women experiencing gender-based violence. She has also served as a consultant to public health agencies and non-profits on interventions that address the role of faith in improving community health.



**John Hardman, M.D.**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Carter Center, provides leadership to achieve the Carter Center's commitment to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy, and improve health. He is an active participant in the Carter Center's program initiatives, including election monitoring in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, Ethiopian public health training, global development strategies and conflict resolution efforts, and agriculture programs aimed at improving food production in Africa and North Korea. Dr. Hardman first served the Center in 1989, when he headed the Initiative to Reduce Global Tobacco Use and was the Center's representative to the World Health Organization's Tobacco and Health Program in 1990. Dr. Hardman directed the Center's Mental Health Program from 1991-1993, became associate executive director in February 1992, and was appointed executive director in December 1992. In 2007, the Center's Board of Trustees voted to change the title to president and chief executive officer



**David Hooker** is the Program and Policy Director for the Conference of National Black Churches (CNBC), an ecumenical organization convening the nine historically African American Christian denominations in the USA. He provides leadership to several reconciliation and trauma healing efforts. These efforts include: Coming to the T.A.B.L.E. (Taking American Beyond the Legacy of Enslavement) and the Welcome Table program, as well as the Leadership in Peacebuilding program of the South Sudan Peace Commission. Hooker has conducted mediations, participated in community development efforts, taught and participated in peacebuilding leadership initiatives in Bosnia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia, Southern Sudan and Zimbabwe. He is also an Associate Professor of Conflict Transformation and a Senior Fellow for Community Engagement.



**Rana Husseini** is a Jordanian woman journalist writing for *The Jordan Times*, and focusing on social issues with a special emphasis on violence against women, as well as so-called honor crimes. She is the author of *Murder in the Name of Honor* (OneWorld, 2009). Husseini has also worked as a regional coordinator for the United Nation's Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) campaign to eliminate violence against women in five Arab countries. More recently, Husseini conducted several training workshops at the Jordanian Media Institute and the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) for journalists and journalism university students on gender, human rights and violence against women reporting. Husseini also managed a three-year program to monitor and analyze the content of the printed media in Jordan in terms of what is being reported on women.



**Lynne Hybels** is co-founder of Willow Creek Community Church, where she is also an active volunteer. She has engaged in ministry partnerships in under-resourced communities in Latin America and Africa. More recently she has been involved in Willow's Spanish-speaking congregation, Casa de Luz. In 2010 Lynne established a personal fundraising initiative, Ten For Congo, to support the thousands of women and girls brutally raped during the last decade of civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In her personal ministry, she has also traveled extensively in the Middle East and actively advocates for peace with justice in the Holy Land.

**Sam Jones**, Associate Director of the Human Rights Program helps manage human rights

projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, focused on reforming the justice sector, partnering with Congolese organizations to promote and protect human rights, working with women's organizations to combat sexual violence, and advocating for transparent and accountable practices by mining companies. Mr. Jones previously worked to reform the justice sector, strengthen civil society, and resettle and reintegrate refugees in Iraq, Jordan, the occupied Palestinian Territories, and Lebanon for Counterpart International. Mr. Jones worked for Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in the occupied Palestinian territories, responsible for field-based research, reporting, and advocacy on a range of human rights issues. Mr. Jones earned his master's degree in international peace and conflict resolution from American University's School of International Service.



**Itonde Kakoma**, is the Assistant Director for Conflict Resolution at the Carter Center with a focus on Africa. He has worked in various capacities for the Center since 2007, initially serving as a graduate assistant then as a research consultant, eventually coordinating the Center's Liberia Rule of Law project. He served as an international consultant to the Liberian Truth & Reconciliation Commission, contributing to the Final Report's section on religion and tradition during the conflict; and has designed and implemented numerous inter-disciplinary field assessments on subjects ranging from post-conflict reconstruction, gender-based violence, and transitional justice. Kakoma is in the ordination process for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; he holds a Bachelor's of Religion from Wartburg College and has conducted post-graduate research on the intersections between reconciliation and ritual at the University of Pretoria.



