Emerging Women Leaders Lab

NYC at the UN, 25th-26th March

The volunteer led organisation, Omnis, are bringing together from around the world some of most influential Next Gen Leaders from minority and marginalized groups for a tailor-made skills accelerator Lab that builds their personal and organisational capacity to support scaling their work, impact and social change. 24 dynamic women leaders who are activists, movement builders, human rights advocates, social innovators, tech entrepreneurs, thought leaders and storytellers from Indonesia, Gambia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Canada, UK, France, Colombia, Hong Kong, Afghanistan and USA.

One leader can create endless chains of social change
imagine what a global leaders network could achieve
Jaha Dukureh
Women’s Rights Activist & Anti-FGM Campaigner
Gambia


AiLun Ku
Educational Advocate & Inclusion Organizer
USA / Taiwan

President & COO of The Opportunity Network (OppNet) connects students from historically and systematically underrepresented communities to college access and success, internships, career opportunities, and personal and professional networks.

Yasmine Ouirhrane
Advocate for Inclusion, Peace & Education
Italy / France

Young European of the Year 2019, Young Expert on Peace and Security of AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub, mandated by EU and African Union to develop pilot projects in both continents with a budget of 10M €

Andrea Gaviria
Economist & Political Scientist
Colombia

Leads the first social Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to build and operate schools in Colombia. Former Advisor to the Minister of Education, and Strategic Advisor in Education in Post-Conflict Period.
Aziza Khabbush
Leadership Trainer & Educator
UK
Co-Founder of Omnis and advises on health and its intersection with peace, security and economic growth. PhD UCL’s Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health.

Leina Yvonne Chi
Women’s Rights Activist & Journalist
Cameroon
Founder of Gender Danger reaching over 20,000 women and girls exposing negative cultural practices, such as the inhumane treatment of widows and breast ironing

Christina Myers
Leadership Trainer & Educator
Swiss. Colombia
Co-Founder of Omnis and Advisor in Education and New Technologies to the Scholas Occurrentes Foundation, an organisation founded by Pope Francis that focuses on the promotion of peace through education.

Zahra Rasool
Advocate for Inclusion, Storyteller
India
Producer and Editor at Contrast VR, AL Jazeera’s Digital Immersive Media Studio. Heads up the Innovation studio.

Community Partners in the Emerging Women Leaders Lab
Ifeoma Fafunwa
Creative Director & Educator
Nigeria
Founder of iOpenEye a Nigerian / USA production company driving social change through performance art, theatre and film.

Farwiza Farhan
Environmental Activist & Advocate
Indonesia
Leads grassroots community coalition of 150,000 volunteers The Forest, Nature and Environment Aceh Foundation (HAKA) who fight to protect Leuser Ecosystem.

Emi Mahmoud
Poet, Activist, Advocate & Scientist
Sudan / USA
Slam poet and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador. Opened TEDxKakuma Camp, the first ever TEDx event held in a refugee camp. Emi has used her talents to raise awareness on the refugee cause.

Adwoa Aboah
Advocate & Activist for Women & Girls
UK
Founder of Gurls Talk a movement that creates safe spaces - both on and offline - for people around the world to share, listen and support each other without judgement or shame. At Gurls Talk no subject is off-limits - including experiences of mental health, body image, sexuality, self-care and much more.
**Jamira Burley**

Leadership Educator on Inclusion & Social Justice

NYC

Consults multinationals and business on social responsibility, diversity, inclusion, community engagement globally

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**Lila Igram**

Social Entrepreneur & Women and Girls Advocate

NYC

Launched [Connecther.org](http://connecther.org) a global communication and crowd-funding platform focused on advancing women and girls globally. Connecther includes the [Girls Impact the World (GITW) Film Festival](http://gitw.org)

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**Maryum Saifee**

Diplomat, Policy Advisor & Anti-FGM Advocate

NYC

Diplomat in U.S. Foreign Service in the Middle East, Cairo during the 2011 Arab uprising, Baghdad and Lahore. Policy advisor Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues. US board member of Sahiyo, an Asian transnational collective against FGM

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**Natalie Tung**

Educational Entrepreneur

Hong Kong, USA

Founded HomeWorks with the aim of making boarding experience accessible for underprivileged youth in a cost-efficient and scalable way.
Roya Mahboob
Tech Entrepreneur & Women’s Rights Activist
Afghanistan
First female Tech CEO in Afghanistan using tech to transform the futures of women and girls. The Digital Citizen Fund established 13 x IT classrooms, 13,000 graduates and internet access to 55,000 people. Champion of award-winning Afghan Girls Robotics team Afghan Dreamers.

