

Biographies of J8 Participants, Italy 2009



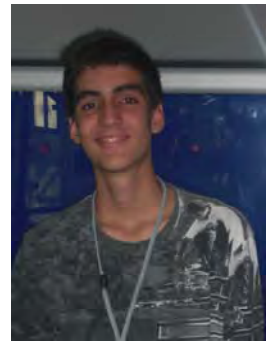
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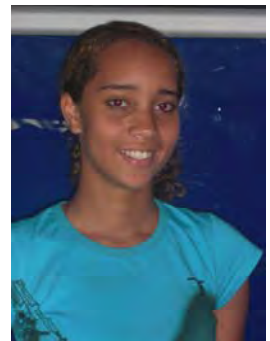


Brazil

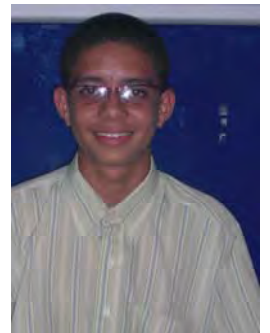
Santiago Plata Garces, is 17 and lives in Goias Brazil, and is attending his last year of high school. For the last 7 months he has been involved in the municipal forum against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and he is also part of the Scholarship Program Pro-Jovem, granted by the Brazilian Federal Government, which aims to offer opportunities for adolescents to enter the job market. Through this program he has had the opportunity to learn contents related to law and rights and has also led and participated in cultural activities. He has recently started with his peers an organized group called Ação Jovem, which aims to engage adolescents in social projects that will make the difference in their communities.



Mayara Tavares, is 16 and lives in the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She inherited from her grandmother and father a passion to take part in community action and social movements and has been an activist in her community fighting for children and adolescent rights. She has recently acted as a community researcher interviewing other adolescents in the community about their lives and how it feels for them to be growing up in the shantytowns of Rio de Janeiro. Through this work she became part of a National Platform for the improvement of poor communities situated in large urban centers, an initiative carried out by UNICEF in Brazil. She also became a member of the Youth Forum in her municipality and hopes that she can continue to engage her peers in this work.



Fagner Lima is 14 and goes to school in a very small municipality in the state of Bahia in a sub region which is severely affected by drought. He is part of the governmental scholarship program for the eradication of child labour (PETI) because he has himself worked in plantations during his childhood. He has taken part in municipal and state conference for children rights and hopes to participate in the national conference this year. He wants to be a journalist and is very much involved in the students committee in his school. He is extremely concerned about issues related to climate change since they affect his community on a daily basis.



Rosicleia Silva is 15 and lives with her family in a remote area of the Amazon region in Pará state called Tailandia and goes to a community rural school. She has been engaged in a youth environmental movement called Colletivo Jovem pelo Maio Ambiente. She has developed environmental initiatives in her community and has been chosen as a representative to take part of the municipal, state and national environmental conference for children and adolescents.





Canada

Jona Cho from London, ON, Canada, Age: 16 Place of birth: Cheong-ju, South Korea School/team: Saunders Secondary School / CARPE DIEM Reason for applying to J8: I have always taken great interest in global issues, and the J8 was a great opportunity to get my voice heard despite my youth. Another inspiration was the chance to work with the 3 other amazing members and to further build our camaraderie. Languages spoken: English and Korean Role models: My family members: my father, mother, and 2 older sisters who are my teachers, my best friends. Likes: I love my family, music, and books. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? In 10 years time, I see myself with a couple of degrees from a university of my choice, and perhaps furthering my education.



Seungjoon Lee (Steve) City: London, Canada Age: 16 Place of birth: Daejeon, Republic of Korea School/team: Saunders Secondary School / Carpe Diem Languages spoken: Korean and English, learning Spanish, Japanese, and can read Chinese. Reason for applying to J8: I am applying to the J8 to raise awareness of global issues among youth and to voice our opinions to the world leaders for the better of the humanity. Role models: Jesus Christ, my father, Abraham Lincoln. Likes: I like rational minded people, music, math, computer science, biology, chemistry, and knowing diverse point of views to see matters.



Nigel Wodrich, 16, from London, Canada. School: Saunders Secondary School / Carpe Diem Reason for applying to J8: Interest in global issues/passion to contribute to their solutions; desire to get my voice heard Languages spoken: English, French Role models: Pierre Trudeau, Nelson Mandela, my grandmothers Likes: Running, playing piano, history/politics/world issues, meeting new people Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? In 10 years time, I see myself pursuing a post-secondary university education; however my passion will be in my social activism.



