

Presents:

PANEL DISCUSSION

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

Preparing for Leadership in Political,
Economic and Public Life in This Digital Age

TUESDAY 07 MARCH 2023 | 2:00–4:00 PM ET
(14:00–16:00 ET)

TURKISH HOUSE | 821 FIRST AVE | NEW YORK, NY

REGISTER

This event is an opportunity to advocate for and to help prepare our women and girls to compete on the global stage and to empower them in this era of rapid technological change. This is consistent with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically, Goal 5, Empowering Women and Girls, and Goal 4, Quality Education for All.

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Mine Anlar

Sierra Leone Honorary Consul in Istanbul – NEYAD US Representative

Ayşe Nilgün Diptaş

NEYAD Chairwoman

PANEL DISCUSSION

Gordon Tapper | Moderator

Founder, Give Them a Hand Foundation, President, United African Congress

Kavery Kaul

Award-winning Filmmaker

Keiya K. Rayne

Clarity Coach, Relationship Expert, TEDx Speaker, Intuitive Healer

Krista Kim

Digital Artist – Metaverse Creator

– Video Presentation –

YOUTH SEGMENT PANEL DISCUSSION

Ms Hawa Diallo | Moderator

Chief of the Civil Society Unit and Advocacy Section, UN Department of Global Communications

Nicole Bulanchuk, M.A. | Co-Founder and Executive Director, Believe New York

Zayna Elhady, M.A Education | Clinical Psychology | M.A. '24 | Teachers College, Columbia University

Melissa Pierre | Clinical Psychology | M.A. Ed. '24 | Teachers College, Columbia University

Lara Sonmez | Full Stack Software Developer, ServiceNow | B. Eng '18 | Duke University

To support disaster recovery efforts in Turkey through the Give Them a Hand Foundation, please make donations here:

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BIOGRAPHIES

MINE ANLAR

Sierra Leone Honorary Consul in Istanbul – NEYAD US Representative

Mine Anlar is Sierra Leone Honorary Consul in Istanbul and US Representative for NEYAD (Nil Education Foundation), whose focus is to empower women through education. Mine is also a Board Member of MUSIAD USA “Independent Businessman Association,”.



Mine has over 20 years of experience in international business and is an expert in political consulting, project management, international VIP travel services, business development and management. In 2005, Mine became the owner of World of Travel, Inc., an international travel agency. In 2018, she established Moneta Global US, which provides business development and management strategy for investors, corporations, and healthcare centers. Under her consultancy, Moneta presented Sierra Leone’s “First Lady’s Medical Center” Hospital project at the United Nations General Assembly in 2019.

In 2019, she became social, economic, and political Advisor to the Ambassadors of Sierra Leone in the United States and Turkey. Mine was one of the key supporters of the “World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development Conference,” held at the United Nations Headquarters in 2017. She is continuing her education with a PhD in International Relations and Behavioral Science at UNEM University.

Ayşe Nilgün Diptaş

NEYAD Chairwoman

Ayşe Nilgün Diptaş was born in Ankara in 1960, and after graduating from Marmara University Faculty of Theology in 1984, she served in various schools. She completed her master’s degree in Education Psychology at Marmara University in 1997. As a private sector company manager, she started to work in civil society organizations and political affairs. In addition to providing in-house trainings, she gave trainings and seminars on Parent School, School, Teacher, Student Relations and Women and Family. She is currently a board member of the Turkish Youth Foundation, History and Islamic Research Foundation and Istanbul Women’s Research Center (Ikam).



After actively continuing her amateur political life which had started in high school from 1990 until 2013, she reactivated the Nil Venture Group, which was founded in 1994, under the name of Nil Education and Solidarity Association (NEYAD) in 2015.

Diptaş, who speaks English, Arabic and Ottoman Turkish, is married and mother of two children.