Sarah Harvard
Journalist, Writer, Producer & Stand-Up Comedian
USA
Writes for UK’s the Independent, covers politics, national security, and immigration. NYC based Stand up Comic.

Saara Bouhouche
Humanitarian & Social Justice and Inclusion Advocate
France
Leads international large-scale programs focusing on humanitarian aid, emergency relief and social justice. Former Emergency Country Director of Solidarités International, covered crisis around the world, such as Bangladesh (Rohingyas), DRC (Ebola), Yemen and South Sudan. Engaged in local-based actions for minoritized groups’ inclusion, human rights and economic development.

Viktorija Mickute
Journalist & Producer
Lithuania
Producer at Al Jazeera’s immersive media studio. She covers humanitarian crises, such as Syrian refugee camps in Turkey, Brussels terror attacks, and Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh.
Alaa Murabit  
Security, Peace & Women’s Rights  
Canada / Libya

International Policy Specialist on Inclusion, Global Security, Health, Education and Economic Policy. A Medical Doctor, one of 17 SDGs Global Advocates, the youngest UN High-Level Commissioner on Health Employment & Economic Growth and by the age of 21 had founded in Libya an international organization The Voice of Libyan Women in the midst of conflict, dedicated to the inclusion of women and girls in peace processes and conflict resolution. In 2018 awarded a Canadian Meritorious Service Cross and recognized as one of Canada’s Top 25 Most Influential Women. She received the 2018 Nelson Mandela International Changemaker Award, a Forbes 30 Under 30, Aspen Institute Spotlight Scholar and Harvard Law’s youngest 2017 Woman Inspiring Change. Her TED Talk, ‘What my religion really says about women’, selected as TED Talk of the Day. Board member of The Malala Fund, Women’s March Global and The Phase Minus 1.

Annika Howe  
Producer

As a Creative Producer, Annika Howe helps individuals and brands bring their creative projects to life. Initially honing her diplomacy by working in the German Parliament and her resourcefulness as a freelance TV journalist throughout Europe. Later moved to New York where working in film production organically led to producing shoots for advertising photography & video. Annika is the Founder & Executive Producer of HoweHaus Productions (www.howehaus.com), focused on international production of commercial advertising campaigns, visual content creation, and experiential events. Projects for Google, Nike, Adidas, Leading Hotels of the World, Visa, BMW & collaborations with the Fair Trade Organization have taken her across the world and back. Founded TheProducer.com (www.theproducer.com) which focuses on exploring the photo production industry across the world.

Alice Gabriner  
Photo Editor, Consultant & Mentor - USA

30 years experience covering national and international news at The New York Times, National Geographic and TIME, including editor of TIME’s year-long multimedia project ‘Finding Home’, which received the top prize in the 2018 World Press Photo contest for Innovative Storytelling, and a 2018 Emmy Award nomination in the Outstanding New Approaches Documentary category. During a ten-year tenure at TIME led photo department through the election and inauguration of Barack Obama, oversaw the magazine’s award-winning coverage of the Iraq War, and worked with TIME’s notable team of photographers during the 2000 Presidential election, including Christopher Morris whose acclaimed body of work covering the presidency of George W. Bush resulted in two monographs. For the first two years of the Obama administration, she served as Deputy Director of Photography.

