



NOBEL WOMEN'S INITIATIVE DELEGATION TO LIBERIA

JANUARY 2013

Delegate Biographies

Jody Williams
Chair, Nobel Women's Initiative
USA

Jody received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for her work to ban antipersonnel landmines through the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), which shared the Peace Prize with her that year. Like others who have seen the ravages of war, she is an outspoken peace activist who struggles to reclaim the real meaning of peace—a concept which goes far beyond the absence of armed conflict and is defined by human security, not national security. Since January of 2006, Jody Williams has worked to achieve her peace work through the Nobel Women's Initiative, which she chairs. In 2003, Williams was named Distinguished Visiting Professor of Global Justice, in the Graduate College of Social Work at the University of Houston. Her memoir *My Name is Jody Williams: A Vermont Girl's Winding Path to the Nobel Peace Prize* will be published by the University of California in March 2013.



Leymah Gbowee
Nobel Peace Laureate, Nobel Women's Initiative
Liberia

2011 Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah is a Liberian peace activist, trained social worker and women's rights advocate. She is Founder and President of the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, head of the Liberia Reconciliation Initiative and Co-Founder and Executive Director of Women Peace and Security Network Africa (WIPSEN-A). She is also a founding member and former Liberia Coordinator of Women in Peacebuilding Network/West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WIPNET/WANEP). Leymah's leadership of the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace – which brought together Christian and Muslim women in a nonviolent movement that played a pivotal role in ending Liberia's civil war in 2003 – is chronicled in her memoir, *Mighty Be Our Powers*, and in the documentary, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. In addition, Leymah is the Newsweek Daily Beast's Africa columnist. She holds a M.A. in Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, VA), and a Doctor of Laws (LLD) honoris causa from Rhodes University in South Africa. She is based in Monrovia, Liberia and is the mother of six.



Mairead Maguire
Nobel Peace Laureate, Nobel Women's Initiative
Northern Ireland

Mairead was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1976 for her extraordinary actions to end the political conflict in her native Northern Ireland - an award she shares with Betty Williams. The pair, along with journalist Ciaran McKeown, organized massive peace demonstrations and founded Peace People, a movement committed to building



a just and peaceful society through nonviolent social action. Mairead currently serves as Honorary President. Since receiving the Nobel Prize, she has dedicated her life to promoting peace, both in Northern Ireland and around the world. Mairead is a member of the International Peace Council and author of *The Vision of Peace: Faith and Hope in Northern Ireland*. She travels regularly to Israel and Palestine to work with peace activists in the region for nonviolent solutions to the conflict and has sailed a number of times on the Free Gaza flotillas to break the siege and bring humanitarian supplies to Gaza.

Shirin Ebadi

Nobel Peace Laureate, Nobel Women's Initiative

UK

Shirin was awarded the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to promote human rights - in particular, the rights of women, children, and political prisoners in Iran. She is the first Muslim woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Shirin was one of the first female judges in Iran and was the first Iranian woman to achieve Chief Justice status. Along with other women judges, she was dismissed from this position after the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Since obtaining her lawyer's license in 1992, Shirin has taken on many controversial cases defending political dissidents and as a result has been arrested numerous times. She has written two books, *Iran Awakening: A Memoir of Revolution and Hope* and *The Golden Cage: Three Brothers, Three Choices, One Destiny*. She has also established many non-governmental organizations in Iran, including the One Million Signatures Campaign, a campaign demanding an end to legal discrimination against women in Iranian law. In January 2006, along with sister Laureate Jody Williams, Shirin took the lead in establishing the Nobel Women's Initiative.



Ana Pincus

Documentary Filmmaker

USA

After spending her childhood and school years in England, in her early twenties Ana Pincus left to travel the world and pursue her passion for human rights and social justice. She spent several years in India where she produced numerous short films, culminating in the acclaimed 40-minute documentary *Mother Teresa's First Love* (1997), which contains perhaps the last authorized footage of Mother Teresa and is a testament to the extraordinary legacy she left behind. After working on the documentary *Soldiers of Peace: A Children's Crusade* (1999), Ana spent several years working in the fashion industry in Los Angeles, including creating a successful children's clothing line, before moving to New York City and resuming her documentary career. Her recent film *My Name is Leila* (2012) marks her feature documentary debut from Island Bound Productions. Ana is currently producing a documentary about acclaimed British milliner Stephen Jones, OBE. Beyond her passion for filmmaking, Ana is a board member of the HAP foundation. She lives in New York City with her family.

Ann Patterson

Trustee, Peace People

Northern Ireland

A family therapist at the Quaker Center in Belfast, Ann works to provide counseling and support for families from divided communities. During the peace process in Northern Ireland, Ann worked with imprisoned paramilitaries from both sides, preparing them to enter into peace talks. She co-founded Peace People, a pacifist



movement that played a critical role in promoting the Good Friday Agreement and advancing the peace process in Northern Ireland. Ann has since travelled extensively, acting as an independent observer in numerous countries in conflict including Colombia, post-genocide Rwanda and Uganda.

