

'Education For Climate Justice' Workshop Series organised by:



## Building back greener and fairer: Education and action for a Just Transition

13 March 2021

Programme and Bios

10:00 – 10:20

### Welcome & Introduction

Zarina Ahmad and Jennifer Ba (Event hosts)

Professor Ali Watson OBE, Third Generation Project and a Professor of International Relations at the University of St Andrews

10:20 – 11:10

### Keynote Speaker: Ikal Ang'elei, 'People and Power for a Real and Just Transition'

Ikal is an indigenous, social- cultural and environmental justice activist. She is the founder and director of Friends of Lake working to provide women led community advocacy, meaningful participation of communities in development and control of their lands and territories, defence and protection of Lake Turkana; securing land, water and territorial rights; and demanding accountability of political and corporate power.

She is currently a PhD candidate at University of Leicester Department of Geography looking into the Political Ecology of Land formalization and how it results in the commodification and dispossession of pastoral commons. She has a master's in Public Policy from the Department of Political Science in State University of New York (SUNY) Stony Brook, and a Bachelor's degree at University of Nairobi. She has a particular interest in Political Ecology; examining the relationships between politics, land rights, indigenous rights and

resource extraction; environmental policy and politics of energy and natural resources; and exploring the role of debt in natural resource un/sustainability. She works towards the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making and control of the territories.

Ikal has received a number of awards, with the Goldman Environmental Award also known as the Green Nobel in 2012, Conservation International Fellowship, Luc Hoffman Medal among others

**11:10 – 11:20**

**Break**

**11:20 – 11:30**

**Recap and Welcome to Newcomers**

**11:30 – 12:15**

**Panel 1: A Community Conversation on Education for a Just Transition with a panel of young people**

**Panel**

Aniqah Ali (Community Education Student at UWS)

Anna Brown (Teach The Future Scotland)

Ayisha Ba (SCOREscotland)

Aleeza Ali (YCSA)

Haziq Ayaan Ahmad (YCSA)

Abdullah Janaby (Ahl Al Bait Society Glasgow)

**Introduction:** Zarina Ahmad

This conversation will address the following questions:

- Where did you learn about climate change and do you think there is enough awareness about the climate crisis?
- What changes are needed to build a better future and how could we ensure that the future is fairer and inclusive of all in society and the planet?

**12:15 – 12:45**

**Lunch / Yin yoga Session with Annelise Piers**

Yin yoga is a deeply meditative practice rooted in Traditional Chinese Medicine. The differentiator is long-held poses that target energy meridians believed to run in deeper connective tissues. This soulful practice helps make the body more flexible and strengthens the joints, while at the same time, heals deeply on the emotional and mental layers as it releases stuck energy.

**12:45 – 13:15**

**Lunch / Nidra yoga Session with Annelise Piers**

Yoga Nidra is also called Yogic Sleep. It's a practice of deep relaxation that guides your consciousness to the stage between waking and sleeping. One hour of Nidra is equivalent to four hours of quality sleep.

Annelise Piers specializes in physical and emotional healing, using a combination of yin yoga, essential oils and metaphor therapy. She is a qualified Hatha and Yin yoga teacher with Yoga Alliance USA, and an NLP Master Practitioner and Trainer, licensed by co-founder Dr. Richard Bandler and the Society of Neuro Linguistic Programing (USA & UK). She uses a potent mix of NLP and yin yoga to coach leaders in the corporate, in academia and women's health interventions. She has a global reach and a deep understanding of cross-cultural sensitivities, which she brings to her teachings.

**13:15 – 13:30**

**Recap and Welcome to Newcomers**

**13:30 – 14:00**

**Live Story with Storyteller Mara Menzies**

Mara is an award-winning performance storyteller and narrative artist, drawing on her rich, dual Kenyan/Scottish cultural heritage, to create worlds that explore contemporary issues through legend, myth and fantasy. She fuses ancient and modern in an intoxicating experience where the audience takes centre stage leading to invitations to perform around the world.

