**2022 WODA Non-Profit/NGO Category**

**MAYYADA ABU JABER**

**JORDAN**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Mayyada Abu Jaber has worked in the MENA region for more than twenty years on women and youth education and economic empowerment projects. She is the founder and CEO of the World of Letters (WoL), a social enterprise in the Middle East and North Africa dedicated to bridging the economic, social, and opportunity divide. In addition, Mayyada founded JoWomenomics, as an independent non-profit organization to foster mindset change toward women's economic participation. She worked to influence labor law policies including those about sexual harassment, conducted transformative behavioral change campaigns that reached more than 3000 community members, and provided job opportunities to more than 600 women in marginalized communities in Jordan. Earlier in her career, Mayyada was the founding CEO of the Jordan Education for Employment and served as an educational consultant at the office of Her Majesty Queen Rania Abdullah II. She has been featured on CNN, Euro-news, Al Jazeera, and was a panelist at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI). In addition, Mayyada's work on youth employment was recognized by the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) as one of the 15 best practices in the world for education/employment interface. In 2017, Mayyada was recognized by the World Bank as an inspirational leader in the Middle East and North Africa. She was a Vital Voices Grow and Vital Voices Engage fellow in 2015 and 2021 and is recognized as an education expert at the UN-Harmony with Nature. Mayyada is the vice-chair of the Center for Environmental Ethics and Law (CEEL). Additionally, she serves as an International Jury member for the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education. Currently she is at work on her Ph.D. in Integral Development towards a Feminist Economy from the DaVinci Institute after receiving her master’s degree in Environmental Geology at Duke University. She is fluent in Arabic, English, Pashtu, and basic Urdu.

**MARTHA OMOCKPEN ALADE**

**NIGERIA**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Martha Alade is the founder of Women in Technology in Nigeria (WITIN), a non-profit that empowers women and girls’ socio-economically through technology. She is also the pioneer of teachers.ng, icamp.ng and WomenPRIDE.Africa. She has persistently advocated for gender equality as women right and human right. Pushing for gender equity reforms and re-educating the public on the true meaning of gender equality as being equal opportunities for all genders.

Martha has worked closely with the Nigerian Government through the Ministry of Communications in the establishment of the Digital Girls Clubs across the country. She also played a key role in the introduction of Technovation Challenge in Nigeria, leading the first Nigerian Team to Silicon Valley, California in 2013 and running the program till 2017 coordinating up to 30 teams of girls.

The United Nations Girls events like ITU Girls in ICT initiative have consistently provided an excellent platform for Martha to reach out to thousands of girls across the country, motivating them to pursue and retain technology related careers as leaders, creators, innovators, and inventors for economic stability.

In 2002, Martha began equipping teachers and by 2014, she officially launched the teachers.ng platform enabling her to work closely with Nigerian teachers to bridge the leaky pipeline in country. No fewer than 6,000 teachers have been directly imparted by teachers.ng, reaching more than 320,000 underprivileged, marginalized children and adolescents, with girls comprising over 55% of beneficiaries since inception.

In 2011, she pioneered the Grassroots Women empowerment through ICT (GWEIT) for WITIN, supported by Google which brought the businesses of over 3,000 disadvantaged women in rural, remote and under-served communities in Nigeria online, improving their lives and livelihoods. Martha, through WITIN’s partnership with the USAID’s Women and the Web initiative and Intel She Will Connect equipped over 13,000 Nigerian women in Technology and Entrepreneurship. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic which disproportionately affected vulnerable women, Martha launched in 2020/2021 the WomenPRIDE.Africa (a 2022 WSIS Prize Champion) which reduces the digital gender gap and feminized poverty exacerbated by the pandemic.

Martha has been recognized with awards locally, nationally, and internationally, including a state award by the Anambra State Governor in 2002, a presidential Award by President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2005, and the booking.com award in 2019 amongst others.

