

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights
at Columbia University
welcomes the 2026-27 cohort of the



Human Rights Advocates Program



ANASTASIYA VASILCHUK

Information and Communications Lead

Viasna

BELARUS



Anastasiya Vasilchuk (she/her) is a Belarusian human rights activist currently working in exile with the Human Rights Center Viasna, Belarus's largest human rights organization. Based in Lithuania, she leads Viasna's information and communications work and coordinates the organization's process for recognizing individuals as political prisoners. Viasna, founded in 1996, documents repression, supports political prisoners and their families, and advocates

for democratic change in Belarus through engagement with international human rights mechanisms and institutions, including the UN, EU, OSCE, and the International Criminal Court. Ales Bialiatski, the founder of Viasna, shared the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize with two other human rights groups: Memorial (Russia) and the Center for Civil Liberties (Ukraine).

Anastasiya holds a Master's degree in Communication Management and a Bachelor's degree in Information and Communication from Belarusian State University. Her engagement in human rights activism began during her university years in Minsk. She joined Viasna as a volunteer in 2015, monitoring peaceful assemblies and elections, and became a staff journalist in 2016. Since 2020, she has led the organization's information work, focusing on documenting and communicating human rights violations and raising international awareness of the situation in Belarus.

Looking ahead, Anastasiya plans to further expand Viasna's international media reach, raise public awareness of human rights violations in Belarus, and contribute to efforts to hold those responsible for repression accountable.

Anastasiya is a participant in the 2026-27 Human Rights Advocates Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.



ABRIL TAMARA ITHZEL ESPINOZA GUTIÉRREZ

Regional Program Consultant

Ayni Fund at the International Indigenous Women's Forum

BOLIVIA



Abril Ithzel Espinoza (she/her) is a Quechua Indigenous woman, sociologist, and human rights advocate. She currently serves as Regional Program Consultant for the Ayni Fund at the International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF). Based in Bolivia, she works with Indigenous women's organizations across Latin America and the Caribbean, supporting grantmaking processes, project management, capacity strengthening, and spaces for exchange and collective learning. Her work focuses on the rights of

Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous women, political participation, territorial rights, climate and gender justice, and self-determination.

Growing up as an Indigenous woman in a context shaped by forced migration and urban discrimination, Abril became involved from an early age in community organizing and processes of cultural and identity reclamation, supported by her mother, an Indigenous leader. She later worked with Indigenous women's organizations across Bolivia, supporting leadership development, political participation, organizational strengthening, and territorial defense. Her current work seeks to build bridges between Indigenous communities and regional and global decision-making spaces, helping ensure that Indigenous women's voices, knowledge, and priorities are heard and that they are recognized as political actors, rather than simply as beneficiaries.

Abril is a participant in the 2026-27 Human Rights Advocates Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.



ANDREA ALEJANDRA TERCEROS HANS

Social Programs and Advocacy Coordinator
Marie Stopes International Bolivia

BOLIVIA



Andrea Terceros Hans (she/her) is an intersectional feminist activist, human rights advocate, comprehensive sexuality educator, and qualitative researcher specializing in sexual and reproductive justice. She currently serves as Social Programs and Advocacy Coordinator at MSI Bolivia, where she leads the organization's Comprehensive Sexuality Education, Research, Sexual and Reproductive Justice, and Advocacy programs. Through this work, she combines community education, evidence generation, and policy

advocacy to advance the rights of women, Indigenous peoples, adolescents and youth, LGBTIQ+ communities, and other historically marginalized populations.

With nearly two decades of feminist activism, Andrea has worked across grassroots organizing, civil society coalitions, research, and public policy. She co-founded Warmis en Resistencia – Espacio de Mujeres, a Bolivian feminist collective dedicated to advancing sexual and reproductive rights, preventing gender-based violence, and exploring the intersections between reproductive justice, Indigenous rights, and environmental justice. For ten years, she was an active member of Vecinas Feministas por la Justicia Sexual y Reproductiva, a Latin-American feminist network that advocates for sexual and reproductive justice through engagement with United Nations mechanisms and other regional human rights spaces.

As a Bolivian advocate, Andrea has expanded her national advocacy action to regional and global policy engagement. She coordinates advocacy actions within national civil society networks and represents MSI Reproductive Choices in regional and global advocacy spaces that monitor and advance the commitments emerging from the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, Cairo 1994), and other international human rights processes dedicated to advancing the rights of women in all their diversity, sexual and reproductive justice, Indigenous peoples, and historically marginalized communities.