Jenn Nadel  
Lawyer, Speaker and Journalist - UK

A qualified Barrister, Author, Speaker and an Award-Winning Journalist. Reported for BBC, Channel 4 and ITN from around the world. Consults on Advocacy, Grassroots, Storytelling, Media, Policy. As ITV’s Home Affairs Editor, set up and led a bureau of reporters, producers and crew. Her book on the Sara Thornton case highlighted the way the law discriminates against women who’ve experienced domestic violence and was made into a BBC Film and Channel 4 documentary. Her investigative report from Bosnia for ITV showed that rape was being used as a weapon of war by the Serbs, later used by UN War Crimes investigators. Co-Author with actress and activist Gillian Anderson of best seller WE, a manifesto for women everywhere, explores women’s rights. Recent film told the story of Grenfell survivors still living in hotels. She is the co-founder of Compassion in Politics.
Serena Rees
Business Entrepreneur & Creative - UK

An Entrepreneur, Visionary and Innovator. Co-founded Agent Provocateur in 1994, a the world’s leader in the luxury lingerie market – engaging with cultural shifts and offering innovative design in an otherwise untapped category. Grew the business from one small store in London’s Soho to an internationally recognised brand with stores in 30 countries and license distribution in 68 countries worldwide, before successfully selling the majority control to private equity in 2007. Rees builds brands and consults on businesses within the fashion, lingerie, beauty, publishing and lifestyle sectors. In 2017 Founded les girls les boys - a men’s and women’s underwear, intimates and streetwear brand, which embraces the cultural and generational attitudes of today. Similarly to her changing the lingerie market in the 90’s, today she is creating a brand which values diversity, honesty and freedom of sexuality in a whole new way. Awarded an MBE by Queen Elizabeth II for her contribution to the British Fashion Industry. She lives in London with her partner, Paul Simonon and her daughter Cora Corre.

Cora Corre
Production Coordinator UK

Cloe Shasha
Speaker Development Director at TED - USA

Cloe Shasha is the Speaker Development Director at TED, where she does curation for stage events and podcasts, works with speakers on their talks, hosts occasional events, and oversees a team that fact checks content and manages communications with speakers. She’s also training to be a volunteer doula, with the goal of supporting queer, minority, and immigrant parents through labor and delivery. She spends her free time dancing, writing, reading, trying new hot sauces, throwing dinner parties, and spending time in the outdoors. She grew up in New York City and Paris and she lives in Brooklyn.

Abbey Drucker
Photographer

After graduating from the School of Visual Arts and interning with Ellen Von Unwerth, Abbey soon landed a contract with Teen Vogue where she blended fashion and beauty with her photojournalistic style. Abbey has since gone on to work with some of world’s top talent in entertainment, fashion, and sports, and is best known for her powerful depictions of women. Her photography is revered as being honest and refined, no matter if she is photographing an actress, ballerina or a World Class Track star, through Abbey’s lens, women (and men) are always unique, empowered, celebrated, and beautiful.
Denae Peters
Impact Film Distributor - USA

Director of Impact Distribution at Picture Motion, a social action agency for film and entertainment, where she leads the operations and management of the grassroots distribution team. Most recently, she was a Campaign Director at Film Sprout, a grassroots distribution firm for social-issue documentaries, where she managed campaigns for titles including Knife Skills. For Ahkeem and Whose Streets? Prior to this, she spent five years at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) where she was the Manager of Guest/Filmmaker Relations and managed TIFF’s hospitality industry sponsorships. She is a Board Member of the Brown Girls Doc Mafia (BGDM), a collective of women and non-binary people of color working in the documentary industry, and has served on selection committees for festivals including the Human Rights Watch Film Festival, DOC NYC and the Tribeca Film Festival.

Emma Hewitt
Director & Producer - Canada

Experienced Director and Producer for BBC’s Modern Times, Channel 4 and PBS. Documentary & Short Films include ‘Skin’ A film about Racist Killings in the UK. ‘Weekenders’ about second homes. ‘Man meets Woman’ about dating. Hong Kong’ about Anxiety in Hong Kong, ‘Shampoo’ about the secrets we tell our hairdressers. ‘Friends’ about a group of 20 something friends. ‘Paying For It’ about Anna, a street prostitute trying to get out of prostitution. ‘Starstruck’ A four Part Series about actors in Hollywood. ‘Susan’ about Mass Incarceration and Coming out of Prison in the USA. ‘The Peoples Convoy’ Short Film about how Hope Hospital was built in a month outside Aleppo. ‘The Avenues’ Short Film about dangers facing kids living on the Mozart Estate.