Corinne Boudreau, 16, London, Canada. Born in Oakville, Ontario, Canada School/team: Saunders Secondary School / Carpe Diem Reason for applying to J8: Keen desire to learn more about the problems facing our planet, and what I (and my generation) can do to help make positive changes Languages spoken: English, French Role models: Cindy Klassen, Mother Teresa, my parents Likes: Science, Logic, Structure, Precision, Discussion, Debate, Family, Sports, Art, Architecture, History Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? In medical school, studying to become a doctor or surgeon, an active participant in my community



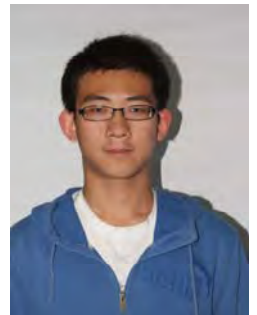


China

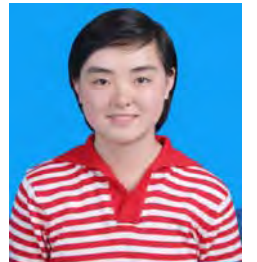
Li Megyuan, 14, from Beijing No. 4 High School, is involved in many activities. She has organized her classmates to take part in various Science competitions, with her own essay on maths earning a prize and getting media coverage. She leads the school chorus, deciding what the group will sing along with another coordinator. She is proud and happy to be representing the young people of her country, as an opportunity to open up her mind to the world, and to be a spokesperson for children all over the world.



Liang Xiaotian, 17, from Beijing. As the monitor of his class he has been active in organizing class meetings on the topic of legal education and safety knowledge. After the Sichuan earthquake in 2008, he called on his classmates to donate money, books, and clothes to the earthquake-hit areas. In his spare time, he likes playing the piano and playing basketball. In addition, he likes reading books and listening to all kinds of music. As a result of hard work and great devotion, he was given the "Silver Medal" by Beijing No.2 Middle School twice, awarded the title of "Excellent Student Cadre" by Dongcheng District, Beijing, and given the "Shu Pin" scholarship founded by Mr. Gu QianLin.



Zhang Ying, 16, from Dong ethnic minority group, living in Kaili City of Guizhou Province. Since 2006, Zhang Ying has participated in the HIV and AIDS peer education campaign jointly organized by UNICEF and China Children's Press and Publication Group under the Youth League (CCPPG). As a young peer educator, she is highly motivated to not only learn about the key messages on the prevention of HIV and AIDS as well as anti-discrimination and stigma against people living with HIV and AIDS, but also share the information with her classmates, friends and family members. She is always interested in learning about current affairs and social issues through TV, print media as well as the Internet.



Fang Zhiqian, 16, lives in Shangmiao Village of Luoshan County, Henan Province. Both his parents have been working in a clothing factory in Tongxiang City of Zhejiang Province since 2000, while he is living with his grandparents in his hometown. During the busy farm season, he volunteers to help the family with farm work. He has a good few hobbies such as swimming and playing table tennis. He is interested in current affairs, especially in learning about national policies on rural development and the issue of left behind children. He likes helping others and takes active part in social activities including the "Hand-in-Hand" essay writing initiative organized by the China Children's Press and Publication Group under the Youth League (CCPPG) as well as the UNICEF-supported child injury prevention campaign. His outstanding performance has been well recognized by his school and the local education authorities.





Egypt

Mohamed Fathy Abdel Hamid is a 14 year old preparatory school student from Cairo, Egypt. He is a member of the Aflatoun project of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood in which he was responsible for conducting training workshops for other school students on rights and responsibilities. He enjoys painting, computer work and playing volley ball. Mohamed is involved in various volunteer activities including visiting cancer patients and fundraising.



Radwa Zaghloul is a 15 year old preparatory school student from Damietta Governorate, North of Egypt. She joined the Adolescent Parliament of Damietta and became the First Undersecretary of the Arab Affairs Committee of the Parliament on the national level and the Secretary of Damietta Governorate. She participated in the training workshops of the civic education programme supported by UNICEF and the National Council for Youth and implemented with her peers different youth-led initiatives raising awareness on environmental issues and political participation. Radwa enjoys reading, writing poems and corresponding with newspapers and magazines.



