

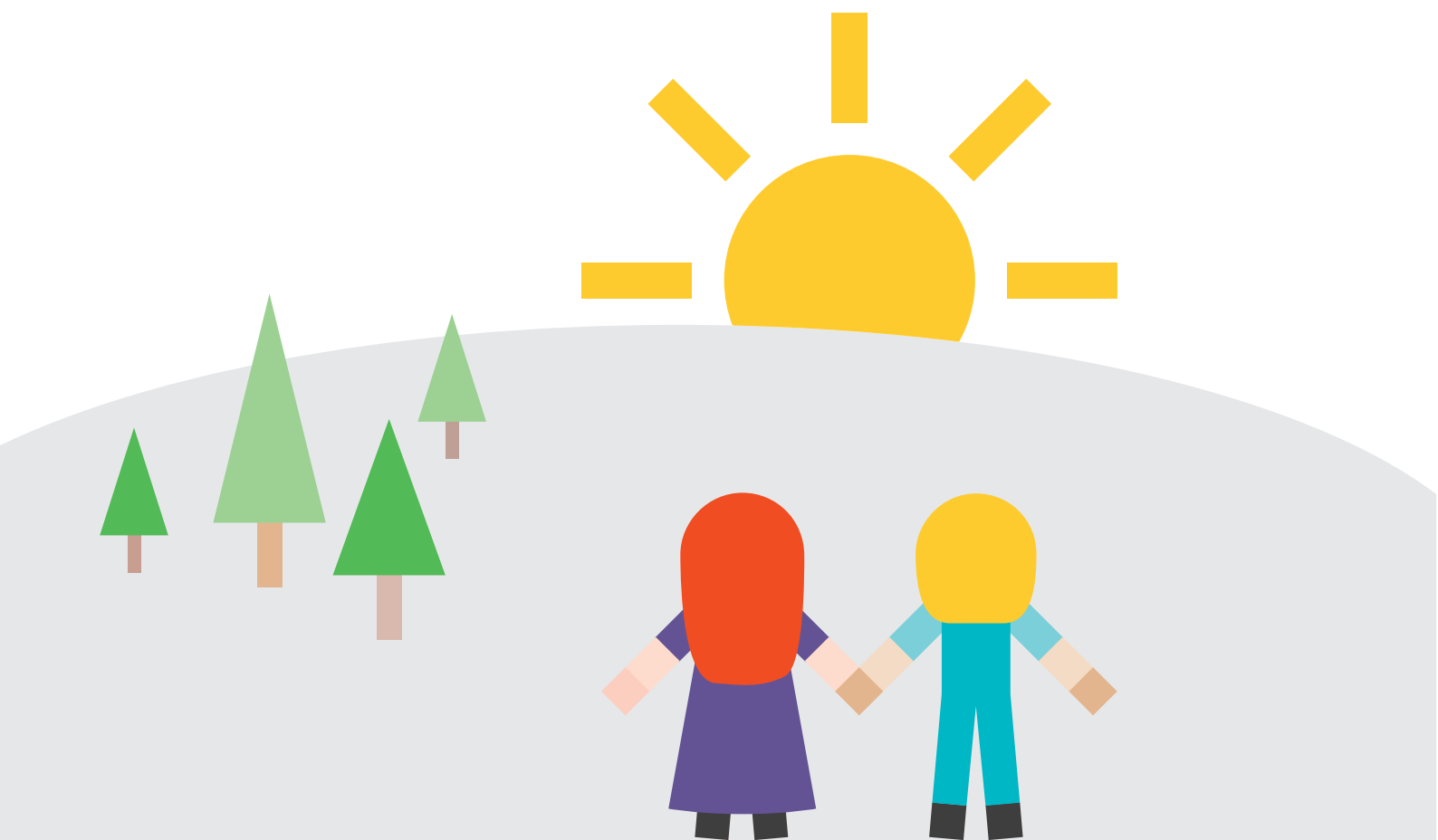


ASHOKA

# ASHOKA EUROPEAN CHANGEMAKER SUMMIT



## DIVING INTO THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL INNOVATION IN EUROPE



# ASHOKA: A GLOBAL HOME FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

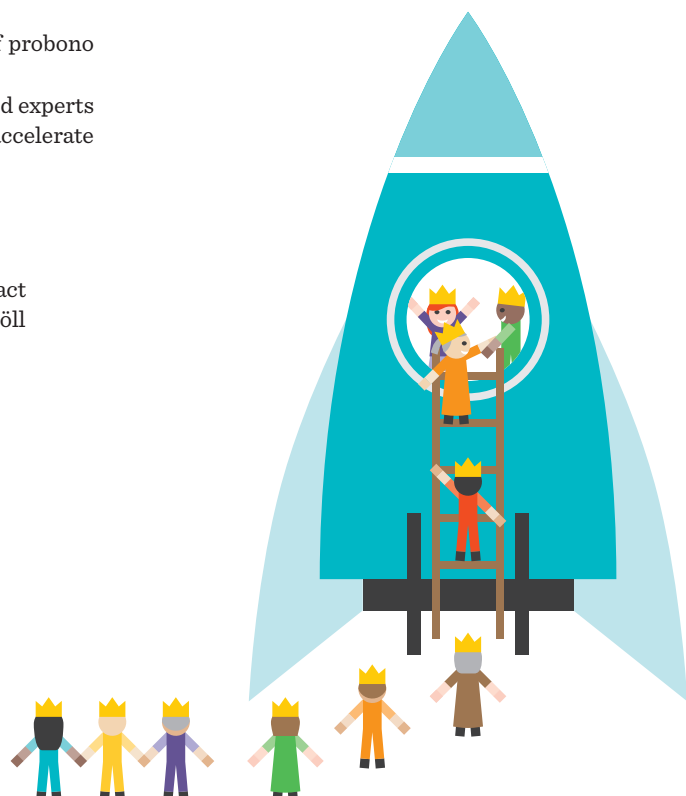
Ashoka, founded in 1980, is the world's leading network of social entrepreneurs. Our founder Bill Drayton coined the term "social entrepreneurship". **According to NGO Advisor, Ashoka is the 5th most influential NGO in the world.**

Every year, we spot the 150 leading entrepreneurs worldwide – **50 of them in Europe** – with the best system-changing ideas to address social problems. We elect them as new "Ashoka Fellows" into our global network that now supports 3,500 social entrepreneurs in 85 countries.

