

Speaker Biographies

Camille Carby, 16, attends high school in Queens. This is her 2nd year at CE. She is an editor who is very expressive. She recently worked on a story about blind kids and computers. Her hobbies are talking on the phone, going to the movies, hanging out at the mall, hanging out with her friends and having fun. Camille looks forward to graduating from high school in the year 2003, and hopes to become either an anesthesiologist or a computer engineer.

Elizabeth Daley, 16, has been a reporter with Children's Express for six years. She has worked on stories such as music censorship, the right to vote, prayer in schools, second-hand smoking, child prostitution in Thailand and students attacking teachers in school. Elizabeth has covered the 1996 Republican National Convention in San Diego and the 2000 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.

Wendy Fitzwilliam won the Miss Universe Title in Honolulu Hawaii on May 12th 1998. In June of 1998 she was honored by the United Nations with the title of Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS, a direct result of her commitment to fighting this disease and the stereotypes associated with AIDS in the Caribbean and the world generally. Her work with the UN continues with UNFPA as a Goodwill ambassador of the Face to Face Campaign. She has also narrated videos for both UNAIDS and UNICEF on the plight of children and people living with HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.

Louise Fréchette is the first Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. A national of Canada, she assumed her duties on 2 March 1998, after having been appointed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Fréchette was the Deputy Minister of National Defence of Canada from 1995 to 1998. Prior to that, she was Associate Deputy Minister in her country's Department of Finance. She served as Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations from 1992 to 1995.

Jane Galvão. Advisor, International Cooperation, National STD/AIDS Program/Ministry of Health, Brazil.

Kensaki Hogen, of Japan, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, was appointed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan effective 16 March 1998. Before joining the United Nations, he was President of the Foreign Service Training Institute at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan.

Mr. Harri Holkeri, the President of the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly—the Millennium Assembly—brings to the post a wealth of political experience, as well as a reputation as a skilled mediator and consensus builder. He was Finland's Prime Minister from 1987 to 1991, and for over four decades has served his country and the international community in several political and economic posts.

KeriAnn Hutchinson, 15, attends high school in Queens. She has been at CE for two years and enjoys what she is doing. Her hobbies are shopping, talking on the phone, hanging out with her friends, spending time with her family, and hates being bored. KeriAnn looks forward to graduating from high school in 2003, and hopes to become a lawyer.

Riz Khan is a senior News Anchor at CNN-International, based in the network's Atlanta headquarters. He anchors CNN's World News at 12:00 pm US Eastern Time (along with any breaking news or special events around this time), and at 3:30 pm (ET) hosts CNN's interactive programme Q-&-A - which puts world newsmakers and celebrities up for viewer questions live by phone, e-mail and fax.

Mashapa Machaba is 15 years old, from the rural Bushbuckridge area of South Africa. Mashapa is a natural television talent and currently anchor for loveLife's weekly television show, S'camto ("talk about it"). S'camto is part documentary -part talk show and has developed a cult following among teenagers in South Africa. Mashapa takes his new-found stardom with humility and is a high school senior who enjoys playing soccer in his spare time.

Joel Makitla is 28 years old, from Soweto, South Africa. Joel is a former radio deejay and an aspirant actor and scriptwriter. Currently, Joel is manager of the loveLife Y-centre in Orange Farm - a peri-urban squatter community outside Johannesburg. The loveLife Y-Centres are multi-purpose recreational and educational venues, which include sexual health counseling and clinical services.

Judi Nwokedi is the National media director for loveLife. A psychologist by training, over the past decade Ms, Nwokedi developed a substantial reputation as an advocate for health rights in South Africa. Ms. Nwokedi has substantial television and radio production experience. At loveLife, Ms. Nwokedi is responsible for developing the innovative messaging and media material for which loveLife has become well known.

Nafis SADIK. Executive Director (with rank of Under-Secretary-General), UNFPA, since 1987.

David Schneider is 14 years old, from Johannesburg, South Africa. A keen sportsman, he aspires to be an actor and ultimately, a film director. David has shot to stardom in the past several months as the face of the loveLife campaign to encourage parents to talk to their children about sex and HIV.

Eric Mandla Sibeko is 21 years old, law student at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Eric is a member of the loveLife national advisory board, chaired by South African first lady, Zanele Mbeki. Eric is originally from the rural Northern Province of South Africa, and is a former junior Mayor of Johannesburg.

Elhadj SY (known to his colleagues as "As") has worked with organizations dealing with AIDS in Senegal since 1988, as Director of Health and HIV/AIDS Programmes, a Trainer and Planner on HIV and development, and the Director of European Union AIDS Projects with Enda Tiers Monde. A graduate of the University of Dakar, the University of Graz (Austria) and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, he has degrees in human sciences, international relations and diplomacy. He first worked as a teacher and as a professor of foreign languages.

Prior to joining UNAIDS' New York office, he served as UNAIDS Intercountry Team Leader for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Mechai Viravaidya is the founder and Chairman of the Population and Community Development Association (PDA), one of Thailand's largest private, non-profit development organizations. Since 1974, PDA has initiated community-based family planning services, community and rural development programmes, and HIV/AIDS prevention activities throughout Thailand.

Johann Olav Koss. Winner of three Olympic Gold medals at the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics, speed skater Johann Olav Koss (Norway) was named UNICEF Special Representative for Sports on 19 December 1994. Mr. Koss has been a strenuous and highly visible advocate for UNICEF's work on behalf of children everywhere, emphasizing the particular needs of disabled children and those affected by war. He has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of children around the world—in Bosnia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Vietnam—by introducing them to sports. In 1994, Mr. Koss retired from speed skating, yet his humanitarian efforts have not slowed down. A member of the International Olympic Committee, he is also Chairperson of Olympic Aid, a humanitarian organization that provides relief for children in war-torn countries.