Andrea is a participant in the 2026-27 Human Rights Advocates Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.



VIDDA GUZZO FAUSTINO

Executive Director

Intersex Brazil

BRAZIL



Vidda Guzzo (she/her) is a co-founder of Intersex Brazil, where she currently serves as Executive Director. Founded in 2022, Intersex Brazil is the country's first fully intersex-led civil society organization, working to end intersex genital mutilation and other non-consensual medical interventions through policy advocacy, community organizing, knowledge production, and engagement with national and international human rights mechanisms.

Vidda began organizing at age 13 in student and feminist movements, and has since built a track record bridging grassroots advocacy and institutional engagement. She was instrumental in securing Brazil's Working Group on Sex Characteristics Variations at the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship and establishing its National Work Plan on Intersex Issues. She has engaged with the WHO, the U.S. Department of Health, the UN Human Rights Council, the Commission on the Status of Women, G20 and Mercosur, and contributed to the process that led to the adoption of the first UN Human Rights Council resolution on the human rights of intersex persons. Vidda plans to advance a national strategy to end intersex genital mutilation through strategic litigation and policy reform, while strengthening South-South collaboration among intersex and trans movements across the Global South.

In addition to a Bachelor's degree in International Relations, Guzzo holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Brasília, where she became the first trans and intersex woman to earn a master's degree in the program, presenting a thesis on the intersex movement in Brazil. In previous roles, she has edited the three-volume "We the Intersex People from the Global South" publication series for Global Action for Trans Equality, covering Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia, and has contributed to reports for ILGA World and Outright International on intersex human rights. Currently, Vidda is a Teaching Fellow at the Center for AI and Digital Policy and a PhD candidate at the University of Brasília, where her research examines transfeminist movements and their appropriation and development of movement-led AI tools.

Vidda is a participant in the 2026-27 Human Rights Advocates Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.



DIOS ARISTO LUMBAN GAOL

Coordinator for Legal, Policy Analysis, and Knowledge Management
Serikat Buruh Migran Indonesia

INDONESIA



Dios Aristo Lumban Gaol (he/him) is a migrant worker governance specialist and lawyer based in Jakarta, currently serving as Coordinator for Legal, Policy Analysis, and Knowledge Management at Serikat Buruh Migran Indonesia (SBMI), the Indonesian Migrant Workers' Union. For the past six years, he has advanced the rights of Indonesian migrant workers – particularly seafarers and migrant fishers through litigation, policy advocacy, and socio-legal research, previously serving as SBMI's Advocacy Officer and Coordinator of the Maritime Department.

Dios has represented SBMI in international negotiations on labour standards for migrant fishers, including at Regular Sessions of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), advocating for the

integration of labour standards into the fisheries management frameworks of these regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs).

Domestically, Dios has directed legal strategy to recover unpaid wages and secure compensation for trafficking victims and their families, and has won several court decisions on trafficking in persons carrying restitution rights. From 2023 to 2024, he served as legal counsel for the Tim Advokasi Pelaut Migran Indonesia before the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia, successfully defending the “Integrative Protection” doctrine and preserving unified state oversight for seafaring and migrant fishing workers against deregulation. In 2025, he served as an expert contributor to the Legislation Body (Baleg) of the Indonesian House of Representatives on the revision of Law No. 18/2017 Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers. In 2026, he represented the Tim Advokasi Pelaut Migran Gugat Penguasa (TAGP) in administrative court proceedings against the Indonesian Minister of Transportation regarding manning agency licensing requirements that impact the protection of Indonesian migrant fishers.

Alongside his advocacy and litigation work, Dios is an active researcher and writer. He is co-author of a book on disharmony in labor inspection regulations in the migrant fishers sector (Rajawali Pers, 2023) and of a UNDP–SBMI study evaluating gaps in the implementation of migrant worker protection policy, and has co-authored conference papers on placement fee waivers and on the role of Indonesia's migrant service centers (LTSA) in pre-employment protection. He has contributed further research on trafficking, wage models, and labor dispute resolution mechanisms for migrant fishing crews.