The Ashoka Fellowship provides

- **financial support** for the entrepreneur,
- **professional support** with a large range of pro bono partners,
- **and access to a global network** of peers and experts who support growth into new regions and accelerate the Fellows' impact in society

If you want to support Ashoka Europe, please contact Marie Ringler "[mringler@ashoka.org](mailto:mringler@ashoka.org)" or Rainer Höll "[rhoell@ashoka.org](mailto:rhoell@ashoka.org)".



# SPEAKERS



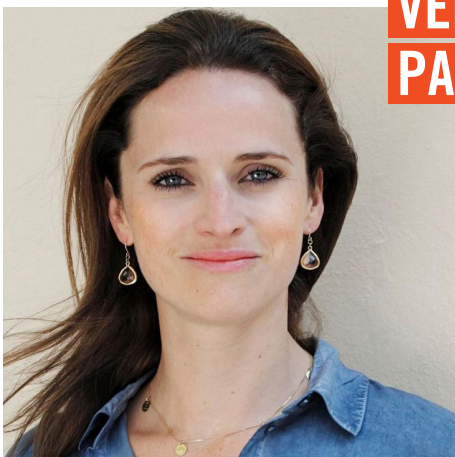
**CAROLINE  
CASEY**

**Ashoka Fellow and  
founder of Kanchi  
and Binc**

Caroline Casey is an award-winning social entrepreneur, international speaker and leading authority on diversity and inclusion.

She is a celebrated TED speaker and the first Irish Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum. Since taking a life-changing decision at 28 to leave her successful career in management consulting and travel across India on an elephant, Caroline has been committed to building a global movement to create an equal society for the 1.3 billion people in the world with a disability. Caroline's personal story of coming to terms with her own hidden disability is universally compelling. Her passion and ambition

for life without limits or labels are both authentic and contagious. Caroline is the founder and visionary of Binc, which exists to catalyse a global movement for inclusive business and aims to ignite, amplify & mobilise inclusive Business Leadership to build universally inclusive cultures.



**VERENA  
PAUSDER**

**Founder and CEO of  
Fox&Sheep**

Verena is a member of the Ashoka Support Network and a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum. She has won the "CEO of the future" competition and was named as one of the 50 most inspiring women in European technology in 2017.

Verena founded her first company at the age of 19. Today, Fox & Sheep is one of the most successful German digital publishers world-wide with 20 million downloads in more than 100 countries. The company develops apps for children in collaboration with authors and illustrators. In 2016 she started setting up digital labs with Fox & Sheep across Germany, teaching kids coding and robotics.



**NATASHA  
WALKER**

## Moderator

Natasha Walker is a communication consultant and has been living in and working from Heidelberg, Germany, for 23 years, where she is married and has two children.

An avid reader and musician, Natasha has recently picked up her pen to rediscover poetry.

After her degree in English Literature and Modern Languages at Oxford University, Natasha discovered her knack for facilitating complex change and strategy projects for corporations, governments and civil society. She is also specialised in supporting teams going global. Her work makes decisions more effective and changes the way people work together.



**RAINER  
HÖLL**

## Ashoka Germany

Rainer Höll builds bridges between foundations, decision-makers, welfare organizations and social entrepreneurs for Ashoka since 2010.

He is responsible for the Fellow selection in the 16 European country offices, as well as for HELLO EUROPE, Ashoka's European initiative for migration and integration. Before Ashoka he founded educational initiatives and worked as a project manager in foundations. He studied Philosophy and German Literature in Tübingen, Berlin and London and holds an MBA from the Harvard University.

# SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS



**DAGMAR  
KOTZMUTH**

## dahir

AUSTRIA  
[www.dahir.eu](http://www.dahir.eu)

As the traditional approach of affordable housing reaches its limits, Dagmar goes beyond affordable housing: she is building a new market for housing centered on community and trust, that makes normal private-market properties accessible to previously underserved communities. Property owners tend to lack the tools and methods needed, in order to rise to complex challenges, such as tenants failing to pay rent or clashes between different cultures within the properties they manage/own. On the other hand, disadvantaged groups, such as refugees, suffer from a lack of access to housing opportunities. Dagmar's vision is to bridge the divide that exists between property owners/managers and disadvantaged communities. Her approach is to change the mindset, behavior and practices of property ma-

nagers and property owners, while making disadvantaged tenants co-creators of their living spaces. With this she is creating a holistic valuation of property, combining financial and relational aspects. Dagmar's "dahir" is the only holistic approach to managing and evaluating properties, all tools so far focusing either only on the financial or only on the social aspect of living. Dagmar's current impact is impressive, as she works with ERSTE Social Banking in managing properties valued at 70 Million € in total. "dahir" could be a valuable tool in all geographies where there is an intersection between a vacancy problem experienced by owners and a housing problem experienced by prospective disadvantaged tenants.



**MATTHIEU LE GRELLE &  
FRÉDÉRIC SIMONART**

## DUO for a JOB

BELGIUM  
[www.duoforajob.be](http://www.duoforajob.be)

Matthieu and Frédéric founded DUO for a JOB to erase disparities in employment for young non-European, migrant and refugee populations by tapping into the underused resources Belgian professionals and retirees over.

Through a highly structured methodology, aimed at professionalising the volunteering experiences of retired and active Belgian professionals over the age of 50, Matthieu and Frédéric are positioning them as mentors and advocates for young refugee, migrant and non-European job seekers. In doing so, Matthieu and Frédéric are offering a new approach to active ageing, opening-up the labour market to young migrants

and refugees and bringing together two growing and highly divided populations. With a wide range of institutional and private partners, a strong public presence and impressive track record, Matthieu and Frédéric are raising awareness on many of the barriers refugees face and showing that intergenerational and intercultural links can create more productive societies.



## RADEK HÁBL

### Agency for Social Inclusion

CZECH REPUBLIC

9.7% of Czech citizens and their relatives are deeply affected by personal debt. By and large, this is a new phenomenon highly prevalent in former communist countries, which society and authorities are failing to deal with. It leads to a chronic social exclusion of individuals and families and negatively impacts the basic needs of children.

Radek has started to radically change the way politicians and journalists think and talk about people in debt executions. He proved it is not a problem of individuals, but a system phenomenon. His interactive map of debt executions is an innovative tool which allows the problem to be quantified for the first time,

and also to create red alerts regarding affected regions and even neighbourhoods. Radek interprets these data and provides comparative studies of personal debt relief systems across European countries. As a result, media completely changed their coverage on this topic and acted as a vector to promote major legislative changes that brought relief to people with excessive debt. The tool is also used by policy-makers, namely the Czech Government Agency for Social Inclusion, where it raised the motivation of affected municipalities to address the issue.