Samar El-Sallab is a 16 year old preparatory school student from Cairo, Egypt. She is a member of the Aflatoun project of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood in which young participants clearly express their opinions and points of view about different issues that are of great interest to them. Through the Aflatoun project she acquired a variety of life skills such as self respect, respecting others, expression of feelings, thinking before acting, in addition to becoming informed about key health issues. Samar also participated in the "Stop Smoking" awareness campaign. Samar engages in volunteering activities such as paying visits to patients in hospitals.



Amira Shendy is a 16 year old high school student from Cairo, Egypt. She joined a number of projects working in the field of development and human rights with governmental institutions like the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood. Through these projects she had the opportunity to learn about the United Nations and understand many concepts such as human rights and ways to defend them. This is in addition to other life values and skills such as democracy, peace, teamwork and decision-making. Amira also participated in a variety of voluntary youth initiatives on issues such as smoking prevention.





France

Nicolas Servel, 14, Le Havre, France. Born in Toulon. School: Institution Saint Joseph au Havre. Reason for applying to J8: I wanted to be able to share my ideas, and meet new people and chat about the future of the planet. Languages spoken: French and English Role models: The Dalai-lama, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther king, Beethoven, Mozart, Diana Damrau and Barack Obama Likes: Listening to music, playing the piano, singing opera, reading, Passions are Geography and travelling. Hobbies: Ice skating, skiing, canyoning, snorkelling and drawing.



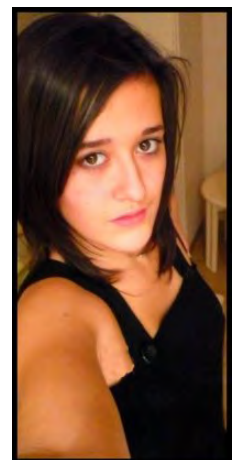
Ombeline Guillemet, 17, from Banon, born in Besançon, France. School: Ecole Internationale de Manosque Reason for applying to J8: To share ideas and discuss major global issues in order to bring a positive change for the future. Languages spoken: French, English, Spanish Role models: Ghandi, Simone Veil, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, my documentary teacher Likes: travelling, learning foreign languages, meeting new people, culture Hobbies: dance, playing the flute in the school orchestra, reading Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? Working in a humanitarian programme or cultural organization. What do you hope to achieve from participating in J8 2009? I hope to write a declaration that will have a concrete positive impact on actual global issues.



Héloïse Pierre City, 17, from Manosque, France. Born in Pertuis, France School: Lycée les Iscles Manosque. Reason for applying to J8: To better understand the world around us. Languages spoken: French, English and a bit of Spanish Likes : I like badminton, dancing, reading, and being with my family. I also enjoy making scrapbooks and cooking. Hobbies: travelling. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? I see myself working within a big NGO. What do you hope to achieve from participating in J8 2009? I hope my participation in the J8 will be the beginning of a long commitment with respect to world issues.



Pauline Bossavie, 16, from Le Havre, France School/team: Lycée Saint Joseph Reason for applying to J8: to exchange ideas with other young people and discuss what we can do to make our future better. Languages spoken: English/ French/ Spanish Role models: Gandhi, sister Emmanuelle, M.L. King, Malcom X and Barack Obama Likes: playing basketball, laughing with my friends, challenges, listening to music, discovering new countries and cultures. Hobbies: basketball / horseback riding What are you looking forward to most at the J8? Exchanging ideas with people of my age from other countries. What do you hope to achieve from participating in J8 2009? A better understanding of all the subjects we will be discussing.





Germany

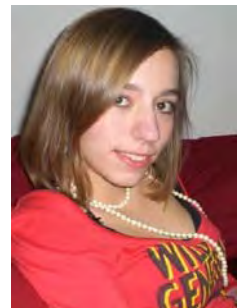
Michael Borsky 17, from, Nürnberg. School/team: Willstätter Gymnasium Nürnberg/ "Die Weltverbesserer" Reason for applying to J8: To discuss global problems with young people from other countries. Languages spoken: German, English, French, Spanish, Czech Role models: Vaclav Havel Likes: cycling, sports, nature Hobbies: Travelling What do you hope to achieve from participating in J8 2009? To learn about different cultures and give the global leaders a push to solve the world's problems.



