



JAMES WUYE AND MUHAMMAD ASHAFI

(NIGERIA, 2006)

THE IMPACT: Their mass media and advocacy work reaches an estimated 20 million people. They organized the adoption of the Kaduna Peace Declaration of Religious Leaders, the Yelwa-Shendam Peace Affirmation and the Peace Initiative of Pan and Goemai. Election violence and rigging have both declined sharply where women they have trained educate their communities and serve as monitors. Their voices and organizing now extend to troubled areas across Africa.



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CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM UNITY

Christian pastor James Wuye and Muslim imam Muhammad Ashafa grew up intensely hating everything that the other stood for as members of opposing religious organizations. Through intermediaries and then after months of soul searching, both leaders decided to lay down their arms and work together to end the destructive violence plaguing Nigeria.

Their organization, the Interfaith Mediation Center of the Muslim-Christian Dialogue Forum, deals with the psychology of religious violence and addresses its causes and effects. They use media: Both clerics have television shows dedicated to preaching the tenets of their respective faiths as well as peaceful co-existence. They use education: To reverse a “theology of hate” that is often taught to children at home and in school, Ashafa and Wuye set up Peace Clubs. They use community vigilance: They set up committees and advisory councils made up of religious and community leaders to monitor

peace-building efforts and provide feedback, using a hotline to report religious violence nationwide.

Wuye and Ashafa’s work extends beyond Nigeria to Northern Ghana, Kenya, Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, Burundi, and Sierra Leone. The story of their work is being spread through documentary films, *The Imam and the Pastor* and the *African Answer*.

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Theirs is an inspiring story, full of hope... a model for Muslim-Christian relations.

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-Dr. Rowan Williams,
Archbishop of Canterbury





JASMEEN PATHEJA

(INDIA, 2007)

THE IMPACT: Jasmeen has mobilized a community of more than 22,000 champions across 66 cities. To change everyone's mindsets and understanding, she has staged over 500 actions, issued over 300 press reports in 10 languages, and inspired others to launch many allied sister organizations.



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OPENING PUBLIC SPACES TO WOMEN

By drawing attention to sexual harassment on the streets, Jasmeen Patheja challenges attitudes towards an often-trivialized problem known in India as “eve-teasing.”

Through her organization Blank Noise, Jasmeen employs a variety of strategies—street theater, performance art and art exhibitions—to engage the public in events designed to increase awareness of sexual harassment where it most often happens, on the street. She builds a community of “Action Heroes,” and supports these heroes in taking actions (like napping in a public park as Jasmeen is doing in the photo above) to dissolve their own fears, raise visibility about harassment, change public perceptions about the problem and assert their right to be free.

Jasmeen experienced being harassed on the streets of Bangalore as a young girl. Her inability to understand the reasons behind this phenomenon, in addition to frustration about public apathy toward it,

drove her to explore the issue further and start Blank Noise, initially as a graduate school project.

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For [Jasmeen] Patheja, the artist behind Blank Noise, breaking the silence has been healing, even empowering... In India, thousands of women like her are becoming Action Heroes. We may not yet be ready to take back the night. But we are making a start on taking back the street.

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The New York Times



JULIAN UGARTE

(CHILE, 2014)

THE IMPACT: Over 500,000 users are registered on the Socialab platform with 40,000 ideas submitted from 96 countries. Socialab has helped support more than 400 of these ideas with direct mentorship and financing. Julian is also the co-creator of FIIS (the International Festival of Social Innovation), one of the largest social innovation gatherings in Latin America, with tens of thousands of attendees and offshoots in eight cities, including Los Angeles.



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INNOVATION PLATFORM FOR YOUTH

Julian wants to change who solves social problems and how by motivating vulnerable young people to take an active part in creating innovative solutions for their communities.

Julian runs Socialab, a “cool” open innovation platform for young people to practice their changemaking skills and to be inspired by the big ideas of their peers. Challenge entrants upload an idea to the Socialab platform and are mentored through rounds of voting by experts in the field. In this way, all who enter get validation and support just by participating. Projects with the highest number of public votes officially win. The winning ideas are showcased at events that attract close to 50,000 people, and the winners are invited to work at the Socialab co-working space, where they receive further mentoring, financial backing and pro-bono advice.

Julian, a middle brother raised in Santiago,

always believed he would invent something to change the world. He trained as an industrial engineer and thought his contribution would be a ‘cool’ tool to help solve the affordable housing crisis in Chile. While he hasn’t yet solved the housing crisis, he believes that the young people on his platform will do so and much more.

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I met Julian Ugarte, an Industrial designer, and his team during a trip to South America, and I was blown away by what they are trying to do. [Socialab] is like Silicon Valley’s Y Combinator, but for those at the bottom of the socioeconomic pyramid.

-Vivek Wadhwa, professor at Duke, Stanford & Harvard Law; and faculty at Singularity University

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The Washington Post



KIRAN SETHI

(INDIA, 2008)

THE IMPACT: Kiran's approach is in 30,000 schools in 44 countries, and Pope Francis just asked Kiran to bring it to the world's 446,000 Catholic schools.



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"I CAN"

Kiran Sethi works with schools around the globe to unleash young people's power to drive change in their own communities.

Kiran uses design thinking to help middle-school aged kids understand that they are powerful and can solve real-world problems. Her experiential, four-step "I Can" formula encourages kids to: 1) "Feel" any problem that bothers them, 2) "Imagine" a way to make it better, 3) "Do" something to change the problem and 4) "Share" the story of transformation with the world. She and her organization, Design for Change, works with teachers to provide students with opportunities to turn their ideas into reality through concrete action steps.

Kiran prototyped the philosophy at Riverside School, the school she founded in Ahmedabad, India after her five-year-old son came home depressed because his teachers made him feel like a failure.

She decided then that she would drop everything else and help her son and other children around the world like him access their inner superpowers.

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[Sethi] built her own curriculum based on a collaborative child-centered approach to teaching, aiming to empower students to achieve academically, make a difference in the wider community and feel good about themselves.

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theguardian