**PAULA AMOUR**

**MADAGASCAR**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Paula Amour has worked at SEED Madagascar for over ten years as a Project Coordinator of women’s livelihood projects. SEED Madagascar is an award-winning, holistic international development charity, working to fulfil sustainable environment, education, and development goals in southeast Madagascar. In the Anosy region, where Paula works, over 90% of people live below the international poverty line. Livelihood opportunities are extremely limited, particularly for women, who, due to deeply entrenched cultural expectations and domestic responsibilities, are restricted from accessing more lucrative livelihoods that are traditionally male dominated. Paula has worked to develop, improve, and implement local livelihood activities to enable women to support themselves and their families.

Paula has worked with over 260 women on two women’s livelihoods projects, supporting the establishment of two women’s cooperatives to advance the social and economic participation of women living in the rural community of Sainte Luce. Established back in 2012, Paula supported the establishment of the Stitch Sainte Luce Cooperative that developed embroidery as a women’s livelihood activity for over 100 women. Paula has been pivotal to the growth of the cooperative, providing support, guidance, and skills training for the women to empower themselves financially. Since 2019, Paula has worked with over 160 women to increase the income generated from mahampy reed weaving, a traditional livelihood activity. Paula has supported the establishment of the Mahampy Weavers’ Cooperative through increasing the weavers’ supplier power and building the capacity of members to increase their income.

Supporting her family as a single parent, Paula is a wonderful role model for young women in the community who regularly ask her for advice on a range of matters. Paula consistently goes above and beyond her role, empowering and encouraging those less fortunate than herself to achieve their full potential.

**JAI BHARATHI**

**INDIA**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Jai Bharathi (JB) is an architect by education, motorcyclist by passion and a social entrepreneur by profession. She is Founder and CEO of MOWO (MOving WOmen), which aims to create a generation of confident women drivers, who are equipped with mobility as a skill for empowerment & employment. MOWO trains women in motor driving skills and up-skills them to earn through livelihoods in mobility. JB has run several advocacy programs of international repute on women’s mobility. Her mission is to enable a million women in mobility by 2030. JB has an unwavering focus on the goals she sets for herself. Under her leadership, MOWO has trained 2000+ women drivers and encouraged 15000+ women to pick up mobility as a skill. MOWO started its livelihood program in April 2022 and has employed 30+ women drivers, on track to employ 500+ women drivers. JB has a passion for creating, driving, and delivering results. In less than 3 years since inception, as technical partners to the state department, MOWO established India’s first Motor Training Centre exclusively for women. This institutionalized the concept of mobility as a skill, through which many women can earn better livelihoods in the thriving mobility sector. More than 300+ women were trained and saw an average 24% increase in productivity, by including mobility in the running of their existing micro enterprises. About 400+ young graduate girls can now use their new skill of mobility to accept better career opportunities.

In 2021, JB embarked on a 11,111 km ‘Moving Boundaries’ motorcycle tour to raise awareness on ‘Gender Inclusive Mobility’ and to encourage women to join the mobility workforce. Through this journey she met with 2000+ women and this campaign garnered 10Mn+ digital footprint. Following the tour premier, think tanks, government and industry stakeholders participated in a one-day summit on gender inclusion in mobility. MOWO has released a report which shares the learnings, the summit discussions, and sustainable solutions for women in the mobility workforce. JB continuously goes above and beyond, focused, and committed to economic empowerment of women through the new age tool of mobility.

**TZINNIA CARRANZA**

**MEXICO**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Tzinnia Carranza, is a biologist with a master's degree in Environment and Integrated Development. She works in all eight regions of the state of Oaxaca with initiatives related to climate change mitigation, adaptation to climate change and integrated risk management. She is currently the president of the National Climate Change Council and of the Technical Committee on Climate Change in the State of Oaxaca.

She is the Founder of Tianguis Indígena Multicultural (2008) and Espacio de Encuentro de las Culturas Originarias, A.C. (2010), both are non-profit, non-political, and non-religious organizations. They promote the economy of indigenous women in the state of Oaxaca by opening spaces for direct sales of women's products from communities and the creation of the collective brand TEQUIO, where women artisans from four cultures participate, who have been trained in new techniques and designs, and have installed and equipped workshops to produce textiles and clay items, which they sell in an online store with worldwide reach.

