

Caribbean Youth Dialogues Key messages

9 May - 11 July 2018

André A. Browne

CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,
Dean CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Corps



“As we work toward the development of our Caribbean and CARICOM region, it is more important now more than ever to involve youth voices and actions in key discussions such as this one. I'm very proud to be a part of this initiative”.

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Asha-Gaye Cowell

President 2017-2018

UWI STAT Vice Chancellor's Ambassadors Corps, Mona Chapter

“There is a great need for youth inclusion in policymaking. The future belongs to the youths, so their voices need to be included in the choices that will affect them and generations to come. I believe that this forum, as well as the various youth dialogues, provide the perfect platform for the achievement of this.”



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Shaquille Knowles

Chairperson
Caribbean Regional Youth Council



“The Caribbean Regional Youth Council applauds the United Nations Economic Commission of Latin America and Caribbean and other organizing partners for their commitment to involve young people in the two important processes in the UNECLAC subregion.

The review of National Youth Policies to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the Caribbean's preparatory meeting for the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The youth dialogue sessions are engaging where it's allowing for young people throughout the Caribbean to exchange realities and goals that should be established in the outcomes of these sessions review.”

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Sheriece Viechweg

President, 2017-2018, UWI STAT Vice Chancellor's Ambassador Corps,
Cave Hill Chapter

“ The future is YOUth.

We are responsible for securing the world we want to live in. Be relentless and challenge status quos. We have everything we need to ensure that we are heard and meaningfully engaged. Get involved.”



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Vishal Hulbert Joseph

CARICOM Youth Ambassador of Guyana

“The fora and dialogues have provided regional youth the opportunity to take part in decision-making and be part of the voice that will make the choices that will influence their lives and those of generations to follow. Countries need to place more emphasis on the importance of this youth voice, for after all, a nation that fails its children today, fails itself tomorrow.”



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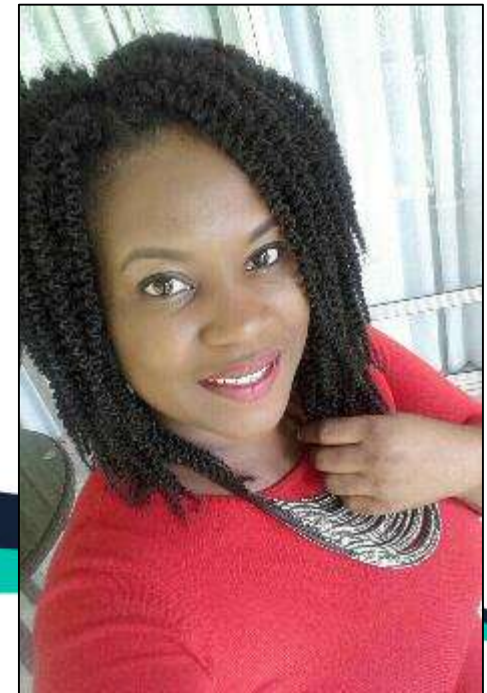


Kimberly Gilbert

Board Member for Training and Development | Caribbean Regional Youth Council
Co-Chair, Youth Advisory Group of Trinidad and Tobago | UNFPA
Executive Secretary | Trinidad Youth Council

“National Youth Policies are an essential component of the development and empowerment of young people. Therefore, it is critical that efficient consultations are done with young people in order to produce a relevant and fruitful document. During the dialogues, young people from across the Caribbean and the Americas spoke their truth and provided recommendations for several thematic areas. I urge all involved to ensure that these recommendations are included in their National Youth Policies where possible. Not neglecting the government’s responsibility, rather acknowledging our own civic responsibility, I challenge all youth who have been a part of this dialogue be an active participant in the change that they want to see. There are many tools at our disposal, let us use them. We are many, let’s unite and work together with whatever minimal resources we may have. Let’s move from rhetoric to action!

I thank the coordinating organizations; CARICOM, UNECLAC, Caribbean Development Bank, UNFPA, Caribbean Regional Youth Council and UWI STAT for embarking on this project in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the adopted Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes.”



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Nathanael John

UWI Guild of Students St. Augustine Campus



“ A great leader discovers the potential that the people they lead have and then works to help their people reach their greatest potential.”

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Sean Davis

Deputy Chairman - Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica (YACJ)/ Steering Committee - National Youth Parliament of Jamaica (NYPJ)/ General Secretary of the National Youth Council of Jamaica (NYCJ)
IBI (I Believe Initiative) Ambassador- Governor-General's Programme of Excellence

“Young people across the Caribbean must consistently demonstrate our ability to facilitate integration among ourselves as we partner to support each other in realizing national, regional and international youth development as we strive towards achievement of the SDGs and related targets; that, as we advocate for our nation states to similarly strategically work towards integration at the governmental level.”



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Kylah Ciego

CARICOM Youth Ambassador of Belize

“We should never underestimate the value each person brings. Our youth represent not just the future leaders but vast potential and nation builders of Now. Partnership for development includes the youth.”



