



RISE UP EVENTS AT UN CSW61



Rise Up's delegation to the 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women includes visionary leaders who have championed new laws and policies benefiting millions of girls, youth, and women in their communities across Nigeria, Malawi, and the United States. Our events include:

HER VOICE MATTERS

MONDAY, MARCH 13th | 4:30PM – 6:00PM

Armenian Cultural Center | Yerevan Hall | 630 2nd Avenue

Girl and women leaders share their perspectives, stories, and experiences as black leaders working for racial, social, and economic justice in the US and globally.

Moderator: Rufaro Kangai, Rise Up

Panelists: Alicia Garza, Black Lives Matter; Umma Iliyasu-Mohammed, Girl Child Concerns; Nakita Shavers, Rise Up Youth Champion; Beverly Tillery, New York City Anti-Violence Project; Vicki Wilkerson, Salesforce

MOVEMENT BUILDING FOR SAFE MOTHERHOOD

TUESDAY, MARCH 14th | 8:30AM – 10:00AM

Community Church of New York | Assembly Hall | 40 E 35th Street

African experts discuss advocacy for improved health and rights for girls and women, sharing clips from the new Nollywood feature film "Zahra."

Moderator: Dr. Denise Raquel Dunning, Rise Up

Panelists: Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Global Fund for Women; Dr. Yetnayet Asfaw Demessie, EngenderHealth; Umma Iliyasu-Mohammed, Girl Child Concerns; Dr. Wilson Imongan, Women's Health and Action Research Centre; Rufaro Kangai, Rise Up; Christine Terina, World Pulse

IMPACT OF GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY ON GIRLS

THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH | 2:30PM – 4:00PM

Church Center of the United Nations | 2nd Floor | 777 United Nations Plaza

Expert panelists discuss how philanthropy can drive new resources to girls globally.

Moderator: Dr. Denise Raquel Dunning, Rise Up

Panelists: Amy Kopelan, Bedlam Productions, Inc.; Tamara Mhango, Girls Empowerment Network Malawi; Jodi Morris, Connecting Growth Globally; Tracy Nowski, McKinsey & Company, Inc.; Helen Seibel, AstraZeneca; Riya Singh, Rise Up; Michelle Swenson, It's Time Network

ABOUT RISE UP

Rise Up advances health, education, and equity for girls, youth, and women everywhere. We invest in visionary leaders, local organizations, and innovative solutions to achieve large-scale change. Since 2009, Rise Up's global network of 500+ leaders has directly reached 7 million girls, youth, and women and has successfully advocated for over 100 laws and policies impacting 115 million people.

Rise Up unifies the power of **Let Girls Lead, Champions for Change**, and the **Youth Champions Initiative** to create a better future for girls, youth, and women in Africa, Central America, South Asia, and the United States.

For more information visit:

www.riseuptogether.org

 [@RiseUp_Together](https://twitter.com/RiseUp_Together)

**UMMA ILIYASU-MOHAMMED****Rise Up Champion and Program Manager, Girl Child Concerns, Nigeria**

Umma Iliyasu-Mohammed is a dedicated development practitioner who works with Girl Child Concerns to help Nigerian girls realize their potential. She believes that girls' empowerment requires education, life skills, and knowledge about their reproductive health and rights. Umma, a 2014 graduate of Rise Up's Champions for Change initiative, is a journalist by training and has degrees in Mass Communications and Management Science.

**DR. WILSON IMONGAN****Rise Up Champion and Deputy Executive Director, WHARC, Nigeria**

Dr. Wilson Imongan is a renowned medical practitioner and advocate for maternal health in Nigeria. At Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC), he is responsible for maternal health and communications outreach. Wilson is also involved in activities on the ground, including Ekiti State's teenage pregnancy prevention program. He is a 2014 graduate of Rise Up's Champions for Change initiative.

**TAMARA MHANGO****Program Manager, Girls Empowerment Network, Malawi**

Tamara is an acclaimed leader for girls' empowerment around the world with over a decade of experience working directly with girls. As Program Manager of the Girls Empowerment Network Malawi (GENET), she enables a network of young women to advocate for girls' health, education, and livelihoods. GENET is Rise Up's lead partner on ending child marriage in Malawi, with support from the Gates Foundation and in partnership with Michelle Obama's Let Girls Learn initiative.

**NAKITA SHAVERS****Rise Up Youth Champion, United States**

Nakita is a tireless advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights and promotes girls' leadership and community development in her city of New Orleans. She is involved in movements to transform New Orleans' communities by fighting for justice and opportunities for people of color. Nakita currently works at the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies, runs her own non-profit organization, and is a 2014 graduate of Rise Up's Youth Champions Initiative.

**RIYA SINGH****Rise Up Advisory Board Member and Research Fellow, United States**

Riya is a powerful voice for girls' education and rights in the US and globally. She recently earned a Bachelor's from UC Berkeley and completed two theses on the social cognitive implications of safe spaces and on the right to quality education, both focused on northern Nigeria's adolescent girls. Riya has served as a Teen Advisor and Co-chair to the UN Foundation's Girl Up campaign.

**RUFARO KANGAI****Rise Up Program Manager, Champions for Change, United States**

Rufaro is a leader in public health advocacy and communications with over ten years' experience developing programs in Sub-Saharan Africa. She is a seasoned cross-cultural communicator bridging global funders and local networks of CSO and policy leaders, with extensive front-line experience developing and managing advocacy programs to improve women and girl's health outcomes. Rufaro earned a Bachelor's in Media Communications and a Master's in Leadership and Management.

**DR. DENISE RAQUEL DUNNING****Rise Up Founder and Executive Director, United States**

Dr. Denise Raquel Dunning is a passionate advocate for girls, women, and young people. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Rise Up, which impacts the lives of 115 million girls, youth, and women globally. Denise is a Fulbright Scholar whose work has been featured in The New York Times, Ms. Magazine, The Christian Science Monitor, and The Guardian, and she now is writing a book about girls' and women's leadership and empowerment.