**Azza Karam, Ph.D.** serves as a Senior Technical Advisor, on Culture, at the *United Nations Population Fund* (UNFPA). She coordinates global activities around mobilizing 'cultural agents of change', manages the Global Interfaith Network for Population and Development, and coordinates an UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Faith-Based Engagement. Prior, she served as the Senior Policy Advisor in the regional Bureau for Arab States at the *United Nations Development Program* (UNDP). She founded the first Global Women of Faith Network during her tenure at *Religions for Peace*, while also advising on interfaith development work in Muslim nations, and served as the President of the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations. In various countries in the Middle East, Europe and Africa, she has managed global developmental programs, taught at a number of universities, and published widely on political economy, democratization, human rights, and religion.



**David Kobia** is a co-founder and technology lead at Ushahidi and brings more than 10 years of product development experience and a multidisciplinary background to his work, with a focus on social and emerging technologies. He works in a variety of roles, from designer and coder to strategist. After pursuing a BS in Computer Science at the University of Alabama, he has been a professional software developer and has worked with almost every web technology in use today. In 2010, he was a recipient of MIT Technology Review's TR35 award (35 top innovators under 35) and the Humanitarian of the Year award.



**Rt. Rev. Ezekiel Kondo** did his Theological Education at Trinity College, Bristol, UK. He is now the Chair of the Sudan Council of Churches, and the Episcopal Bishop of Khartoum since November 2003. Previously, he was the Dean of Cathedral in Khartoum and Provincial Secretary of Episcopal Church of Sudan. As Bishop of Khartoum, Rt. Rev. Kondo has been overseeing the Anglican and Christian population in Northern Sudan, helping people in distress in various areas of Sudan and working on capacity-building missions. He has also been strongly involved in improving and advocating for the rights of women, who constitute a majority of the church's members. Rt. Rev. Kondo has promoted and initiated capacity-building missions, in order to reinforce women's leadership role in society. He is also assisting and helping a women organization working on building a hospital in the Nuba Mountains in Sudan. In addition, under Rt. Rev. Kondo, the Church and the Council have been striving to help women by raising awareness about women's rights, and fighting cultural traditions impeding on women's rights. He is also a strong advocate for women's education.

**Ann Kruger, Ph.D.** is an Associate Professor of Educational Psychology at Georgia State University. She has a program promoting the healthy development of middle school females. Her interests are in the areas of social cognition and cultural learning and her program of research focuses on how children use language and emotion understanding to learn from instruction and to collaborate. This focus has implications for the role of relationships, communication, and affect in instructional settings. She has a Ph.D. in development psychology from Emory University.



**Julienne Lusenge** is the President of Female Solidarity for Integrated Peace and Development (SOFEPADI), a NGO created in 2000 to promote women's and girl's rights in North Eastern DRC. Since 2003, SOFEPADI fights against the violation of women's rights, specifically sexual violence and socio-cultural crimes, and assists victims of sexual violence in bringing judicial justice. SOFEPADI is in charge of a coalition of 40 women's organization, which began in 2003 to defend and protect women's rights in the eastern provinces of DRC. Ms. Lusenge coordinates the national campaign of Congolese women against sexual violence, launched in November 2007 in Montreal. This campaign was the origin of the Funds for Congolese Women that has been in operation since July 2010.



**Marinah Mahathir** has been active in HIV/AIDS for 16 years, leading the Malaysian AIDS Council for 12 years. Since stepping down she does AIDS advocacy work as a member of the Asia Pacific Leadership Forum on HIV and Development steering committee. A newspaper columnist, blogger and TV producer, she promotes the rights of women especially Muslim women as a member of the Musawah, a global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family, and of the Women's Islamic Initiative on Spirituality and Equality (WISE). She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Sister in Islam (SIS).



**Jean Mbidabo** is a traditional leader in D.R. Congo, in charge of the Babuchuka group, since 2006. Mr. Mbidabo also collaborates with SOFEPADI as field advisor. He is implicated in the mobilization and sensitization of his community and

neighboring groups concerning sexual violence and violence against women. Mbidabo identifies and orients victims of sexual violence to SOFEPADI to seek the appropriate help needed. He has been the beneficiary of many workshops and trainings organized by SOFEPADI.