<https://www.marathestoryteller.com>

**14:00 – 14:10**

**Break**

**14:10 - 15:25**

**Panel 2: Post-capitalist Imaginaries and Education for a Just Transition**

**Host:** Mahmoud Makkawi (SCOREscotland)

**14:10 – 1430**

**Dena Arya, 'Just Transitions: Anti-capitalism and Social Imaginaries'**

Dena's life experiences bring a unique mix of skills and understandings to her research area. Having grown up in the UK as a refugee and worked as a BME female for over a decade in the youth and community sector, she has a distinct position from which to engage in understandings of power in marginalised spaces. Her journey through the youth and community sector began working at

Enfield Council's Children's Services. Here she supported vulnerable young people and their families. During this time budgets were slashed, and youth centres closed down. To understand the structural causes of this disarmament, she undertook an MA in International Social Policy with a focus on youth and citizenship policy. Post-MA her focus has been youth and community engagement and social research.

Her research interest in youth political participation stems from the early days of the financial crisis. In her practice with young people, she has witnessed the developing socio-economic pressure they face and the ways in which they navigate this. Further, her interest in environmental politics stems from her own environmental activism that she has been involved with as a young person and adult, resulting in projects with NGO's in India and Slovakia. The culmination of her vocational and voluntary experiences as well as her personal experiences of environmental and social justice activism have led to her PhD research interests.

**14:30 – 15:15**

### **Panel discussion**

The panel discussion will focus on the following questions:

- What is the role of anti-capitalism in education for a just transition?
- What are the challenges in developing post-capitalist narratives in educational spaces?

### **Panel**

**Zarina Ahmad** has been working in the environmental sector, for over 10 years. She has worked in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful, Global Justice Now and Stop Climate Chaos to name but a few. Zarina is a trainer delivering training on Climate Change, Climate Justice, Eco Feminism and sits on a number of boards including Friends of the Earth Scotland. Zarina was recently named as one of the top 30 influential women in environment by BBC's Women's Hour and is currently studying for a PhD on sustainability at University of Manchester.

**Councillor Graham Campbell** was selected as the first African Caribbean SNP Candidate for Holyrood on March 1st and could become Scotland's first Black MSP. He was elected Glasgow's first Black African Caribbean councillor in May 2017 and was Scotland's first male African Caribbean elected to public office. In 2018 he led the SNP Black Asian & Minority Ethnic affiliate SNP BAME Network to achieve formal recognition within the party, again making history when he was elected onto the party's National Executive Committee

as its first ever BAME Convener. He was re-elected as BAME Convener in November 2020. He's a veteran anti-racism campaigner on refugee rights and social housing tenants with a keen advocacy for social enterprise and community empowerment committed to achieving socialism from below to stop climate change and oppose investment in fossil fuels and the arms trade.

**Mark Langdon** is a community activist based in Glasgow and is involved in a wide range of social and environmental justice movements. He is a member of White Ribbon Scotland which is part of the global White Ribbon movement which encourages men to speak out against violence against women and children. Mark has studied Citizenship and Human Rights at Caledonian University and is currently studying part time at Strathclyde University for an EdD in Philosophy with Children. He is currently the chairperson of the board of trustees at North United Communities, a youth and family support project in North West Glasgow and GMAC Film, an arts charity that promotes diversity in the film and tv industry. Mark is a member of the Wellbeing Economics Alliance (WEAll) and a founder member of the Solidarity Against Neoliberal Extremism (SANE) Collective which is involved in building a radical municipalist movement in Glasgow.

**Eurig Scandrett** is a senior lecturer in sociology at Queen Margaret University with particular interest in academic activism and environmental justice in Scotland, India and Palestine. Eurig is also a representative of University and College Union Scotland on the Just Transition Partnership.

**15:15 – 15:25 Audience Q and A to Dena Arya and panellists**

**15:25 – 15:45 Closing**

Jennifer Ba

**Policy reflections**

Mary Collacott (Learning for Sustainability Scotland)

**Closing Reflections**

Mahmoud Makkawi

Ali Watson

Artist **Paola Rozo** (she/her) will document our series of events by creating a 'Living Image' that will capture the key messages, insights and soul of whatever takes place in the webinar. Paola Rozo is a process-oriented social transformation and learning [visual] facilitator. She is a listener, illustrator and doodler committed to supporting people and group processes through visuals which enable deeper understanding, sense-making and connection. Paola has a wide experience in facilitating a more aware practice within the complex, dynamic and uncertain international development field around the world.