

The Trust Imperative

In an Era of Uncertainty



London, UK
November 30, 2017



WE NURTURE THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

- Join us and help promote global thinking among youth and women globally
- Be part of an international network of experienced mentors and alumni

GLOBALTHINKERS MENTORS

Mentoring. Inspiring. Empowering.



“Thank you for the opportunity provided through ‘Telemachus.’ It was indeed a unique experience for me.”

AMIN NEHME - President, Lebanese Development Network (LDN)
GTF MENTOR



“The programme has been of great value. My GTF mentor was an invaluable source of guidance.”

ALICE PEASE (UK), 26
GTF TELEMACHUS 2017 MENTEE

To support the programme or to receive more information,
contact us on info@globalthinkersforum.org

globalthinkersforum.org - globalthinkersmentors.org



AFGHANISTAN

GLOBALTHINKERS  **FORUM**
Accountable Leadership. Women's Empowerment. Youth Development.

The Trust Imperative

In an Era of Uncertainty



SYRIA

SPONSORS & PARTNERS



الجمعية العلمية الملكية
Royal Scientific Society



SHARON SCHWETZER, J.D.



AMERSI FOUNDATION



WOMEN TO WATCH



The New York Times
Athens Democracy
Forum
September 13-17, 2017



CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY
AND PEACE BUILDING



MEDIA PARTNERS



Global Thinkers Forum (GTF) is a global platform that brings together a diverse network of thought leaders to share their visions of the future, create meaningful conversations around them and effect positive change in the world. GTF's mission focuses on three areas: accountable leadership, women's empowerment and youth development. GTF is also a bridge-builder, creating opportunities for knowledge exchange, collaboration, strategic philanthropy and recognition. The Forum is London-based and was incubated at Oxford University's Said Business School in 2011.

GTF launched officially in 2012 in Amman, Jordan, under the patronage of HM Queen Rania Al Abdullah and has partnered with some of the world's top brands, organisations and foundations. It features a prestigious Advisory Board with high-profile thought leaders and decision makers from over 20 countries. GTF organises a wide range of activities including seminars, fora, roundtable discussions, workshops, networking events, mentoring programmes and its annual Awards Ceremony.

GTF in Numbers 2012 – 2017

- GTF launched in **2012** in Amman, Jordan, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania
- **7** countries (UK, Jordan, Turkey, Greece, UAE, Saudi Arabia, USA)
- Advisory Board Members from **20+** countries
- **29** Events (fora, awards ceremonies, workshops, roundtables)
- **6** Annual GTF events
- **2** Angel Investors events (Jordan, UAE)
- **16** workshops (Greece, UAE, Jordan, Saudi Arabia)
- **More than 130** speakers
- **5** GTF Awards Galas
- **47** Awards of Excellence in 5 years
- **More than 2,000** participants convened, learned, networked
- **6** annual publications
- **55** participating countries
- Mentors from **20** countries
- Mentees from **32** countries
- **200+** Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs directly benefitted from the GTF network

GLOBAL THINKERS FORUM



GTF Kampala 2018 **African Women as Trailblazers**

*A High-Impact Forum &
Awards for Excellence Gala*

Kampala Serena Hotel
Kampala, Uganda | Saturday, March the 24th, 2018

Co-hosted with



For sponsorship and partnership opportunities please contact
info@globalthinkersforum.org

GLOBAL THINKERS FORUM 2017

Table of Contents

“(Re) Building Bridges of Trust”

Elizabeth Filippouli, Founder & CEO
- Global Thinkers Forum

“Emirati Women Are Among the Cornerstones of the Nation’s Development”

HE Reem BinKaram, Director - NAMA
Women Advancement Establishment

“Advancing the Library’s International Purpose”

Patrick Fleming, Director of Development
- British Library

“Leadership and Its Essential Ingredient: Trust”

Dr. Roger Hayes, Senior Counsellor
- APCO Worldwide

“Accountability Must Be a Grass-roots Effort”

Jana Cohen Barbe, Partner & former
Global Vice Chair - Dentons

“Africa’s True Wealth Lies in Our People”

Akinwole Omoboriowo II, Chairman & CEO
- Genesis Energy Holdings

“At Global Thinkers Forum We Have a Unified Vision”

Dr. Rebecca Thomley, CEO - Orion Associates
& Founder - Headwaters Relief Organization

“The World Lacks Meaningful Leadership”

Derek Wyatt, Director - Code Investing

“Asking for Help Is a Sign of Strength”

Lili Hall, Founder & CEO - KNOCK, inc

“Success Comes from Leadership Skills”

Gareth Quinn, Founder & Managing
Director - Digital DNA

“Leaders Need to Listen Twice as Much as They Speak”

Nikos Koumettis, President
- Coca-Cola Central & Eastern Europe BU

“It Is Time to Put an End to Despotism”

Tawakkol Karman, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize
Laureate

“Transformation Can Happen in a Nanosecond”

Susan Foley Rocco, Founder, Producer
& Host - Women to Watch™ Media, LLC

“Now Is Always the Best Time to Make a Difference”

William Leverett, GTF “Telemachus” Mentee

“Be Bolder and Less Afraid of Failing”

Daniela Badalan, GTF “Athena” Mentee

“Gender Bias is the Most Significant Barrier”

Anjum Malik, Managing Partner
- Alhambra U.S. Chamber & GTF Mentor

“Success is Making a Positive Difference Along the Road”

Helen Alderson, Head ICRC Mission UK &
Ireland & GTF Mentor

“Set High Goals, Hold Yourself Accountable!”

George Constantopoulos, Senior Partner
- SWC & GTF Mentor

“Trust and the Death of News”

Sebastian Rich, Conflict Photographer

GTF 2017 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Event Programme 2017

GTF Advisory Board & Global Growth
Partners

Looking Ahead to 2018

Special Thanks



Elizabeth Filippouli

Founder & CEO, Global Thinkers Forum
& Global Thinkers Mentors

“(RE) BUILDING BRIDGES OF TRUST”

Back in 1100, King Henry the 1st had a problem, which is still around 900 years later. How to record financial transactions honestly. He used an old idea: the tally-stick. A stick was cut with notches to show how much was owed. Then split down the middle - both parties had a fool-proof record. This system lasted for centuries, right into the 20th in some parts of Europe. Until business and trade made it too inconvenient. Simple and effective, yes, but cumbersome.

The Parliament decided to end the system. Proclaimed that all tally-sticks had to be collected. It was an obsolete accounting system, that had only left a mountain of sticks in the basement of this building! So in 1834, they decided to burn them. But things got out of hand. The fire burned down Parliament itself! A sign expressing some divine displeasure at the end of ‘Honest Money’!?

Think about that story.

For centuries the simplest and most practical idea to help manage trust between strangers, but also colleagues, and friends. It ended in fire, a fire which happened to destroy the very institution upon which people bestow their trust for their presence and future!

Today we use Rules. Many of them originating from national Parliaments, or the EU Parliament in Brussels. Hundreds of rules. Thousands of rules! Millions? But do the rules create trust? Yes, and no! Rules are effective only as long as people obey them.

Another story: Ireland, Monday, May the 4th, 1970. That Monday all major banks in Ireland closed, because of dispute issues with their employees. They closed for an undefined amount of time. The Irish found themselves with no access to their money. How would people deal with their day to day needs? No cash, the market dies-correct? Well, not really. The solution was invented by the peo-

ple: "let's start writing cheques to each other!". And so it happened. You pay the pub owner, he pays his staff, with the same cheque. A long chain of cheques that went on for 6 months and actually kept the Irish economy afloat. The biggest risk, was the risk of trust. What if cheques bounced when banks opened? But the community was small and it was trustworthy –that made a world of a difference.

It was a network of people, interconnected by transactions, interconnected by trust, who operated in good faith. For their own benefit, but also for the benefit of their fellow citizens, and their country's economy.

Networks can be powerful, but the element of trust is necessary to keep our system robust, stable and functional.

Through a small device which is called 'smartphone' I can talk to billions of people. Anywhere on Earth! For free! I'm connected with anyone; And anyone is connected with me. Do I trust this device? Yes. And no.

We have a tendency to trust and rely on something which is made by humans, but actually we must remember that it is not human, it was made by humans. Technology. We trust that technology will deliver. We trust that technology will be secure. We trust that technology will show respect – to the individual as human being. How utopic is that!

That brings me back to the question of order, and rules. Who is in control of technology and who is in control of the rules? Can rules control technology? Can rules restore or secure trust? Is 'More Rules!' the answer to the issue of mistrust? Different sorts of rules perhaps? And who makes them?

What if there's competition in writing the rules? What if technology and any ob-

scure and rogue players out there write their own rules who overtake the rules of our democratic societies?

Where is a place for trust in all this?

Everywhere we look, there is new and dynamic competition with our Parliaments, on setting rules for how things are run. Bitcoin. Facebook. Google. Face recognition software. Cyber attackers. Lack of privacy.

With the internet we transfer our privacy, our thinking, how we operate as human beings, into something out there which is chaotic, unregulated, unpredictable. And it is being tapped by anyone out there for legitimate and non-legitimate purposes.

Who will regulate that? Can technology create a moral order for itself?

American technologist David Weinberger in his book 'Too Big to Know' brings into the table a key property of the networking of knowledge: hugeness.

The 'Hugeness' of data is attributed to four main trends: The economics of deletion have changed, the economics of sharing have changed, computers have become exponentially smarter and there is significant change in people's habits.

How do we deal with this massive amount of data, and is it getting out of control?

Who is in charge here?

Back to the issue of trust. People are uneasy. All of us are uneasy currently.

Brexit. Catalonia. Syria. Borders. Migrants. Environmental issues. Resource scarcity. National security. How is the issue of trust or mistrust affecting this bleak reality?

I wish to extend a profound thanks to the British Library (BL), Patrick Fleming and the incredible BL team for the honour to collaborate with them closely over the past months. There are two significant values that brought the British Library and Global Thinkers Forum together: Collaboration and Trust.

When we collaborate and when we know that we can trust each other, great things can happen for this world, for our societies.

We are delighted and honoured to celebrate our 5th Anniversary in this magnificent building, a global hub of accumulated knowledge and wisdom.

Six years ago, in 2011, Global Thinkers Forum was a new-born that had just being delivered from the learnings of Oxford University's Said Business School.

Today we are proud, honoured and grateful to be joined once again by influential global thinkers, thought leaders of worldwide respect and excited for the prospects ahead. A huge thanks to all of You for this journey, for Your Trust!



