



Meet the WCY2014 Social Media Fellows!



Fenton Lutunatabua (27 years) comes from the Fiji Islands. He is currently undergoing a post graduate diploma in Development Studies at the University of the South Pacific and works for 350.org as the Pacific Communications Coordinator. Read his blog that got picked up by the Huffington Post: <http://huff.to/1iFsyIW>.

Twitter: @fentonlutun

Blog: <http://lifebyfentonlutun.wordpress.com>



Megara Tegal is a journalist, photojournalist and activist. Her interests in reporting lie in politics and social issues—particularly issues surrounding women's rights, children's rights, and minority rights. As an activist, she has been part of youth groups and youth movements that have focused on creating awareness, and tackling pressing problems in Sri Lankan society. Campaigns she has been involved in include forum theatre, disruptive theatre, street campaigns, and photography projects to name a few. Online, Megara addresses these issues and more on her blog, Twitter, and other social media platforms as well.

Twitter: @MegTegal

Blog: <http://lifeinlanka.wordpress.com>



Chris Wright is a 24 year old writer, poet, and negotiator tracker. Since 2011, he has been tracking the UN climate negotiations and attended the negotiations in South Africa, Qatar, and Thailand. He also had the chance to track the Rio+20 summit in Brazil and the World Economic Forum in China in 2013. In between negotiating tables, he has also been researching community-based conservation projects in Sabah, Malaysia. He is currently in Australia waiting to begin a PHD in climate adaptation. He is also an active blogger on social and environmental issues.

Blog: <http://whitepageblank.wordpress.com>

Twitter: @chriswright162



Aya Chebbi is a 26 year old is a Tunisian blogger, women's advocate, and peace activist. Following Tunisia's revolution, she has been widely speaking about social movements worldwide for conferences and rallies in the United States, Canada, Poland, Turkey, Kenya and South Africa, among other countries. In 2013, Aya was named one of Africa's 28 most Outstanding Women Leaders by the Moremi Institute. Currently, she is the Africa and Middle East Youth Coordinator at World Peace Foundation, an international organization that promotes peace worldwide, co-founder of the Voice of Women Initiative and Co-chair of the Youth Advisory Group of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation.

Twitter: @aya_chebbi

Blog: <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7ZxJlbuJBcgC24uV3G7XOg/featured>



Abdul Halik Azeez is a journalist, blogger, researcher, business consultant and photographer based in Colombo Sri Lanka. He is passionate about issues such as social justice, equality, hate speech and co-existence and represents Social Media on Sri Lanka's United Nations Youth Advisory Panel. A former journalist for The Sunday Leader, he currently works as a Business Consultant and Economist for Frontier Research, an Investment Advisory firm. Halik is also interested in media research, photography and photojournalism and is an active member of the local Instagram community.

Blog: <http://abdu.lk>

Twitter: @HalikAzeez



Jessica Sanchez (22 years) has been part of several international organizations such as the Rotary Club, PaxRomana's United Nations Advocacy Team and iLive2Lead. While studying International Relations she discovered that her passions were languages, youth issues, women entrepreneurship and social marketing. Jessica has participated in worldwide events such as the World Youth Conference 2010, UN Commissions, the iLive2Lead International Women's Summit and the Women's Forum for Economy and Society. She runs a blog called **Fortuitous**, where she writes about global opportunities and perspectives on youth, women and entrepreneurship.

Twitter: @Fortuitous_Blog

Blog: <http://sagajess.wix.com/fortuitous>



Grace Atuhaire (25 years) works as a Social Media Trainer at Global platform Nairobi with ActionAid International Kenya. She tries hard to be a geek and loves to smile.

Twitter: @graceseb

Blog: <http://graceatuhaire.wordpress.com>



Yudhanjaya Wijeratne is a blogger-turned-Editor of Readme.lk, which chronicles the doings of the Sri Lankan IT industry. Initially a highly technical blogger charting the progress of various personal software projects, he founded Indiegraph, a non-profit network of bloggers and game reviewers dedicated to hunting down and shedding light on brilliant game design and projects by independent game studios. Over time, as part of the ReadMe team, he also began to be noted locally for his chronicles of the IT industry, live blogging and his occasionally flammable rhetoric on cultural, political and religious issues on both his personal blog and in other publications.

Twitter: @yudhanjaya

Blog: <http://icaruswept.com>



Roli Mahajan is currently freelancing as a photographer and journalist. She has been working as a social media champion with the Poorest Area Civil Societies project (PACS) in India. She co-authored and designed a report on youth activities at UNFCCC COP 17 (Durban), worked as a youth journalist with Advocates for Youth, as an editor and later as an Assistant Producer with Dorling Kindersley in India. She has made short video stories for Women Aloud: Videoblogging for Empowerment (WAVE) from Vienna, Jaipur Literature festival and Uttar Pradesh. One of her films "Rowing her way through the river of life" was selected to be showcased at the 4th Samsung Women's International Film Festival, Chennai.