## NOLWENN FÉBVRE

### Les P'tits Doudous

FRANCE

[www.lesptitsdoudous.org](http://www.lesptitsdoudous.org)

French hospitals are under budget pressure and heavy hierarchical processes. Turnover and staff burnout levels are high. Health professionals work in silos and struggle to bring decent care to patients. To address this issue, Nolwenn is creating changemaking opportunities for all health professionals, within their career path. She gives healthcare professional opportunities to engage in double-impact projects that improve patient's care, while being more cost-effective for the system.

Nolwenn designed and packaged a tailored set of accessible tools and processes to support any health professional to form a team, mobilize new financial

resources through recycling biomedical waste, and to take action. As a nurse anesthetist, she started with tools to reduce children anxiety and medication before surgery. She is now working on adapting her methodology to new targets and hospital services. Today, thanks to the first solutions developed in 40 health centres across France, Nolwenn is impacting 50,000 children and their families each year. At the same time, she is improving work conditions for health professionals, saves costs for the hospitals and indirectly improves the environment.





**NICOLAS  
HUCHET**

## My Human Kit

FRANCE

[www.myhumankit.org](http://www.myhumankit.org)

Living with a disability is seen as a limitation. Yet, people living with disabilities are experts of their own needs and leaders in designing technical solutions, once put in the right spot and surrounded by the right resources. With My Human Kit, Nicolas uses this mechanism to change mindsets about disabilities, by facilitating collective thinking around this issue. To foster more understanding and social inclusion, he has built a network of engaged and empathetic citizens working to build a more inclusive society for individuals living with physical and psycho-social disabilities. Together they produce physical solutions such as prosthetic and robotic limbs, through opportunities driven by the individuals

most affected. Nicolas is also spreading access to health solutions that are highly tailored and would be inaccessible otherwise, providing to anyone, anywhere in the world, the experience of bringing together disabilities and technology. Between 2013 and 2016, Nicolas demonstrated the feasibility of an open-source bionic prosthetic hand based on fablabs and collective intelligence which is replicable for less than \$1,000. Within 2 years, his idea has gained traction and has been replicated in several countries.



**MÉLANIE  
MARCEL**

## So Science

FRANCE

[www.soscience.org](http://www.soscience.org)

While there is a growing understanding of science's potential as a contributor to solving the most pressing social challenges, numerous barriers still prevent scientific research to be deliberately and efficiently leveraged towards solutions.

Public and private organizations that perform scientific research lack knowledge, incentives and tools to integrate social impact as an explicit goal of their research planning process. To sustainably remove these barriers, Mélanie is building the missing framework. She designs standards that make impact-driven research a recognized, easily accessible and attractive field, while empowering research actors to make

this shift. To do all this, she first targets the organizations performing research, so that they shift their existing research capacities towards impact-driven research projects. Providing them with the necessary knowledge and tools, she works to introduce social impact not as a mere byproduct of the research, but as an integral criterion in the research planning process. Through collaborative events, and training programs for future research scientists, she acts as a catalyst for research collaborations. The conditions to sustainably overcome existing siloes between the research and social entrepreneurship spheres are thus put in place in a model needed across the world.





**NICOLAS  
DÉTRIE**

## Yes We Camp

FRANCE

[www.yeswecamp.org](http://www.yeswecamp.org)

Nicolas Detrie is convinced that cities need a new type of public spaces specifically designed to trigger individual and collective fulfilling initiatives that serve the common good - what he calls "collective capacity". In other words, this is an "enabling public space" where every citizen can feel he/she has the power, the right and the legitimacy to contribute, to experiment and even to fail, while connecting with people from diverse backgrounds. Nicolas has experimented and documented a unique process that makes a public space truly "enabling" for all. Some characteristics of such a space include: an open and interactive conception process, a limited duration of usually a few years, and structural

social diversity. The space is conceived to structurally ensure the presence of less privileged or mobile social groups. He has demonstrated the power of his methodology through projects in big French cities, such as "Les Grands Voisins" in Paris: a cooperative village of 34,000 square meters attracting more than 1,000 citizens a day and is now ready and legitimate to influence a broader audience. Nicolas is working strategically with public authorities managing urban planning of big cities to support them in the conception and implementation of this new type of public space, and with the French Red Cross to rethink social integration processes.



**ÉMILIE  
SCHMITT**

## Activ'Action

FRANCE

[www.activaction.org](http://www.activaction.org)

Unemployment consists of an escalating spiral of loss of confidence and self-esteem, as well as loneliness. Émilie focuses on tackling the roots of the psychological implications of unemployment by opening up free and accessible spaces of personal development for unemployed people across territories through Activ'Action. Émilie envisions a society in which unemployment periods are perceived and lived as opportunities to develop one's full potential and works at making lifelong learning a reality for the unemployed. Activ'Action fosters the creation of local and solidarity-based grassroots communities of "Activ'Actors": unemployed people who gather in fun peer-led personal development workshops specifically designed to help them prevent or overcome negative feelings related to unemployment, di-

scover and focus on their strengths, and thus increase their self-confidence and self-esteem. Within 3 years, local groups of Activ'Actors have emerged in 20 cities across 6 different countries, reaching out to 7,000+ unemployed people. Activ'Action's methodologies are also gaining traction among the traditional players of social action supporting the unemployed who have currently very few means and tools dedicated to building soft skills. Émilie also strategically adapts Activ'action methodologies to support key actors of the employment ecosystem in integrating well-being, optimism, consideration and empathy into their daily practices and attitudes toward the people they support or employ.



**SONIA  
BEN ALI**

## Urban Refugees

FRANCE

[www.urban-refugees.org](http://www.urban-refugees.org)

60% of the global refugee population resides in cities, in precarious conditions, and beyond the reach of most humanitarian aid. Sonia works with refugees at the center of solutions, to ensure they have the means to thrive.

Urban Refugees supports them by collaborating with refugee leaders across the globe through intensive, in-person training programs, enabling them to more effectively serve their communities. They carefully document the best solutions to the challenges refugees face in cities and share them with their network of NGOs, sparking a chain of effective programs around the world. Through Sonia's work refugees voices are ampli-

fied, enabling them to shape the policies that affect their lives, and advocating for increased international commitment to solving urban refugee challenges. Urban Refugees has impacted the lives of 3,700 refugees offering them better access to education and livelihood opportunities, it has partners NGOs in 40 countries implementing solutions, 490 refugee children benefit from mathematics, english, art and sports classes, 700 women can now support their families and 650 refugees have access to critical health-care and safety information.