GORDON TAPPER – MODERATOR

Founder, Give Them a Hand Foundation, President, United African Congress

Gordon M. Tapper is the Founder of Give Them a Hand Foundation, President of the United African Congress and Board Member of Non-Governmental Organizations, the African Renaissance and Diaspora Network. He has had a long and distinguished career of over 35 years of service at the United Nations and is a former Chief of Section in the Department of Administration and Management. Mr. Tapper numbers amongst his more important contributions at the UN, his participation in the first fair and free elections held in South Africa as a member of the UNOMSA mission. Then he was assigned to Kwazulu/Natal where he established and supervised electoral offices and meetings of the peace processes. In 2004 and while still a UN Staff Member Mr. Tapper founded the Non-Profit Organization, Give Them a Hand Foundation (GTAH) which since has led humanitarian and medical missions to disaster areas including those affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy and to Haiti following the massive earthquake that destroyed much of Port Au Prince. Under his leadership, GTAH has hosted an annual World Interfaith Harmony Week program each February since 2012. GTAH with partnering organizations also hosted the first Ebola Forum at the United Nations in August of 2014 in the ECOSOC Chamber with the participation of ambassadors of the three most affected countries. He is a proud native of Jamaica in the West Indies. He is a graduate of Pace University in New York City from which he obtained a degree in Business Administration.



Kavery Kaul

Award-winning Filmmaker

Director-Producer-Writer Kavery Kaul is the founder of riverfilms and co-founder of Manavi, the first US organization to advocate for South Asian Womens Survivors of Domestic Violence. Her work has been featured at DOC NYC, Telluride, London, Rotterdam, Sydney and other major film festivals. It has reached wide audiences in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Her credits include the recent theatrically released *The Bengali*, the Imagen Award Nominee *Cuban Canvas*, and the *Film Threat* and *Time Out* Critic's Pick *Long Way from Home*. The Academy Film Archive and the Women's Film Preservation Fund have restored her earlier film *One Hand Don't Clap* which premiered in the US at New York's Museum of Modern Art. She is an active member of New York Women in Film & Television and Women Independent Producers, both organizations that advocate for equality in the media field and support women at every stage of their careers. A recipient of the New York City Proclamation of Excellence, Kavery's TEDx talk speaks to the power of storytelling across divides. As a Fulbright Fellow and Fulbright's 75th anniversary arts speaker, she chose as her topic "Stories Matter".



Keiya K. Rayne

Clarity Coach, Relationship Expert, TEDx Speaker, Intuitive Healer

Influential TEDx Speaker Keiya K. Rayne is a Clarity Coach, Relationship Expert, Healer and the Creator of The Magnetic Soul-work Success System. For more than 15 years she's coached her clients to master their mindset and attraction energy so they're able to achieve a higher level of success in Love, Business and Purpose with greater ease.



She is passionate about teaching others how to "effort" less and receive more.

Keiya was featured on The Big Talk Over Dinner television series and trained with award-winning director Tricia Brouk at her Speaker Salon in New York City. She's also been a featured guest expert on the Follow Me Friday with Joan and Priya podcast, Courage Up podcast, Blog Talk Radio with Carol on Fridays, and a guest appearance on The Dorothy Show as well as multiple online publications. She's a Certified Law of Attraction Coach, Licensed Minister of the Universal Life Church and a recipient of The White House President's Volunteer Service Award for her humanitarian work, domestically and globally.

Keiya considers herself a citizen of the world due to her extensive travel as an international Inflight Service Specialist, connecting her with people from all walks of life.

Krista Kim

Digital Artist – Metaverse Creator

Krista Kim is a leading Metaverse artist and founder of Techism (2014), whose work explores the concept of digital consciousness. Her interest in digital technology and its revolutionary effects on human perception, media, social structures, and communication had led her to work in both digital and physical realms. Having developed her signature language of shifting gradients using digital software since 2012, her works on glass and plexi hypnotize its viewers into a trance of tranquility while her immersive video works provide meditative experiences of color and light.



In 2020, Kim continued to explore the creative potential to utilize screens as digital instruments of well-being by creating 'Mars House': a completely virtual environment using her digital zen philosophy as the first "Metaverse home" for sale as an NFT in history. The piece received global acclaim and in March 2021 was the highest-grossing sale on an NFT on SuperRare.

In 2014, as a response to society's over-reliance on technology, she started the Techism Movement, a philosophy that recognizes technological innovation as an artistic discipline, encouraging artists to promote digital humanism for our digital culture.

Krista Kim's Continuum installation was featured in Times Square every midnight in Feb 2021. She wrote a Metaverse essay for New York Times, and is the first Metaverse artist of the permanent LACMA collection. Krista was chosen by Louis Vuitton as a #Louis200 visionary in celebration of Louis' 200th birthday; Krista is contributing Metaverse Editor for Vogue

Singapore; Top 30 Most Influential People of the Metaverse by Read and Write Magazine; Architectural Digest AD100, NFTy50 by Fortune Magazine. Kim made an iconic collaboration with Lanvin in 2018. In 2021, Kim collaborated with Mercedes Benz EQS and she was part of the "Proof of Art" exhibition at Francisco Carolinum Museum (Linz, Austria). Kim was creative director for the Utah Jazz NBA Team, "JazzXR" campaign, the first Sports Team Metaverse NFT in history. She was also in a curated auction by Steve Aoki at Sotheby's and a curated auction for Christie's by nftnow. Mars House is exhibited at the Hermitage State Museum, "Ethereal Aether" in 2021. Her work is exhibited at Palazzo Strozzi Museum for the "Let's Get Digital" in 2022.