Blog: <http://rolissoliloquy.tumblr.com>

Twitter: @scholarfreak



Irushi Tennekoon is a graduate of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and works as a freelance illustrator and a part time lecturer in English. She is the illustrator of a children's book titled "Pestering Annie" and is currently engaged in a new picture book written and illustrated by her.

Twitter: @irushitennekoon



Pubudu Manoj Nawarathna is currently in his fourth year of a Bachelor of Science special degree in Bioinformatics in University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. He is the senior chief editor of the media team of the Faculty of Science. He is also the vice president of the Botanical Society of Faculty of Science (BOTSOC) and the IT coordinator of the ART Society of Faculty of science. Pubudu is also passionate about swimming and has been awarded university colors for swimming on two occasions by the University of Colombo.

Blog: <http://pubudunawarathna.blogspot.com/>

Twitter: @pubudumanoj



Sally Mouakkad is passionate about issues in sustainable development, and in how science and technology can be used as tools to tackle global development challenges. She's also very enthusiastic about the key role of youth in helping shape their local and global communities. Sally's hands-on international research and travel experiences in the USA, Middle East and South Asia have allowed her to better realize the various complexities that are vital in understanding and addressing global challenges. She is from Los Angeles, California and has a Master of International Affairs from The Pennsylvania State University.

Twitter: @SallyAdelle

Blog: <http://roguescholarsociety.blogspot.com>



SuhardhaPrabash works as a photographer for Xteamyouth.com in Sri Lanka. He has covered more than 250 events around Sri Lanka, and after 3 years of work as a photographer, earned his title as Main Photographer of Xtreamyouth.com. He is currently reading for a degree in Business Management at the National Institute of Business Management.

Twitter: @Hyper_143

Blog: <http://on.fb.me/1koxWAc>



Vera Djemelinskaia is a 24-year old journalist from Moldova. She is a DAAD scholarship holder doing a Master's in European Studies in Germany, and is also an exchange student at the University of Vienna, Austria. She has more than four years of working experience as a journalist and PR manager, focusing on human rights, civil society and international decision-making. She has participated in various diplomatic simulations, with European Model UN and World Model UN. She also worked as a writer and blog editor covering Vienna Model EU and got the 'best journalist' award for her work during the Oxford MUN.

Twitter: @djema_v

Blog: <http://thejournalmeu.wordpress.com>



VivekD'souza is currently pursuing his Undergraduate Studies in Economics, Sociology & Psychology at St. Andrew's College, Mumbai. He has previously been involved in AICUF (All India Catholic University Federation) which aims at sensitizing students about several social issues and injustice done to marginalized sectors of society. Vivek writes articles for AICUF magazine, as well as college magazines. He also likes listening to music, and enjoys dance, drama, technology.

Twitter: @80Vivek08

Blog: <http://vivod008articles.blogspot.in>



Avindi Perera recently graduated with a BSc in International Relations. She completed an internship at UNDP Sri Lanka - which was when she realized her newfound love for Communications and Development. She believes that communication plays a vital part in facilitating positive behavior and giving a 'voice to the voiceless' can contribute to positive social change. She loves to read, loves photography, art, psychology, and travelling. Avindi hopes to pursue a career in development in the future.

Twitter: @avindiپرера



Jama Jack is a Gambian student in her final year of Journalism and Communication in Rabat, Morocco. She is a strong advocate for human rights and social justice, with a specific interest in women's issues. In 2012, Jama was selected as one of the top 25 emerging young women leaders in Africa by the Moremi Initiative for Women's Leadership in Africa. She volunteers with various organizations at both national and international levels. When she is not advocating for her causes through her blog, Linguere and on her other social media platforms, Jama spends her time reading and connecting with loved ones.

Twitter: @myzzdiamant

Blog: <http://linguerebi.wordpress.com>



K D Sameera Pulasthi is a freelance UI Engineer and a desktop publisher in Colombo. He holds a Bsc Degree in Java and Software Engineering from the Institute of Java Technology. Upon graduating, he joined the National Youth Services Council (NYSC).

Twitter: @kdspulasthi

B://log: <http://pdflanka.blogspot.com/>



Dilany Raju is passionate about digital and social media, and exploring the possibilities and benefits of the world of social media. She completed an international Diploma and International Higher Diploma in Business Management and is currently following a B.A (Hons) in Business Management.



Aysha Zahir is a 22 year old mechanical engineer currently studying for a Masters in Policy Studies at the University of London. Her interest in social activism has led her to work in the Howard League for Penal Reform in the UK, and for Robogirls:Bristol, an organization encouraging the participation of girls in science and technology. She loves writing, and her passion lies in issues relating to women, children and poverty alleviation.