**JANA TEPE &  
ANNA KAISER**



While the world has moved from an industrial to a service and then to a knowledge economy, working conditions have not evolved similarly. Jana and Anna are shifting the practices of a work environment which still seems to belong to the industrial age. They are supporting companies to live up to modern working requirements through practical and adaptable solutions, advice and ongoing companionship through this transformation process.

On the one hand, Tandemploy offers the world's first job-sharing platform, where people find the perfect tandem partner to share a job with – and meet companies open towards job-sharing. On the other

hand, Anna, Jana and their team develop innovative software to make companies more flexible and agile – from within. In order to break down (knowledge-) silos and help organisations to transform hierarchies into networks, the software uses the most powerful resource companies have: their own employees. With a consequent bottom-up approach, Tandemploy creates a safe environment for these employees. Here, they can actively shape the future of their work. Tandemploy believes in a world in which people achieve more with less – but cleverer – work, and as a result we can have a happier and more balanced society overall.

## Tandemploy

GERMANY

[www.tandemploy.com](http://www.tandemploy.com)



**ANDREAS  
EKE**

## Futuro Forestal Impact Forestry

GERMANY

While tropical deforestation is a widely known and complex ecological and social challenge, existing concepts fail to turn the wheel. This is also true because natural tropical forests are not widely acknowledged to be a source of value creation but are often seen as a hurdle to it. Also, the sustainable management of natural systems is widely detached from global market structures, which leads to a lack of investment and incentives for action. Based on this insight, Andreas uses his experience in the field to pull levers on two levels. Firstly, he is introducing a new land usage concept for degraded tropical soil – the Generation Forest. The project merges economic advantages of plantations with the social and environmental impact advantages of natural forests and the result is pioneering the tropical reforestation concept. Secondly, he works on a cultural change within investor groups, who

traditionally tend to invest in profitable yet unsustainable projects. By actually providing investment solutions, he can deliver a proof of concept for different investment strategies, which can then be the basis for a larger investment movement. In parallel he is working with land owners and multipliers to change their approach to land usage. Additionally, Andreas brings the importance of tropical forest to peoples' attention through the cooperative "Waldmenschen" ("humans of the woods") and through targeted work with companies. His vision: to create a new "forest culture" seeing it not as an obstacle to development but as an enabler. Futuro Forestal hopes that in year 2100 most deforested tropical soils carry an everlasting, biodiverse and economically viable tropical forest again, enabling people from around the world to compensate their ecological footprint and invest in a sustainable way.



**ESZTER  
HARSÁNYI**

## MagikMe

HUNGARY  
[www.magikme.net](http://www.magikme.net)

In Europe there are 4 million disabled children that are normally left out at the playgrounds due to the lack of appropriate toys for them. Even though some play areas are wheelchair accessible, they don't have toys for these kids that are not strong enough to sit on or hold on to. Eszter wants to integrate those children and their families, breaking their isolation and changing the image that society has of them. MagikMe works in three areas: 1. Playground toys: designing and placing suitable equipment on playgrounds that are also usable for young disabled children; 2. Awareness-raising and education: conducting educational sessions in schools and conducting media campaigns; 3. Poli-

cy-work: working with decision-makers on policy recommendations that would require all Hungarian playgrounds to be accessible. What makes her work unique from other disability organizations, is the way in which she combines products with education and advocacy to achieve the integration of her target group. Eszter is already working with 50 Hungarian communities that have purchased and installed her playground equipment, directly serving 50,000 families. Her school sessions were piloted with 300 children. She is ready to roll out this model on a larger scale to other European countries that also lack appropriate playgrounds for disabled children.



**FEDERICO  
GARCEA**

## Treedom

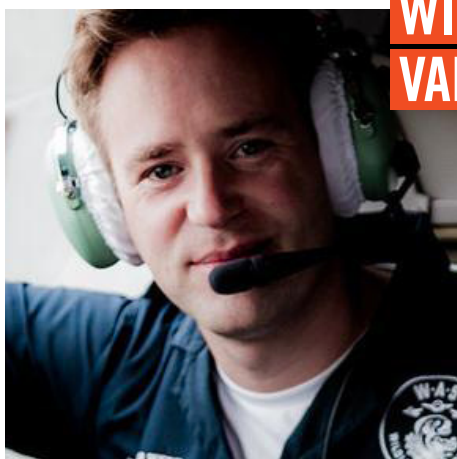
ITALY

[www.treedom.net](http://www.treedom.net)

Using digital technology, Federico has created an alliance between farmers and their virtual supporters to tackle deforestation and pollution.

Treedom is an online platform that allows people and companies to plant trees online and offset CO2 emissions by directly financing small farmers. In turn, farmers start new agricultural enterprises, thus filling the time gap between planting a seed and growing a tree. Treedom combines an environmental and a social mission. That is why the reforestation activities take place in rural communities of Southern World countries and in Italy. By engaging the entire local community, the projects lead to the

achievement of extraordinary results in terms of empowerment of the community itself. Federico began his project in 2010 in Cameroon and he is now replicating it in 10 countries. To date, 400.000 trees have been planted, 23.975 farmers involved, 99.900 people and 450 companies have engaged online.



**WIETSE  
VAN DER WERF**

## Sea Rangers Service

NETHERLANDS

[www.searangers.org](http://www.searangers.org)

What if complex global problems can be targeted in a way in which they become each other's solutions? Wietse developed an initiative that tackles youth unemployment, re-integrates veterans, and protects and regenerates marine landscape, all at the same time.

Sea Ranger Service is the World's first global maritime ranger service. Its focus is on combining the underused human resources of youth, (including long-term unemployed) and retired Navy veterans (who train the youths) to assist nations in the management of their Marine Protected Areas. In this way the initiative Sea Ranger Service has been contracted by the local Dutch Government to fo-

cus on Rotterdam, a city with one of the largest young, uneducated, ethnically diverse populations in the Netherlands. They already have over 40 partners in the programme and the ambition is that Sea Ranger Service will be delivered globally, as the interest in active citizenship continues to spread. At the end of last year Wietse delivered a keynote speech at the European Commission's Our Ocean conference and consequently travelled to the home of the UK Prime Minister and held discussions with 10 other countries interested in introducing the Ranger Service to their seas.