Training is provided in agricultural techniques adapted to climate change so that the women can improve their production and increase their profits. Women producers of tostadas and tortillas have improved their efficiency and profits with wood-saving stoves that are designed and built with them. With the management of support from more than 20 financial sources, 22,400 women in Oaxaca have been directly benefited. 511 indigenous women decision-makers and 91 women promoters have been trained.

EECO A.C., under Tzinnia's leadership, was a finalist for the Women Gender Constituency 2019 award with the work "Women designing climate policies in Oaxaca Mexico". Tzinnia is recognized as a leader for her initiatives with a gender focus and her solidarity economy proposals built by indigenous women for economic empowerment and equity. She received the "Vicente Mayo" national award for her work "Tianguis indígena, an alternative built by the communities " and was a finalist for the UBS Social Entrepreneur Award in 2008.

**TRACEY CHAMBERS**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Tracey is a recovering Chartered Accountant with 27 years’ experience in the corporate and social impact sector. In 2008 she made a very conscious decision to jump off the corporate ladder to seek balance and purpose. She used her business knowledge to develop and launch in 2010, with her friend Tracey Gilmore a social impact organization (The Clothing Bank) that helps unemployed mothers start sustainable small businesses while also reducing the waste in the retail supply chain. They negotiated with the top fashion retailers in South Africa to donate their excess, customer returned and end-of-season stock. The ladies in the program learn how to run a business buying and selling clothing. Branches opened in Johannesburg, Durban, Paarl, and East London. The program expanded to offer a broader variety of business skills and started incorporating life skills, mentorship and coaching to support women.

These days the program is helping whole families to escape the cycle of poverty by equipping unemployed and aspiring female entrepreneurs with the skills and resources they need to access the economy. The projects currently support over 1000 business owners per annum who made more than ZAR43million in profits in the last twelve months.

Tracey and The Clothing Bank have won many prestigious awards which include most recently, the Western Cape Premier Business Award in 2017 – Business of the Year and Social Entrepreneur of the Year, Schwab Social Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2016 - an international award aligned to the World Economic Forum and the Western Cape Businessmen Women of the Year award in 2015.

**AZAH JACKLINE CHEY**

**CAMEROON**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Azah Jackline Chey is a female legal scholar, with a master’s degree in International Law. She is an Agripreneur and a real estate manager. Jackline is equally a gender activist who is working to address gender inequality in her country. To this effect, she Co-founded Bridgers Association Cameroon in 2013. Bridgers Association Cameroon is a nongovernmental Organization with a primary mission to empower women and girls to create an environment where women and men enjoy equity, contribute and benefit as equal partners without any barriers. Her primary strategy to minimize gender imbalance is by promoting/fostering women economic empowerment through entrepreneurship and agripreneurship. Jackline grew up in a rural community and particularly in a polygamous family with harsh cultural beliefs that do not value girls/women. After losing her father at the age of 7, she was mistreated by her stepbrothers who prevented her from benefitting from her late father’s estate on the simple grounds that she was a girl child and had no importance whatsoever. Faced with this unfortunate and difficult situation; she had to work on the farm at that young age to assist her mother earn income for her basic needs and equally footed the bills for her primary; secondary and university education alongside three other siblings of hers. Today, she is a successful woman thanks to her commitment towards agriculture. Jackline is therefore empathetic in assisting other vulnerable women and girls in her community to trace a successful path through agriculture and other business strategies. Prior to her creation of Bridgers Association, Jackline volunteered with a nongovernmental organization known as Modern Advocacy Humanitarian Social and Rehabilitation Association (MAHSRA) for 2 years: 2010- 2012 during which she worked as a program assistant for the women economic empowerment unit.

**FLORINE CLOMEGAH-FREITAS**

**NETHERLANDS**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Florine Clomegah-Freitas is an advocate for gender equality and women ’s rights. She has a successful track record in strategic and operational leadership in a changing and complex environment, and in an international and humanitarian context. Florine is a determined senior manager, a communication expert, and a senior humanitarian director who has acquired experience in delivering key humanitarian solutions within leading organizations and overseeing programs and projects.