SOUTH SUDAN



HE Reem BinKaram

Director, NAMA Women Advancement Establishment & GTF Advisory Board Member

“EMIRATI WOMEN ARE AMONG THE CORNERSTONES OF THE NATION’S DEVELOPMENT”

- **What is NAMA?**

Established by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the UAE Supreme Council Ruler of Sharjah, and chaired by his wife, Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, NAMA’s key role is to raise awareness that women play an integral role in the economy, in the workplace, in innovation and in society. We aim to give practical support to women in terms of gender equality and promote their ability and ambition to shape and influence every aspect of the community.

Going further, NAMA positively encourages policies to support women and actively pursues programmes that support women’s integration into all sectors, rewriting the unwritten rules which can discriminate against the advancement of women. Its five affiliates, Sharjah Business Women Council, Irthi Contemporary

Crafts Council, NAMA Fund, Badiri Education and Development Platform, and Anwan, fall under the umbrella of NAMA Women Advancement Establishment.

Emirati women have been one of the cornerstones of the nation’s development since its founding in 1971 and have always worked tirelessly in taking the UAE to its position as a major player on a global stage. NAMA’s intention is to not only continue that contribution, but to enhance it through new avenues of industry, business, legislation and politics.

- **How have women made progress in the UAE?**

Today there are many women in leading positions in the UAE and in Sharjah, whether that is in traditional or non-traditional industry, economics, entrepreneurship or policy making. The government support for women in a variety of

fields makes for ongoing progress.

As Shaikha Lubna Al Qasimi, Minister of State for Tolerance said, women's empowerment is a key target in the UAE's national strategy to be achieved by 2021 and we aim to place the UAE as one of the countries at the forefront of women's empowerment.

True UAE empowerment and equality for women began with the UAE's founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and his wife, the Mother of the Nation, Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak, who is Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, which she established in 1975, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, and President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood.

Her Highness is and always will be the ultimate model for supporting women.

The changes that have been made are dramatic and the figures speak for themselves; women now make up 66 percent of public sector workers, 30 percent of which are in leadership roles. They also occupy about 75 percent of positions in education and health sectors. For the first time, the UAE has eight women ministers, one of the highest rates of ministerial representation in the region, and the ratio of women in the Federal National Council stands at 20 percent.

Another telling factor in the progress of women in the UAE is the nation's ranking as first among 132 countries in the 'women treated with respect' indicator of the Social Progress Index – a respect of their past contributions in building the nation, their current roles in advancing the nation, and their future aspirations and ability to play an equal part in leading the nation.

- **Can you share with us some success stories/case studies?**

The Bidwa Social Development Programme, an initiative from Irthi Contemporary Crafts Council, has helped to raise the profile of traditional Emirati

handicrafts and empower traditional female craftswomen.

Bidwa aims to revive and modernise traditional UAE crafts, ensuring that they are kept alive and remain relevant for the younger Emiratis. One example of this is the agreement with Accademia Italiana, one of Italy's most prestigious institutes for fashion and design, whose students used intricate embroidery craft of 'Talli' in their design work, inspired by women on the Bidwa Programme. The fashion show was presented on the runway in Italy last year, before being marketed through the Bidwa Programme.

- **How is Her Highness Sheikhha Jawaher working towards tapping into female talent for economic development? Please share some initiatives and examples.**

One of the most important aspects on the journey of empowerment and equity for women is ensuring that the legacy continues. Founded in 2002, Sharjah Business Women Council (SBWC) encourages women entrepreneurs to integrate into the global economy, support the economic output of the nation and develop community ideals for the Emirate of Sharjah.

Badiri Education and Development Platform, the youngest of NAMA's five entities, aims to boost, reward and showcase the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst women locally and globally. Badiri builds the capacity of women entrepreneurs to participate in various sectors of the economy and provide them with the skills and knowledge to reach their full potential. It also focuses on entrepreneurship development, which it encourages through programmes such as Badiri Women's Enterprise Development Virtual Academy and Jeel, geared towards creating the next generation of women and young entrepreneurs.

The NAMA Fund, NAMA's latest highly promising initiative, is a collective effort of NAMA and its local and international

partners to mobilise the financial and human resources required to elevate the status of women and guarantee their economic security and worldwide success.

- **What is your vision for NAMA?**

We have achieved so much, but there are always new ambitions and new benchmarks. It is important for NAMA to not just initiate programmes, campaigns, strategies, training and so on, but also to collate tangible results, feedback and outcomes so that it can become a central source of information and data, and a resource and reference point for future initiatives.

NAMA needs to continue its efforts to be all-inclusive. In the future, I would like to see that expand even further, so that it becomes almost a one-stop-shop for women of different walks of life and different fields of work, supporting their needs and giving them a greater scope for opportunities.

I would also like to see greater cooperation with educational institutions such

as the memorandum of understanding signed with the University of Sharjah that was signed recently. The three-year agreement means that the university will be offering diplomas and bachelor's degree programmes specialising in studies on women's empowerment and, as a highly beneficial result, will exchange and disseminate a number of research and study sources related to women's empowerment.

- **How do you define accountability in leadership?**

For me, accountability has two definitions; the first is about achieving results without losing ethics. It is an honest, self-accountable philosophy, which is essential in a position of authority where you must act in the best interests of the people you represent. The second is being accountable by those very same people – however good someone's intentions, if their methods are misguided or the results are divisive, the course of action must change.



AFGHANISTAN



Patrick Fleming

Director of Development, British Library

“ADVANCING THE LIBRARY’S INTERNATIONAL PURPOSE”

It gives me great pleasure to welcome friends and supporters of both the Global Thinkers Forum and the British Library to this Awards Ceremony in one of the world’s great cultural institutions.

I am very conscious that whilst many know us well, a good number of you have never visited the Library before. I hope that you will all follow tonight by visiting and discovering the wonderful treasures that are held here in this marvellous Grade 1 listed building.

Firstly, I must offer personal thanks to my friend and Global Thinkers Forum Founder and CEO, Elizabeth Filippouli, for working with me to bring you here. As two organisations that champion great thinkers from around the world and which rely on philanthropy to forward our endeavours, we felt that this was the perfect venue to bring our respective

friends together to celebrate the successes of remarkable people.

As well as holding many of the world’s most prized cultural treasures, The British Library is the repository of the nation’s collective memory. As many of you have travelled from outside the UK our international activities will be of significant interest.

In a year of dramatic events on the global stage, we are proud that this has been an exceptional year for advancing the Library’s international purpose, working with partners around the world to advance knowledge and mutual understanding.

Our cultural engagement in China is unprecedented in its depth and breadth, most vividly illustrated with the signing of an exhibition agreement with the Na-

tional Library of China at 2016's UK-China High Level People to People Dialogue in Shanghai.

Our collaboration with Indian institutions continues to prosper through a vibrant programme of research, and cultural exchange. Loans of King George III's edition of Shakespeare's First Folio to the CSMVS Museum in Mumbai and a facsimile of the Magna Carta to the Jaipur Literature Festival were particularly popular. We also hosted a series of workshops and seminars for researchers and library professionals in India, and entered into a memorandum of understanding with the National Digital Library of India to share metadata and digitised content. We secured additional fundin from the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Newton Fund for our Two Centuries of Indian Print project, enabling the digitisation of an additional 3,000 of the earliest Bengali books and 6,000 Vernacular Tracts.

Closer to home, we continued to strengthen relationships in Europe, announcing a major partnership with the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, generously funded by The Polonsky Foundation. This will digitise 800 illuminated-manuscripts from the period 700–1200 from each respective collection, opening up our shared early medieval heritage to new global audiences.

A similar spirit of collaboration marked the launch of the Living Knowledge Network in September 2016. Funded by Arts Council England, this is a nation wide pilot partnership between the British Library and the National Libraries of Scotland and Wales, Libraries NI (Northern Ireland) and 21 major public libraries across the UK. Building on our successful Business & IP Centre network, it aims to strengthen the collective ability of libraries to deliver services to diverse communities. Early activity has included co-ordinated live screenings of British

Library events to Exeter, Leeds and Middlesbrough, and skills sharing days for staff across the network.

You will have noticed that our building is adorned with imagery to support our "Harry Potter: A History of Magic" exhibition. As well as capturing the imagination of the many thousands of people who are visiting it here, the exhibition is reaching out beyond London.

Public libraries from across the UK have joined together for the first time, from Edinburgh to Exeter, to present their own interpretations of the exhibition, as part of the Living Knowledge Network. In another first the exhibition will move to New York Historical Society in October 2018 further underlining our international activities.

You can also enjoy our Listen: 140 Years of Recorded Sound exhibition a few yards away from your tables. This explores how sound has shaped and influenced our lives since the phonograph was invented in 1877.

Here in King's Cross, the Knowledge Quarter – of which the Library is a founder member – was established as a company limited by guarantee in its second year of operation. That is testament to how rapidly it has grown and the strength of the networks built between 80 local organisations involved in advancing and disseminating knowledge. Our 42-acre site in Boston Spa, Yorkshire, at the geographical heart of the UK, is key to the national knowledge infrastructure and stores 70% of the Library's collections. In London, we were delighted that our St Pancras Transformed development vision was approved by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and HM Treasury. This will ultimately deliver 100,000 square feet of new space, at no cost to the Exchequer, for the Library and The Alan Turing Institute (the national institute for data science, head-

quartered here in St Pancras) to grow into.

The transformation of this, our iconic London building has already begun. We opened a Members' Room offering a peaceful retreat from the academic environs of our eleven Reading Rooms and the buzz of our public spaces. Our refurbished Knowledge Centre offers a superb 255-seat Theatre, with a new bar and updated conferencing facilities. Our accompanying cultural programme now brings some of the most inspiring and thought provoking subjects to life, from the Hip Hop Shakespeare Company's unique storytelling to Margaret Atwood receiving the 2016 PEN Pinter Prize.

Last year we welcomed almost 1.5m people to the Library and we launched a well-received Membership scheme which now has more than 3500 members.

Underpinning these exciting developments is the continued growth and curatorial development of our collection. This year, that meant adding over 330,000 physical items and 180 terabytes

of digital content, and undertaking the preservation of over 18,000 heritage objects.

All these achievements and more have been made possible through careful financial planning, wonderful support from our patrons, donors, companies and organisations who support us and efficient use of resources; and through the tireless efforts of our staff, steadily bringing to life our Living Knowledge vision with energy, creativity and passion.

With tonight in mind, I leave you with a few words from Elizabeth; "Successful philanthropic endeavours have something in common: they are built steadily over time. The impact ultimately comes, not just from which organisations receive funding but also the development of positive, lasting relationships between companies and their communities. That is called 'Stakeholder Bonding' and that can create an ecosystem of close collaboration, mutual support and development".

Thank you all for supporting both the British Library and the Global Thinkers Forum.



