

Africa Rising - The Role of Diaspora African Women Featuring Yvonne Chaka Chaka

Robin Marsh
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Today in Parliament there was an event featuring Princess Yvonne Chaka Chaka, UNICEF and Roll Back Malaria Goodwill Ambassador and co-hosted by a number of groups including the Universal Peace Federation - UK. Justina Mutale and POWER 14 have been organising this programme as part of Black History Month. The event will be hosted by the Rt. Hon. Baroness Sandip Verma, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Energy and Climate Change. Below are the biographies for the speakers. (Photo of Justina Mutale, Baroness Verma and Yvonne Chaka Chaka in the House of Lords courtesy photographer695)



YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA known as the Princess of Africa, Yvonne is a South African Superstar and legendary singer with 30 years in the music industry, boasting twenty two albums, with many Platinum and Gold hit records, making her one of Africa's most successful artists.

Yvonne has performed around for the world, and also for world leaders including former South African President, Nelson Mandela; HRM Queen Elizabeth II; and U.S. President Bill Clinton, among many others. Yvonne has shared the stage with the music industry's megastars such as Bono, Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys, Aretha Franklin, Miriam Makeba, and Hugh Masekela. Her humanitarian film "*A Motherland Tour: A Journey of African Women with Yvonne Chaka Chaka*", is based on women's health and empowerment. The film is a call to action for nations to honour their commitments to improve the health of all Africans, especially women and children in meeting the Health Millennium Development Goals. The film tells the inspirational story of African women who are making a positive impact on the health of their communities. In the film, Yvonne travels through Africa meeting courageous women who are changing lives. As each story unfolds, so does a powerful message: "*Health is not a luxury of the few, but an inalienable right for all*".

JUSTINA MUTALE is the African Woman of the Year 2012 and Founder/CEO of POSITIVE

RUNWAY: The Global Catwalk to Stop the Spread of AIDS. She is also the Gender Equality Ambassador & Spokes Person for the International Womens Think Tank and sits on the advisory Board of the World Leaders Forum.



JACQUELINE ONALO is a human rights and immigration lawyer at R.Spio & Company Solicitors. She is both a barrister and solicitor of England and Wales. She has recently been admitted as an advocate of the High Court of Kenya.

DEBORAH OWHIN is a gender equality specialist. In 2011, Deborah became the youngest advocate on Violence against women and girls. Deborah is the Founder of Made Equal, whose vision is to engage, educate and empower people in their 20s and 30s in the campaign to eradicate gender inequality.



ANNA VANDERPUYE OWUNNE is the CEO of African Business Roundtable (incorporating the NEPAD Business Group) UK Chapter and INGO Global. She has been UK African Community Ambassador for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for their Personal Food Imports Programme and Office for National Statistics for the pre-Census sensitisation programme.

CHIEF KATE ANOLUE is the Founder of the Forum for African Women in Politics (FWAP) and former Mayor of the London Borough of Enfield. She is also Founder & CEO of “TenderCare” a charity which caters for young teenage mothers and fathers, widows and lone women.

SHERRY ANN DIXON is an Inspirational and Motivational Speaker. She is also a Life Coach and Mentor. Sherry is the Founder & CEO of Women on the Crossroads, a motivational website for women. She is also the Founder & CEO of Sherry Dixon Consultancy, a Marketing and PR company.

CHIOMA AGWUEGBO is a Social Media Strategist and founding Editor of Naija2015. Chiome has experience spanning radio and radio drama production for the BBC Media Action in Nigeria.

LUKWESA BURAK is a TV Presenter and News Anchor at SKY World News. Lukwesa is committed to Malaria prevention and is Patron of the charity All Star Kids, working towards improving the lives of

children in Southern Africa.

MELISSA POWYS-RODRIGUES is the Chairperson of the South African Chamber of Commerce UK, which she leads in all its initiatives including fundraising, research, political as well as business focused events, government (SA & UK) liaison and relationship fostering.



DR TITILOLA BANJOKO is a healthcare manager with a clinical background. She pioneered the formation of AfricaRecruit and FindaJobinAfrica.com – a programme designed to build human capital and skills capacity in Africa by strengthening the human resource framework on the continent, mobilising skills inside and outside Africa to address policy gaps and skills shortages impacting Africa's development.

GEORGINA AWOONOR-GORDON is the Grants Manager for Trade, Enterprise and Employment programme Comic Relief Georgina oversees projects focused on improving economic opportunities for poor entrepreneurs in sub-Saharan Africa. Over the last four years, she has worked on the Common Ground Initiative (CGI). Co-funded by DFID, the Initiative is directed mainly at supporting Africa's development through small and African Diaspora-led organizations based in the UK.

SADO JIRDE is the Director of Black South West Network (BSWN), a charity focused on human rights, equality, access to knowledge and socio-economic inclusion. BSWN acts as an advocate on behalf of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities in the South West.