Emily Pereira
MIT Media Lab - Special Events and the Director’s Fellows Program

Emily Pereira joined the MIT Media Lab in January 2018 as an administrative assistant for the Director’s Fellows Program and Special Events. In her role with the Events and Director’s Fellows teams, she facilitates collaborations and major events such as the yearly Disobedience Award presentation and event, twice-yearly member company events, and numerous public talks and programs. Originally from West Palm Beach, FL, Emily earned her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Florida Atlantic University. Prior to joining the Media Lab, she worked for the State Attorney’s office in Palm Beach County.

Elana Levin
Digital Strategy & Trainer - USA

Program Director at New Media Mentors and Director of Trainings at Netroots Nation, 12 years experience as a trainer in online strategy and as a digital strategist for labor unions, nonprofits and grassroots campaigns. Director of Online Organizing for the immigrant lead community organization Make the Road. In 2009, she co-founded Organizing 2.0, the leading online organizing conference and year-round training hub for nonprofits and unions in the New York area training over 3,000 organization staff, members and activists. Worked at the intersection of popular culture and online organizing for over a decade hosting #PopPoliticsChat tweetchat series and Graphic Policy Radio podcasts connecting nonprofits with pop culture creators and fans and applying the lessons of storytelling to the fight for social and economic justice.
### Lara Setrakian
**Journalist, Strategist & Entrepreneur** - Armenia / USA

Co-Founder & CEO of Newsdeeply. An award-winning Journalist, Strategist and Entrepreneur. Newsdeeply is a network of single-topic platforms combining journalistic insights and analysis, expert contributions, and community engagement. Previously Lara spent five years in the Middle East reporting via television, radio and digital platforms for ABC News, Bloomberg Television, the International Herald Tribune, Business Insider and Monocle magazine. Her 2009 coverage of Iran’s election protests and the Arab Awakening of 2011 garnered industry praise. Lara is a Young Global Leader with the World Economic Forum and a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

### Lindsay Guetschow
**Social Impact Strategist, Campaigner, Partnerships, Creator & Activist** - USA

14 years as an Impact Producer, Campaign Strategist, Partner Networks, Fundraiser, Content Creator and Activist. Past experience includes Film Campaign Director at Malala Fund. Ran the global Stand #withMalala campaign using ‘He Named Me Malala’ to advance the movement for girls’ secondary education. Impact over 1.3 million young people in screenings and campaign programs around the world, Stand #withMalala has helped shift education policy in Nigeria and Pakistan, raised over $3M to support Malala Fund programs in developing countries and trained close to 1000 girls in advocacy and leadership in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, India and Kenya. Participant Media's Senior Director of Marketing & Strategic Alliances, and established partnerships with hundreds of nonprofits, foundations, and corporate citizens in outreach efforts to extend the reach and impact of film campaigns. Campaign Outreach Director on ‘Waiting for Superman’ engaged over 300 non-profits, foundations and corporate partners with an impressive reach of over 30 Million people.

### Romeo Iglesias
**Business Consultant** - Canada / El Salvador

15 years as Business Consultant including Strategy Development, Programme, Business, Operations Management, Stakeholder Engagement, Team Mentoring, Business Process Design, Budgeting and Finance with companies such as Google Canada, WSP/MMM Group Ltd and IBM Canada Ltd. Worked across multiple industries including institutional and education, construction, general business, aviation, security and telecom. A key highlight of my most recent experience includes strategy development and execution management for the development of a novel agriculture e commerce ecosystem focused on improving food traceability and sustainability goals.