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Latoya Charles

UNFPA Youth Advisory Group, Saint Lucia
Women Deliver Young Leader 2018
Interim PRO Saint Lucia National Youth Council

“ When Young Persons Are Placed at
The Helm of Development, We're
Guaranteed to Face The Future With
Ease”



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Ezbai Francis

CARICOM Youth Ambassador of Saint Lucia

“The realities we face in the region can only be changed when YOUTH are kept involved and engaged in policymaking. I believe this forum will allow us to add invaluable perspectives to the solutions that we seek. Hear Our Voice.”



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Kurba-Marie Questelles

Training and Development Coordinator- Caribbean and the Americas
Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (CYPAN)



“Cognizant that the youth population is the largest that it has even been worldwide, young people ought to be included in peace in policy making processes. We are not to be disregarded as perpetrators of violence but as peacebuilders and peacekeepers because we are necessary for building and maintaining a peaceful and passionate CARICOM community.”

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Sterens Yppolyte

President of Haiti Health Team

“This generation must not pass without positively marking the history of the world.”



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Nadège Saha

Caribbean Leaders (CARILEAD)
Youth Ambassador for Francophonie
Guadeloupe



“Nelson Mandela said “The Youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow.”

Let us be the leaders of a United Caribbean Region no matter where we come from and no matter the language we speak (French, Spanish, English, Dutch, Haitian Creole, Papiamentu...)”

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Franz George

Caribbean and Americas Representative
Commonwealth Youth Council



“For there to be meaningful impact on their lives, it is important that young people become key participants in the review and implementation of policies that affect them. I am happy that through the youth dialogues, young people in this region have been given that opportunity, and will be able to influence policies at the highest level”

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Zaviska Lamsberg

UNFPA Youth Advisory Group, Suriname



“The commitment of “Leave no one behind” is by far one of the greatest Principles. Youngster of the Caribbean we are in this together with the rest of the world!”

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Warren Anderson

UWI Guild of Students St. Augustine Campus
2018-2019



“It was a great honour to be a part of the Youth Dialogues and make a contribution towards a positive outcome for Caribbean Youth. I look forward to participating in its implementation in a sphere of activity relative to my community.”

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Jedidah Crosse

UNFPA Youth Advisory Group, Guyana



“ The duty of youths is to challenge errors and make changes for the better”

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Darrion Narine

Guild President of UWI St. Augustine
Vice Chair Commonwealth Youth Council

“ Youth are the force that will move the Caribbean forward in the next 10 years. Like a farmer, Governments must plan the seeds so that the countries will reap the harvest”



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Stefanie Lauchman

UNFPA Youth Advisory Group, Suriname



“ Young people have inherent human rights that must be upheld. We must be empowered enough to participate in making decisions that will affect our lives. It is crucial that we understand and act upon our rights”

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Michael MC Garrell

Indigenous Youth Advocate
Guyana and the Amazon Basin

“The effective participation of youth is vital if we are going to achieve the SDGs. Youth represent the strength and energy that is required to move forward. Youth must be included at all levels of decision making.”



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Teocah Arieal Ainka Dove

Social Development and Communications for Development Consultant

“In the Caribbean, 63% of the population are young people under the age of 30. In addition to being statistically significant, such a diverse, vibrant and self-motivated youth demographic represents the Caribbean’s greatest asset for achieving sustainable development.

Thus, all development actors must recognize youth as architects, enablers and strategic partners in development and work collaboratively to harness their creativity, talents and ideas, towards producing an empowering environment for self-actualization.

I applaud the partners convening the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development and all the youth who have been and will be a part of the process, for working assiduously and collaboratively towards creating this enabling environment and setting the agenda for our future.

To my peers throughout the region, as June Jordan once said “We are the ones we have been waiting for”, let us take the baton with courage, fearlessness, tenacity and vigour and create and lead this dear region to its full potential, as one people, many nations, working collectively towards greatness in all the islands of this great Caribbean sea.”



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Dexter Wilson

CARICOM Youth Ambassador of
Trinidad and Tobago

“Support for Caribbean Entrepreneurs and Innovators can catalyze a new wave of positive change. Love is the answer, and motivation is key!”



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Kristin Marin

Vice Chairperson Membership and Partnership
Caribbean Regional Youth Council, Belize

“Young people are not only the future - we are the change makers of today. We as youth activists and leaders must fight disengagement and disillusion among ourselves by working towards an enabling and inclusive environment for young people. We must hold ourselves and our leaders accountable to the commitments they have made towards this goal. Lastly, remember to always put Purpose above all else.”



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Odayne Haughton

Vice Dean Regional Initiatives,
CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Corps, Jamaica

“Involving young people at all levels of decision making is not just the right thing to do but it is strategic as the future and present will be moulded by the power and unity of the youth. It gives me great hope and optimism to see the initiatives that we as young people are taking and organizing to assimilate our skills and knowledge that would facilitate partnerships and collaboration, which I see as the centre point for progress and prosperity throughout our region”



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