



International
Day of
**Persons with
Disabilities**

3 DECEMBER

Bios of Speakers



Ms. Daniela Bas

Director of Division for Inclusive Social Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Daniela Bas has been the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs since 2011. Ms. Bas has a background in political science with a major in International Politics. She is also a certified life coach and journalist and worked for the major press, radio, and television networks.

Presently she is also President of UN(dis)ABILITIES: a self help group of staff members and delegates of Permanent Missions with a disability/disabling condition or with a family member with a disability to support the UN system to be a non-discriminatory and accessible environment for all to be an effective global leader on inclusion and the implementation of the 2030 development Agenda and to empower and advocate for equality of opportunity and for the rights and interests of all stakeholders working within the UN premises in all duty stations and UN operations.

In addition to her work at the United Nations from 1986 to 1995, she held managerial roles until 2000 in the private sector in Italy. From then until 2011, before joining UNDESA she was, inter alia, adviser for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Italy. On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she was Board Member of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and of the Committee to Promote non-Armed and non-Violent Civil Defense of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Ms. Bas was also the special adviser to the Vice President of the European Commission on human rights, democracy, and social affairs.



Ambassador Markova Concepción Jaramillo

Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations in New York

Minister of Social Development of Panama for the period of 2019-2020. She was designated by the President of the Republic of Panama to preside over the National Council for Gender Parity and was President of the National Advisory Council on Disability (CONADIS) period 2019-2020.

She is an economist with a master's degree in Gender and Development from the University of Panama (scholarship by the Pro-Equality program of the European Union). She has two postgraduate degrees, one in Training in Economic Research and Organization Management and another in Virtual Learning Environments.

She has 20 years of experience addressing issues of gender, children, youth and public policies, people with disabilities, strategic planning, and public management with organizations such as UNICEF, USAID, IDB, UNDP, AECID, European Union and the ILO. Additionally, she has been National and international speaker on sustainable human development and gender.

Was appointed and served as National Planning Director in the Ministry of Social Development and the Public Ministry.

Served as Director of Social Development of the Business Association Sumarse - Pacto Global Panamá, which promotes the issues of Corporate Social Responsibility, 2014- 2019.

Held a position serving as Monitoring, Evaluation and Communications Specialist of the Community Forestry Program in Darien of USAID-FCD and Chemonics International Inc. as well as Coordinator of Monitoring and Evaluation of the Justice Improvement Program of the European Union in the Judicial Branch.

Is a Member of RED UNIDAS for the joint work between Latin America and Germany in favor of women's rights, representing Panama since May 2019, invited by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany.

Was invited to participate in the Latin American delegation to the Study and Dialogue Program about the digitization of the world of work from June 10 to 16, 2018 in the Federal Republic of Germany, by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

She was awarded a scholarship by the ILO Training Center to participate in the Global Gender Academy event in Italy, November 2017 and for the Course on Gender, Diversity and Inclusion by the ILO in Turin, Italy in 2015.

University professor in the area of economics and gender, as well as facilitator in the International Diploma on Governance and Public Management in the Ethics and Political Action module. In addition, she facilitated the course on Design of public policies of the Center for Public Policies and Transparency of the University of Panama (2010-2019), sponsored by the Development Bank of Latin America and the George Washington University, DC.

Was a member of the Advisory Council of the Observatory for the Rights of Children and Adolescents of Panama (ODENA) in 2017 and 2018. Represented Panama as commissioner of ODENA in the presentation of advancements on children's rights before the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the United Nations, in Geneva 2017.

Graduated from the Leadership Program - Agents of Change 2003 of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and has been a facilitator for the new generations of the program.

Also received the “Outstanding Young People” Award in the 2006 Leadership and Academic Achievement category, awarded by the Junior Chamber of Panama.

She received recognition from the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Panama and the United Nations Development Program in the Results-Based Management Course, for presenting the best institutional proposal on behalf of the Ministry of Social Development in 2005.



H.E. Damiano Beleffi is working as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of San Marino to the U.N., and as Ambassador to the U.S.A. and Canada.

He served as a member of the Credential Committee of the 74th session of the General Assembly of the U.N.

He served as Vice President of the 73rd session of the General Assembly of the U.N.