### Liz Gray
**Brand Consultant CAA** - USA

Brand Consulting at Creative Artists Agency (CAA). Content Development. Creative Marketing Solutions. Business Development and Strategy. Previously was the Chief Mindset Officer at The Female Quotient, provided brands with consumer insights, cultural analysis, and strategic tools in order to advance equality in both their internal corporate cultures and outward facing brand initiatives. President of Trendera, a leading research, consulting and trend analysis company specializing in understanding and interpreting the attitudes and behaviours of Gen X / Y. Worked on partnership deals with such clients as ESPN, HBO, Nike, NBC, Microsoft and The Gap. She began her career in sales and marketing at ESPN, Condé Nast, and CAA.

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Community Partners in the Emerging Women Leaders Lab
Scott Campbell is a nonprofit executive with over 30 years' experience in Relationship Building, New Market Development, Media Strategies, Fund Raising, and Board Development. After significant service with the American Foundation for AIDS Research, Scott joined the Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF) as Executive Director in 2005, serving through the close of November 2018. Under his leadership, EJAF emerged as an activist grant maker, developing a dynamic funding program addressing all aspects of HIV and AIDS in an intersectional manner, focusing especially on the needs of the most at-risk and vulnerable populations. Scott currently serves on the Board of Friends in Deed and as a mentor to Point Foundation Scholars. He was appointed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve on the New York State LGBT Memorial Commission and has previously served on the Boards of the Elton John AIDS Foundation-UK, National AIDS Fund, the Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership on HIV/AIDS, and the Lone Star Film Society.

Mollie Glick
Book Agent CAA

Glick joined CAA in 2016, following eight years at Foundry Literary + Media. Glick represents many top authors including Vice President Joe Biden (PROMISE ME, DAD); Senator Kamala Harris; Valerie Jarrett; Susan Rice; Communications Director for the UN Committee on Refugees, Melissa Fleming; Michelle Alexander, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Ken Armstrong and T. Christian Miller (A FALSE REPORT); She also represents bestselling novelists Carol Rifka Brunt (TELL THE WOLVES I'M HOME); Jonathan Evison (WEST OF HERE, THE REVISED FUNDAMENTALS OF CAREGIVING, LAWN BOY); Sarah McCoy (THE BAKER’S DAUGHTER, MARILLA OF GREEN GABLES); National Book Award-nominees Ali Benjamin (THE THING ABOUT JELLYFISH); poet Patricia Lockwood (PRIESTDADDY); and New York Times bestselling self-help guru Mark Manson (THE SUBTLE ART OF NOT GIVING A F*CK.)
Lina Srivastava
Founder of CIEL | Creative Impact and Experience Lab, a Social Innovation Strategy group in New York City. The former Executive Director of Kids with Cameras, and of the Association of Video and Filmmakers, Lina is the creator of the Transformational Change Leadership project, and has worked on strategic project design with organizations such as UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Bank, the U.S. State Department, and the AARP. Lina has worked on social engagement campaigns for award-winning documentaries, including Oscar-winning Born into Brothels, Oscar-winning Inocente, and Sundance-award winning Who Is Dayani Cristal?. She is on faculty in the Masters of Fine Arts Program in Design and Social Innovation at the School of Visual Arts. Lina is a Fulbright Specialist candidate, on the US State Department’s American Film Showcase roster, a Rockwood Institute/JustFilms Fellow, a recipient of a Rockefeller Foundation leadership grant, a Civic Hall Labs Fellow, a Boehm Media Fellow, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Lina is a graduate of New York University School of Law.

Sunny Bates
Author, Serial Entrepreneur & Mentor - USA

Founder and CEO of Sunny Bates Associates, an innovation firm that designs transformative engagements with the world’s most inspiring people. Sunny operates wherever executives, thinkers, artists, creators, innovators, entrepreneurs, educators, philanthropists connect and collide around the globe. Her genius is developing networks of extraordinary people and connecting their ideas in surprising ways toward concrete outcomes. As an Author, Serial Entrepreneur, Mentor and Advisor, her client roster has included some of the world’s most prominent companies and organizations, from GE, TED and Credit Suisse to MTV, the National Academy of Sciences, Techstars and Kickstarter, of which she is a founding board member.