SOMALIA



Dr. Roger Hayes

Senior Counsellor, APCO Worldwide
& GTF Advisory Board Member

“LEADERSHIP AND ITS ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT: TRUST”

In a complex and often conflicting world dominated by growing mistrust of institutions fuelled by social media echo chambers and reinforced by the convergence of economics/business, politics/government and society/culture, leaders must collaborate as much as compete. The key to this is relationships based on trust, the last driver of sustainable value. I call this ‘collaborative diplomacy’. Identifying the key issues and developing sufficient trust to build coalitions and form partnerships means building relationships, requiring diplomacy and dialogic skills. These so-called softer skills are increasingly required for leadership in this fast-changing and disruptive era.

The conditions are that the world has been turned upside down, politically, economically and socially. The context is that there is no place to hide from transparent scrutiny combined with a decline

of deference to leaders and institutions, as illustrated by the lack of credibility of expert sources during the UK Brexit debate. The consequences are momentous for business, government and civil society institutions, whether in the developed or developing world. As a result, we shall need a new kind of leadership, drawing together thinking from a wide range of disciplines, such as networking, navigation, negotiation and narrative development: a multi-dimensional mindset, if you like.

The paradox is that the more complicated are the issues and disruptive forces, benign or malign– look at AI and robotics/ Facebook and cybercrime – the more leaders must strive to ‘join the dots’ and reconcile conflicting interests. However, some of those stakeholders will not be easy bedfellows. As Moisés Naím wrote in 2013: “Power is easier to get, harder

to use and easier to lose ...the decay of power is changing the world". The young have incredible connectivity, rising middle-classes everywhere have higher expectations, and those left behind by globalisation are angry. With technology's advance, leadership by humans will matter more, but leaders, in order to be credible, will need a new mix of skills based on life-long learning.

Sandra Macleod, CEO of Mindful Reputation, sums it up thus: "As risk becomes more complex, transparency more radical and reputation more dear, with trust as the prize, then through better alignment with stakeholders, values and expectations, reputation creates real value" (2014). Thus reputation is being closely linked in academic thinking with responsibility and relationships.

Leaders need to be endowed with the capacity to contain the 'decay of power'. This means, based on my own research (2015), seeing the bigger picture, being able to connect unconnected dots, taking a longer-term view, listening to others and partnering with a variety of stakeholders to find solutions all underpinned by trust. The global public space is both a challenge and an opportunity. With the boundaries between institutions blurred, and between countries, eroded, public and private sector leaders require a broader range of skills, new methodologies and a fresh mindset. In short, we need to review new ways of thinking, with all its implications for teaching and training, theory and practice, as well as interdisciplinary courses.

Tomorrow's global company, for example, needs to define success in terms of positive impacts for business and society, where vision and values are aligned, always searching for win-win rather than win-lose solutions, the latter of which sadly pervade international trade discussions at the moment.

Culture and identity, especially with mass migration movements, are fast moving up the agenda in both home and host countries. And just as new media can have negative effects fanning the flames and speeding up response time, rarely allowing for strategic reflection, they do provide options for co-creation, conversations and a myriad of connections that will not have been made before, thus helping 'inclusion'.

Collaboration and corporate culture are concepts that ministers and managers alike find tough to get their heads around. They appear ill-equipped to face newly empowered and often multicultural groups, who cannot be pigeon-holed by class, location, age, gender, education or wealth, according to David Goodhart (2017) writing about the UK's split over Brexit.

To be credible, leaders must strip away the artifice, be authentic and find their 'true north'. Leaders who lead with purpose, integrity and insight, relate to all stakeholders, not just government, finance and business, but NGOs, Trade Unions, media and religious leaders. This is the difference between transformative and transactional leadership.

"What holds us back is not the technology, but the culture and behaviour that goes with collaboration", wrote Lucian Hudson, a GTF Advisory Board Member, in 2008. This is an advanced form of leadership, the creation of a compelling narrative that followers share, requiring rhetorical and communications skills. It should be noted that in this diffuse and transparent stakeholder environment leaders need to mobilise others as collaborators.

The study of leadership is in its early stages. However, there is an emerging consensus that the notion of 'authenticity' is a root construct (Avolio and Gardner, 2005), particularly in an era of multiple

stakeholders, where relational approaches based on psychological authority (i.e. trust) are preferable to power-based ones.

The 'Dialogic Model', which implies partnership and collaboration, is little examined in the stakeholder literature, because genuine dialogue is geared towards mutual education, joint problem-solving and true relationship building. There have been some attempts at this via multi-stakeholder dialogues – for instance, in the South African mining industry – and there are other examples, but real dialogue requires particular kinds of moderation and convener skills, linked to elements of diplomacy. This

kind of leadership is not about imposing quick fixes, but rather convincing others to take responsibility, to own the solutions. This has implications for corporate structures and government coordination, as well as teaching and training.

Responsible leadership is an emerging concept at the overlap of studies in ethics, strategic communications, strategy, sustainability, public diplomacy and international relations, attempting to answer the who is responsible for what and to whom in an interdependent and interconnected world. That would be a good start to rebuilding trust.



MOZAMBIQUE



Jana Cohen Barbe

Partner & former Global Vice Chair, Dentons
& GTF Advisory Board Member

“ACCOUNTABILITY MUST BE A GRASS-ROOTS EFFORT”

- **Jana, if you were to describe yourself in 150 words, what would you say?**

I am an evolving wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend, lawyer, advisor, advocate, equestrian, farmer, traveller and optimist who took the road less travelled and still does not know where it leads.

- **How did you get where you are today, and did anyone (or something) help you along the way?**

I have taken the unconventional path and I have been nurtured and mentored by too many remarkable individuals to name, beginning first with my parents, who encouraged me to be an independent thinker and taught me the importance of intellectual curiosity and fulsome debate. I began my career in the typical way for a young lawyer in the

United States: I joined a large prominent law firm and worked around the clock. I then opted to leave the firm to work for a not-for-profit social service agency as its first General Counsel and to develop affordable housing for individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses and histories of homelessness. I then returned to private practice after five years. The time I spent doing public-interest work defined my career and gave me the specialised knowledge that clients have kindly valued. I suppose it is a lesson in what happens when luck and support meet passion and determination.

- **Tell us about a project or accomplishment that you consider to be the most significant in your career.**

I am immensely proud to have founded Dentons' affordable housing, community

development and tax-oriented investing practice and to have seen it grow to a position of national prominence. It is a highly sophisticated practice that is dedicated to investing in and enhancing our communities by utilising creative tax structures. It is reflective of Dentons' values and our clients' values.

- **What's your superpower?**

I asked a number of people to help me with this question, and they all said essentially the same thing: "your superpower is your ability to work incessantly with no sleep and no visible signs of wear." They said I was a "machine". I hate that. So I will take this question and the consistent answers offered by others, and learn from the experience. I do not want my superpower to be my stamina. I do not want to be a machine. I am in search of a new superpower.

- **What are the most important learnings for you in leadership, entrepreneurship and mentoring others?**

For me, the lesson of "authenticity" has been paramount and defining. I am someone who, for a long time, sought external validation and approval. When I learned that the only approval required came from within, I found the freedom to speak from the heart, and I aspire to lead from the heart.

- **What advice would you give to younger women who want to succeed in the workplace?**

Do not let others define you or your definition of success. And do not take "no" for an answer. Rigidity serves the status quo. Have the courage of your vision and your values, but build a strong network of supporters, cheerleaders and team members for those moments when your courage fails you, which it will invariably do. Success is a team sport; and integrity, graciousness and resiliency will always serve you well.

- **Luck and timing vs. Hard work: Which one is more important?**

They are all important, but I have always believed that she who works hardest wins. For sure, work ethic beats talent, in my view.

- **What is your approach on the issue of fake news? And how can we equip our societies –and youth – to think critically, filter and process information?**

When did the world become a place where the truth no longer matters? I find that so disturbing and so frightening, but I acknowledge it to be our new reality. We have leaders who lie without compunction and who function without ethical constraints. We must hold them accountable for their words and their actions, and accountability must be a grass-roots effort; it cannot be left to the media or the legislature. It begins and ends with each of us, and I think that is also true of empowering youth.

I grew up in a home where all things were discussed over the dinner table and all views (and all people) were welcome. We must encourage our youth to ask questions, to challenge view points and to learn to defend their own views with fact, and that requires direct engagement on our part. Again, it begins and ends with each of us.

- **What makes a global thinker?**

A global thinker is a broad thinker who is not constrained by insular views or parochialism. It requires tolerance, openness and a capacity for empathy.

- **Anything else you may wish to add?**

I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity and in awe of so many on the GTF Board of Advisors. I am eager to engage and to learn.



Akinwole Omoboriowo II

Chairman & CEO, Genesis Energy Holdings
& GTF Advisory Board Member

“AFRICA’S TRUE WEALTH LIES IN OUR PEOPLE”

- **What was your journey like to get where you are?**

My Journey has been hardwork, more hardwork and more hardwork. In all, it has been most salutary, both in terms of capacity building and in value addition to the communities and customers we serve with an independent electricity supply.

- **Tell us about a project or accomplishment that you consider to be the most significant in your career.**

The Genesis 84MW Port Harcourt Refinery Project, I would say, has been the most significant, because of its noteworthy contribution to turning around the fortunes of the refinery given the epileptic power experienced by the Refinery for two decades, and also being

part of the successful investment to turn around the Refinery to enjoy a reliable, competitive, sustainable and clean power solution.

- **What are the formative decisions and experiences that have influenced who you are as a person?**

Growing up in a disciplined, structured family where a firm sense of purpose overrides all and every other decision taken.

- **Tell us about your studies and how they shaped the way you think and act?**

Studying Strategy and Innovation at the Oxford University SAID Business School, and Electricity Pricing and Modelling at the London Business School enhanced

my ability to take effective strategic decisions in today's dynamic business environment and to innovate for competitive precedence. It also increased my knowledge, and broadened and deepened my skill base with a clear focus on utilitarian applications.

At Oxford Princeton College, where I studied International Oil & Trading, I gained the tools to examine trading economics in depth, and increased my knowledge to effectively negotiate, calculate profitability, and examine the legal and operational aspects of Oil trading as it also applies to today's businesses.

- **What are the most important learnings for you in leadership, entrepreneurship and mentoring others?**

Sincerity of purpose, extreme commitment to the common goals and setting simple, achievable targets that enable one success to feed off another.

- **Can you share with us a couple of stories that have either inspired you or transformed the way you think/act?**

One is watching my father while I was growing up; watching his interactions with both the high and low in addition to his passion, determination and great humility in dealing with everyone he comes in contact with.