**VERNON  
RINGLAND**

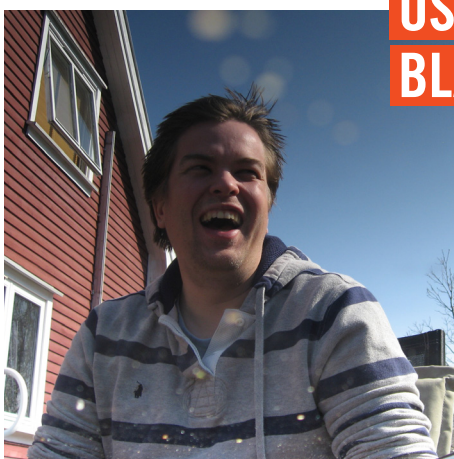
## Youth Bank International

NORTHERN IRELAND  
[www.youthbankinternational.org](http://www.youthbankinternational.org)

Vernon founded Youth Bank International (YBI) to transform relationships within and between communities by putting young people in charge of grant-making organisations.

Youth Banks (YB) are youth-led grant-making groups or programmes within a host organization, that channel money into projects that improve the quality of life of local communities. As opposed to conventional philanthropy or youth development initiatives where young people are the recipients or 'beneficiaries', YBs are entirely run by young people (15 to 24 years of age) who lead the entire grantmaking process from fundraising, to grant distribution, to

follow up. Vernon has scaled the Youth Bank model into over 25 countries. Last year, thousands of young people acted as grantmakers and led 164 YouthBanks in distributing funds to over 1,200 projects. In 2017, YBI worked with 26 host organisations across four continents from Armenia, to Egypt, Mozambique, Turkey and the US. Looking forward, Vernon intends to strategically target grantmaking institutions to mainstream participatory youth grantmaking models globally. He has already demonstrated globally that young people can create positive social change when given the responsibility and means to do so.



**OSKAR  
BLAKSTAD**

## Assisted Self-Help/ Explorable AS

NORWAY  
[www.assistedselfhelp.com](http://www.assistedselfhelp.com)

As a psychologist working within the Norwegian public healthcare system, Oskar saw the constrained resources of the mental health workers and limited capacity for a more effective diagnostic and treatment process. By integrating web-based Assisted Self-Help (ASH) tools into the public healthcare system, Oskar responds to structural problems such as high thresholds to meet a mental health expert, long waiting times and stigma in society to seek mental help. He does this by providing access to web-based treatments for some of the most common mental health problems in Norway, such as depression, anxiety and sleeping disorders – increasing the quality of life for thousands of patients who otherwise would not get any help. Oskar's larger vision is to create a library of mental health treatments based on

creative commons principles, globally allowing experts to contribute content for web-based interventions with their knowledge and areas of expertise. To achieve this vision, in addition to ASH, Oskar developed an author tool where he enables mental health experts to create their own treatments by learning from and building on each other's practices. To date certain modules of the treatments for depression and other disorders have been modified to reach those suffering from non-cardiac chest pain syndrome related to panic-attacks and addictions such as gambling. Current interventions from the library have helped over 7,000 individuals across Norway and more treatments (e.g. substance abuse among teenagers, obesity) are under development.



**MACIEJ  
PODYMA**

## The Meadow Foundation

POLAND  
[www.laka.org.pl](http://www.laka.org.pl)

Along with increasing urbanization, biodiversity has become scarcer and the devastation of natural resources is progressing. The green areas of cities are dominated by evenly mowed/trimmed and regularly watered lawns, which are a monoculture.

By bringing conversations about biodiversity back to the cities, Maciej is bridging rural and urban cultures and is empowering inhabitants of cities to have an active role in addressing this challenge. He envisions urban green areas as biodiverse zones where pollinators and other animals can feed and shelter, water is restored and air pollution is neutralized. In order to boost biodiversity, mono-

culture lawns need to be replaced with a solution that nature has created itself: the beautiful and biodiverse flower meadow. Maciej gives the wider public an opportunity of sowing meadows instead of lawns as a part of the urban greenery, on the side of roads, at embankments, on rooftops and in backyard gardens. In cooperation with the University of Life and Science and The Botanic Garden in Warsaw, his team runs several research studies on various effects of creation of the flower meadows. They have already trained 5000 persons on the role of flower meadows in the ecosystem, changed the local legislation in 8 counties and planted 85 flower meadows in 8 cities.



**JAN JAKUB  
(KUBA) WYGNANSKI**

## Stocznia/The Unit for Social innovation and Research "Shipyard"

POLAND

The concept of civil society is key for democracy and lies at the basis of freedom of speech and freedom of gatherings as essential pillars of any democratic society. In the times when the concept of civil society in Poland could be perceived as an obsolete utopia, Kuba started developing several safety mechanisms that could safeguard Polish democracy.

He started his work in the 80's during a historic period of regime change in Poland. Since then, Kuba has built more resilient social capital among civil society activists and leaders. He supported not only the creation of several legislative acts that define the framework of social entrepreneurship and civic organizati-

ons but has also helped create the Forum of Polish CSOs, the biggest medium and information center used by CSOs in the region, a civil society research center, a physical meeting and co-working space for CSOs, business and social innovators and a unit specializing in research and incubation of social innovations. His work has been scaled to many other European countries and has helped to continuously redesign and reconstruct the idea of what civil society is.





**ANTÓNIO  
BELLO**

## Just a Change

PORTUGAL  
[www.justachange.pt](http://www.justachange.pt)

António is fighting housing poverty, which is an invisible problem affecting at least 4,8% of Portuguese people, who live in degraded conditions, often not having access to insulated roofs, sanitized water systems or even a hot shower. This problem is widely ignored and the government is only able to provide social housing to a small portion of people who live in extremely dangerous or illegal situations. With Just a Change (JAC), António is leading a joint effort from the public, citizen and private sectors to efficiently identify housing poverty cases at an early stage and help those affected to rehabilitate their homes and lives. He is working towards supporting municipalities to offer an empowering alternative

for “assistance-based” social housing. An end to housing poverty might come once the topic makes its way onto the agenda of municipalities/universities/companies and all these actors work in local collaborative ecosystems. Towards this end, António has partnered with Microsoft, which serves as the basis for local actors to signal and map potential housing poverty situations. Up to date, JAC has rehabilitated more than 100 houses, engaged more than 3,000 volunteers and worked closely with 5 municipalities to transform their answers to housing poverty.