She is the founder of Worldwide Women's Forum, a not for profit that advocates for the rights of women internationally. She is also the General Director of MSF -OCA in the Netherlands. WWWF advocacy work includes education, gender equality, and women empowerment. Her work with the Women's Forum is about women's advancement in the following fields: promoting education for women and girls through donation. As part of the CEO scheme, she sponsors about ten girls yearly in Uganda's refugee camps. she encourages the promotion of leadership and entrepreneurship for women and girls. She negotiated essential business skills training for young people in refugee camps in Zimbabwe, IDP, and professionals in Central and West Africa, with half of the participants women. She has led the promotion of health education and programs successfully, and managed financial support to the Uganda Women Cancer Association to save of lives of women.

Florine is an author, blogger, and a sought-after public speaker.

**KATE EKANEM-HANNUM**

**USA**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Kate’s motivation for community service has always been a perfect reflection of the personal is political. She was born into a rural community in Nigeria, in a time when young girls were pushed into child marriages and early motherhood. In 2012, at the age of 18, she launched Kate Tales Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes girls’ education, women empowerment, and emerging writers’ development. Kate believes that the less privileged groups in Nigeria are girls, women, and emerging writers, who are mostly never offered an opportunity to develop their voices and share their stories. Kate Tales Foundation became a symbol of empowerment for Nigerian girls, breeding millions of girls, some of whom are now changemakers in engineering, writing, and business. The organization created business workshops for rural market women, advocacy campaigns for girls, writing workshops and authors' talks for emerging writers, and platforms for abused young women to find support systems. Kate Tales Foundation addresses barriers preventing education for girls and women's economic empowerment. Kate interrogates and advocates against cultural and traditional practices that oppress girls and women such as Female Genital Mutilation, and child bride rites. In 2015, only three years after establishing the foundation, she became the first Nigerian competitively selected out of 3000 young leaders around the world, to develop a communiqué for the G20 leaders in Istanbul, Turkey.

The organization that was started in one location with one individual became an organization with branches in all six geopolitical regions of Nigeria, with over 60 volunteers building multiple community projects to address pressing issues in their communities. In 2020, Kate released a statement to change the name of the organization to Inspire Community Network (ICON), to acknowledge the massive network of volunteers in regional Nigeria. ICON’s core objective is to promote and implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1,2, 4, 5, 10, and 17, which promote regional rural communities’ development; advocate for girls’ education, women's empowerment, and youth, art, and cultural development in all six geopolitical regions of Nigeria. These interventions are implemented under the umbrella of a 4Es Framework: Empowerment, Education, Entrepreneurship, and Engagement. For the past 10 years, ICON has impacted more than 2,250 communities across regional Nigeria, and over 5,000,000 girls, women, emerging writers and artists, and people generally considered disadvantaged by society.

Kate possesses an extraordinary stubborn will to embark on big risks and pursue all goals until accomplishment.

**YOMNA EL SHERIDY**

**EGYPT**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Dr. Yomna El Sheridy is the Founder and Managing Director of the Special Food Industry International, a leading manufacturer and exporter of table olives, pickled vegetables, and sun-dried tomatoes. She has over 20 years of experience in food processing and has worked in the export and marketing of food products at a global level.

She is the president of Business Women of Egypt 21, an Egyptian NGO dedicated to the empowerment of women. In 1999, Dr. Yomna founded the Arab Business Women’s Council. She is responsible for the establishment of the Women for Success Annual International Conference and of the liaise office for the International Pharmaceutical Students Association. She is also the co-chairperson of “Career Women”, an establishment at the American Chamber of Commerce, and has years of experience with NGO and SME support activities. Because of her extensive professional and social achievements, Dr. Youmna is often recommended to speak in Europe and Arab nations about SME and the empowerment of businesswomen.