The story of the Audacity of Hope by Barack Hussein Obama II shows the essence of DETERMINATION, especially in some of the battles we fight on a global scale and on a daily basis, which could be battles of ideas and therefore cannot be won with weapons. Determination is found in most of the success stories of the great people of our time.

The story of Bill Gates is another great story. Bill Gates was a Harvard University dropout and co-owner of a failed business called Traf-O-Data. He also had so many obstacles that stood in the way of his dream, but, driven by his PASSION, he built the largest software company in the world.

- **Think of a recent story that made headlines, and really impressed or even shocked you. Tell us more about it.**

The massive photovoltaic power station built on top of a fish farm in Zhejiang in China. The 200MW Solar project was put into operation in January 2017 and is expected to annually generate about 220 GWh of electricity, enough to cater to the needs of roughly one hundred thousand homes.

The ability to adapt this technology despite underlying challenges, not being limited by the lack of land space, and the ability to improvise and innovate using what was available to light up the community is most impressive.

- **How do you see Africa in fifty years from now?**

The middle class in Africa is growing, and the proportion of employable youth is advancing dramatically. The growth rate is being courted by multiple governments, and all of this will ultimately put Africa into a place where it becomes a net producer of what it consumes, with a substantial part of the population moving away from the poverty line towards a higher standard of living of the low to middle class.

- **What makes a global thinker?**

An innovator of ideas, a connector of people for socio-economic activities and a committed mentor willing to mentor others.

- **What does African youth need?**

To meet Africa's challenges head on we need a generation of groundbreaking and adaptable youths to create their future. Youths are not a problem to be helped or solved, they are the conduits of creativity and catalyst for change, because they are ambitious, creative and

capable of rethinking the world and solving tomorrow's problems today.

Africa needs to create its own jobs through the ingenuity, ability and skill of its own people. It is our job as leaders to ensure that the millions of young people who are willing to put in the work to improve their future have every opportunity to experiment, learn, adapt and eventually succeed. We must use this significant inflexion point in the continent's history to guarantee that the entrepreneurial nimbleness, grit and vigour of Africa's youth can be utilised to help lift the economies of Africa.

Africa may be known as the continent of gold, oil, manganese and diamonds, but our true wealth lies in our people, especially the youth. Only by unlocking the potential of this treasure by giving them a chance to work or to create their own jobs will we finally achieve the prosperity that our minerals have so far failed to bring to our continent.

- **What is the most important piece of advice you would give to a young aspiring entrepreneur?**

My advice to aspiring entrepreneurs is simple: run a sanity check before pursuing opportunities with the simple but critical question, 'why do I want to do this?'. Build meaningful relationships, have a massive dose of optimism at all times, and approach your business with humility, grit and determination.

- **African women leaders: Can you name some African women who stand out and have made a difference in their countries, communities or business sectors in Africa?**

Achenyo Idachaba, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Dr. Jennifer Riria, Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Janet Nkubana, Joy Ndungutse, Bilikiss Adebisi-Abiola and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.



AFGHANISTAN



Dr. Rebecca Thomley

CEO, Orion Associates - Founder, Headwaters Relief Organization & GTF Global Growth Partner

“AT GLOBAL THINKERS FORUM WE HAVE A UNIFIED VISION”

- **Rebecca, if you were to describe yourself in 150 words, what would you say?**

I am someone who thinks in terms of possibilities. I love ideas. I am curious about people and cultures, and seek new learning experiences. While I value education very deeply, I don't equate education with achievement. I value experience and prefer to work with individuals who act and take risks. I am fiercely independent and not particularly fearful. While I am competitive, it is with myself, not others. I love to see the people in my life succeed and grow.

I am introverted and focus on the process of self-awareness and practice consciousness in my interactions with others. I am aware that my strengths can also be my weaknesses and try to never lose sight of that. I seek to continue to grow and develop through my life experiences.

- **Tell us about a project or accomplishment that you consider to be the most significant in your career.**

I was part of a grass-roots group that founded the Headwaters Relief Organization after Hurricane Katrina. Headwaters seeks to inspire individuals to volunteer in service to others. Headwaters has worked nationally and internationally and has volunteers globally. We have worked with teams and people who have vastly different experiences and cultures than our own. We create partnerships in communities wherever we serve. We are open to new opportunities and have not limited ourselves. This has resulted in incredible opportunities for volunteers to unite in humanitarian work.

- **What do you think is the most significant barrier to female leadership?**

I have never felt like I couldn't pursue my goals because I am a woman. But I have certainly experienced incidents where I was treated differently because of my gender. I have tried to manage those situations through humour, and as a way to educate others about potential barriers and strategies for overcoming them. Instead of focusing on these experiences, I work to create mutually beneficial partnerships in support of other professional women. We can all rise together.

- **What are the most important learnings for you in leadership, entrepreneurship and mentoring others?**

I encourage those I mentor to look for advisors, from both inside and outside of their industries. It is important to work with people with different training and education. They offer new perspectives on all aspects of your business. I also encourage a focus on ethical leadership and how that can impact on your success, as well as your own peace of mind. I challenge individuals to open their work for review and to see this as an opportunity for growth. I may also advise someone to look at opportunities through a variety of perspectives. This allows for creative growth. In addition, I encourage careful and thoughtful evaluation and understanding before offering an opinion or making a decision.

- **Can you share with us a couple of stories that have either inspired you or transformed the way you think/act?**

As part of a medical first-responder team after Hurricane Katrina, I was working in the devastated Ninth Ward of New Orleans. I stood with a pastor who was seeing his church in ruins for the first time. I could feel his pain and saw his tears. The Pastor and his family had also lost their homes. Even in what he would later

describe as some of his darkest hours, he reached out to work with us in supporting his community. Despite all that had happened to him, he was thinking of others first.

I met a medical director of a hospital when we responded to an earthquake in Nepal. The hospital, like much of that region, had been severely damaged by the earthquake. The director and his staff were unable to contact their own families to find out if they were safe. He was committed to keeping the hospital open for the wounded and to motivating his staff to stay and care for others. While our team was there, another earthquake struck and reduced the rest of the hospital to rubble. The medical director persisted. The hospital, which sits at the old base for the beginning of the climb of Mount Everest, has since been rebuilt.

- **Do you feel that our societies face an issue of trust? How do you explain phenomena such as Trump's election in the US or Brexit in Europe?**

The elections in the US and Britain were in part indications of the trust issues those electorates had with politicians. The political fights and lobbying never seem to be about people who need help the most; there are so many who are disenfranchised. The Women's March, the day after the inauguration, was comprised of individuals and many interest groups who gathered to speak with one voice. At this critical time, did it take these election outcomes to move people to action?

- **How do you think the refugee crisis is going to affect our societies/countries in the years to come?**

The refugee crisis is very personal, as I have worked directly with people in camps whose life stories are remarkably similar to any of ours except for a crisis that made them flee into uncertainty. I have seen more courage in my

short time in those camps than I have seen during the rest of my lifetime. And so, I think that we ignore refugees at our peril. When we fail to be compassionate, will others be there to help us? If we isolate, are we ignoring the gifts that these people could bring to our communities? There are so many rewards for embracing others and making them feel at home in the world again.

- **What makes a Global Thinker?**

Being a global thinker means you understand that you have a role in supporting and leading others to create positive change for the common good. Global

thinkers focus on our shared humanity and work towards a unified vision that can represent all.

- **Anything else you may wish to add?**

It is truly an honour to be asked to be part of the Global Thinkers Forum and to have the opportunity to work side by side with other individuals who have a vision of accountable leadership, women's empowerment and youth development.



SOMALIA



Derek Wyatt

Director, Code Investing & GTF Advisory Board Member

“THE WORLD LACKS MEANINGFUL LEADERSHIP”

- **What was your journey like to get where you are?**

I was the first person in my family to go to university, and I have kept going. I am currently doing a part-time MA at King's College, London. So, continuous education is important throughout your life. You can never have enough. I have moved jobs every decade or so, partly through boredom, partly through wanting a new challenge, partly thinking there's more of me to give. Be brave; remember that when you fail, you have almost succeeded.

- **What are the formative decisions and experiences that influenced who you are as a person?**

When I was younger I set my heart on playing for England. It didn't really mat-

ter which sport, but in the end I chose rugby over track and field. I read everything I could lay my hands on: sport psychology, nutrition, training regimes, sport physiotherapy, sport history, sports visualisation, et al. I ran to work; I trained at lunch time. I went to the track to run fifteen-, twenty- and twenty-five-metre bursts in spikes. As I didn't have a rugby ball at home, I used to do these bursts holding my vest or jersey with my hands to make it harder to run. I had to be the best before I was the best. I still hold the try-scoring records at Bedford, which I set between 1973 and 1978 (145 tries in 152 games). I toured Australia with England in 1975 and was capped in 1976. A year later I scored four tries against the USA at Twickenham. I won a belated Blue at Oxford University aged thirty-two in 1981!

Sport gives you the chance to prove your ability on a public stage when you are

just understanding what it is to be an adult. It is an incredible experience. It gives you huge dollops of confidence.

- **What is your view on Britain's business and trade opportunities in the post-Brexit era?**

I am still not certain we are going to leave Europe. If we do, it will diminish us as a nation. My sense is that India will take our place as a member of the UN Security Council. So, if we are to leave, it has to be in a spirit of friendship and good sense, as one day we might want to be back. I am unconvinced by those who think leaving will give us renewed wealth because of the new trading opportunities. No one knows. It is a punt in the dark. It is the biggest risk we have ever taken as a nation.

- **Can you think of a recent story that made headlines, and really impressed or even shocked you. Tell us more about it?**

The recent spate of killings in London and Manchester have shocked me. Indiscriminate killings are very hard to comprehend. The savagery belongs to another era. Whatever God you worship, it is my belief that love is the uniting factor. In St. John's Gospel the author expressed it thus: "God is love". I am still reflecting on what that means.

- **It seems that trust and confidence are waning between our societies and its thought leaders. What is your view? And what is the role of media in this?**

This is a very difficult question to answer. My sense is that the organisations which were created during and immediately after the Second World War – the UNO, the WHO, IMF, WTO (GATT as was), World Bank, OECD et al. – have had their time. They belong to the past, they are bloated bureaucracies, they are analogue, and they are largely full of white men. They

no longer represent us. Then the media which developed up to about 2000 was also analogue, and although organisations like the BBC have tried to move to other social networking platforms, they have largely failed; ditto newspapers.

We are in a state of flux. It is uncomfortable. The world lacks any meaningful leadership save for Chancellor Merkel. Justin Trudeau and Emmanuel Macron have shown promise, but have not yet had their feet held to the fire.