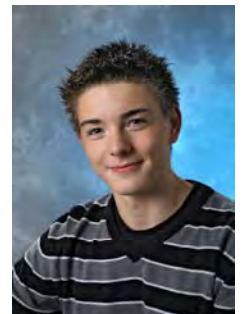
Kasimir Buhr, 17, from Nuremberg. School/team: "Weltverbesserer" Reason for applying to J8: the chance to express my opinion to the politicians of the world, and to meet other young people Languages spoken: German, English, Spanish, French Likes: Judo, Nature, Water Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? With a PhD in Chemistry- starting to work in the development of pharmaceuticals or doing environmental research. What are you looking forward to most at the J8? Meeting other young people from the G8 nations who are interested in politics and discussing the world's issues with them.



Johanna Elter, 17 from Nuremberg, Germany Place of birth: Fürth School/team: Willstätter-Gymnasium Nürnberg "Die Weltverbesserer" Reason for applying to J8: I am interested in international politics. I am currently working with the "young greens" in Nuremberg. Languages spoken: German, English, French, Spanish Likes: Travelling, reading, nature and the animals. My favourite subjects are chemistry, Spanish and maths. Hobbies: Aikido, drawing and painting, cycling in the nature, the Young Greens, reading and, of course, meeting my friends. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? Studying chemistry or molecular science.



Hannes Reinwald, 17, Nuremberg, Germany Place of birth: Neustadt an der Aisch School/team: Willstätter-Gymnasium/ "Die Weltverbesserer" Reason for applying to J8: The J8-Programme gives us the possibility to express our concerns to the world's most powerful politicians, so that they might find solutions to them. Languages spoken: German Role models: John Frusciante/ Jimi Hendrix Likes: Sushi, sport, sunshine, delicious food, all kind of animals, hiking, nature, cooking with friends, barbecue, challenges, good friends, rock music, swimming Hobbies: Playing guitar, making music with my band, practise gymnastics, looking after my 7 nieces, free running Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? I will have completed my degree in marine biology. After that I will try to find way to regenerate and preserve the biological balance in our ocean, especially in the coral reefs, and search for new species in the deep sea. What do you hope to achieve from participating in J8 2009? Even if the G8 leaders take only a small part of our advice and reflect it in their policies, it will be amazing.





India

Narendra Kumar, 14, in Raebareli, India . School/team: Government Higher Secondary School Languages spoken: Hindi Role models: Mother and father. Likes/Hobbies: Meeting new people and sightseeing. Where do you see yourself in 10 years? I hope to be a good teacher who is able to give children good opportunities to learn and grow so as to make a better world free of hunger and misery. What are you looking forward to most at the J8? Meeting other children, telling world leaders to invest more in children to build a better world. What do you hope to achieve from participating in the J8 2009? I want to get other young people interested in children's rights and make them aware of their rights and local, national and global problems.



Sanjukta Pangi, 16, from Semiliguda, India. School/team: Government Girls High School, Pottangi Reason for applying to J8: To gain knowledge and skills and to meet young people from other countries Languages spoken: English, Hindi, Oriya, Telegu Role models: Rahul Gandhi Likes/Hobbies: To help poor people, gardening, painting, singing Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? I see myself at Koraput as District Collector. I want to see my district as a developed district. What are you looking forward to most at the J8? I want to know about child rights, and how to protect them. What do you hope to achieve from participating in the J8 2009? To meet young people from other countries and to know how they overcome their social and economic issues.



Samuel Venkatesen, 16, from Shoolagiri, Tamil Nadu, India. School/team: Government Higher Secondary School, Shoolagiri Reason for applying to J8: To learn more about child rights and to become an advocate of children's rights Languages spoken: Tamil Role models: Mahatma Gandhi Likes/Hobbies: Acting and directing short films, cycling Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? I see myself as a film director who makes movies on the real situation in rural India. Not just making films, I want to empower the rural masses with my films. What are you looking forward to most at the J8? I am looking forward to interacting with children from other countries and expressing my views about child rights. I feel the J8 is the right platform to express what I have learned in my village and my country. What do you hope to achieve from participating in the J8 2009? I hope to make a lot of new friends from different countries. I hope the exposure will help me learn new things about cultures, children and child rights.