YOUTH PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

Nicole Bulanchuk

Co-Founder and Executive Director, Believe New York

Nicole grew up on Long Island but has lived in Queens, Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Albany. She received her Masters in Psychology from Columbia in May 2022 and is currently a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. student, training to become a clinical psychologist and researcher specializing in areas of global mental health, community psychology, adversity, and trauma. Nicole founded an NGO called Believe New York after experiencing first-hand the struggle and hardship many New Yorkers live through; she directs and grows the NGO with a wonderful team. The goal of Believe New York is to improve access to resources for underserved populations, especially those with mental health concerns and in poverty. As a domestic violence survivor, Nicole prioritizes programs that aim to end violence and abuse towards women and girls, and support these populations. Nicole aspires to spread this work around the U.S. and world. She has a vision to improve the lives of women and girls, working families, immigrants/refugees, U.S. veterans, BIPOC, LGBTQ+ communities, and people who live with mental illness. Nicole is also a Director for a start-up company focused on NGO fundraising, they are currently hosting fundraising campaigns for International Rescue Committee and Greenpeace International. Nicole has consistently worked with NGOs and community organizations including Save the Children, Care International, The Nature Conservancy, ASPCA, Columbia Health Sexual Violence Response, The ETS Sponsorship Program, NAMI-NYS, NYC Community Emergency Response Team, West Albany FD, Middle Earth Peer-Assistance Program, Women in Need Shelter, NARAL, Planned Parenthood, and local Rescue Missions. In her free time, Nicole enjoys creative writing, outdoor activities, and spending time with friends and family.



Zayna Elhady

Clinical Psychology | M.A. '24 | Teachers College, Columbia University

Zayna Elhady spent most of her life in Beijing, China in a multi-racial multi-cultural household, and moved to the U.S. at the age of 15 to finish high school. She completed her undergraduate degree as well as a MA in Education, focusing on English as a Foreign Language and Bilingual Education, from the College of William & Mary, and went on to teach at an international school in New Delhi, India. During high school and college, Zayna volunteered as a firefighter, where she first experienced working in a male-dominated field and the critical need for the empowerment of both men and women to create a safe and supportive work environment for young women entering this field. She is currently working towards an MA in clinical psychology at Columbia University Teachers College focusing on trauma psychology, while working as a fitness coach at Orangetheory Fitness and playing rugby with the New York Rugby Club. As a teacher, high school coach, and fitness professional, and future psychologist, Zayna aspires to continue working toward the empowerment of women globally, especially in their teenage years.



Melissa Pierre

Clinical Psychology | M.A. Ed. '24 | Teachers College, Columbia University

Melissa Pierre is a clinical psychology graduate student at Columbia University Teachers College and a member of the International Association of Applied Psychology. As a clinical psychologist, she hopes to specialize in neuropsychology to research and implement treatments for individuals suffering from various neuropathologies. She also aims to become a global mental health advocate in low- and middle-income countries to develop sustainable infrastructures that align with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.4 of the United Nations. Furthermore, she is interested in the interconnection of mental health and other SDGs, such as women's and girls' empowerment, education, climate change, peace, security, and cross-cutting issues of migration and technology.



Lara Sonmez

Full Stack Software Developer, ServiceNow | B. Eng '18 | Duke University

Lara Sonmez was born in Toronto, Canada in 1995, and grew up in Istanbul, Turkey. After graduating from Duke University in 2018 with a double major in Electrical & Computer Engineering and Computer Science with a minor in Finance, she joined Goldman Sachs as a Tech Analyst on the Controllers Team. She worked there for almost 2 years, after which she joined ServiceNow as a Level 2 Full Stack Software Developer. She currently works at ServiceNow on the Conversational Interfaces Team as a fully remote employee and lives in Jersey City. Outside of work, she spends most of her time traveling, reading and watching documentaries. She is planning on getting her MBA this year at her alma mater.