Change is painful. The old world order is breaking up. America is no longer the country we turn to for world leadership. China has never been interested in a world stage. Europe looks messy. Russia is threatening. The Middle East is a concern.

And yet I am decidedly optimistic. We have great artists, poets and writers. Technology and science give us great hope (look what Bill and Melissa Gates have done for Malaria).

We will muddle through, but we badly need a touch more vision and humanity.

- **What behaviours do CEOs need to focus on to build their personal trustworthiness?**

Most organisations have an ultimate decision-maker, be they FTSE 100 companies, schools, charities, girl guides or families. They are called CEOs or head honchos or parents or whatever. A good CEO will have oodles of wisdom, a dry sense of humour, an ability to listen and the respect of his or her peers. A goodly amount of these attributes will cause the CEO to be trusted. It is never a given, but it is very important. I know there are countless business books on this subject, but I think some of these qualities are already in your DNA.

- **What are the qualities that define a successful leader?**

A leader has to be the strategist. He or she is the game maker, but must not be

blind to changing his or her mind (we've all had Plan Bs). It is quite hard to really have a long-term set of goals. It has been my experience to have some short-term aims alongside some medium-term ones and to be constantly updating them. Short for me is eighteen months to three years; medium is five at best. I have noted that most Prime Ministers stand down or are fired, or both, after six years. The President of America can only stand for eight years, of which the last two he or she is treading water.

• **Do you have a role model? How did he or she influence what you are today?**

There are three people who have influenced my life: Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela. In politics, I have had a soft spot for Jack Kennedy, Harold Macmillan and Barack Obama. I guess the first three were underdogs, fighters for a cause, able to handle pressure and not willing to give in lightly, and they took on and beat the establishment despite imprisonment. Two were assassinated. Kennedy gave me hope as a kid. He had buckets of charisma. Macmillan was supremely wise and well read. His speech in Cape Town about "The winds of change blowing through Africa", made in February 1960, was so profound. Afterwards, instead of flying home, he took the cruise liner, which took two weeks. Imagine a PM doing that today! Obama, too, gave us all hope. I was thrilled to shake his hand and hope to meet him again.

• **What are the most important virtues in a leader?**

Humility.

• **What's your biggest dream in life?**

I have been a bit of a dreamer all my life. Now, I think of my children and dream for them. You want them to be goodly citizens and not forget those less able and with less on their table.

• **What makes a global thinker?**

Vision which takes one outside of one's own culture; a reader and a writer.

• **In what ways can we take advantage of technology to create positive impact?**

Gosh, we are at a pivotal point in the development of technology; machines can beat our world champions in chess and Go; driverless cars are just turning the corner; and Bitcoin and other new currencies threaten the whole banking system, and more. AI is maturing. Robots have grown up. This is a huge challenge. For organisations, there needs to be a board director for the application of all this technology, and, for those in politics, we need to triage the President/PM and the Finance/Chancellor of Exchequer with a Director of Vision.



Lili Hall

Founder & CEO, KNOCK, inc & GTF Advisory Board Member

“ASKING FOR HELP IS A SIGN OF STRENGTH”

- **Lili, if you were to describe yourself in 150 words, what would you say?**

I am a glass-half-full person who believes that the more you open yourself to the world – whether it’s travelling to learn more, or going outside your comfort zone to know someone you’d never meet otherwise, or giving someone with an entirely different opinion the chance to explain their point of view – the more opportunity you’ll have to find that we all have more in common than not. And that is the place that I start from, whether it’s with friends and family, or if I’m trying to solve a business challenge– opening my mind and listening is what I do. And because of this, I’m always learning. Or, at least, trying to!

- **How did you get where you are today, and did anyone (or something) help you along the way?**

My family history has always inspired me and my choices. My father grew up poor, and he actually ran away from home to join the Navy to escape that poverty. He was a big dreamer and a serial entrepreneur. My mother was an immigrant whose circumstances prevented her from achieving the career she always wanted. When I was young, I didn’t understand why she was always so adamant that I should get an education, that I should ensure my own financial independence. I didn’t figure out until my late twenties what she was up to – she was making sure I had options that she did not.

- **Tell us about a project or accomplishment that you consider to be the most significant in your career.**

One of the most significant accomplishments happened very early in my career. My first job after college was an intern-

ship with a designer in New York. I was clearly at the bottom of the food chain and barely making any money – certainly not enough to live in NYC. At the time, I was shocked at how I was treated, and it was incredibly humbling. But I survived. I chose not to quit, because I needed that job to stay in that city, which I was committed to. And I promised myself, from that time on, that I would never, ever subject anyone to anything less than full respect. That shaped me for every job going forward.

- **What do you think is the most significant barrier to female leadership?**

If you are a business owner, the challenge is access to the networks that get you the resources and opportunities every business needs. And if you're within an organisation, it's finding good sponsorship within your company – that's key to individual success.

- **What are the most important learnings for you in leadership, entrepreneurship and mentoring others?**

The most important thing I've learned is that asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. It's something that took me years to accept, and now it's the first advice I would give anyone starting out in their career.

- **How do you define success?**

I'm still working on that one! But I know it's not just about money. There's a lot about feeling good about the work you do and making a good impact on the world that is satisfying and rewarding to me.

- **What advice would you give to younger women who want to succeed in the workplace?**

Again, accept help when it's offered, and don't be afraid to ask for it if it's not.

- **It seems that trust and confidence are waning between our societies and its thought leaders. What is your view?**

I think that it's hard to respect people who take advantage of being in a position of power, and we have been seeing that everywhere from the national news to even leaders in our respective communities. Over time people grow to mistrust promises made to them. I think we are all looking for leaders who walk the talk. They're out there! We just need to focus more on those leaders.

- **What is a major challenge for our world?**

Poverty. With all the wealth in the world, there are still people without food, water, shelter, education. I believe there's no reason we cannot fix this.

- **What makes a Global Thinker?**

Being open-minded and always curious. My mother's dinner table was like the United Nations – always filled with people from different cultures, sharing what they had in common. These people were global thinkers, sharing and conversing, and enjoying music and food and the company. They showed me how listening to other points of view can give you a mindset that understands how different cultures come at problems in different and very useful ways.



Gareth Quinn

Founder & Managing Director, Digital DNA

“SUCCESS COMES FROM LEADERSHIP SKILLS”

- **How did Digital DNA start? Tell us about its evolution from an idea to world-class meeting of tech minds.**

Digital DNA is the coming together of my past experiences, successes, frustrations and passions. I started studying IT in university in 1999, and after graduating a few random events took the early years of my career down what appeared to be a strange and uncharacteristic route.

I worked in the electoral commission getting hands-on experience of running events, more specifically the political elections in Northern Ireland during a turbulent time. Then I moved to work with the Lord Mayor’s of Belfast, where I gained an insight into the importance of civic duties and the impact that this can have on communities, cities and countries.

These experiences and various others came to the fore in a Belfast bar over a

pint or two of Guinness when through a discussion with a good friend who held a senior position in a global tech company, we realised the potential to create an event that harnessed our unique Irish hospitality to provide an informal and energised platform for our high-calibre international delegates from business and tech to connect and build valuable relationships.

- **What is your story, Gareth?**

I grew up in a very rural area of Northern Ireland at the foot of the majestic Mourne Mountains. Although I was never very academically minded when I was younger, I was fortunate to have two very hard-working parents who had me working summer jobs from when I was thirteen. These jobs acted to help me understand the importance of money and also the discipline needed to be

successful in employment.

Throughout my education, I had the ability to do as little as possible, but enough to have me scrape through to the next stage of my schooling. My scrape-through skills unravelled in the first year, when I failed my exams during my first year of university and had to drop to a lesser course before going on and completing my original course after five years (instead of the three that it should have taken). Having had this wake-up call, I understood the effort needed to learn and the importance of education as I went on and completed an MBA in 2010.

Through my various initial job assignments, I learned a lot about other business skills: communication skills, decision-making, relationship building, identifying key influencers and understanding motives. With these skills, I have been able to grow the team at Digital DNA into something that delivers globally.

- **What have you learned in this process?**

I have been very fortunate to have had many extremely varied and extensive experiences which have allowed me to learn a lot in a relatively short space of time. I have realised that having the theoretical knowledge to create, run and grow a business is helpful, but that creativity, opportunity and success ultimately come from having effective leadership skills, and an ability to communicate and deliver to different individuals and groups depending on their specific desires and motives.

- **Share with us a story of a person or a company that has impressed you.**

Northern Ireland, for such a small place, has continually punched above its weight on the global scale. Over the past century, Northern Ireland has continued to have a close relationship with inno-

vation, with inventions ranging from the defibrillator to the ejector seat coming from our shores. More recently we have seen many medical, cyber, data and fin-tech companies competing and succeeding on a global stage.

One of the most exciting companies coming out of Northern Ireland that really impresses me is beezee.io, which is working with many global sports organisations to harness their existing events to build and communicate more effectively with their communities.

- **What are some important outcomes when people meet and exchange ideas?**

The potential to create something that otherwise couldn't be done without the exchange of ideas. Technology is fantastic, and we wouldn't be here as a business if we couldn't utilise its many advantages; however, it can never replace that fundamental human face-to-face interaction. These outcomes are more than just a name in a back book; through what we have done, we have been the catalyst for the spark of business relationships and the completion of deals between client and supplier. Digital DNA continues to be instrumental in the creation of new networks of people working together to help each other succeed.

- **What is your vision for Digital DNA?**

To become a global digital community where we bring people together digitally and in person to learn, share their knowledge and support those who need guidance in achieving their personal or professional goals. We will do this through our content and events, and give people the opportunity to do business differently in an environment that's built to build relationships.

- **What's this year's focus?**

Internationalising our offering even further. We will build Digital DNA into the go-to business and technology event, and this year has really set the bar for us in terms of where we can go and what we can achieve.

- **Belfast: what's your city like in 2017? Share with us some of your favourite things when in Belfast.**

Belfast has been through it. We've been globally recognised as both a war zone and a place where peace and agreement

can take place. We're not through it yet, and there are a number of legacy issues which still remain. With that being said, though, we're at a place now where Belfast, as well as Northern Ireland as a whole, is becoming more well known for its hospitality, globally achieving businesses and foreign investment from companies across the world. We have a talented and knowledgeable workforce that is ready to deliver, and a capital city that is full of culture and heritage, with world famous food and drink, which both locals and visitors can enjoy.