**Jennifer McCoy**, Ph. D. has been director of the Carter Center's Americas Program since August 1998, and a political science professor at Georgia State University since 1984. Previously she also served as senior research associate at The Carter Center (1988-98). She currently directs the Carter Center's Friends of the Inter-American Democratic Charter group and previously directed the Carter Center's project on Mediation and Monitoring in Venezuela from 2002-2004. She has directed election monitoring projects for The Carter Center in Nicaragua, Panama, Mexico, Venezuela, Jamaica, and Peru, and has participated in election delegations to Indonesia, Haiti, Suriname, and Guyana. Dr. McCoy's academic career has included extensive fieldwork in Venezuela, Nicaragua, and in Uruguay, where she conducted research as a Fulbright fellow in 1991 and 1992. Dr. McCoy is editor and contributor to *The Unraveling of Representative Democracy in Venezuela*, (with David Myers, 2004); *Do Politicians Learn from Political Crises?* (2000); and *Venezuelan Democracy Under Stress* (1995). Dr. McCoy received her bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and her doctorate from the University of Minnesota.



**Sindi Medar-Gould** is a lifelong activist for women's rights. She is an experienced trainer in: horizontal leadership, feminism, conflict resolution, gender budget analysis, human rights and ethics. She has been involved in activism for political, civil and women's rights for over 43 years, and has represented her country as a gender expert at the UN. Currently, Ms. Medar-Gould is the Executive Director of BAOBAB, a non-profit organization working for the protection and promotion of women's human and legal rights in Nigeria, and the African Hub partner of Women's Learning Partnership. Previously, Sindi was the Executive Director of Women for Independence, Self-Sufficiency and Economic Advancement, and the Coordinator of the Women Living Under Muslim Laws' Women and Law Project. Additionally, Sindi is a board member of the Association for Women's Rights in Development and of the Pan African Strategic and Policy Research Group.



**Molly Melching** is the founder and executive director of Tostan, a Wolof word meaning "breakthrough". Tostan's mission is to empower African communities to bring about sustainable development and positive social transformation based on respect for human rights. Since 1991, Tostan has brought its holistic, 30-month education program -The Community Empowerment Program - to thousands of communities in nine African countries. Molly Melching has gained international recognition thanks to the outreach work of grassroots communities to abandon female genital cutting and child/forced marriage in Senegal, Burkina Faso, The Gambia and Guinea after having participated in the Tostan program. Molly has been honored by many organizations for her expertise in non formal education, human rights training, and social transformation.



**Dr. Fulata Moyo** is currently the World Council of Churches' (WCC) Program Executive for Women in Church and Society in Malawi with the mandate to coordinate women's global work in all WCC's member churches. Dr. Moyo is also the General Coordinator of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians

which undertakes research on Theology, religion and culture issues from women's perspectives. She received her doctorate from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, in the area of Gender and sexual ethics. Her interests lie in the area of women's sexuality as embodied and interconnected spirituality.



**Dr. Pauline Muchina**, Senior Partnerships Advisor for UNAIDS, works to advocate effective and comprehensive global AIDS responses that empower women and girls to protect themselves and their families, and promote an end to gender-based violence and discrimination against women as a prerequisite for building sustainable communities and stopping the spread of HIV. Previously, Dr. Muchina worked as the Global Health Council's Community and Faith-based Organization Outreach Coordinator and for the World Council of Churches. She is also a member of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians. Dr. Muchina has spoken in international forums, including the UN Beijing International Conference on Women, and the UN Commission on the Status of Women. She holds a master's degree in divinity from Yale University Divinity School and a PhD from the Union Theological Seminary, New York.

**Dr. Maaraidzo Mutambara**, a native of Zimbabwe and a member of the United Methodist Church, teaches Ethics and Theology at Africa University's Faculty of Theology. Her current research interests include the intersection of ethics, theology and environmental issues (eco-justice) in Africa. She has an MTS degree in Ethics and Theology from Harvard Divinity School and a PhD in Religious and Theological Studies from the University of Denver. Previously, Dr. Mutambara served as an Archivist and Consultant in African and Indigenous Religions and Cultures and she taught Christian Theology at the University of Zimbabwe. Dr. Mutambara is a member of the stirring committee of Churches in Manicaland [an ecumenical gathering of churches and institutions in the province of Manicaland, Zimbabwe] and the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians.



**Timothy Njoya** is a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa and a leading advocate for justice and human rights in Kenya. Rev. Njoya received his PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1976 and Doctor of Divinity from Knox College, University of Toronto, in 1998. He is the recipient of the John Humphrey Freedom Award of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (2000) and the E.H. Johnson Award of the Presbyterian Church of Canada/E.H. Johnson Memorial Trust (1995). Rev. Njoya is currently the Executive Director of Men for the Equality of Men and Women (MEW), a ground-breaking initiative that seeks to create equitable gender relations through public education and social action.