Italy

Elisa Asnagli, 14, from Meda. During her free time she does sports, particularly volleyball and biking. She is really happy to represent Italy at the J8 and she believes that it will be a wonderful experience.

Mi chiamo Elisa ed ho 14 anni. Mi piace molto uscire con le amiche, perché con loro mi diverto molto. Ma soprattutto, quando ho un po' di tempo libero, mi piace praticare sport, in particolare pallavolo e ciclismo. Fra i miei passatempi preferiti amo fare shopping e andare al cinema. Sono molto contenta di poter rappresentare l'Italia al J8 credo fin da ora che questa sarà un'esperienza molto positiva per me: non vedo l'ora!



Fabio Giorgetti, 14, from Meda. He likes horseback riding, reading books and watching action movies. He likes to travel and experience new cultures, and enjoys art and natural beauty.

Mi chiamo Fabio Giorgetti ed ho 14 anni. Sono nato in Italia ma ho vissuto per 5 anni a Dublino (Irlanda). Faccio equitazione da diversi anni e sono un gran divoratore di libri; mi piace molto il cinema in generale ed i film di azione in particolare. Mi piace viaggiare e visitare posti e culture differenti; apprezzo sia le città d'arte che i paesaggi naturali. Non sono un grande appassionato di videogiochi e chat.



Camilla Grassi, 14, from Meda is the only child in her family. She is in her last year at a middle school and her favourite subjects are Science and Italian Literature. She plays piano and writes award-winning poems. Camilla enjoys reading; her favourite authors are Isabella Allende and Bianca Pitzorno. She loves cats, listening to music, and watching movies. She likes traveling and visiting different countries during her summer vacation..

Mi chiamo Camilla Grassi, ho 14 anni, sono figlia unica e abito a Meda. Frequento l'ultimo anno della scuola secondaria di 1° grado alla scuola Anna Frank e sono una buona studentessa in tutte le materie, ma soprattutto in italiano e scienze. L'anno prossimo frequenterò il liceo scientifico. Oltre a studiare, suono il pianoforte da diversi anni e scrivo poesie, per le quali ho ottenuto qualche premio. Leggo nel mio tempo libero: le mie autrici preferite sono Bianca Pitzorno e Isabel Allende. Amo molto i gatti (ne ho tre), ascoltare musica di tutti i generi, compresa la musica lirica, e andare al cinema. In genere d'estate viaggio con i miei genitori per visitare sempre Paesi e città diverse sia in Italia che in Europa. Trascorro diverso tempo a leggere, soprattutto d'estate quando ho più tempo.





Thomas Oggioni, 14, from Meda, a small city near Milan. He decided to participate to the J8 Summit because he would like to represent Italy at an international meeting. He likes soccer, American football and is fascinated by the world of automobiles.

Mi chiamo Thomas Oggioni e vivo a Meda. Sono nato a Giussano. Ho deciso di partecipare al concorso del J8 perché amo fare nuove esperienze e soprattutto mi piacerebbe rappresentare il mio Paese davanti a stati provenienti da tutto il mondo. Mi piace il calcio e il football americano e sono affascinato dal mondo dei motori.





Japan

Yuri Teraoka, 16 from Tokyo. Place of birth: Kumamoto, Japan
 School/team: Shibuya Kyoiku Gakuen Shibuya Senior High School/Yuu Look
 Reason for applying to J8: I would like to make the world leaders aware that children of our age have important roles to play today and in the future. Languages spoken: Japanese, English, learning Chinese
 Role models: Thomas Edison, as he has more than 1,000 inventions that still influence us today
 Likes: Making new friends, learning what people think on various issues. Hobbies: Bioscience and anthropology. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? Teaching at a high school, experimenting in a laboratory, or digging wells and helping out in poor countries. What do you hope to achieve from participating in the J8 2009? I want to send a message to all the children in the world (especially Japan) that we must start acting now to solve the global issues. Each of us can contribute to solving the problems, and each of us can make a difference.



Mitsushi Ono, 17, from Tokyo. Reason for applying to J8: I am really interested in international affairs, but I have never had an opportunity to discuss those matters with representatives from other countries. Languages spoken: Japanese
 Likes: debating
 Hobbies: Karate
 Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? Working at a company. What do you hope to achieve from participating in the J8 2009? I want to tell the representatives from other countries what Japan can do in the international community.