Dr. Yomna holds a bachelor’s degree in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Alexandria, as well as a master’s degree in Pharmaceutical Socio-Economics from the University of Iowa in the United States of America. In addition to her academic background and years of experience, Dr. Yomna has received many honorary titles and prestigious awards, including the Award of Acknowledgement for success as International Business Women from the German Chamber of Commerce; the Long-Standing Achievement from American Chamber of Commerce; Women who can move Mountains Award from United Success International; and the Women of Achievement award by Cairo Governerate. She has also received the Outstanding Achievement award by the Egyptian Association for Mother and Child Survival and has been labeled as one of Africa’s most influential women in business and government.

**SAFIYA IBN GARBA**

**NIGERIA**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Safiya Ibn Garba, has more than 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector. She founded Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) in 2008 and chairs the Global Young Generation for Peace Development Initiative (also known as Generations for Peace Nigeria) operating since 2009 and registered in 2014. In response to the needs affecting girls and women in northern Nigeria including economic inequality and poverty, low quality and non-availability of health services, non-participation in civic action and representation, the lowest levels of education nationally, gender-based violence like child marriage, female genital mutilation, domestic and intimate partner violence, and various forms of harassment and discrimination. Safiya founded EWEI to provide multi-sectoral interventions for the enlightenment and empowerment of girls and women in north-west Nigeria through Capacity Building, Information Dissemination, Advocacy and Cross-Cutting Community Service Projects.

One of EWEI’s programs, Economic Empowerment Partnerships (EEP) was designed to address the appalling levels of poverty of women in northern Nigeria. EEP provides training and resources targeted at low income or out of school, girls/women through capacity building and sourcing micro-credit facilities to setup viable small and medium enterprises. EEP which is a practical response to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 5, 8, 9 and 17 benefitted sixty-three women by 2017. In 2018, the EEP supported four women with micro loans and value in kind support to start new or boost existing businesses. The women received capacity building in financial literacy and managing a micro business with evidence-based impact. Safiya also provides free mentoring sessions to share her experience in local and international organizational development and management to women-based grassroots organizations and individuals. By December 2020, EWEI engaged more than 25,000 beneficiaries and through her peacebuilding work Safiya has led 21 programs to benefit more than 8,000 beneficiaries.

Safiya is also the Director of Institutional Learning at Generations for Peace (GFP), Amman Jordan. As part of her portfolio, she oversees the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) and Capacity Strengthening and Training (CSAT) units. Safiya’s work in the support of peacebuilding programming spans 53 countries, with 49 of those countries in the global south. Programming varies from inter-identity tension and violence to gender equality and empowerment for peace programs which specifically engage and build capacity among women in income generation, peacebuilding, and advocacy skills. Safiya has been the recipient of the Desmond Tutu Reconciliation Fellowship Award 2020, CSR-in-Action Apostle Hayford Alile Humanitarian Award 2020, FemiList100 2021, Amazon of Arewa 2021, and Outstanding Citizen Honor Award 2021.

**ANDREA GOOCH**

**USA**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Andrea Gooch is a portfolio manager with Wells Fargo’s Managed Solutions and Investment Implementation group in the USA. Andrea founded Kindling Kiribati (KKSBD) in 2018, a nonprofit organization that provides business training and microloans for women of the tiny island nation called Kiribati in the Central Pacific. Since inception, Kindling Kiribati has provided business training, business loans and employment opportunities for women. This has been changing lives through the economic empowerment of women to benefit their families and communities.

After living in Kiribati, Andrea recognized there was a lack of access to credit as well as income generating opportunities for women in Kiribati creating high dependence on partners or extended family members to support them and their children. This further marginalized women in impoverished circumstances. Understanding that when women gain financial security, they are more likely to invest money in their children’s education and improve the family's circumstances as well as having positive impacts on entire communities, Andrea wanted to create opportunities to lift women out of poverty and become independent, self-sufficient, and self-reliant to support themselves and their children.

