

## Global Evaluation Advisory Group (GEAG) Membership

The GEAG provides support and acts as an advisory body to the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation of the Humanitarian Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Its main purpose is to ensure the relevance, quality and utility of the evaluation's findings. Acting in a volunteer, personal capacity, its esteemed members will help inform the evaluation's scope, findings and recommendations by sharing their perspective, advice and insight on the strategic, policy and operational context of the international humanitarian response to COVID-19. They will also help amplify and implement the evaluation's findings.

### Anusanthee Pillay

*Global Women's Protection Advisor, Action Aid*



Over the past 30 years, Anusanthee has spent her time advancing a feminist perspective to social transformation and working on issues related to protection from sexual and gender-based violence. In her current role as a Global Women's Protection Advisor, she provides expert advice on women's protection to staff and partners, in particular in humanitarian emergencies and protracted crises. With Action Aid, Anusanthee also supports country programmes to embed high quality, women-led community-based protection approaches with a feminist perspective and facilitates strategic positioning in country, regional and global protection-related coordination structures, platforms,

networks and alliances. Prior to her role at Action Aid, she worked with the United Nations (UN) as a Senior Gender Advisor providing gender equality programming and capacity building support to UN missions and agencies in humanitarian crises across the globe. Anusanthee holds a PhD from the University of York.

### Colum Wilson

*Deputy Director, Acting Head of the Conflict Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE), United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)*



Colum has expertise in leading humanitarian responses in fragile and conflict-affected states. In his professional career, he has represented both major donor and international non-governmental organizations' (NGOs) perspectives. Colum headed FCDOs' COVID-19 humanitarian operations hub in 2020 and led the UK's humanitarian COVID-19 response. Prior to that, he acted as Deputy Head of the CHASE Department, where he oversaw the strategic direction of the department and supported policy development. Colum also previously worked as the Country Director in Zambia of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). He holds a Master of Arts in International Security and Strategy from King's College in London.

### Fouad Mohamed Fouad

*Associate Professor of Public Health Practice, American University of Beirut (AUB); Co-Director of the Refugee Health Program at the Global Health Institute; Senior Research Fellow at King's College in London*



Fouad, a general surgeon by training, has a deep background in research and refugee health. In addition to his current appointments, Fouad is also a Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator on several projects related to health in protracted and armed conflicts and health systems in fragile settings. His current research focuses on the forcibly displaced populations with a special interest in the Syrian refugee crisis and its impact on the health and well-being of the Syrian population. He has undertaken extensive research work on health workforces in humanitarian settings and the weaponization of healthcare in armed conflicts. Fouad has also served as a commissioner in two Lancet Commissions:

Health and Aid, and the UCL-Lancet Commission on Migration and Health. He is an author of more than 70 articles, op-eds and reports published in top journals.

## Gopal Mitra

*Senior Social Affairs Officer, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (SG)*



In his current role at the UN, Gopal works on the coordinated implementation of the SG's UN Disability Inclusion Strategy. He also leads the Disability Team, whose work contributes to the strategy's implementation across the UN pillars in both programmes and operations. Prior to his current appointment, Gopal was part of United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) Disability Section for seven years and led its work in the areas of disability inclusive humanitarian action, accessibility and assistive technology. He supported UNICEF Country Offices in different regions to mainstream disability inclu-

Team, which developed the *IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action*. Gopal started his professional career in the Indian Army as a major where he was involved in crisis and post-disaster response for ten years. Following an injury from an explosion, he became blind in 2000. Gopal holds a Master of Arts in Social Work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in India and a Master of Science in Development Management from the London School of Economics.

## Jeremy Konyndyk

*Executive Director, COVID-19 Task Force Office of the United States Administrator for International Development; and Member of the World Health Organization (WHO) High-level Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee*



Jeremy is an expert in humanitarian and epidemic response management. He currently serves as the Executive Director for COVID-19 at the US Agency for International Development (USAID), where he oversees the agency's work related to COVID-19 and coordinates a funding portfolio of more than USD\$10 billion. He previously served from 2013 to 2017 as USAID's Director for Foreign Disaster Assistance and led the US Government's response to numerous crises, including the West Africa Ebola outbreak. Between his terms in government, he managed research initiatives at the Center for Global Development

Jeremy was also the co-creator of the COVID-Local initiative to develop a frontline guide for use by city and community leaders to fight COVID-19. As a member of the Independent Advisory Group to the WHO Director-General, he helped design WHO's post-Ebola emergency response reforms. Earlier in his career, Jeremy worked as the Director of Policy and Advocacy for Mercy Corps and in field leadership roles with other NGOs. Jeremy holds a bachelor's degree from Calvin College and a master's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

## Joanne Liu

*Professor and Director of the Pandemic and Health Emergency Readiness Lab (PERL) at the School of Population and Global Health, McGill University*



Joanne is a public health expert with a special focus on pandemic and health emergencies. Currently, she is a co-panelist in the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response mandated by the World Health Assembly (WHA) to evaluate the response to COVID-19. As the former International President of MSF, Joanne was one of the leading voices on health humanitarian crises, such as the Ebola outbreak. Her experience in health emergencies and humanitarian crisis involves working as a Board Member of *The New Humanitarian*, the Centre for Humanitarian Development, and the Coalition for Epidemics Preparedness Innovation, among others. Joanne possesses two international master's degrees from McGill University, one in health leadership and the other in management.