Yuki Oka, 16, from Tokyo. School/team: Shibuya Senior and Junior High School
 Languages spoken: English and Japanese
 Role models: Dennis Bergkamp, Paolo Maldini. Likes: I am a huge football (soccer) fan and have followed Arsenal for as long as I can remember. Hobbies: I like playing football, watching movies, listening to music, being around friends. What are you looking forward to most at the J8? The one thing I look forward to the most is becoming friends with people from all over the world. What do you hope to achieve from participating in J8 2009? I hope that after the J8 I will be able to look at the world with a different perspective.





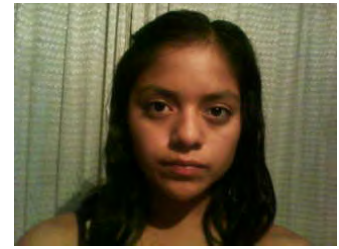
Moeko Fujii, 16, from Chiba, Japan School/team: Shibuya Kyoiku Gakuen, Shibuya High School Reason for applying to J8: I love researching world issues, specifically for the Model United Nations. As a Japanese representative, I would be able to meet with other young leaders of my generation. Languages spoken: English, Japanese Role models: Eleanor Roosevelt Likes: Dancing, Model UN, Greek Mythology, History, books Hobbies: Fundraising, Chess, Painting Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? Raising my voice to defend those who cannot defend themselves.





Mexico

Minelly Galván, 17, from Nava City Mexico. School/team: Conalep Santa Fe/ Parte y Comparte Reason for applying to J8: The reason that I want to attend is to meet people, to grow as a person and to see my world as it looks from a wider point of view Languages: Spanish Role models: I would like to become a young leader, able to communicate and share points of view which lead to improving everybody's life quality. Likes: World culture expressions, music, reading Hobbies: reading Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? Working, with a considerable income, a family of my own What are you looking forward to most at the J8? To meet boys and girls who share interest in world youth issues What do you hope to achieve from participating in the J8 2009? To transmit the experience that I gained from my community.



Mario Alberto Martinez Fuentes, 17, from Mexico City, School/team: Cecytem Ecatepec I/ Parte y comparte Languages spoken: Spanish, English Likes: Soccer, meeting new people and learning new things Dislikes: Onions and being thankless Hobbies: football and video games Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? I hope to be a very intelligent person who supports the needs of people who need it What are you looking forward to most at the J8? Meeting new people and experiencing new cultures What do you hope to achieve from participating in J8 2009? To gain a greater understanding of new cultures.



Malinalli Vergara, 15, from Mexico City, Mexico Reason for applying to J8: Learning and being able to present the way I see my country and my world and how I hope to change it for the better. Languages spoken: Spanish, English Role models: Alecia Beth Moore (singer), my parents, Nelson Mandela Likes: Rock n roll, respect, purple, biking, singing, sleep. Dislikes: Silence, disrespect, everything that goes against my moral believes. Hobbies: boxing, singing Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? Hopefully changing the way music is being portrayed now, as an empty thing, and influencing children's lives for the better, helping motivate them to go out there and express themselves. What are you looking forward to most at the J8? Speaking my point of view, being heard, meeting new people and making world wide friendships. What do you hope to achieve from participating in J8 2009? A great deal of experience and knowledge.





Russia

Roman Chukov is 16 years old; he lives in Stavropol in the south of Russia. He won several academic awards. Roman dreams of becoming a diplomat and representing Russia in international organizations. He is keen on foreign languages and is fluent in English and German; he likes history and social sciences, keeps track of the latest political developments in Russia and worldwide, Roman plays basketball and does boxing.



Angelica Isayeva is 17 years, she lives in Sochi. She won several academic awards. She speaks English and French, her favorite subjects are literature and history. Angelica dreams of getting a job at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Her hobbies are athletics, cooking and sewing.



Ksenia Yurieneva Kozhina is 17 years old; she lives in Volzhsky, in Volgograd Region. She won several academic awards. She is also an alumna of a US student exchange program. She studied for a year in Joshua, Texas. Her hobbies are music, history, foreign languages and volleyball. Ksenia is planning to study international relations.