Claudia Bluemhuber
Founder, GlobalFinance
Switzerland

Claudia founded GlobalFinance in early 1999. With her personal relationships to numerous asset managers, private equity firms and corporations, Claudia is widely known as one of the internationally best-connected advisers in the investment community. Claudia has a background in media, as she was a journalist and independent film producer and a project director at Bayerische Landeszentrale für Neue Medien (BLM), a state media agency. She also worked at Multimedia Support Center (msc) where she served as a consultant and brought the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Entrepreneurship Center to Germany.

Lauren Embrey
CEO/President, Embrey Family Foundation
USA

Lauren is CEO/President of the Embrey Family Foundation and CEO of Embrey Interests, Ltd., both located in Dallas, Texas. Lauren currently serves as a Board Member of Big Thought, The Dallas Film Society, The Dallas Women's Foundation, Planned Parenthood of North Texas, TACA, and Titas (Dallas), as well as The Nest Foundation (L.A.) and the MS Foundation (NYC). She is also Vice Chair of the Women Moving Millions Initiative, a member of the Women's Donor Network, the Women's Leadership Board at the Kennedy Center at Harvard University and the Global Philanthropist Circle. A dedicated philanthropist-activist, Lauren is a strong supporter of the Nobel Women's Initiative. She has produced the US premiere of *Truth in Translation* in 2007 and is Executive Producer for the documentary *Playground*, a film on the commercial sexual exploitation of children in America.



Lisa VeneKlasen
Executive Director, JASS (Just Associates)
USA

Lisa is the co-founder and director of Just Associates (JASS), an international feminist organization working in 28 countries through JASS' regional networks in Mesoamerica, Southern Africa and Southeast Asia. A 30-year social justice and women's rights activist and educator, Lisa has worked with diverse community groups, movements and international organizations. In the 1980s, her work in community development and adult literacy in Central America motivated her activism in peace and justice. She co-lead over 31 fact-finding missions of US opinion leaders and legislators to the region to change US policy, and was an organizer for the National Campaign for Peace in Central America. In the 1990s, shifting solely to women's rights, she helped establish Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF). She is the author of *A New Weave of Power, People and Politics: The Action Guide to Citizen Participation and Advocacy* (2002/2006), translated into 4 languages.



Lynne Twist
President, Soul of Money Institute
USA

Lynne a global activist, consultant, speaker, and award-winning author of *The Soul of Money*, has dedicated her life to global initiatives that create a sustainable future for all. As a co-founder of The Pachamama Alliance, she works with indigenous people of the Amazon and committed people worldwide to bring forth an environmentally responsible, spiritually fulfilling, socially just human presence on this planet. As the founder and president of the Soul of Money Institute, her mission is to educate, inspire, and empower people and organizations to align their financial resources with what they value most. Lynne has raised hundreds of millions of dollars, has spoken to thousands of people in the business, nonprofit, and academic arenas; and has coached individuals and families of high net worth in socially responsible giving and strategic philanthropy. She is a co-creator of the global media campaign, FOUR YEARS GO.



Margot Pritzker
Chair, Zohar Education Project Incorporated and
President and Founder, WomenOnCall.org.
USA

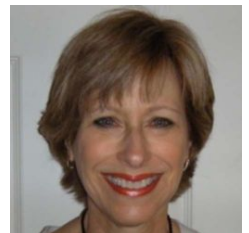
Margot is a Board Trustee of the Aspen Institute, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the International Board of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, and the Pritzker Early Childhood Foundation. She is also the chair of the University of Chicago Charter School Governing Board, which is a part of the University's Urban Education Institute. Born in England, Margot became a U.S. citizen in 1994. She resides in Chicago with her husband, Thomas J. Pritzker. They have three sons. Their extensive travel and knowledge of South Asia has resulted in one of the foremost collections of South Asian art. Margot holds a BA from Northwestern University and an AM from the University of Chicago.



Marisa Tomei
Actor
USA

Nancy Word
Co-Founder, Impact Austin
USA

Nancy retired from a successful 33 year career in information technology as a Vice President for Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC). Following her retirement, she joined forces with several other women in the Texas community to form a new non-profit organization called Impact Austin, which has given over \$3 million to the Austin community. Nancy has served on the Board of The Container Store and is now on the Board of Trustees of Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. Based in Texas with her husband, Brown, they are very involved in issues concerning sustainability of our planet. Together with her daughter Emily, Nancy is a supporter of the Nobel Women's Initiative.



Sara Vetter
Soul of Money Institute
USA

Sara works full time with the Soul of Money Institute and The Pachamama Alliance after over a decade in Advertising Sales. For the Pachamama Alliance she is a fundraiser, project manager, ambassador and leads trips to the Amazon Rainforest. With the Soul of Money Institute she works closely with the founder Lynne Twist in supporting the seven living Nobel Women Peace Laureates and the philanthropist who fund their work globally. Currently engaged and responsible for developing an ongoing high school curriculum and activities program from the materials of The Awakening The Dreamer Symposium, a worldwide transformational educational experience that empowers participants to respond to humanities current situation with action and informed grounded optimism about our future.