*Photo Credit: Rodolphe Beaulieu*

## Meg Sattler

*Director, Ground Truth Solutions*



Meg is a humanitarian aid professional, reformist and commentator, with extensive experience in management, humanitarian accountability, quality and effectiveness, communications and advocacy. Her field experience focused on protracted crises and the Middle East. As the Director of Ground Truth Solutions, Meg leads the organization's programming and advocacy efforts to ensure that voices of crisis-affected people influence humanitarian programming and decision-making. Before her current appointment, Meg previously worked as a Senior Advisor on humanitarian accountability and community engagement to numerous UN agencies. She is a board member for the Humanitarian Innovation Fund,

the Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance and the Bendigo Bank; and is also a part of the RedR Australia expert pool. She has a master's in journalism and a Graduate Diploma in Humanitarian Leadership.

## Najeeba Wazefedost

*Founder of Global Refugee Network, Asia Pacific Network of Refugees*



Najeeba is a former refugee from Afghanistan and has pursued a career as an advocate, educator, public speaker and skilled researcher. She is the Founder of Global Refugee Network and the Asia Pacific Network of Refugees. Najeeba supports refugee-led, regional and global networks that focus on uniting refugees, migrant-led organizations and refugee change-makers from around the world to discuss their lived experiences and propose solutions for effective and sustainable refugee policy. Prior to this role, she was a gender auditor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, where she ensured that gender equality and the empowerment of refugee and migrant women remained a top priority.

Through her work, Najeeba prioritizes and amplifies the voices, experience and aspirations of those most directly impacted. She holds a Bachelor of Medical Science.

## Ruth Hill

*Lead Economist, Global Unit of the Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank*



Prior to her current role as Lead Economist at the World Bank, Ruth worked in the Africa and South Asia Units on Rural Income Diagnostics, Poverty Assessments, Systematic Country Diagnostics and an Urban Safety Net project. From 2019 to 2021, she was the Chief Economist on the external service at the UK government's Centre for Disaster Protection. Before joining the World Bank, Ruth was a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute, where she conducted impact evaluations on insurance, credit and market interventions. She holds a doctorate in economics from the University of Oxford.

## Smruti Patel

*Founder, Global Mentoring Initiative (GMI)*



Smruti is the Founder and Director of the GMI and has extensive management experience in both business and humanitarian action. Prior to her involvement in GMI, she was one of the evaluators and authors of the Tsunami Evaluation Consortium's study on the impact of international relief response on local capacities and has since been an advocate for locally-led responses and accountability to affected populations (AAP). Smruti was also previously the Head of Membership Services and Certification at Humanitarian Accountability Partnership International (now Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance) and was involved in developing the Seven Dimensions Framework for Localization for the Start Network.

Throughout her career, she has facilitated co-creating spaces to foster

better collaboration, power shifting, equity, inclusion, anti-racism and decolonization. Smruti is one of the founders and members of the International Convening Committee of Alliance for Empowering Partnership, a member of the IASC technical expert groups on AAP, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, and inclusion; as well as a member of the board of the International NGO Training and Research Centre.

## Thomas Zahneisen

### *German Federal Foreign Office*



As a German diplomat, Thomas has longstanding experience working in humanitarian settings. He is the former Deputy Director-General for Stabilization and Director for Humanitarian Assistance in the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. Thomas has also worked with the IASC and was a member of the Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund. He also served as the Head of his government's Task Force on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Deputy Ambassador in Kabul, Diplomatic Advisor to the European Union Force Mission in Kinshasa and the German Representative of the Permanent Mission in New York.

## Violet Kakyomya

### *United Nations Resident Coordinator in Chad*



As a specialist in development planning and social policy, Violet has more than 20 years of experience in project management, social policy analysis and development. She has extensive experience as a UN Resident Coordinator in Africa, holding this position in both Chad and Madagascar. Prior to this role, she was the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund in Guinea Bissau and Malawi. Violet previously worked at the United Nations Development Programme for ten years and has held several management positions, including that of Deputy Representative in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo. Before joining the UN, she worked in her home country with NGOs. Violet holds a postgraduate diploma in organizational leadership from the University of Oxford, a Master

of Science in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and Social Administration from Makerere University.

## GEAG Contact Information

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<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-humanitarian-evaluations>