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Young Outlook  
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#### **CEDENIR OLIVERA - Brazil**

Cedenir is a social activist with the Movement for Landless Farmers (MST), which is famous around the world for its long struggle to bring about land reform in Brazil. Hailing from a landless farming family himself, Cedenir joined the MST around ten years ago and now organises other landless farmers in the Rio Grande do Sul province in southern Brazil.



#### **CHANDEEP COREA - Sri Lanka**

Chandeeep is an environmental activist from Sri Lanka. As website designing has always been an interest of his, he has his own website design company. While it is a source of income, he also uses it to create awareness about local environmental concerns. He is involved in finding solutions for the ongoing human elephant problem in Wasmamuwa in Sri Lanka and actively participates in laying electric fences to fend off the elephants and in educating villagers on how to deal with this issue.



#### **CRYSTAL ODERSON - South Africa**

A media and gender activist from South Africa, Crystal has worked as a television and radio journalist for South Africa's national broadcaster, covering historic changes in the country during the past 7 years. The focus of her media work has been on socio-economic rights and gender issues, including the rise of vigilantism in Cape Town and Zimbabwe. In search of newer pastures for her creative output and social conscience, Crystal joined the fledgling Young Africa Television project where she hopes to educate and entertain youth while telling the true stories of the African continent.



#### **KIM BULLIMORE - Australia**

Kim is an activist with the Indigenous Students Network, which champions the rights of Australia's marginalised aboriginal community. Kim and her colleagues are now fighting for restoration of land rights to the aboriginal people and the signing of a treaty recognising their rights. Kim is also very active in the women's rights movement in Australia, particularly on the issue of abortion rights.

#### **LAUREN CARROLL LEWIS - Australia**



At just 15, Lauren is a very young member of the Australian youth group Resistance which organizes students and youth to fight for social justice, both at home and abroad. Lauren is currently involved in a major Resistance campaign on behalf of refugees coming to Australia who are denied the right to live in the country and instead are put in detention camps. Lauren and her fellow activists are also campaigning in Australia for Palestinian independence, democratic rights in Indonesia and for support for the newly formed country of East Timor. Apart from such international issues, Resistance is also involved in opposing the increasing costs of education for Australian students and for changes in educational policy.



#### **LISA MARIE LAEGREID - Norway**

With a father in the foreign service, Lisa Marie grew up experiencing cultural diversity at first hand, which later developed in to a professional interest in communication as a developmental tool. In recent years, Lisa Marie has worked with sex-workers and drug addicts on the streets of her hometown Oslo in Norway. She has also worked with street people in her work with the Youth with a Mission group. Influenced by her formative years in Latin America, Lisa Marie is interested in the issues and people of that region. She is currently working with [mandatethefuture.org](http://mandatethefuture.org), an online forum for developmental issues in Asia, helping them build a Spanish-speaking online community.



#### **LORENA GAMBOA - Ecuador**

Lorena Gamboa is an environmental activist from Ecuador. Her work in Ecuador focuses mainly on halting the destruction of nature, taking place in the name of 'progress', while also providing local communities with alternatives which protect the environment rather than destroy it. Working for Rainforest Rescue in Ecuador, Lorena tirelessly campaigns against large multi-national companies which put profit ahead of the interest of the people, while also providing local communities with sustainable alternatives. One solution she offers to the local community is 'Analog Forestry' which promotes the re-growth of the forest, while at the same time providing farmers with a self sustaining crop. This way, she hopes to utilize traditional knowledge to provide not only a better living standard for the people, but also to help keep the environment safe.



#### **MARCOS RENATO BENEDETTI - Brazil**

Marcos is an AIDS and gay rights activist working on HIV/AIDS prevention and counselling with an NGO called GAPA, based in Porto Alegre, Brazil. An anthropologist by training, Marcos works on a voluntary basis in a variety of projects including safe sex campaigns, promoting awareness about HIV/AIDS and counselling for sex workers.



#### **MARTHA LUCIA MORENO - Colombia**

The past 11 years of Martha Lucia's life has witnessed her involvement in everything from active campaigning for youth participation in the writing of a new constitution as part of progressive Colombian president Cesar Gaviria's government, to founding a local newspaper in Bogota, and to working in human rights and sustainable development programmes for international foundations. Involved once again in multiple projects in Sri Lanka, Martha Lucia currently works on the production team of two Young Asia Television programmes while lending a hand with projects and proposals on various social and developmental issues for the Worldview Foundation.



#### **NARUMOL THAMMAPRUKSA - Thailand**

Narumol Thammapruxa is a theatre activist from Thailand, who is currently working as the curator of the Chiang Mai Fine Arts Museum. An accomplished performer, director and producer, she has been using theatre and creative dance as a tool for social activism. Her work has included projects to empower women, children and former sex workers. In 1996, she co-founded the International WOW Company which brought together theatre artists from Taiwan, US, Japan and Indonesia to emphasize inter-cultural exchange through dance and theatre. Working as a performer and producer, she developed several major productions which re-interpreted classical literature in modern contexts such as imperialism, consumerism and women's rights in Asia. Narumol is a multi-faceted personality and among other things is also an accomplished musician and practitioner of martial arts.



#### **RAMESH de SILVA - Germany**

Ramesh de Silva is a student social activist from Germany, who currently is in Sri Lanka, where he can pursue his interest in helping rural communities help. The majority of his time is spent at a deaf school where he works as a teacher. While working to incorporate these children with 'special needs' into society, Ramesh also hopes to change the erroneous perceptions people may have about them. Apart from this, he volunteers at 'Sarvodaya' - an organization which looks to empower rural communities and help them live a better life. While helping out various rural communities in their projects, he hopes to see more young people getting involved in helping those less fortunate



#### **RISHAM ANWAR - Pakistan**

Growing up in Pakistan's patriarchal society, Risham Anwar had the chance to observe the injustice and discrimination endured by disadvantaged groups, especially women. Working for the South Asia Partnership-Pakistan (SAP-PK), Risham envisions a Pakistan where all people are given equal opportunities, irrespective of gender, caste or creed. Risham's work with SAP-PK takes her all over Pakistan, from urban Lahore to the furthest villages, where she works with disadvantaged groups using tools such as workshops, seminars and theatre sessions. With plans of her own Radio program focusing on gender issues just on the horizon, Risham's struggle for an "Equal opportunity Pakistan" continues.



#### **RITIKAA KHUNNAH - India**

Ritikaa's interest in people and her undergraduate training in relationships of all kinds - social, psychological and anthropological - pointed her in the direction of women's issues and eventually found her a niche at Sakshi, a Violence Intervention Center in New Delhi, India. Interpreting feminism as "a means of arriving at one's own truth", Ritikaa is the driving force behind Sakshi's outreach programme, Project Samarth, where she uses her interpersonal skills and passionate ideals about human rights to assist and counsel women and children dealing with all aspects of violence in their lives.

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