Before joining SBMI, Dios was active in human rights and anti-corruption advocacy in North Sumatra, including coordinating the monitoring of corruption trials for Indonesia's Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) from 2019 to 2021.

Dios holds a Bachelor of Laws from Universitas Sumatera Utara, with a specialization in Labour Law, and is certified in legislative drafting in Indonesia.

Dios is a participant in the 2026-27 Human Rights Advocates Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.



NABILA TAUHIDA

Human Rights Officer
Destructive Fishing Watch Indonesia
INDONESIA



Nabila Tauhida (she/her) is a human rights advocate and researcher from West Kalimantan, with Dayak Iban heritage-indigenous people of Indonesia. Her work focuses on modern slavery, including human trafficking, forced labor, and labor rights. She is also known for her strong emphasis on gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI).

She works with Destructive Fishing Watch (DFW) Indonesia as a Human Rights Officer, tackling labor exploitation, forced labor, and trafficking in the fisheries sector. This role places Nabila squarely at the grassroots level, engaging with fishing communities, unions, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to advance advocacy on labor conditions in the fishing and seafood sectors.

Within DFW Indonesia, she directs capacity building, training, and policy advocacy focused on labor protections and the rights of fisheries rights for fishing crews, seafood processing workers, cadets, and prospective workers. Additionally, she spearheaded research into tuna processing conditions. She also represents DFW Indonesia at grassroots, national, and international forums.

Aside from her work, since 2018, Nabila has been involved with Emancipate Indonesia as a Youth Participation and Meaningful Engagement Specialist. As a representative of Emancipate Indonesia, she has been actively playing a vital role in a lot of coalition/network Indonesian Civil Society Coalition of Anti Sexual Violence, the Indonesian Women's Alliance (Koalisi Masyarakat Sipil Anti Kekerasan Seksual/KOMPAKS), the Civil Coalition for the Protection of Domestic Workers (Koalisi Sipil untuk Undang-Undang Perlindungan Pekerja Rumah Tangga/Koalisi Sipil untuk UU PPRT), the Youth Movement Against Criminalization (Gerakan Muda Lawan Kriminalisasi/GMLK), etc. She then became a paralegal to support political prisoners in Indonesia after the August 2025 incident.

She is also part of the Indonesian Women Coalition for Justice and Democracy DKI Jakarta (a mass grassroots women's organization and movement focused on social justice and gender equality), Generation 4Ward as Youth Advocate, and Mad Women Coalition (a feminist collective of women with mental or psychosocial disabilities and neurodivergent).

Nabila serves as a Junior Research Fellow at Paramadina South-East Asia (SEA) Peace and Diplomacy Lab. Her research journey started in her college years: first, she joined the research lab as a transcriber, progressed to research assistant on projects spanning migration governance, labor rights, and regional security, and was soon appointed Junior Research Fellow. She researches labor rights, migration, and modern slavery. She was aware of and understood her own privileges early in her research journey, followed by her sustained engagement with social justice; she understands how important it is to bridge academic knowledge with on-the-ground realities and the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder environments.

Nabila is a participant in the 2026-2027 Human Rights Advocates Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.



TASYA NUR RAMADHANI

Program Officer
Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative

INDONESIA



Tasya Nur Ramadhani is an Indonesian policy researcher and human rights advocate with a background in law, working at the intersection of fisheries governance and the protection of human rights at sea. Her work focuses on the human rights implications of fisheries governance, including illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly in the fishing industry.

She joined the Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative (IOJI) in 2022 and currently works as a Program Officer, conducting legal and policy research and supporting advocacy at the national, regional, and international levels. Her work bridges research and advocacy, translating legal analysis into policy recommendations while bringing the perspectives of workers, migrant fishers, and civil society into policy discussions. She has worked with government institutions, trade unions, civil society organizations, academics, and international partners on fisheries governance, human rights at sea, IUU fishing, and trafficking in persons.

At the provincial level, Tasya has coordinated civil society advocacy for human rights protection for trafficked victims in Central Java, one of Indonesia's major hubs for migrant workers, particularly those working at sea. She has facilitated multi-stakeholder processes in legislative development and consultations, bringing together provincial government institutions, civil society organizations, and worker organizations to develop policy responses to trafficking in persons in the fishing industry. This has included supporting the development of provincial regulations and action plans.