SOUTH SUDAN



Nikos Koumettis

President, Coca-Cola Central & Eastern Europe BU
& GTF Global Growth Partner

“LEADERS NEED TO LISTEN TWICE AS MUCH AS THEY SPEAK”

- **What was your journey like to get to where you are?**

It's been a journey of constant evolution and change. Ever since I was young, I have been willing to try new things and venture outside my comfort zone – feeling energised when I push myself, personally and professionally.

Part of this evolution includes an exploration of different cultures. It's exciting – not only to travel, but also to broaden your mind and expand your frame of reference. A natural curiosity and genuine interest to learn what makes others tick have always helped me, inside and outside of my work.

I applied this point of view when I started my career, aged 23. I tried to learn as much as possible, building a deep understanding of businesses from the perspective of a specific function. I was never afraid to take on new roles and learn new ways of working.

- **What formative experiences influenced you the most?**

I was born with a natural inquisitiveness for diversity. My father was from Cyprus. He worked in Sudan, where I lived until I was four, in Khartoum. Diversity was never discussed at school – we simply accepted it as part of our everyday lives. This mindset has stayed with me ever since – I have always welcomed and valued diversity of culture and thought.

- **What are the most important things you have learned for leadership, entrepreneurship and mentoring others?**

Regarding leadership and mentoring, it's so important to listen twice as much as you speak – that's the only way you can really understand people's talent and

potential. And when you're a leader, it's vital to surround yourself with people who are different to you, so you have true diversity of thinking.

As for being an entrepreneur, one of the most important things I have learned is never take no for an answer – be persistent and stand your ground.

For example, if you believe you have a killer idea, keep pursuing it and don't stop at the first 'no'. If someone had told me a few years ago that one programme could bring together 70 companies, 130 organisations, and 80 individuals providing more than 1.2 million euros worth of pro-bono services, I would not have believed them and neither would you! But this happened with the ReGeneration internship programme in Greece. And it happened in a country facing one of the most difficult socio-economic crises in its modern history.

- **Tell us about a recent story that made headlines, and really impressed or even shocked you.**

The humanitarian struggles of Syrian refugees. Living in Greece, this is a global story being played out on our front yard. I've found myself reflecting on my country and myself as a citizen and a leader at Coca-Cola, asking if we are doing enough to help.

Really, this is not a matter of watching and sympathising from a safe distance. In Greece – and all over Europe – we are physically close to this tragic situation, but we also need to be emotionally and practically engaged. I go with my family to meet and talk with refugees at some of the centres here, and we support in any way we can.

- **What are the qualities that define a successful leader?**

I would say the most important are listening to others, curiosity, broad-mindedness, standing your ground and having the self-confidence to recognise that

you don't need all of the answers. It's more important to know the right questions to ask.

- **There seems to be a crisis of confidence and trust between people and their leaders. Do you agree that this is the case?**

The two most important things that create trust in leadership are authenticity and transparency. I think we are currently seeing a crisis in these values and that is eroding trust – in politics, business and wider society. Negative values are undermining a positive outlook, and even some of the worst aspects of the past – such as racism, intolerance and social unrest – are coming back, threatening our open and welcome society. It's a worrying crisis of character that we need to counter with optimism, openness and honesty.

- **Can you tell us a couple of success stories among youth in Greece that you have supported through ReGeneration?**

When I came back to Greece in 2011, I set myself a goal: to offer support to anyone below 30 who asks for my help. I am sticking to this, supporting in any way I can, through mentoring, partnerships, networking, and scholarships. I also talk to students at schools and universities about values and how they can build themselves as people and not just apply the right tactics to plot a career. We have a choice: we can sympathise with young people from afar, or help them. That takes time, dedication and commitment.

- **What's your biggest dream in life?**

I'm happy in my life. I'm in a better position than I thought possible when I was younger, I am fulfilled and I sleep well at night. I still have a big dream though, and that is to influence positively as many people as I can.



Tawakkol Karman

2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

“IT IS TIME TO PUT AN END TO DESPOTISM”

- **Tell us about your country, currently. What is the situation?**

Yemen is going through a very difficult phase. Only a few weeks before an adoption of a new constitution that respects rights and freedoms, the Houthi militia and forces loyal to ousted president Ali Abdullah Saleh, supported by Iran, undermined state institutions and thwarted the political process. In Yemen, there are no longer politics, political parties, civil society organisations, media or press.

There is an Iranian intervention in Yemen, and in the face of this there is a Saudi-led Arab coalition. At the local level, the Houthi militia, which claims a superiority of their descent over others, rejects any solution. This militia has an old dream of controlling the country and believes God empowered them to achieve what they have done. Therefore,

it insists on going on with the war to the end. The humanitarian situation in Yemen is getting worse every day, so the solution lies in ending the coup that has caused all these disasters.

Our people yearn to live in peace, a sustainable peace, and this will only be achieved by disarming militias, reviving the political process and respecting the rule of law. What the world should realize is that we in Yemen had successfully completed a national dialogue conference bringing together all parties and political and community groups to solve the problems of Yemen. But the coup stopped all efforts for a democratic transition.

We have a chance to make peace in our country, but we have to say clearly and specifically that weapons should not be outside the state, the political process should not exclude anybody and those committing serious violations against

Yemenis have to be held accountable.

- **What do you see as being a major challenge for the Arab world today?**

The major challenge for the Arab world is the increasingly ruthless tyranny that unfortunately has Western support and understanding. Despotism brings poverty, terrorism, backwardness and intolerance. The despots do not do their duties and underestimate the importance of freedom and justice. They are only occupied with oppressing their opponents and terrorising people, and this leads to failure at all levels.

When I talk about tyranny, I mean political and religious tyranny, as well as military interference in political life. It is time to put an end to despotism. Our people are yearning for freedom and will not accept a return to the pre-Arab Spring.

- **The refugee crisis: how is this going to affect Western societies in the long run?**

I have a clear understanding of how large numbers of refugees have negative effects on a country. Western societies today are suffering from this problem, but I would like to draw attention to the responsibility of Western governments for the support of authoritarian regimes causing this problem. Western societies today pay for the complicity of their governments with autocrats and tyrants in the Arab region. Thus, solving the problem of massive influx of refugees into Europe in isolation from the overthrow of repressive regimes does not seem logical.

Western governments' vague position towards the dictator Bashar al-Assad's regime has caused a great tragedy in Syria. Assad's forces have followed all methods to kill the people mercilessly, causing a massive exodus of refugees towards Europe. Hence, the solution lies in helping people to return to their home

countries, and this solution will remain impossible in the presence of Assad and tyrants like him.

- **What leads people either to trust or to distrust government? Which factors support or hinder trust in government?**

People trust in governments that respect the law and keep promises. In contrast, people do not trust in any government that breaks promises or turns a blind eye to its top corrupt officials. From my perspective, such things count upon the existence of democracy and good governance. This is normal, as governments that come against the will of people cannot gain their confidence.

- **In the era of fake news: will we ever be able to trust each other again?**

This is possible, but there must be factors of frankness, honesty and a genuine desire to cooperate, which requires a series of steps taken to confirm a fundamental change in our thinking towards each other. We can take simple steps to restore our confidence in each other, and certainly we will succeed if we have the will to succeed.

- **What is your view on this low-tech terrorism that seems to be an effort to spread fear? How should people react to it?**

Terrorism is an unforgivable criminal act, as it targets innocent people, raises fear and panic among people without any convincing reason, and is the product of abhorrent hatred.

As a result of confronting terrorism, people lose their loved ones. Nevertheless, terrorism must be confronted with all force. They must not abandon their values as they fight the terrorists. They must love life more and seek to root out the sources of terrorism through law, development and culture.

We all must unite against terrorism, because it targets different nationalities and religions, and any attempt to link terrorism to a specific religion is nothing but a grave and false mistake.

- **How would you like to be remembered?**

I have done what I have to do. I have sought to make my country be like developed countries where there are elected governments, development, education, progress, health and law enforcement. In

2011, people took to the streets demanding the same as I was asking for. People have believed in change, despite the ferocity of the counter-revolution and the war. What is important is that people's hopes for change have not faded away. I would like to be remembered as a fierce fighter against tyranny, as nothing is more miserable than tyranny of all kinds.



PAKISTAN



Susan Foley Rocco

Founder, Producer & Host, Women to Watch™
Media, LLC - GTF Global Growth Partner

“TRANSFORMATION CAN HAPPEN IN A NANOSECOND”

• So, Susan, what's your story?

Once upon a time there was a little girl whose essence was one of insatiable curiosity, optimism, joy and love. Slightly reserved, but always with humour, she was born into a traditional Irish Catholic family in a small town just outside of Philadelphia called Flourtown. She was the middle of three children, with an older and younger brother, and always a dog in the house.

As she grew up, it became apparent that although there was love in the house and a sense of security, there was also something very troubling going on that no one ever talked about. And so it was for many, many years.

As she grew up, the family managed to put on a very different picture on the outside from what was taking place within the home. The “pretending” became a source of excruciating anxiety for the

little girl who learned that not showing your true self was how we were meant to live our lives. And so my story begins. As a young girl, I was always asking the big questions: why are we here and what is the meaning of life? The problem was that in my family, that kind of deep thinking was not embraced and was even made fun of at times. My innate optimism and openness was often labelled naïve and silly – the girl with the rose-coloured glasses. What I later learned was that I loved my rose-coloured glasses, and I would not take them off ever again for anyone. It just took me many years to get there.

The Irish have a way of using humour to combat just about every adversity that comes their way ... and drinking, too. It's what I now know as a coping mechanism, but at the time this false narrative and impostor syndrome wreaked havoc on my own self-esteem, because it went

against everything I knew at my core. This eventually led to panic attacks and a sense that everyone else on the planet was smarter than me. I blamed my father for every issue I ever had.

I struggled for many years with a sadness and a lack of confidence, but I also had a sense deep down that I wanted to make the world a better place. While I chose not to share any of these feelings with anyone, I continued to work very hard on myself and to analyse who I was and why I was here.

After many years of “self-therapy,” I had a tremendous revelation in the summer of 2012. It was August on a Thursday morning, at 9 a.m., and I was standing in the shower. I realized that I was an original. That word, original, was very powerful for me. Every human being on the planet is original, that’s amazing! That’s actually miraculous! There are billions of people, and every single one is original? Well then each one of us must have something different to offer the world. It was like a weight was lifted off my shoulders, and I no longer had to compare myself or look around at what everyone else was doing. I decided right then and there to go out into the world as Susan Rocco, and to embrace my rose-coloured glasses, my love of people, my optimism and my curiosity of life, and to see what happened.

Transformation truly can happen in a nanosecond when you change your perspective.

- **Who is your role model in life, if you have one, and why?**

These people highly impress me, because they appear to be living life in a truly authentic fashion: Kapil Gupta, Brené Brown, Oprah Winfrey and Glennon Doyle Melton. There is nothing more impressive to me than sincerity.