**ALEXANDRA  
MACHADO**

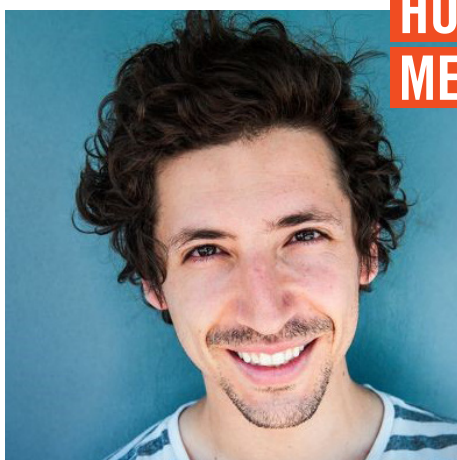
## Girls Move

PORTUGAL  
[www.girlmove.org](http://www.girlmove.org)

In Mozambique 48,6% of women marry before turning 18 and have children before reaching adulthood. 70% of them will become single mothers. The culture and (male) leadership of the country sustains this situation.

Alexandra is devoting her efforts to ensure the end of child marriage and pregnancy in the world's developing countries. She seeks to give every woman the power and choice to pursue her studies and have a job. Girls Move offers an integrated approach where girls and women from different socio-economic backgrounds empower each other, around an innovative multi-layer mentorship program centered on empathy,

inspiration and knowledge/resource sharing. This cascade model starts with socially-driven business leaders who provide mentorship to young graduates (Girl MOVERS) that, in turn, spend 35% of their training as mentors to young 7th grade girls (Mwarusi). The process helps girls keep focus on their future, while the families and surrounding community appreciate the new perspective for girls' better future. By preventing a vicious circle from unfolding through a multiplier effect, Girl Movers have a profound community impact. In the future over 900 families will have more empowered mothers, defending and inspiring their daughters to have a meaningful career and life.



## HUGO MENINO AGUIAR

### Speak

PORTUGAL  
[www.speak.social](http://www.speak.social)

All across the globe there's an increasing social exclusion of migrants and refugees, who often suffer from deeply rooted stigma based on cultural differences and ignorance. Integration solutions are often assistance-based, treating newcomers as disempowered receivers.

Hugo is dedicated to destroying cultural walls using empathy as his bulldozer. He is taking language learning as the perfect excuse to foster the organic emergence and proliferation of communities which integrate, value and promote cultural diversity. SPEAK gives newcomers an opportunity to feel integrated, make new friends, share with the group their world experiences and in parallel teach/learn

a new language. SPEAK breaks barriers, promotes multilingualism and equality by democratizing language learning. Hugo and his team have been expanding this model to different European cities where the social problem is especially relevant, such as Torino, Madrid or Berlin. SPEAK's community has close to 14.000 members. Up to date, 5.700 people have participated in SPEAK events and over 6000 people have attended language sharing groups. Half of them have been foreigners.



## DORICA DAN

### NoRo Center/ Romanian National Alliance for Rare Diseases

ROMANIA  
[www.apwromania.ro](http://www.apwromania.ro)

There are over 1 million of the Romanians suffering from rare diseases, of which only approximately 7000 are actually diagnosed. Dorica identified the need for a central point of contact for these patients, which implies daily collaboration with experts in the country and abroad. Dorica's vision is a world in which all rare diseases patients have equal and free access to timely diagnostic information and are provided a tailored set of integrated services and therapies. These can ensure a good quality of life and society and labour market integration for the patients. Through the "trust of trust" framework she builds an ecosystem linking all involved stakeholders to empower patients, share information and ensure continuity of care. In 2011 Dorica developed NoRO,

an integrated reference center for rare diseases, a unique one-stop-shop run by a patient organisation offering holistic and cross-sectorial care to approximately 10% of the diagnosed patients in Romania. She also created a Rare Disease Helpline through which she counselled over 26% of the diagnosed patients. Recently she convinced the government to establish an accreditation system for other centers and created a network for people with rare diseases which became an inspiration across Europe. Together with some European partners, Dorica is piloting a new approach of case management for social workers in the field of rare diseases.



**FLORIN  
STOICAN**

## Asociatia Kogayon

ROMANIA  
www.kogayon.ro

Despite the international recognition of Romania's unique natural capital of virgin forests and faunistic diversity, proportionally there are 1/3 less natural protected areas in Romania compared to its neighboring countries. Even worse, 60% of all natural protected areas have no official administration, leading to illegal exploitation and uncontrolled tourism. Florin decided that nature is not a chore for the state, but the responsibility of all of us, and has established the first National and Natural Parks in Romania at the initiative of a private citizen group – Buila Vânturari a and Văcărești Parks. To generate systemic change he knows that in addition to creating exemplary models of parks administration, he needs to catalyse the development of infrastructure, new standards and a new mindset regarding conservation. Florin is creating a National Embassy for Protected Areas and additional col-

laborative spaces that bring together various actors with the purpose of aligning their concerns and of learning from each other. Capitalizing on the strategic position of the Văcărești Natural Park which is situated in the capital city of Bucharest, Florin is building best practice examples that can influence policy change and a new way of managing protected areas. So far, Florin has engaged over 1000 volunteers in his activities and showed that conservation does not need to represent a restriction, but also an opportunity to promote economic and social development: in the area of Buila Vânturari a National Park he helped the community develop an eco-tourism offer that with an investment of 300.000 EUR generated an added value of 30 million EUR and increased the number of tourists from 200 to 25.000 per year in just a few years, while also saving 300ha of forest from exploitation.



**PAUL  
RADU**

## The Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP)/Rise Project

ROMANIA  
www.occrp.org

Illicit global money flows exceed 1.2 trillion USD making corruption an issue that affects all societies to different degrees. A global pioneer in investigative journalism, Paul has travelled around the world to track and report on corruption and organised crime and to train a decentralized global network of investigators to follow suit. OCCRP gathers over 40 organizations under one vision: creatively organized good people can outsmart and deter global criminals, by increasing the cost of corruption through public exposure, years before there is even a preliminary legal ruling against the criminal. To date, OCCRP's reports led to US\$ 5.735 billion in assets frozen or seized by governments, 147 arrest warrants issued with 7 subjects on

the run, 20 major sackings, including a President, a Prime Minister and CEOs of major international corporations, over 1,400 company closures, indictments and court decisions. With an annual budget of 4,5 million EUR, OCCRP has returned more than 59,700 percent to governments through seizures and fines, an almost unheard of success. Paul is now working to develop an Open Global Intelligence Agency, providing free access to data and to the network to data scientists, programmers, hackers, journalists, breeding a new generation of investigative journalists and continuing to tell the stories. He believes that as long as citizens are aware and involved, crime ceases to happen.