Under Andrea’s leadership, business training has been taught to over a thousand women and provided over $50,000 AUD in business loans, enabling over 180 women to start micro businesses. In addition, the organization is employing three I-Kiribati women to support Kindling Kiribati operations and to provide business training and certification. KKSBD’s strategic plan includes reaching the list of communities requesting the program, improvements to efficiencies, maintaining high repayment rates, partnerships with other women’s organizations to assist women survivors of domestic violence and collaborations to strengthen the efforts of other women leaders' efforts to empower women in Kiribati.

Andrea was named Utah State University’s Young Alumna of the Year in 2021. She also serves on the Huntsman School of Business’ Young Alumni Board and speaks regularly to local women in business events in her area. Andrea is a cherished leader, mentor and role model, mother, and committed activist seeking to advance women through economic empowerment and self-reliance. Where microfinance stands as one of the most promising and cost-effective tools in the fight against global poverty, Andrea has spearheaded the battle for women in Kiribati.

**ANNIE GRIFFITHS**

**USA**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

One of the first female photographers to work for National Geographic, Annie Griffiths has photographed in nearly 150 countries during her illustrious career. She founded Ripple Effect Images over 10 years ago, to help demonstrate why women and girls are the best investment in our shared future.

Ripple Effect Images multiply the impact of proven solutions empowering women and girls globally, by using world-class visual storytelling to shine a light on successful initiatives. Over the past decade, Ripple has supported over 50 nonprofits and social impact organizations, helped partners raise more than $10 million to expand and replicate successful programs, and enabled partners to advance programmatic and advocacy goals by reaching significantly wider audiences. Ripple has created an extraordinary library of photos, film, and animation that is the largest visual archive in the world showcasing sustainable programs empowering women across health, education, economic empowerment, food security, and climate change. Griffiths has mobilized an extraordinary team of photographers, filmmakers, and writers, which includes some of the world’s most talented storytellers, including Emmy, Pulitzer, and World Press Award winners, as well as a recipient of the National Humanities Medal. This stellar team has created more than 50 films, and over 50,000 still images. Compelling evidence shows that women pay it forward. A woman multiplies the impact of investment in her health, education, and wellbeing by extending benefits to those around her, creating a better life for her family, and building a strong community. Griffiths recognizes that a more just and equitable world will only be realized through systemic change, shifting the narrative towards what is working and encouraging investment in proven solutions empowering women globally. Griffiths envisions a world in which all women thrive, and in founding Ripple she has leveraged her exceptional leadership to elevate, amplify and accelerate proven solutions empowering women globally.

**ANDREA JUNG (GRAMEEN AMERICA)**

**USA**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Andrea Jung is President and Chief Executive Officer of Grameen America and was appointed to the” position by Grameen’s Chairman, Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus in 2014 to “bring her unique qualifications and able leadership to accelerate our mission.” Ms. Jung was the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Avon Products, Inc, and has been a long-time champion of women’s issues.

Grameen America (501(c)3 charity) provides microloans, financial training, and support to members. As part of the program, members open free savings accounts with commercial banks and make weekly deposits. Repayment is reported to Experian, enabling members to build their financial identity. The target population is women who live below the federal poverty line, for whom the mainstream financial system is currently out of reach. Members are women who previously had few options for accessing capital and most lacked bank accounts and credit scores. More than 40 million people live in poverty in the United States. Poverty is defined as a family of four living on $25,100 or less a year. Many of these families are not able to make ends meet. Women are disproportionately affected: More than 1 in 8 live in poverty, and among minority women, the rates are even higher. Nearly 27 percent of US households are unbanked or underbanked. Women receive only 4 percent of all small business loans from mainstream financial institutions. Grameen America offers women a hand up, not a handout. Women entrepreneurs often just need a little capital and support to help them reach their goals. Empowering scale: Grameen America has served over 155 thousand women, disbursed $2.5 billion in loans, over 786 thousand loans disbursed, in 23 cities, with over 163 thousand jobs created. Additionally, Grameen America has a community health initiative with a mission of providing underserved women from low-income communities with a health promotion and empowerment program.