- **Tell us about a project or accomplishment that you consider to be the most significant in your career.**

Finding the courage to step out into the world as Susan Rocco and stop comparing myself to others has been my greatest accomplishment. The moment I made that decision, everything in my life changed, including my career.

- **What’s your superpower?**

The ability to connect with people and see and feel their true essence.

- **What do you think is the most significant barrier to female leadership?**

The only barrier to anyone’s success is their own lack of understanding that each of us is here with an individual and unique purpose.

- **What will be the biggest challenge for the generation of women behind you?**

I only see opportunities for women in today’s world. It’s truly the most exciting time for women in history as we come to understand that women were always meant to be leaders. We are natural-born peacemakers, and the world needs us now more than ever.

- **What advice would you give to younger women who want to succeed in the workplace?**

I think we should all look to succeed in life rather than in the workplace. In reality, we are not meant to work and struggle; we are meant to create and experience joy. When that happens, success finds its way into your life.

- **It seems that we live in the era of ‘alternative facts’. It seems that trust and confidence are waning in our societies and its thought leaders. What is your approach on the issue of fake news?**

I believe nothing if not proven. There is very little in life that can be proven, but

when it comes to people, many are lost in the world today. The messages they put out and the stories they tell benefit their own egos only, which never leads to truth. Our intuition is our best guide to what is true and what is false.

- **What have you learned from Women-2Watch?**

The lessons I have learned over the past five years of hosting and building Women to Watch™ Media are endless. Each interview I do brings me a nugget that adds value to my own pursuits and

search for wisdom. In working to grow my company in order to share stories with a larger audience, I have the opportunity, every single day, to reflect and to learn and to explore, and it brings me so much joy! There are no lessons more impactful than those that come from hearing someone else's story. My greatest message for others is that "You're a genius because you're an original."



AFGHANISTAN



William Leverett

GTF “Telemachus” Mentee

“NOW IS ALWAYS
THE BEST TIME
TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE”

William is from USA. He is an aspiring leader in community economic development, social entrepreneurship, faith and the arts. In addition to his passions, he works to develop cross-sector collaborations to positively affect youth development and foster global citizenship. He is inspired to create programmes, spaces and opportunities that will help transform lives. William Leverett’s mentor is Femi Oke.

• **Tell us a few things about your country, and also your life’s story!**

I am a US citizen and a New York native that has lived in Jordan and is currently living in Morocco. I live in Morocco with my wife who is doing her PhD research on the MENA region, which is also why we lived in Jordan. When I think of New York City it is a phenomenal mix and blends of cultures and people from all

walks of life and where people get exposed to world cultures early. When I think of the U.S., it is a nation of immigrants, with an abundance of dreams and many life narratives and struggles. I have a background in the arts, non-profits consulting, municipal government, project management and youth development. My family roots are deeply African American and some Native American ancestry as my dad’s side of the family started with the marriage of an African slave and a Native American woman. I am also a Christian who seeks to love and serve.

• **What is your view of the world as it is today? And how do you define the concept of a better world?**

I believe the world needs more connection to better understand our collective human identity, hope, empathy and love.

I think connection as a human race allows us to get out of our comfort zones mentally and geographically, empathy allows us to share each other's burdens and pain, hope is needed to press forward while love binds all of us up and eliminates discrimination. A better world would look like us challenging ourselves to love our fellow human beings daily beyond our immediate culture and environments, acknowledging each other, listening to each other, our needs and engaging one another for greater progress.

- **What are some of the key challenges in your society?**

The U.S. like many places have similar challenges to the rest of the world but on varying degrees. While there is progress and many civil liberties, there is still poverty, homelessness, racism, inequity and different types of abuses against women, children, marginalised groups and more. While we have many narratives, making sure each one is heard is a growth area that is occurring.

- **As a young individual what are a few of the hurdles that you had to overcome up until today?**

Closing the opportunity gap was a hurdle that I have overcome due to family and community support. In NYC there is a large opportunity gap in terms of resources and there is a tale of two cities; one with abundance of resources, opportunities, wealth and more. My family comes from modest means and have worked hard to provide a better livelihood for me and my siblings, my dad serving as a judge in the legal system and my mom in the educational system. Having moved from Harlem to St. Albans, Queens I got to see communities of abundance and communities in need. While having been in both, I believe in the importance of merit-based opportunities, the gap is that more youth need

to be in the communities that know of such opportunities. While the life potential of the individual is the same, the opportunities are different. Balancing those equity scales is what I am focused on by cultivating diverse leaders from underserved communities from a local to a global level.

Others hurdles involved avoiding negative roads as there are so many elements that can distract youth from their potential such as drugs and gang activity in NYC. As a youth, I remember overcoming bullying with a strong sense of self, faith and African American history, choosing not to participate in drugs or gangs and I was blessed enough to have positive mentors in my life as well, who pointed me in the right direction.

- **Why is the role of a mentor important for you?**

Mentors help point out areas and experiences that you may not be privy to and help you accelerate areas of personal and professional growth. Through the advice of my mentor, I seek to accelerate the rate of social change I am currently making, elevate my thinking as problem solver for social issues and be a bridge to inspire the leadership of the next generations.

- **Do you have a lesson that life has taught you and you would like to share?**

Belief, faith and prayer is powerful. Dare to explore and believe. I have a personal phrase that I follow which is "Now is always the best time to make a difference".

- **Name a project, a foundation or a person in your country that you think is doing great work in helping improve other people's lives!**

I appreciate NYC Service, one of my former employers as they are working to inspire volunteerism citywide and part-

ner with multiple organisations in order to make it work. Nationwide, I value programmes like AmeriCorps because they promote the idea of service and cross-cultural exchange.

- **Share with us a phrase, a poem or a story that you love or you find interesting!**

I love the Bible but a current scripture that resonates with me in this season is “Above all, love each other deeply because love covers a multitude of sins” 1 Peter 4:8. I love Rudyard Kipling’s poem “If”, Maya Angelou’s “I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings” and Marianne Williamson’s notable passage called “Our Deepest Fear” from her book “A Return to Love”. I value these because they challenge potential, courage and dreams.

I also appreciate the poem “The Canvas” by a spoken word artist by the name of Propaganda where the theme is based around the premise “I’m not the artist, I’m the canvas” because it represents that we are all still works in the making.

- **Tell us one thing that you have learned from your mentor.**

Femi has taught me the value of being focused and relentless in pursuing my passion while pouring into others. The example of her career is amazing as she identified her passion early and continued to build and practice her craft even to this very day. That in addition to her willingness to work with me through my goals and connect me with her other peers inspires me to pay it forward as I continue to elevate.

GLOBAL
THINKERS
MENTORS



Mentoring.
Inspiring.
Empowering.



Daniela Badalan

GTF “Athena” Mentee

“BE BOLDER AND LESS AFRAID OF FAILING”

Daniela is a proud Romanian who has lived in four countries and on two continents so far, with her current adoptive country being the UK. Beyond her work, Daniela loves her travels, first because they help her stay grounded to reality rather than the bubble that we live in on a daily basis. And second, because they always confirm her strong belief in the power of people as a catalyst for change in very diverse societies and in the world generally. Daniela Badalan’s mentor is Annie Krukowska.

- **Tell us a few things about your country, and also your life’s story!**

I was born in a small village in Romania, the youngest of three girls. We lived in the countryside until I was 9, when my family moved to a nearby town. There I spent the rest of my childhood, falling in love with literature, languages and

trying my own hand at writing. When I turned 18, I moved to Bucharest to study Russian and English Languages & Literatures. In 2007, I left Romania for the first time, through a CEEPUS scholarship that saw me spending a semester in Graz, Austria. There I took a marketing course in addition to my languages classes, and that’s how I discovered how much I enjoy marketing. These few months outside Romania led me to the decision of moving to London when I graduated, to pursue my new-found passion for marketing through a Masters degree in marketing communications.

Once I finished my Masters, I worked anywhere that allowed me to get as much experience as I could in digital marketing. And in 2010, I started my journey with the Ogilvy group, a well-known global marketing and advertising agency. Seven years later, I am still part of the same group and couldn’t be more

grateful for the amazing people I've met and the truly unique experiences - from clients, work, awards won, the honour of receiving the WPP High Potential Award, to the opportunity of being seconded in China for one year.

So, when it comes to talking about my country now, I am lucky. Because at the end of the day, while I will always be first and foremost Romanian, I do feel like I am a citizen of the world.

- **What is your view of the world as it is today? And how do you define the concept of a better world?**

The world is amazingly complex and undecipherable even for some of the greatest minds, so my view would consequently be fairly limited to some of the glimpses I've managed to catch of it.

I am in awe at how fast technology can evolve and the impact it has on our lives before we even realise it. I am in awe of how bold and brave the 'start-up generation' is and how they're willing to push their limits and challenge the status quo of previous generations to protect the principles they believe in. It brings me joy to see how we cross borders via the Internet to help others when needed, especially in times like these when the concept of safety has become so fragile. However, not everything is evolving and changing at the same pace.

- **What are some of the key challenges in your society?**

To me, our society is like a child that has accidentally become an adult overnight and it woke up to find itself looking like an adult, having the intelligence and the abilities of an adult - BUT missing the confidence and the emotional intelligence one achieves through experience. Consequently, while the key challenges of our society vary - from security risks, political challenges, increased divide between blue collar and white collar etc - they all come from our inability

to confidently head towards building a new global governance system that can reshape our society and help us all take those little steps, in the same direction, so that we can build a better world.

- **As a woman what are a few of the hurdles that you had to overcome up until today?**

I've been lucky to work and live in an environment that is generally supportive to women. I've had managers that have supported me throughout my career and I do have some great examples of female leadership in my organisation, which give me the strength I need to fight through any hurdles. However, I've been fighting through what is referred to as 'the impostor syndrome' over the years. The faster I managed to grow in my career, the more conscious I was of that 'fear of being found out' creeping in. And it undoubtedly became more prominent when I was in an all-male meeting.

- **Why is the role of a mentor important to you?**

In life we have friends and family to give us advice and listen to our personal problems, and then we have managers/work colleagues to help us get better at what we do. But we don't have anyone whose role is to help us navigate our thoughts and questions about our future without forcing their opinion on us. And this is the role of a mentor. They need to be that person who guides us to ask ourselves the right questions and help us dig deeper into our thoughts to understand what we want.

- **Tell us one thing that you have learned from your mentor.**

I've learned to be bolder and less afraid of failing.