Yulia Khalayeva is 17 years old; she lives in Troitskoye in the Republic of Kalmykia. She won several academic awards and is a president of her school's debating society. She is also an alumna of a US student exchange program. Yulia plays piano and guitar; her hobbies also include choreography, folk dancing, water polo and theater.





South Africa

Aletta Dhlamin, 17 from Kroonstad, South Africa. School/team: Brentpark Secondary School Reason for applying to J8: 3rd place in the Albert Luthuli Young Historians Prize and Girls'/Boys' Education Movement Club member Languages spoken: English, Afrikaans, Setswana Role models: Oprah Winfrey, Julius Malema Likes/Hobbies: Reading, playing table tennis and enjoying life. What are you looking forward to most at the J8? I am looking forward to discussing the challenges South Africa, and other countries in the world are facing. I am also looking forward to meeting some of the G8 leaders. What would you say to your President if you could meet him? I would stress that the future of the country is in his hands and that he must deliver.



Refilwe Tsumane, 18, City Northern Cape, South Africa. School/team: Wrenchville High School Reason for applying to J8: 2nd place in the Albert Luthuli Young Historians Prize and Girls'/Boys' Education Movement Club member Languages spoken: English, Afrikaans, Setswana. Role models: My role models include my parents, my teacher - Miss Christiaans - and myself! Likes/Hobbies: Watching television and reading newspapers Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? I would like to be the best lawyer in South Africa. I would like to bring people together and change the following: poverty, HIV and AIDS and world hunger and starvation. If I were to address these challenges I would start by asking the underprivileged people what they would like me to do for them and start helping them in every way I can



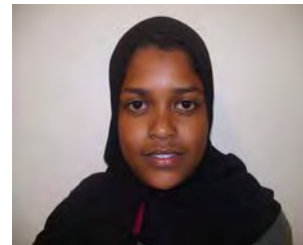
Richmond Sajini, 15, from Alexander Bay, South Africa. School/team: Alexander Bay High School Finalist in the Albert Luthuli Young Historians Prize and Girls'/Boys' Education Movement Club member Languages spoken: English, Afrikaans, Setswana, Xhosa Role models: I am inspired by everyday people who do not let their background affect their future. I am also inspired by my mother, a hard working single parent and one of the few women in the mining industry. Likes/Hobbies: I wouldn't call my singing a pastime since I have been singing most of my life. I enjoy public speaking and motivating others to do good.



Biographies of J8 Participants



Yumna Jackson, 16, from Athlone, South Africa. School/team: Bridgetown High Reason for applying to J8: First prize winner in the Albert Luthuli Young Historians Prize and Girls'/Boys' Education Movement Club member Languages spoken: English, Afrikaans Role models: My mother is my role model as she is always good to people. I also admire successful business people. Likes/Hobbies: Spending time with my family and reading





United Kingdom

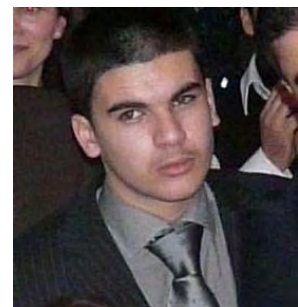
Mellika Myers 16, London, Britain Born, Croydon. School/team: Haling Manor High School Reason for applying to J8: The main reason I applied to the J8 was because I feel very passionate about world poverty and HIV/AIDS. I hope I can learn what I can do to work on these issues. Languages spoken: English Role models: Nelson Mandela, Che Guevara, Mariah Carey, Alicia Keys Likes: People who are funny, to eat a lot Hobbies: I like to go shopping, I also like to read. However most of all I like to socialise with my friends and family Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? In ten years time I see myself as a paediatric nurse. I would also like to set up my own charity. What are you looking forward to most at the J8? I am looking forward to meeting new people and talking to them about the issues that affect them.



