



IS SPACE CLOSING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN GLOBAL HEALTH?

19 MAY 2020 | 16:00 – 17:30

73rd World Health Assembly Week

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

More information: graduateinstitute.ch/73WHA-Civil-Society

GARGEYA TELAKAPALLI

Research Associate, People's Health Movement



Gargeya Telakapalli is Research Associate in the People's Health Movement. He is based in Hyderabad, India. He is a medical doctor with a Master's degree in Public Health. Before joining the People's Health Movement, he worked on the government's National Health Mission. He is also an active member of the All India Peoples Science Network working on the issues of Right to Health.

MERCY KORIR

Medical Doctor; Journalist, KTN News, Kenya



Mercy Korir is a results driven, goal orientated individual. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) and a Master of Arts degree in Communication Studies (Development Communication) both from the University of Nairobi. Her 4-year clinical practice has been intense and extensive in both public and private health sectors in the country, caring for patients from a range of backgrounds. For the last 3 years, she has been a medical journalist with KTN News based in Nairobi, uniquely blending in her medical background to report on health, highlighting health topics that are of interest to the public and society at large. She does both written and broadcast health stories in the various platforms by The Standard Group, one of the leading media houses in Kenya. She is an ICFJ Fellow on Early Childhood Development and a 2018 Gates Foundation Goalkeeper. She is a moderator and public speaker on health matters.

MIKE PODMORE

Executive Director, STOPAIDS; Chair, Action for Global Health



Mike Podmore is a leading advocate working on global health, international development and sustainable financing. He is Executive Director of STOPAIDS, the network of over 70 UK-based organisations committed to supporting strong UK leadership on the global AIDS response; and Chair of the Action for Global Health Steering Committee. From 2016-18, he had been the Board Member leading the Developed Country NGO Delegation to the Global Fund Board, and was previously the Alternate Board Member (2016-17). He currently serves on the Global Fund Strategy

Committee, and has previously served in advisory groups for the board on such issues as sustainability, transition and co-financing. In addition, he serves in and leads numerous other high-level global health advocacy mechanisms, including serving on the steering committee of the Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN); as Vice-chair of the Commonwealth HIV and AIDS Action Group; on the steering group of Action For Global Health UK; on the management group of Stamp Out Poverty; and on the Board of Trustees of WACI Health. Podmore is a frequently-invited public speaker at numerous United Kingdom and international forum. He has spoken at numerous UK Parliamentary events, and was invited to give oral evidence at three UK Parliament International Development Select Committee inquiries (2012, 2017, 2019). He was a keynote speaker at the 2017 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) 4th High-level Meeting Governing Board. He has spoken and chaired panels at International AIDS Conferences; UNAIDS consultation meetings; Annual GFAN Meetings; Global Health Multilateral Civil Society Representatives co-ordination meetings; Results UK National Conference; and numerous STOPAIDS members meetings and conferences. Podmore has worked in the field of international development for seventeen years. Prior to joining STOPAIDS, he was the Policy Manger for the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and worked for 9 years at Volunteer Services Organization. Mike has an MSc in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies.

NADEJDA DERMENDJIEVA

Executive Director, Bulgarian Fund for Women



Nadejda Dermendjieva is Executive Director of the Bulgarian Fund for Women since 2015. Prior to joining the Fund, she has been working for the Bulgarian Centre of Women in Technology and MoveBG – a platform for e-democracy. Nadejda holds Master's degrees in Creative Writing and in Gender Studies from Sofia University. In addition to her leadership role in the Bulgarian Fund for Women, she is a member of the Board of Prospera – International Network of Women's Funds (since 2020) and an advisor for the Eastern European region to the Global Fund for Women and Urgent Action Fund. Nadejda is passionate about women's rights and gender equality and in her free time, she writes articles published in various media about the importance of empowering women and girls.

THOMAS SCHWARZ

Executive Secretary, Medicus Mundi International



Thomas Schwarz is Executive Secretary of Medicus Mundi International, a network of organizations working in the field of international health cooperation and global health governance. MMI promotes access to health and health care as a fundamental human right. Thomas is a civil society networker, facilitator and advocate, with a focus on the WHO and other Geneva based global health institutions and processes, and looking at civil society governance with a critical eye. He initiated the project of a civil society Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2), which was launched by a group of organisations in 2016 and is since then hosted by the MMI Secretariat.

Moderator

MEG DAVIS

Special Advisor, Strategy and Partnerships, Global Health Centre



Meg Davis, Ph.D., is Special Advisor at the Global Health Centre of the Graduate Institute. She is also a coordinator of courses on sexual violence in conflicts and emergencies at the Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action. Meg was the first senior human rights advisor at the Global Fund; the founder and executive director of Asia Catalyst, a health and human rights NGO; and a researcher on China at Human Rights Watch. She earned her Ph.D. from University of Pennsylvania. Her second book, *The Uncounted: Politics of Data in Global Health* will be published by Cambridge University Press in June 2020.