**MARGUERETE LUTER**

**USA**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Marguerete Luter, president/owner of The Process Pro, a consultancy focused on developing business processes that help organizations grow and achieve their business development goals. Her firm draws upon her unique experiences as a senior executive at both Unisys and Xerox, and she has been successful in using her experience to support her small business and non-profit clientele. Marguerete is a leader and influencer in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area. The focus of this nomination is her work with Women in Technology (WIT) - advancing women in technology from the classroom to the boardroom. WIT with over 1,000 members, meets its vision through a variety of leadership development, technology education, networking, and mentoring opportunities for women at all levels of their careers. WIT includes Girls in Technology (GIT), STEM for Her, WIT Young Professionals SIG and The Leadership Foundry.

Marguerete has a personal commitment to the development and advancement of African American women and girls in technology related fields. She has been involved in the Leadership Foundry since 2011 first as a participant and then in the leadership roles of chair and vice chair. The 9-month program prepares women for board service by providing networking and mentoring opportunities in addition to intensive board training sessions. She essentially served as the executive director, implementing strategic direction, growing the initiative, and enhancing the curriculum, content, and impact. More than 130 women have graduated from the Foundry’s training program, with participants filling 20 for-profit board seats. She joined the board of the Stem for Her Foundation contributing her expertise in governance, succession planning, business operations, strategic alliances, and public policy. The 2018 annual report indicates over 1,000 girls were involved. Marguerete is renowned for her ability to recruit and engage others, thus multiplying her positive impact on supporting economic empowerment of women.

**ALEXANDRA MACHADO**

**PORTUGAL**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Alexandra Machado founded Girl MOVE Academy (GM) in 2013. Girl MOVE is a Leadership Academy that creates disruptive models of education to amplify talent, raise gender equality and promote sustainable transformation. GM strives to ensure women and girls have fair access to education and opportunities to be able to earn a living and actively participate in society, contributing with their talent to their country’s development.

The absence of female reference models in all areas of society is at the root cause of this cycle of planned poverty, perpetuated in each generation, limiting women to the roles of wife and mother while lowering the opportunity for their participation in the labor market, in formal economy positions as well as in politics.

GM’s impact approach is based on developing new female reference models and multiplying them through intergenerational mentorship & sisterhood circles. The academy is devoted to empowering girls and women through mentorship and story sharing between different generations, so that a women's potential is amplified.

Over the last seven years, the Academy has impacted +10,000 young women, activating them as changemakers and role models for new generations. With its action in Mozambique, these young women contributed to increasing the school transition rate in the north of the country from 20% to 90% and decreasing child maternity levels from 45% to 2%.

In 2021, Girl MOVE was distinguished by its innovative and effective methodology promoting education and female leadership in Mozambique, having won the UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education.

**LOUISA MICHAEL**

**NIGERIA**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Louisa Ekwutosi Michael is a social entrepreneur and a community builder. She started the first and largest natural hair community of 652,000 members in Nigeria and in more than twenty countries in Africa which supports women of color to transition from chemically treated hair to embracing their natural hair. Through her community's support and Facebook group membership of more than 500,000, about 200,000 women have stopped the application of harmful chemicals on their hair and embraced their natural hair.

She’s then founded the Eureka Goodwill Initiative for Women Empowerment & Development and has become known for her innovative approach towards advocacy and the process of ensuring that women's human rights are respected. Her coaching abilities and competence laid the groundwork for women and girls to have a voice, sustain gender equality, and grow a democratic community.

Her organization has successfully organized more than 30 events in Nigeria, and at Facebook's headquarters in London, United Kingdom, which was sponsored and hosted by Facebook Inc (Meta). In 2022, she won the Exceptional woman led NGO TEWA award.

She's currently working with the 2030 Sustainable development goals 1,2,3 & 5 and in 2021, out of about 16,000 applicants in Africa, she was among the 13 chosen to participate in the current Facebook Community Accelerator program in which she gave seed money to 100 women in her community and organized and ran various training programs for them to startup businesses that would give them a sustainable livelihood.