Harry Phinda, 15, from London, Born in Harare, Zimbabwe Team: Team One For Many. Reason for applying to J8: We felt young people's voices are not being heard enough. Languages spoken: English, Shona. Role models: my mom, Barack Obama, Martin Luther King Likes: Music socialising, interesting debuts Hobbies Basketball, poetry, rapping, dancing, making music Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? I see myself either being a famous poet or working in a top law firm. I would also like to keep the work with UNICEF going in the years ahead and would love to impact the world in more than one way. What are you looking forward to most at the J8? Meeting the other winners and seeing how we connect. What do you hope to achieve from participating in J8 2009? I would like to fire up young people to get involved in politics, and would like to give a spin on politics that makes it more appealing to young people all over the world



Birzi Saleh City, country: London, UK Age/date of birth: 16 Place of birth: South Kurdistan (North Iraq) School/team: Haling Manor High School / One From Many Reason for applying to J8: I wanted to see if I, a 16year old British/Kurd could get my voice heard and could make a difference in the world. Languages spoken: Kurdish and English Role models: My parents, the Peshmergas, Che Guevara and Mandela. Likes: Cars, motorbikes, music, PlayStation 3, action/war films, motorsports, Sushi, sleeping and shopping. Hobbies: My hobbies would be working out in the gym, swimming and going out with my close friends. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? In ten years I would like to be in a good full-time job in a hot country and most likely to have a wife and one or two kid.





Sara Saleh, 16, City, country: London, Britain Age: 16 Place of birth: Asmara, Eritrea School/team: Haling Manor High School/ One From Many

Reason for applying to J8: I want the G8 leaders to listen to what young youth of today have to say and include us in those key decisions.

Languages spoken: English, Tigrinya, and Arabic Role models: Ché, Oprah Winfrey, Nelson Mandela, Dr. Emily Stowe, Mahatma Gandhi, and Carlos Tevez Likes: Football, Sports, Shoes and Non profitable

Charities Hobbies: I like to play and watch football; I like to hang out with my friends. I also like going shopping and playing sports. In 10 years, I would have done my masters degree in Forensic Psychology or hopefully be a pilot Air Crop Officer.





United States

Pulkit K. Agrawal City, 15, from Hialeah, FL, USA born in New Delhi, India School/Team: North Miami Senior High/Global Pioneers Reason for applying to J8: I applied for J8 because I feel that the leaders of today need to hear the voices of the youth who have fresh ideas and a different perspective. Languages spoken: English and Hindi. Role models: My family: my father, mother, and two sisters. Likes: I love technology, and I also enjoy playing video games. My favorite subject in school is mathematics, followed by history. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? In 10 years, I see myself having graduated college with a major in Computer Science. I will be either working for a major computer firm such as Microsoft or Apple or I may be self employed.



Emmanuella Louisdor, 16, from North Miami, Florida, United States Age: 16 Place of birth: Miami, Florida, United States School/team: North Miami Senior High/ Global Pioneers Reason for applying to J8: My local community is important to me and I always want to stay active and help in all the ways that I can. Languages spoken: English, Creole Role models: My grandmother Felia Joseph is my role model. She is one of the most amazing women that I have ever been blessed to be around. Likes: I really like food and I not only I make it but I eat it as well. I also like all kind of music. Hobbies: I love to read. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? In ten years time I would have graduated from the university of my choosing and started my work as an advocate for children and families.



Daniel Morales, 15, from North Miami, Florida, USA born in New York City, School/team: North Miami Senior High School Global Pioneers Reason for applying to J8: I also hope to participate in world affairs, and be a part of the solution. Languages spoken: English and Spanish Role models: I look up to a number of people, depending on the aspect of what I am looking towards. Likes: I like to listen and play my favorite songs on my electric guitar. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? In 10 years I see myself graduating from a very prestigious law university and becoming a significant political figure. I look forward to developing some of the skills that I will need to become a world leader. What do you hope to achieve from participating in J8 2009? From the J8 summit I hope to continue to work hard and achieve goals that will continue the feeling. I hope to acquire some of the political tools that I will need in the future, such as developing strong confidence when speaking to others, learning how to research effectively, and work very well with others.



Biographies of J8 Participants



Kefhira Pintos City, country: Sunny Isles Beach, FL, US Age: 17
Place of birth: Miami, FL, US School/team: North Miami Senior High School/

Global Pioneers Reason for applying to J8: Applying to J8 was a way of getting our voices heard, of informing all that youth does have an opinion and a stance and we want to make a difference for we are not only the future, but the right now. Languages spoken: English and Spanish Role models: My biggest role models are my parents, Norma Samanon and Oscar Pintos. Likes: I cherish honesty, laughter and sprinkles of sarcasm here and there. I love participating in my selected extracurricular activities, which include Debate, Model UN, SECME and the National Honor Society. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? In 10 years, I see myself as possessing an undergraduate and graduate degree from an Ivy League school