Tasya has also contributed to the regional standard-setting on IUU fishing and human rights protection in ASEAN and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), participated in international forums on human rights and responsible business, and supported strategic litigation before the Indonesian Constitutional Court to uphold the legal status of migrant fishers as migrant workers and protect their rights. She holds a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Indonesia, graduating with distinction.

Tasya is a participant in the 2026-27 Human Rights Advocates Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.



ANARA IBRAYEVA

Executive Director
Public Association "Dignity" (Kadyr-Kassiyet)

KAZAKHSTAN



Anara Ibrayeva (she/her) is a lawyer, human rights defender, and Executive Director of Public Association "Dignity" (Kadyr-Kassiyet), the NGO she founded in 2010 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Dignity is the sole organization in Kazakhstan providing comprehensive assistance to human rights defenders. Utilizing a diverse set of advocacy methods, Dignity's work reaches across issues such as the protection of activists, prevention of torture, judicial and prison reform, women's rights, children's rights, and ecological justice. A separate area of work is assisting the state in implementing the decisions of UN committees.

Outside of her leadership at Dignity, Ibrayeva is a PhD candidate in Jurisprudence who defended her dissertation at the Kazakh Humanitarian Law University. She also holds diplomas in law and history as well as licenses to practice as both an advocate and notary. She has taught at the Academy of Justice under the Supreme Judicial Council for fifteen years, training judges across all levels and specializations.

Before founding Dignity, Ibrayeva spent 17 years at the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, building deep expertise in human rights monitoring and legal advocacy. She has since prevailed in 10 communications before UN human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Committee, the Committee Against Torture, and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. She continues to prepare amicus curiae opinions for domestic courts. Among her recent achievements is the criminalization of school bullying under domestic law in 2023 and the initiation of the 2024 Human Rights Defenders Protection Index, implemented with partners across 16 countries. Ibrayeva's current focus includes advocating for a national law to protect human rights defenders and working toward the establishment of a dedicated equality and anti-discrimination court in Kazakhstan.

Anara is a participant in the 2026-27 Human Rights Advocates Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.



CHARLES JAIKA MAGOTZWI

Programme Lead, Digital Rights and Inclusive Transformation
International Commission of Jurists, Kenya Section

KENYA



Charles Jaika Magotzwi (he/him) is a Kenyan lawyer, human rights advocate, programme strategist and policy advisor working at the intersection of digital rights, climate justice, democratic governance, civic space and access to justice across Africa. He currently serves as Programme Lead for Digital Rights and Inclusive Transformation at the International Commission of Jurists, Kenya Section (ICJ Kenya), where he has led and contributed to regional initiatives addressing digital governance, data protection, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, internet shutdowns and the protection of civic space online.

Jaika holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB). He has undertaken specialised training in the African Human Rights System at the University of Pretoria, Media and Digital Policy at Stellenbosch University, and International Data Protection at Strathmore University.

His professional experience includes strategic litigation, policy advocacy, programme management, resource mobilisation and engagement with regional and international human rights mechanisms. At ICJ Kenya, he played a leading role in digital rights and cyber governance initiatives, including work on biometric data protection, digital public infrastructure, internet shutdowns, cybersecurity and emerging technologies. He also spearheaded the Worldcoin data protection litigation in Kenya and contributed to constitutional litigation challenging internet shutdowns.

As part of the NOREC Exchange Programme, Jaika represented ICJ Kenya in the implementation of regional human rights programming in collaboration with the African Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF), South Africa; Legal Resources Foundation (LRF), Zimbabwe; and Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), Uganda. His engagement contributed to strengthening cross-border collaboration and advancing digital rights and climate justice advocacy at grassroots and community levels, linking regional human rights expertise with practical legal empowerment and advocacy initiatives.

His broader work has included representing ICJ Kenya at international platforms including RightsCon 2025 in Taipei, the Internet Governance Forum 2024 in Riyadh and the Privacy International Global Convening in London. He has authored and contributed to publications on digital public infrastructure, internet shutdowns and digital governance in Africa.

Jaika is passionate about strengthening rights-based approaches to Africa's digital transformation, climate justice, democratic governance and access to justice, particularly by connecting international and regional human rights standards with community-level advocacy and legal empowerment. His long-term professional interests include deepening expertise in digital rights and data governance, strategic litigation, policy development and building platforms that advance human rights in Africa's rapidly changing digital and social landscape.