**ANGELA PATTON**

**USA**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Twenty years ago, Angela Patton, CEO of Girls for A Change (GFAC), focused on advancing opportunities for young black women by establishing a summer camp program then maturing to a series of year-round programs serving over 25K girls in the Richmond Metropolitan area. Angela’s vision is to prepare black girls for womanhood and economic stability through programs aimed at financial empowerment and entrepreneurship. The GFAC Girl Ambassador Program (GAP) matches girls with paid internships where they earn industry certifications for a 21st century job market; exposure to career paths; and utilize their talents in real workspaces. The result has been more culturally responsive and diverse workplaces, and a world of possibilities for black girls that otherwise might not have existed. GFAC’s Immersion Lab provides a “Budding Black Girl Incubator” experience to startup and grow their own retail business. The Camp Diva summer camp teaches entrepreneurship where participants produce various products like health and beauty products, jewelry, and clothing to then market and sell at the culminating public “Market Day” event, where they also earn money. Angela and GFAC programs deliver results with 65% of program participants retained from elementary and middle school programs to participate in the GAP. Among the Girl Ambassador participants, 80% remain in the program for four years; 90% continue with their corporate and small business internships and mentors; 100% graduate high school and continue their education; 79% receive at least one industry certification before high school graduation; and 40% achieve part-time employment upon graduation. GFAC was recognized by the Metropolitan Business League as the “Non-Profit of the Year” for its work in nurturing future business leaders. GFAC was among fourteen organizations recognized by the Pearl Milling Company for its focus on the company’s pillars of prosperity, empowerment, access, representation, and leadership.

As the leader of Girls for A Change (GFAC), Angela has been recognized in the local Richmond, Virginia press as Top 40 Under 40 (2010), by a coalition of girl serving groups in 2015, recognized by President Obama as a White House Champion of Change (2016), received the Nonprofit Partner of the Year (2018) from the Metropolitan Business League, and Richmond Times-Dispatch 2019 Person of the Year Honoree.

**SAMAH SALAIME**

**ISRAEL**

**NON-PROFIT/NGO**

Samah Salaime, a social worker-turned-activist, has been recognized for her years of leading the fight against gender-based violence, bringing it to the attention of the Israeli public, lawmakers, and authorities. In 2009, she founded Na'am Arab Women in the Center to advance women in the mixed cities of Lod, Ramla, and Jaffa, and to combat femicide in the country. In 2013 - 2014, she was a fellow at the prestigious Mandel School for Educational Leadership. Since 2017, Samah has been head of the Communications and Development office for Neve Shalom-Wahat al Salam’s Association of Non-profit Educational Institutions, which oversees the community’s School for Peace, Primary School, and Pluralistic Spiritual Community Center.

Samah is not just a passionate advocate for the empowerment of women who are at the bottom of the socio-economic” heap in Israel, she is constantly developing new methods of extending the kind of help women need to become independent. Women in the mixed Arab-Jewish cities of Lod, Ramla and Jaffa often find that the road to empowerment is fraught with obstacles and even danger. Women who find themselves in situations of physical, verbal, or financial violence, and who find the courage to extract themselves, discover they need legal, emotional, medical, short, and long-term financial stability. As part of the recovery process, Samah and her volunteer team created several programs. One is a cross-border (with women in the Palestine Area) indigenous crafts program that includes home production and sale of handicrafts, and catering for groups. Women’s support groups give assistance and guidance to women who want to start their own businesses or attain higher education with the aim of employment, including obtaining financial aid and loans. The two-year women's leadership course she initiated is now in its second iteration. Women's empowerment includes employment, and Samah has been involved in initiatives to increase Arab women's presence in the labor market and to protect their rights in the workplace through Na'am's Women's Rights Center. Last year, Samah, together with Na’am leaders, organized a “home economics” seminar to help women live within their budgets. She has helped many hundreds of women over the years.

 Samah frequently appears in the media to discuss women's and Arab issues. In January 2018, Samah was named one of the top ten most influential activists in Israel by the daily Yedioth Aharonoth.