

Jermaine Case, 23, from Saint Catherine, Jamaica, is a youth leader. Jermaine works on culture for development issues using poetry to preserve values and to teach life skills. He is the founder of the foundation CASE (Community Advancement through Service & Education). He has presented his original works on youth at the Conference Jute X in Jamaica in 2010, and more recently at the Advocates for Youth Urban Retreat held in Washington DC in 2011.

Anai Vera Britos, 26, from Asuncion, Paraguay, is a biologist working on literacy projects in the Ministry of Education and Culture of Paraguay, as a technician for the Directorate General for Indigenous Education (DGEEI). She is a member of the coordinating team for literacy projects in Paraguay for indigenous youth and adults in their mother tongue.

Marlon Manzano Alfaro, 28, from San Salvador, El Salvador, is an economist working as the Executive Director of the NGO "Country Project." The NGO was founded by Salvadorian entrepreneurs whose goal is to promote a culture for peace, leadership and values through sports and community involvement. Marlon has worked for nine years promoting community development issues, youth volunteering, social exclusion and poverty.

Jorge Silva Tapia, 18, from Arequipa, Peru, is a social entrepreneur. He studied for one year at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and then won a scholarship to attend the United World College of the American West (USA). Jorge has worked on cultural projects in rural and indigenous communities in the Peruvian Andes, using traditional dances as a tool to reaffirm local identity among young people.

Citlalli Martinez, 26, from Mexico City, Mexico, is a youth leader working in sports for development. She holds a degree in physical education with studies in athletic training. Citlalli is the co-founder of *Deport-es para Compartir*, a civic education program that seeks to build model citizens from childhood through playful education and awareness on the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations, through games, sports, promotion of healthy lifestyles and appreciation for cultural diversity of Mexico and the world.

Natelee Noreyda Forbes Gordon, 27, from Roatan, Honduras is an activist and a bilingual educator with a specialty in inclusive education and human rights. She was named Queen of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants of Honduras. She currently serves as a promoter of the intercultural bilingual education program, focusing on the basic elements of ethnic, cultural and linguistic minorities.

Ailton Pinheiro Junior, 26, from Minas Gerais, Brazil, is a film director and producer. For the past nine years he has been a member of the Unified Black Movement, an organization that fights racism since 1979. Ailton is the Director of Communication at the Malungos organization, which works on issues of culture and youth development and promotes ethnic-racial issues.

Jaime Castrillo Elvir, 27, from Bluefields, Nicaragua, is a youth leader that focuses on cultural issues. Jaime promotes the culture of African descendants and indigenous peoples through the development of crafts, dance groups, talks in schools and neighborhoods in the region. He has also worked with young people of indigenous African descent on human rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, and youth mobilization for community development.

Matías Fernández, 24, from Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a youth leader in sports for development. Matías is a student of business administration at the University of Buenos Aires and CEO of the Cleats Solidarity Foundation, which uses rugby as a vehicle to promote values and life skills in marginal areas of the community.

Mauricio Diaz Calderón, 25, from Bogota, Colombia, is a social communicator and journalist. He is the co-founder of the foundation Fahrenheit 451, an organization that uses literature as a tool for social change. From the foundation, Mauricio has served as cultural manager for more than five years, carrying out projects that connect people with cognitive disabilities, disadvantaged youth and seniors.

Ninoska Cabrera Duk, 27, from Bolivia, is a youth community leader. Ninoska works at the Football Academy Tahuichi as a Social Responsibility Officer, carrying out projects and programs on child welfare in Bolivia, generating social inclusion of children on the streets. Her work helps transform lives through sport, and through training and guidance to promote civic values and prevent drug use, delinquency and child labor.

Rashan Smith, 18, from the Bahamas, attends college in Costa Rica. She is an agent of change in sports for development. She works on a youth development community project in the rural area of La Carpio in Costa Rica, where she works with local youth creating spaces for debate and reflection about their personal and professional growth and community development.

Sisa Toaquiza, 18, from Tigua, Cotopaxi, Ecuador is an artist. She specializes in the art of music and painting of the Kichwa people and promotes culture for development. Sisa works to promote their culture, music and art to a national and international level.

Josué Francisco Puluc Velásquez, 24, from the municipality of San Raymundo, Guatemala Department, Guatemala City. An indigenous Kaqchikel, he is the Legal Representative of the Youth Association Kojb'iyin Junam, where he promotes youth participation and leadership as peacemakers through sport and culture. He is a member of the Board of Social Movement for the Rights of Children, Adolescents and Youth.