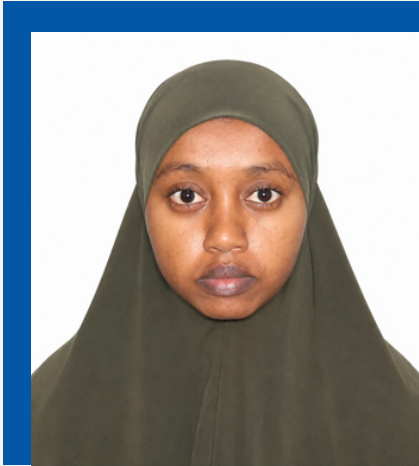
Jaika is a participant in the 2026-27 Human Rights Advocates Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.



MUHUBO IDLE

Founder and Executive Director
Girl Concern Org

KENYA



Muhubo Idle is a Kenyan young woman leader, social entrepreneur, and community advocate committed to advancing the rights, protection, and opportunities of girls and young women in marginalized communities. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Girl Concern Org, a grassroots organization she established in 2019 in Garissa County, where she leads work focused on gender-based violence prevention and response, girls' access to justice, economic empowerment, leadership, and community protection.

Her leadership is rooted in the belief that girls and young women in marginalized communities should have the opportunity to shape decisions that affect their lives and communities. Through Girl Concern Org, Muhubo works closely with adolescent girls, young women, and community stakeholders in Somali pastoralist communities in northern Kenya, strengthening locally led solutions and creating pathways for girls and women to build resilience, access opportunities, and exercise their voices.

Muhubo has represented the perspectives of women and girls from northern Kenya on international platforms, including the 2nd Girls Not Brides Global Meeting in Malaysia and the 2018 Human Rights Funders Network Conference in Mexico. She is committed to strengthening community-led advocacy, building partnerships, and ensuring that the experiences of women and girls from northern Kenya inform broader human rights and development conversations.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce, specializing in Finance, from Mount Kenya University and is currently pursuing an MBA in Strategic Management at Mount Kenya University.

Muhubo is a participant in the 2026-27 Human Rights Advocates Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.



ALEX HERNÁNDEZ MURO

Executive Director
Más Igualdad Perú

PERU



Alex Hernández Muro (She/her - They/Them) is the Executive Director of Más Igualdad Perú, a Lima-based LGBTIQ+ human rights organization. A psychologist specialized in gender and sexuality, Hernández works at the intersection of human rights, mental health, research, and advocacy, promoting the wellbeing and inclusion of LGBTIQ+ communities in Peru and across the region.

Alex and teams designed an affirmative LGBTIQ+ wellbeing and mental health ecosystem that includes psychosocial and legal support services, networks of affirmative professionals, specialized training programs, and pioneering research on the mental health of LGBTIQ+ populations. They are currently further specializing in neuroaffirmative approaches, incorporating a broader understanding of neurodiversity into work with LGBTIQ+ communities and advancing more inclusive models of care and support.

Alex is the author of *República de Invisibles* (2022) which explores the historical roots of sexual dissidence from the precolonial period to the present day. As a visible bisexual advocate, was the cofounder of Peru's first bisexual collective in 2021 and currently serves as the Andean Subregional Representative on ILGA LAC's Regional Council. Their research portfolio includes landmark studies on LGBTIQ+ mental health and migration in Peru, as well as contributions to public policy discussions on human rights and social inclusion. Hernández remains committed to strengthening collective leadership, building sustainable movements, and generating knowledge that advances equality and social change.

Alex is a participant in the 2026-27 Human Rights Advocates Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.



HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES PROGRAM 2026-2027

THE 2026-27 HRAP started online in the fall with sessions led by HRAP alumni including 1996 Advocate Alejandra Ancheita, 2011 Advocate Elvis Mbembe Binda, and 2025-26 Advocates Júlia Mota, Ronald Rohrohmana, Christopher Rutledge and Tatsiana Ziniakova.

The advocates will join the Columbia University community in January 2027 for the spring semester during which time they will attend skill-based workshops while also networking with donors, organizations and institutions in NYC and DC, attending graduate-level courses, and speaking about their work both on- and off-campus. They will also participate in the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

ISHR would like to thank the following for supporting the 2026-27 HRAP:

International Indigenous Women's Forum

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Harriman Institute, Columbia University

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