**Ratna Osman** is the Acting Executive Director of Sisters in Islam, a Muslim women's NGO committed to promoting an understanding of Islam that recognizes the principles of Justice, Equality, Freedom and Dignity within a democratic nation state in Malaysia. Her work at Sisters in Islam includes creating public awareness and advocating for reform in laws and policies by promoting and developing a framework of women's rights in Islam, taking into consideration women's experiences and realities. Ms Osman received her LLB (Law & Shariah) from the International Islamic University, Islamabad.



**Jasmeen Patheja** is the founder and facilitator of Blank Noise (BN), an Indian volunteer led community arts collective that triggers public dialogue on the issue of street sexual violence by expressing victims' testimonials through arts. BN works with a range of media from facebook, twitter, blogs, posters, t-shirts, video installation, live discussions, performance, and photography. It has also worked with the Bronx Museum of Arts. BN was initiated in 2003 as a response to personal experiences of street sexual harassment, and as an art student project. BN has chapters in Bangalore, Chennai, Calcutta, Mumbai, and Delhi. Ms. Patheja is the recipient of the Ted India Fellowship, in 2009, and the Akademie Schloss Solitude Stuttgart in 2007.



**Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**, was chosen by the General Assembly on 28 July 2008 and took up the post on 1 September. Ms. Pillay, a South African national, was the first woman to start a law practice in her home province of Natal in 1967. Over the next few years, she acted as a defense attorney for anti-apartheid activists, exposing torture, and helping establish key rights for prisoners on Robben Island. She also served as a lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and was later appointed Vice-President of the University of Durban Westville. In 1995, after the end of apartheid, Ms. Pillay was appointed judge on the South African High Court, and in the same year was chosen to be a judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), where she served a total of eight years, the last four (1999-2003) as President. She played a critical role in the ICTR's groundbreaking jurisprudence on rape as genocide, as well as on issues of freedom of speech and hate propaganda. In 2003, she was appointed as a judge on the International Criminal Court in The Hague, where she remained until August 2008. In South Africa, as a member of the Women's National Coalition, she contributed to the inclusion of an equality clause in the country's Constitution that prohibits discrimination on grounds of race, religion and sexual orientation. She co-founded Equality Now, an international women's rights organization, and has been involved with other organizations working on issues relating to children, detainees, torture and domestic violence.



**Dr. Sita Ranchod-Nilsson** is the Director of the Institute for Developing Nations (IDN), which has supported projects on gender-based violence and rule of law in Liberia, gender and transitional justice in post-conflict societies in sub-Saharan Africa, and health education in Ethiopia. Dr. Ranchod-Nilsson's research focused for more than twenty years on women and politics in sub-Saharan Africa. She has explored the gender dimensions of rural mobilization during the decade-long guerrilla struggle in Zimbabwe, the gender politics of state consolidation and national identity in Zimbabwe, and the politics of women's NGOs in Zimbabwe and Kenya.



**Karin Ryan** is the director of the Human Rights Program of The Carter Center and is responsible for convening the Center's Human Rights Defenders Policy Forum, which seeks to amplify the voices of leading human rights defenders from throughout the world. Ms. Ryan also assists the Carters in their efforts on behalf of victims of human rights violations through personal interventions with heads of state or governing authorities, including regarding death penalty cases in the U.S. She has represented the Center in many international negotiations that led to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, various agreements on the human rights of women, including the Beijing

Platform, the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, and most recently on the establishment of a U.N. Human Rights Council. Ms. Ryan earned her bachelors' degrees in political science from Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.



**Gistam Sakaeva** is the executive director of the Chechnya-based organization Doveriye. In 2005, it launched the first gender-based violence program in Chechnya, together with CARE, providing job training, psychological counseling, health care and legal advice to hundreds of women every year. They also worked with jailed perpetrators of violence against women, often convicted of "honor killings." Doveriye also works to raise awareness and change harmful attitudes towards women, through roundtables in schools, villages and universities. In 2007, Ms. Sakaeva started international advocacy efforts for women's rights in the North Caucasus, and in 2008, she won the Voices of Courage Award of the Women's Refugee Commission. Ms. Sakaeva holds a degree in English from Chechen State University, and a master's degree in non-profit management from NYU.