Sarah Cavanaugh
Curator, Jini Dellaccio Collection
USA

Sarah has worked in the nonprofit sector for over 17 years in a variety of issue areas including the arts, leadership development, environment, and children's health. She currently works as curator of the Jini Dellaccio Collection, preserving and promoting the work of a 96-year-old master artist still active in her field. She also serves as trustee and past president of The Russell Family Foundation and as a board director of the National Center for Family Philanthropy. She is a trustee of the Merwin Conservancy and co-founder and past president of Treeswing. She received a master's degree in education from Stanford University a long time ago. She is always open to learning and is most engaged in her roles as daughter, sister, partner, mother, and caregiver. Sara is a Nobel Women's Initiative supporter.



Seema Mathur
Freelance Journalist
USA

Seema Mathur founded Global Voice Productions in 2009. Seema has earned numerous awards for her reporting including a National Edward R. Murrow, a Lone Star Emmy and three Texas Associated Press Awards. She spent most of her career covering news for local and national networks. Her international experience includes coordinating coverage around the world for CNN's International desk. During the US led war in Iraq she coordinated crews in Turkey. On the first anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks she reported from the US Embassy in Tanzania to reflect on the East African Al-Qaeda attacks. She has also reported on access to healthcare in Uganda, the state of orphaned children in India, and women's rights in Morocco. In the US, Seema spent a number of years covering health issues for which she has earned 12 awards. She was selected for the prestigious Kaiser Media in Health fellowship in 2006.



Thomas Taylor
Freelance Cameraperson
USA

Trea Yip
CEO, TY Commercial Group and Philanthropist
USA

Through advocacy and involvement, Trea is committed to being an agent for change. Trea firmly endorses the ripple effect of investing in women and girls, which extends out to lift communities. Through her philanthropic work, it is her hope that she can help raise awareness and respect for all cultures, with emphasis on gender equity and social justice. Born in Beijing and raised in Hong Kong, Trea is the CEO of TY Commercial Group, a full-service real estate company services to an international clientele. A community leader and advocate for women and girls, she chaired the Board of the Dallas Women’s Foundation in 2010 and remains actively involved in the organization. In addition to her involvement with The Pachamama Alliance and the Nobel Women’s Initiative, Trea serves on the boards of Baylor Health Care System Foundation and the Southern Methodist University Cox School of Business. Trea lives with her husband, Richard, in Dallas and is the mother of three grown children.



Zaynab Elsawi
Coordinator, Sudanese Women Empowerment for Peace (SuWEP)
Sudan

Zaynab currently serves as the Coordinator of Sudanese Women Empowerment for Peace (SuWEP). SuWEP has a strong vision of a united women’s movement in Sudan that respects internal diversity and contributes to democracy, development, justice, gender equality and inclusiveness in a society based on sustainable peace.



Staff and Consultants

Judy Rand

**Owner, Photographer and Videographer, J. Rand Images, Inc.
USA**

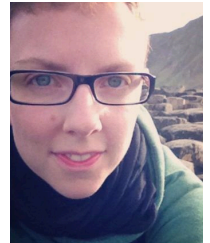
Judy is a documentary and portrait photographer. Some of her documentary projects include the first international conference of the Nobel Women's Initiative in Galway, Ireland; and the Nobel Women's Initiative Delegation to the Thai-Burma border, South Sudan, and Chad-Darfur area.



Lesley Hoyles

**Coordinator of Events and Operations, Nobel Women's Initiative
Canada**

Prior to joining the Nobel Women's Initiative team in June 2010 as the Coordinator of Events and Operations, Lesley worked for a number of non-profit organizations, including Planned Parenthood Toronto and Citizen Advocacy of Ottawa. Lesley is passionate about women's rights and reproductive rights. She is also a musician and a cyclist.



Liz Bernstein

**Executive Director, Nobel Women's Initiative
Canada**

Liz is the founding Executive Director of the Nobel Women's Initiative and the founder of Ecology Ottawa. Previously, she served as Coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) for eight years.



Maryam Moosavi

**Farsi interpreter
UK**

Rachel Schmidt

**Documentary Film Producer & Director
Canada**

Rachel's projects have taken her across the globe where she has worked with human rights organizations to document important stories. She is also the founder of the Women's United Liberation Front (WULF), a Canadian non-profit women's organization of artists working together for a world where all women have the freedom to speak for themselves and the power to build strong lives with economic independence and creative expression.



Rachel Vincent

**Manager of Media and Communications, Nobel Women's Initiative
Canada**

Rachel started her career as a radio journalist working in Canada and Mexico. Since 1994, she has worked as a senior communications advisor with not-for-profit groups and governments on international issues, environment and health.