**ORIO  
VILALTA**

## Fundación Pau Costa

SPAIN

[www.paucostafoundation.org](http://www.paucostafoundation.org)

Wildfires are globally becoming an increasing threat to ecosystems and human life. Despite this, there is no common approach or knowledge-sharing for their prevention or management across countries. Oriol is changing the paradigm from a “fire extinction focus” to a “fire ecology approach”. He brings together researchers, firefighters and the general public to work together to design new solutions on forest management, fire ecology and fire extinction.

FPC aims at fighting forest wildfires through fire prevention and extinction based in knowledge sharing among firefighters and all stakeholders involved. As a result of this inclusive communica-

tion, public opinion has been influenced and entities have created common policies that are more efficient and easier to implement. The Foundation has facilitated meetings with key politicians on a regional, national and European level over the past three years. Currently, there are over 500 signees. As an example, Greenpeace and WWF, who used to campaign for more resources for the extinction of fires, now demand for prevention and management.



**HELENA  
PUIG**

## Build Up

SPAIN

[www.howtobuildup.org](http://www.howtobuildup.org)

Build Up is a social enterprise dedicated to supporting the emergence of alternative infrastructures for civic engagement and peacebuilding. Helena works with local peace activists from Myanmar to Syria to the USA to design and roll out scalable peace interventions that connect local voices to decision-making processes and to the creation of public discourse.

She is building an effective global movement of citizen participation in peace processes, making them more expansive, representative and prevalent. With Build Up Helena is giving a voice to people who are generally excluded from peace processes, engaging them in each step of the debates, consultations and construction of peace policies. This citizen participation both increases trust

between citizens and authorities and empowers citizens to take greater ownership for peace in their own context. Besides BuildUp, Helena has created Build Peace, a community that brings together practitioners, activists and technologists from around the world to share experience and ideas on using technology for peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Since 2014 Build Peace is also an annual, international conference.





**EBBA  
AKERMAN**

## Invitationsdepartementet (United Invitations)

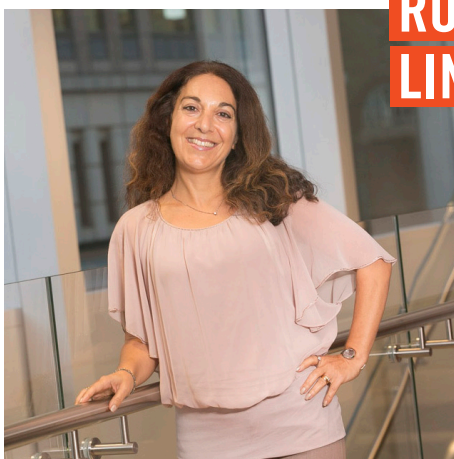
SWEDEN

[www.invitationsdepartementet.se](http://www.invitationsdepartementet.se)

With the vision of inspiring a welcoming society to address the growing segregation and exclusion in Sweden, Ebba mobilizes communities to take an active role in creating this welcoming social infrastructure by bringing newcomers and established residents together over home-cooked dinners, with trust-building and empathy as direct outputs. Invitationsdepartementet brings two social groups together – regardless of one's family status, age, education or socio-economic background, who otherwise are not likely to meet. These dinner settings largely help in building relationships between newcomers who face exclusion and marginalization, and established residents, as it offers a natural environment to share stories, experiences, knowledge and interests with each other. By inviting newcomers

in the ongoing public conversation on migration, Ebba and Invitationsdepartementet enable established residents to see their role to create a welcoming society and ultimately seek to influence experience-based active commitment from communities in larger scale.

Supplementing the existing bureaucratic and often inhospitable steps of the Swedish immigration process, Ebba lays the foundations of a welcoming social infrastructure. In only four years, Invitationsdepartementet has spread to over 30 cities across Sweden, almost doubling the number of dinner participants and ambassadors throughout the country while being replicated by local initiatives in 8 countries across Europe and in USA.



**ROSIE  
LINDER**

## Peppy Pals/EQidz

SWEDEN

[www.peppypals.com](http://www.peppypals.com)

Development of social emotional skills often remains as a neglected area as majority of parents and teachers do not have the knowledge or the tools to explain abstract concepts such as empathy to children. Through providing concrete social emotional learning tools, Rosie and Peppy Pals actively involve parents and educators into children's emotional intelligence training. Targeting all children between the age of 2-9 regardless of their abilities, but primarily focusing on children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, Rosie seeks to inspire the next generation who can easily manage social situations by using skills like empathy and teamwork. Rosie and her team applied pedagogical methodologies to technology and developed web-based social emotional learning tools. Peppy Pals' web-based platform

includes real real-life scenarios based on personal stories from the users and allows educators and parents to work together with children to improve their social and emotional skills. Rosie incorporates her solution into the education system and extends through Peppy Pals social emotional learning around the clock by tying school curriculum with informal learning. Peppy Pals improves problem-solving and emotional recognition skills across cultures and age groups, as Rosie deliberately removed all text from the learning materials. Since their launch in 2014, Peppy Pals has been downloaded in over 150 countries and reached to approximately 500,000 children. It is estimated that 25% of these downloads have been done directly by education professionals.



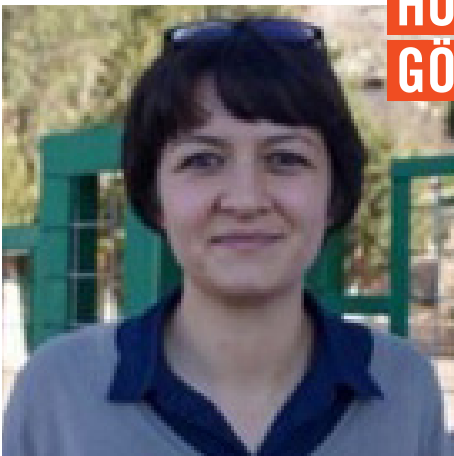
## MESUT KESKIN

### E-BURSUM

TURKEY  
[www.e-bursum.com](http://www.e-bursum.com)

E-Bursum is an online platform connecting students to available scholarships in Turkey. It aims to create a fast, reliable and fair system in which the entirety of scholarship processing is gathered under one roof, aiming to reduce the inequality of opportunity in education and bring together students and funders using technology. Mesut is re-inventing a previously dysfunctional scholarship system as an empowerment tool, fundamentally changing the ways scholarship givers and recipients interact to create systems level change and equal opportunity in Turkey's education system. Thanks to its database that is synchronized with the online citizen database of the state, E-Bursum mini-

mizes significant financial, human and administrative resources for all parties involved. In addition to the systematized scholarship system, E-Bursum aims to maximize the impact of scholarships through basic financial literacy training for scholars, social impact measurement and online mentoring. To this date, it has reached 150,000 students, to whom it distributed 4,000 scholarships amounting to 3 million USD. Moving to the next step, the team is working on another online platform that will enable students to fundraise for personal development needs, education abroad or to start their own businesses.