Ambassador of San Marino to Germany from 2008 to 2011, Deputy Permanent Representative of San Marino to the Council of Europe from 2001 to 2008 and Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN from 2008 to 2016.

He has a Master's Degree in Political Science (University of Genoa – Italy). He speaks Italian,

French and English.

He is married and he has two daughters.



Ambassador Webson_Antigua and Barbuda

“Ambassador Webson is an innovator and a leader. He founded the Friends of Vision at the United Nations; a group responsible for advocating for eye health to be included in universal health care. He was successful in getting eye health for the first time included in a UN resolution on UHC.

He was the lead sponsor on two resolutions affecting the lives of persons with disabilities around the world and is considered as a champion on disabilities issues and a leading voice on issues of Small States.”



Annika Emmert is a 17-year-old girl from Florida, The United States. Annika was born with amniotic band syndrome causing the loss of her right hand. She has used her disability to become an inspiration to other children like her. She plays soccer and loves to share her experiences on and off the field about the adversity she faces being a youth with a disability. She was gifted a 3D printed myoelectric arm when she was ten years old. Since then, she has found her passion in inspiring others with disabilities alongside the family at Limbitless Solutions. Thanks to them she is forever grateful for the confidence and love she has gained for her own difference. Guiding and encouraging parents and children to be public and transparent with their struggles and successes. She wants to target people who are quiet and scared to embrace their differences and share that it's okay to be 100% your own person. She says, "To live confidently in the body you are gifted, is to live authentically".



Andy Imparato is a disability rights lawyer and policy professional who has been working inside and outside government to advance policies and practices to improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities for over 30 years. His perspective is informed by his lived experience with bipolar disorder. He is the executive director of Disability Rights California, a \$44 million legal services and policy advocacy organization based in Sacramento with 26 offices across California. Since 2016, he has led the planning for four international summits on disability employment that have attracted participation from over 40 countries. He has been an advisor on disability inclusion and accessibility to a number of large employers, including Walmart, Verizon, AT&T, Microsoft, IBM, Walgreens, and SAP.



Glen Killane took over the role of Executive Director of Eurovision Sport in June 2020, stepping up from the position of Deputy Director of Eurovision Sport, a role he held since August 2018.

Before joining the EBU, Glen was Managing Director of Eir Sport and Eir TV, owned by Irish Telco Eir, where he led the launch of their OTT pay sports business and ran the company's IPTV platform.

He was Managing Director of RTE Television from 2010 until 2016, during which time he was elected Chair of the EBU Television Committee.

Glen began his career as a sports journalist working in editorial positions for RTE and for ITV in London where he was editor of live football. He was Group Head of Sport for RTE from 2004 until 2010 and was elected as Vice Chair of the EBU Sport Committee.

Born in Dublin in Ireland, Glen (aged 50), was educated at Trinity College Dublin where he gained a degree in English Literature and he holds a Masters degree in Journalism from Dublin City University.

Hafsa Qadeer,
CEO & Founder, ImInclusive

Hafsa Qadeer is a social entrepreneur, the CEO and Founder of ImInclusive, driven by the passion to reducing inequalities and bridging gaps between employers and people with disabilities. She is

a proud sibling of a talented person of determination (person with disability), Ahmed Qadeer who lives with Spinal Bifida. She has founded a multi award-winning enterprise and online job portal in the UAE that provides employment opportunities to people with disabilities across MENA and Pakistan. Since January 2020, evolving from a community initiative to a scaling company, ImInclusive has become the MENA's largest movement of equitable employment for all. In 2022, became the 1st social certified business in the UAE to conduct inclusive employment activities, making national history. Hafsa Qadeer graduated from Middlesex University with a Bachelors in International Business and holds a diploma in innovative marketing.



Sara Basson's role at Google focuses on doing more to empower people with disabilities in emerging markets. In her previous role, she served as Disability Inclusion Lead, with the goal of making the experience of Googlers more inclusive, and technology more accessible and usable, through education and advocacy around accessibility. She served as President of the Disability Alliance Employee Resource Group from 2018 - 2021. In previous roles, she worked at IBM Research on the Education Transformation initiative, to achieve better academic outcomes using personalized learning and analytics. In 2011, she completed an international assignment at IBM Research-India, where she worked on strategy, business, and user interface design issues for Spoken Web, a tool that created internet-like access for developing regions, using mobile phones and speech recognition. She has also served as principal investigator from IBM Research to drive improved educational access using speech technologies for university students with disabilities through the Liberated Learning consortium, working with 20 universities worldwide. Sara has more than 50 articles published on topics in speech technology and accessibility in technical journals, as well as multiple patents. She was granted the title of Master Inventor in IBM Research in 2011.