Penny Abeywardena
Commissioner NYC Mayor’s Office for International Affairs - USA

Penny Abeywardena is New York City’s Commissioner for International Affairs. As head of the Mayor’s Office for International Affairs, she leads the City’s global platform for promoting its goals for a more just and accessible society, showcasing the diversity of New Yorkers and sharing policies and best practices with cities and states around the world. Prior to her current role, she was the Director of Girls and Women Integration at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI). Penny has been recognized for her leadership and impactful work. She serves on the Board of Directors of the United Nations Development Corporation, the International Advisory Council of the International Peace Institute (IPI), the World Economic Forum’s Global Future Council on Cities and Urbanization and is a Core Member of the United Nations’ SDG Strategy and Action Hub. She has been named a Young Leader by the French American Foundation; she’s also a World Economic Forum 2016 Young Global Leader. In her personal time, Penny serves on 92Y’s Innovation Advisory Committee and the Advisory Board of the Helm. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California and completed her Master of International Affairs at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.

Rachel Weisz
Producer & Actress
Rebecca Sides Capellan  
Director of Talent at ID PR

As a communications expert Rebecca, who has been at ID since 2003, oversees some of the world’s most renowned talent including: Lupita Nyong’o, Rashida Jones, Cynthia Nixon, Jim Parsons, Mandy Moore, Rachel Weisz, Zac Posen, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Natasha Lyonne and Tracee Ellis Ross. Rebecca has spearheaded launch campaigns for clients including the highly-successful Hermès Wall Street store opening, as well as their Men’s Store opening and the 2014 launch of Nasty Gal’s Sophia Amoruso’s New York Best Seller #GIRLBOSS. She has also led many successful Oscar®, Tony®, Emmy®, and Grammy® campaigns on behalf of her clients, setting forth a comprehensive strategy that is tailored to the needs, goals and expectations of clients, which encompasses both traditional and social media.

Adryan Dillon  
Director of Digital Strategy at ID - USA

Adryan fosters strategic partnerships and collaborations to help elevate client narratives and digital campaigns. Her work is always rooted in creating success for projects, preserving clients’ identities and values, and building their long-term brands. She works across all ID departments including talent, music, film, and brands. Adryan has worked with talent, entertainment entities and brands including Lupita Nyong’o, Alicia Keys, Lilly Singh, Jake Gyllenhaal, Ethan Hawke, Patrick Stewart, Jessica Seinfeld, Health-Ade, Medium, Omaze, Stand Up To Cancer, Refinery29, Henry Louis Gates’ Finding Your Roots and production company Made Up Stories.

Nahla Valji  
UN Senior Gender Advisor

Former Deputy Chief of UN Women’s Peace and Security Section, has led the organization’s policy and programmatic work, including with the UN Security Council, on peacekeeping, peace negotiations, transitional justice and rule of law, and countering violent extremism. She headed the Secretariat for the “Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325”, a comprehensive study requested by the UN Security Council for the 15-year review of women, peace and security. She has close to 20 years of experience in the United Nations and civil society, founded and managed the International Journal of Transitional Justice and is currently a co-editor of the Oxford Handbook on Gender and Conflict. Prior to joining the United Nations, Ms. Valji worked in South Africa, where she led the regional transitional justice work of the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation and managed the African Transitional Justice Research Network. She has a Master’s degree from York University, Canada.

Georgia Belle Glasman James  
Omnis Production Assistant

Originally from London but spent my high school years in Los Angeles. I went to the University of Pennsylvania for undergrad and got a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations. I am currently living in New York pursuing a MPA in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management at New York University’s Wagner School of Public Service.
A documentary cinematographer, who has worked internationally in Ghana, Myanmar, China, Nicaragua, Romania, and the U.S. Her work has screened at Athens Ethnofest, Chicago Palestine Film Festival, American Documentary Film Festival, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival & Big Sky Film Festival, among others. Select films she directed are Nobel Nok Dah (2015), For My Art (2016). She has received grants from the Academy of Arts and Sciences, Camden International Film Festival, Double Exposure Film Festival, The Propeller Fund, and a DVID fellowship from Kartemquinn Films. Miasarah has produced work for NBC Universal, YMCA, American Airlines, Nike and more.