## HURIYE GÖNCÜOĞLU

TURKEY  
[www.fisherwomentr.com](http://www.fisherwomentr.com)

The aquaculture industry in Turkey is dominated by men, and known to be an overwhelmingly unjust and sexist workspace for women. Huriye is working to negate these issues, identifying fisherwomen as critical agents of change able to empower impoverished small fisherfolk communities, improve their families' conditions, provide new livelihoods for fishing communities and protect coastal ecosystems surrounding them. She has led a group of experts, women's rights leaders and fisherwomen to build a hub of female-led fishery communities across Turkey. Together they act against gender biases in rural communities and work towards shifting industry norms towards greater sustainability by pro-

tecting coastal ecosystem surrounding these communities. Pro-actively discovered and trained by Huriye and her team, fisherwomen in Turkey are now building coalitions of occupational solidarity for women to strive as change-makers in their own local networks. The Mediterranean Conservation Society has also started working within the public and private sectors with institutions such as the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture to identify all groups of fisherwomen and establish a center that provides specialized support for them.





**MINE  
EKİNÇİ**

## KODA - Rural Schools Transformation Network

TURKEY  
[www.kodegisim.org](http://www.kodegisim.org)

Village schools in Turkey have long been neglected and often considered disadvantaged education ecosystems. Mine is reinventing village schools in rural Turkey by focusing on their strengths for a changemaker education and student empowerment, rather than their traditional disadvantages such as a lack of physical resources. She actively builds a community of teachers, students, academics, and decision makers to enhance the already existing best-practices of village teachers and schools to change Turkey's perceptions about what "a good education" really is. Koda's team empowers children to reach their potential as future leaders, no matter where they are living. They also support

rural teachers in villages by providing a community of peers and easy-to-access tools and trainings. In doing this, they are empowering teachers to be self-sufficient professionals who can provide the necessary mentorship and support for their students, and to build communities able to solve social problems. So far, the team has worked in more than 15 villages across Turkey. Their future plans include sharing their tools and best-practices in an open source format for all teachers from both rural and urban parts of the country to utilize. From hands-on field work to advocacy, KODA stands as a holistic platform to bring innovative solutions to the Turkish education system.



**HASAN  
ZAFER ELÇİK**

## OTSIMO

TURKEY  
[www.otsimo.com](http://www.otsimo.com)

Zafer and Otsimo are a powerhouse creating innovative, affordable and impactful digital educational materials for families and children with autism in their early education period - a time that is key for learning integration skills and self-sufficiency. A game application for children, the Otsimo app enables children to spend time on numeric and alphabetic practices without getting distracted over time. Children using the application have shown considerable improvement in attention span and their ability to communicate. Otsimo has become the knowledge center for autism for 20,000 families across the country, as well as a technology partner for Turkey's more classic NGOs providing services to those with autism. Zafer is quickly becoming a respected opinion leader among NGOs, parents and even the Turkish Ministry of Education, ser-

ving as an advisor on how to use technology to improve the special education curriculum in schools. Following a successful pilot, Zafer is looking to expand Otsimo to other countries with similar gaps in early childhood education for children with autism. Zafer has identified several Spanish speaking countries as future markets and also received an impact investment to launch in the US. He plans to continue innovating the application for children with other learning disabilities, knowing that high quality early childhood education is a challenge for many. Otsimo is also exploring if and how they can move from focusing on self-sufficiency skills to also including improved life skills such as employment readiness for people with a variety of learning disabilities.



**SARAH  
CORBETT**

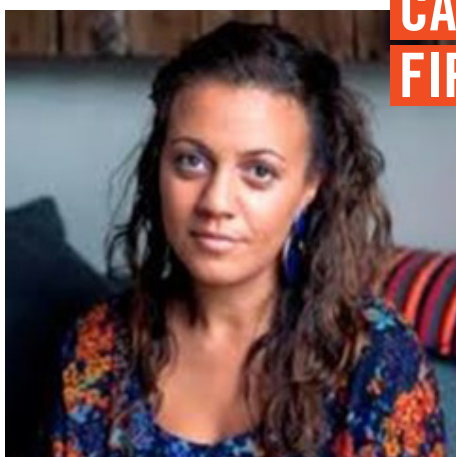
## Craftivist Collective

UNITED KINGDOM  
[www.craftivist-collective.com](http://www.craftivist-collective.com)

When thinking about activism negative connotations might come to mind. Sarah, who has been an activist her whole life, wanted to change this image of activism and founded the Craftivist Collective with the goal to create a kinder, more inclusive and effective form of social action by moving communities away from divisive activism towards more thoughtful changemaking.

She has created a methodology called craftivism (craft+activism), transforming the way people think about, engage with, and most importantly do activism. Through training, engagement, and support, Sarah's approach provides an alternative to existing forms of activism

through a more thoughtful and slower ethos, or what she calls gentle protest. To do this, Sarah strategically identifies key issues and target groups to demonstrate that this methodology works. Craftivist Collective has thousands of members, who Sarah supports by developing tools and projects that they can undertake as individuals or by organising their own small groups. Sarah has delivered many talks, workshops and events to over 12,000 people, and has been transforming the way people think about, engage with, and most importantly do activism.



**CARLENE  
FIRMIN**

## Contextual Safeguarding Network

UNITED KINGDOM  
[www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk)

During adolescence, the risk of abuse often shifts from a familial context to public/school/peer environments and peer influences. Based on this insight, Carlene shapes what she frames as 'contextual safeguarding', shifting the focus in the child protection system from the affected individual towards the conditions of abuse. In order to create a significant change, she is convinced, the focus must lay in changing these environments.

Her goal is to extend the legal child protection framework outside the familial settings. Her approach is the establishment of a network that brings together practitioners, researchers and policy makers who are committed to protec-

ting young people from outside harm. She has launched a network of over 500 practitioners from over 100 local authority areas across the UK, and as a result of her work, Carlene has already changed statutory guidelines with OFSTED (the government regulatory and inspection body for Education and Children's Services).





**ASHOKA**