**Oureye Sall** is a Community Leader and a Human Rights Activist. She is also a former Tostan village participant.



**Professor Pamela Scully** is chair of the Department of Women's Studies, and professor of Women's Studies and African Studies at Emory University. Her current project examines international interventions against rape of women in war time and analyzes government initiatives and international and local development projects to end gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict societies in Africa, with a particular focus on Liberia. Professor Scully is deputy editor of the *Women's History Review*. Professor Scully works closely with the Institute of Developing Nations, a collaborative of The Carter Center and Emory University.



**Doug Shipman** is currently serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Doug was most recently a Principal in the Atlanta office of the Boston Consulting Group. He is the founding Executive Director and has been with the Center since the inception of the project in 2005. He has guest lectured at several institutions including Duke, Georgia State, Emory and Bard Colleges. Doug has a Master of Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University with an emphasis on domestic politics, and a Master of Theological Studies from the Harvard Divinity School with an emphasis on religion in public situations and politics.



**John Stremlau, Ph.D.**, is the vice president for peace programs at The Carter Center, named to the post in January 2006. He oversees the Center's programs to advance human rights, democracy and conflict resolution globally, regional cooperation in the Americas, and promotion of grassroots democracy, rule of law, and social justice in China. For the past eight years, he resided in South Africa where he was Jan Smuts Professor and Head of International Relations and the founding director of the Centre for Africa's International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Previously, he served as senior advisor to the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict in Washington, D.C.



**Alaric Tokpa** is a professor of Political Science at the University of Liberia. He was a leader of the student movement in Liberia the 1980s. He was imprisoned and put before a firing squad. He has long been involved in activism in Liberia and continues to work for social justice both in rural areas and Monrovia.

**Helena Torh-Turo** is the elected National Coordinator of the Southeastern Women Development Association (SEWODA) in Liberia. As national Coordinator of SEWODA, Mrs. Turo has been instrumental in bringing, through nationally and internationally funded projects, significant change into the lives of women and girls by improving their developmental, social and economic needs; including encouraging and increasing women participation in decision-making for equal opportunities.



**Agnes Umunna** is the Executive Director and founder of Straight from the Heart Project, which helps both victims and perpetrators of the Liberian conflicts. She helps to record stories from survivors of the war in Liberia and see how best we can talk about the trauma they have gone through. She has also established counseling for Peace Building, Psycho-social and trauma healing and other aspect of integration, reconciliation, and transitional and restorative justice mechanisms. This transitional mechanism is working well in a magnificent manner enhancing the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC) and other associated organizations. Agnes is also a Journalist, Radio Producer/Presenter and Community Activist.

**Missy Ward** is a student at McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta, GA where she is pursuing a Masters of Divinity in Social Ethics. She is passionate about advocating on behalf of and assisting women who have experienced violence, particularly in refugee communities. This passion stems from her experience in assisting refugees from Afghanistan in the US and East African refugees in Kampala, Uganda. These experiences and academic research of mass rape as a tactic of war in East Africa, have allowed her to understand the complexities facing female refugees who have potentially been the victim of physical or sexual violence.



**Rev. Dr. Andrea White** is Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture at Emory University Candler School of Theology and Associated Faculty with the Department of Women's Studies. She specializes in postmodern religious thought, theologies of otherness, and womanist theology, the study of African American women's religious experience. She is working on a book entitled *Black Women's Bodies and God Politics: A Womanist Theology of Personhood*. She earned her Master of Divinity from Yale University Divinity School and her Ph.D. from The University of Chicago. She is an ordained American Baptist minister and she serves on the Committee for Teaching About the United Nations.



**Andy Yentriyani** currently serves on the Indonesia's National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan). She joined the Commission in early 2000 as part of its Executive Body and led some of Komnas Perempuan's major monitoring work in conflict situations, post disaster, and in relation to the rise of identity politics. This includes reports on Aceh during the aftermath of armed conflict, the tsunami and implementation of Sharia Law (2006-2007); on the situation of women

human rights defenders (2007); on victims of sexual attacks during May 1998 riots ten years after the incident (2008); and, on the impacts of discriminatory local by-laws regulating public morality and religiosity (2009). Ms. Yentriyani completed her masters' degree on Media and Communications at Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK. Her undergraduate dissertation on the practice of under age marriage of the Chinese-Indonesian women with Taiwanese men has become one of the main references to scrutinize transnational marriage as a modus of trafficking.