Sara holds an M.B.A. in Management/Marketing from Stern School of Business, New York University, and a Ph.D. in Speech, Hearing, and Language Sciences from The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She also holds an Honorary Doctorate degree from Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in recognition of her extensive activities using speech technologies to enhance accessibility in the educational arena.

Sara serves on the Board of Directors for Lexington School for the Deaf, inABLE Africa, and Meals on Wheels of White Plains.

Ms. Isidora Guzmán Silva

Isidora is a 17 inclusion and gender equality activist. She was born at 28 weeks of pregnancy, which caused her cerebral palsy.

At 13, she created an app for people with disabilities to find parking lots. However, she changed to Encuentra tu lugar in English "Find your place," an organization that helps democratize inclusion in society and contributes to assisting people with disabilities to find accessible and inclusive places creating alliances with universities, schools, jobs, and entertainment with the private and public sector. Nowadays, the organization has more than 30 volunteers around the country.

She is a Counselor at the NGO "Tenemos que hablar de Chile," a volunteer of "Fundación Tremendas," and "National Gender Youth Activist" for UN Women as a member of the UN Generation Equality Adolescent Mobilization Committee. Currently, she is part of the 2022-2024 cohort of Young Leaders for the SDGs recognized by the UN and one of the 100 Women Leaders of 2022 in her country.

Mary E. Davis is an undergraduate capstone faculty member at the Jackson School for Global Affairs (2022-2023).

Dr. Davis is a cultural historian whose work focuses on fashion and its connections to music, sport, and society. She has written and lectured extensively on these topics and is the author of the books *Classic Chic: Music, Fashion, and Modernism* (2006), *Erik Satie* (2008), *Waiting For A Train: Jimmie Rodgers's America* (2009), *Ballets Russes Style: Diaghilev's Dancers and Paris Fashion* (2010), and *Paul Poiret and the Idea of the Luxury Brand* (forthcoming 2023).

Dr. Davis has worked to forge international collaborations with educational institutions including the Institut Français de la Mode, the Milan Fashion Institute, and Centro (Mexico City). She has developed partnerships with global brands and industry associates to explore issues ranging from sustainability and ethical labor practices to cultural capital and gender equality. Her essays and articles have appeared in scholarly journals, specialist publications, and the mainstream press, and she has lectured and taught nationally and internationally on a range of interdisciplinary topics.

Dr. Davis was previously a member of the faculty at Case Western Reserve University, where she was Chair of the Music Department, Associate Director of the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, and University Liaison to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. From 2012-2020 she served as Dean of the School of Graduate Studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Davis holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, master's degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music and the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, and a bachelor's degree in music from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame.

Michal Rimon
CEO of Access Israel

Michal received her Law Degree from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and an MBA from Zicklin Business School, NYC. She was the spokesperson for the Israeli Mission to the UN. In 2007 she joined Access Israel and represented the organization in the Israeli Parliament . Since 2011 Michal serves as the CEO of Access Israel which is the first non-profit organization in Israel whose main mission is to promote accessibility and inclusion for people with all kind of disabilities as well as for the elderly. Access Israel strives to create a society that is fully accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities and the elderly in all aspects of life in order for them to live with dignity, respect, equal rights and maximum independence.

As part of her work, Michal leads and nurtures an international network of experts promoting accessibility and inclusion for all.



Stephane Leblois has been working for disability rights and inclusion for the past decade. His career in the disability space spans digital accessibility, inclusive education and employment. He previously served as the lead employment expert for The Arc of the United States, consulting with private and public sector companies on hiring jobseekers with disabilities and developing inclusive products and services. Stephane founded the pioneering Washington Wolfpack RFC, the US' first disability-inclusive team and serves on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for USA Rugby, the country's national governing body for the sport.