Anjum Malik

Managing Partner, Alhambra U.S. Chamber
& GTF Mentor

“GENDER BIAS IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BARRIER”

- **Anjum, what’s your story?**

Education has been my life. I hold a core belief in the empowerment of the individual and the improvement of lives through access to quality education. Because of this belief and the gratitude that I feel for the opportunities education has provided to me and my family, I have committed myself to empowering women through education. I believe that if women are included, educated, and meaningfully employed, the world will be a better place to live (economically stable and environmentally safe). My family business, the HOFT Institute, represents this belief and our commitment to educational quality is demonstrated through the programs and practices at the Institute. Now, at the Alhambra US Chamber, my passion is to bring educational opportunities to others around the globe.

- **Who is your role model, in life, if you have one, and why?**

I do not have one role model but rather have too many to list as they have come from a diverse group of people - my parents, my teachers, my family, friends, colleagues, and clients.

- **Tell us about a project or accomplishment that you consider to be the most significant in your career!**

In 2007, I was one of the founding members of the Coalition of an Airline Passengers’ Bill of Rights (CAPBOR) which today is called the Flyers Rights Organization (<http://www.flyersrights.org/>). Over the next 6 years, I lived these famous words of Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, organized citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has”.

I learned a tremendous amount, established myself in a new network, and succeeded in changing the US regulations in favor of airline passengers in a significant way.

- **Why did you want to become a mentor?**

I have benefitted greatly from being mentored in my life and career, and I want to give back by being a mentor to others and by encouraging my colleagues to become mentors themselves.

- **What do you think is the most significant barrier to female leadership?**

Gender bias is the most significant barrier. There are educated capable women who are in position to be selected for leadership roles, but those who have the capacity to select them to leadership positions are not doing so. In fact, based on estimates of the current rate of change, it will take until 2085 for women to reach parity with men in key leadership roles in the United States.

- **What advice would you give to younger women who want to succeed in the workplace?**

I would advise them to see their career as a progression of self-development where their current situation will combine with opportunity to create the next steps in learning and advancement. I hope that they will always have a good mentor or sponsor to support and guide them.

- **What are the most important learnings for you in leadership, entrepreneurship and mentoring others?**

I have learned the importance of continuing to grow professionally and personally through giving back to others by setting sustainable goals, creating opportunity, and sharing my experience and expertise.

- **Can you share with us a couple of stories that have either inspired you or transformed the way you think/ act?**

The people that I meet through my work inspire me every day. Many have also impacted my worldview in significant ways. Their courage, humility, and commitment to forging a better life for themselves and others have affected me deeply: I have a broader and better-informed worldview, I am more grateful and my joy and reverence for life have deepened. Let me share with you a few of these amazing people.

Evelyn Apoko had been kidnapped by the LRA and forced to be a child soldier in Uganda. Evelyn carried bombs which had blown up leaving her with severe injuries, horrifically disfiguring her face. She was rescued from a refugee camp, brought to the US, and she received ESL training at the HOFT Institute. Today, she is employed and enjoying a safe and productive life in Austin, Texas.

Grace Freeman, lived a life of deprivation in Liberia where she and her brother were rescued as orphans from a refugee camp and brought to the US for studies. Grace's transformation while studying English at the Institute on scholarship has been impressive. She has gone from a scared, shy and withdrawn young woman to a bold, confident student who began her studies this fall at Concordia University Texas. She has made the Dean's list her first semester! Her goal is to train as a nurse and return to Liberia to help others.

Ishmael author Daniel Quinn, who wrote portions of that book while he worked as an English tutor at the HOFT Institute demonstrated to all of us that vision and perseverance can be recognized and rewarded.

While a student in medical school in San Antonio, where he is now a leading surgeon, John Metersky, M.D. would tutor others in Chemistry often at great inconvenience to himself because "they needed his help".

And we are inspired by and proud of Jenna and Barbara Bush, former clients, who after completing their educations went on to establish organizations and careers that impact others in meaningful ways.

- **Do you feel that our societies face an issue of trust? How do you explain phenomena like Trump's election in the US or Brexit in Europe?**

The issue can be framed as one of having access and a voice in the system. It is critical to hear the various voices of our communities, especially those marginalized or harmed, and to utilize our democratic institutions to provide them with

access and a voice that has the power to impact the process.

- **What is a major challenge for our world?**

The horrific combination of climate change and the massive population displacement due to war.

- **Anything else you may wish to add?**

This has been a wonderful year with the Global Thinkers Mentors and I've truly enjoyed mentoring my mentee, Maansi. Thank you, Elizabeth, Katerina and team.



ETHIOPIA



Helen Alderson

Head ICRC Mission UK & Ireland & GTF Mentor

“SUCCESS IS MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE ALONG THE ROAD”

- **Helen, what's your professional background?**

I am currently a member of the Executive Board of the International Committee of the Red Cross. I have worked in the not for profit world practically my entire career – in humanitarian work and in public health.

- **Who is your role model in life, if you have one, and why?**

My most important role model was my father. He had two daughters and there was never any question that our career prospects would be different from those of men. He was very successful in his professional life as an executive yet also very present in the family as a father. He was also so enthusiastic about life and about his work. He saw possibilities and opportunities in everything and encour-

aged my sister and me to “go for it”. He was someone who was driven by strong values, had real curiosity and took an interest in other people.

- **Tell us about a project or accomplishment that you consider to be the most significant in your career!**

This is always a tough question especially as I get older because, thankfully, there are a number of significant moments. As a fundraiser, I still remember how I felt when I landed my first million – it felt amazing. More recently the most significant project was probably the successful deployment of our new ERP. This was also one of the toughest projects in my career and lived up to the reputation of ERPs creating blood, sweat and tears. And then of course when I look at my two sons growing into confident young men, I certainly feel a sense of accomplishment..

- **Talk to us about your mentoring experience as Mentor with Global Thinkers Mentors.**

It has been a most inspiring experience. My mentee is a very talented young woman called Hanne Vrebos, a Belgian architect specializing in urban resilience who is now working in Haiti. She had a clear idea of what she wanted to get out of the programme and I really saw her develop and gain in assurance over our 9 months of conversations. We “met” over Skype due to the distance so my only regret was that we never managed to meet in person.

The structure that the GTF provides was very helpful.

- **You are mentoring a young person. Do you feel you have learned something from her?**

Definitely. One of the things that most impresses me about Hanne is the way she has managed her career choices - continually building on her experiences and travelling the world to do so. Her decisions and choices are deliberate and she is highly aware of her environment and of the issues (and battles) still to be fought as a woman building her career.

- **What advice would you give to younger women who want to succeed in the workplace?**

Be authentic, be yourself and above all, be confident! Know your strengths and then play to them while continually seeking to learn and develop your soft as well as your hard skills. And remember that work-life balance is absolutely fundamental.

- **Can you share with us a couple of stories that have either inspired you or transformed the way you think/ act?**

It is people who have inspired me. My earliest inspiration was teacher

at school. After school, she had to go straight to work and was only able to afford university a few years later. In her final year she was diagnosed with a severe degenerative disease and had to take her final exams dictating while lying in a hospital bed. She then got a PhD, became a professor at the Open University and also taught political studies for our A' level class. She treated us like adults, had an amazing sense of humour and made the most of everything in life. She was a humbling lesson in resilience.

- **It seems that trust and confidence are waning in our societies and its thought leaders. What is your view?**

Unfortunately I tend to agree but, like with most things, there are two sides to the picture.

On the one hand, the world has become more polarized and we are witnessing a resurgence of extremism and a lack of willingness to see the other side's point of view. Conflict is on the rise and the world has never seen so many people displaced because of war and violence since WWII.

However, on the other hand, there are thought leaders and role models out there who do inspire trust and who are endeavoring to build trust against all odds. I also believe that in many places, we have a younger generation who is more tolerant of other peoples' differences than we were at their age.

- **Anything else you may wish to add?**

Being part of the mentoring programme of GTF has been a privilege and wonderful opportunity for me to get to know Hanne and to exchange with her on a wide variety of fascinating issues as well as to push my own thinking further. I will definitely stay in touch with her and follow her career progression.



George Constantopoulos

Senior Partner, SWC & GTF Mentor

“SET HIGH GOALS, HOLD YOURSELF ACCOUNTABLE!”

- **George, what was your journey like to get where you are?**

Very exciting and bumpy at the same time. The excitement comes from meeting so many people with diverse personalities and different interests that allows one to observe, get involved, learn and hopefully give back. The bumpiness comes from the realisation that each ride is unpredictable and hence doesn't follow a planned and charted path. Looking up to my heroes was a major source of inspiration to reach my dreams no matter how hopeless or how far.

- **Tell us about a project or accomplishment that you consider to be the most significant in your career!**

I suppose all the elements involved in building my own software business from scratch. The desire, passion, determi-

nation, commitment and persistence to move forward and grasp the dream that only you believe in. Learning fast from mistakes, setting high goals, taking risks, having a great vision and purpose, developing a strategy, the sheer pleasure of growing, expanding and developing, while remaining authentic as you discover the self-satisfaction of success. The entire experience was about working with people around the globe.

- **What are the formative decisions and experiences that influenced who you are as a person?**

My parents are to thank for my upbringing. As a bilingual, I was given the opportunity to develop my thinking and my character that were impacted by two different cultures. The exposure I had to different geographies and simple people helped me learn to respect and blend

with all people and races and to adapt to circumstances and situations by taking a step back to understand and absorb the commonalities and the unique differences.

- **Talk to us about your mentoring experience as Mentor with Global Thinkers Mentors.**

First of all, I'd like to express my gratitude for being given the opportunity to engage in the Global Thinkers Mentors Programme. It's a privilege to participate and contribute, allowing me to release the huge respect I have for women entrepreneurs. I have been paired with a passionate young entrepreneur who wants to change the world and it doesn't get better than that.

- **You are mentoring a young woman. Do you feel you have learned something from her?**

Every session I have with my mentee is a learning experience for me. Emotions run deep in relation to the motivations that drive a young entrepreneur to leave her homeland to educate and discover herself so she can develop a purpose with meaning. It's an amazing journey that slowly reveals how she is connecting all the dots.

- **What are the qualities that define a successful business leader?**

Walking the talk and leading the way. It's not just about execution, but mostly about building the culture and strength of character.

Additionally, emotional intelligence and compassion play such an important role in determining success for business leaders. That explains why some 'average' people are incredibly successful, while 'geniuses' sometimes fail to live up to their promises.

- **What is the most important piece of advice you would give to a young aspiring entrepreneur?**

Set high goals, have great self-talk, hold yourself accountable, and have fun!

Further to that, I would add entrepreneurial alertness: the ability to recognize competitive imperfection in a marketplace is a key attribute of successful entrepreneurs. They have a certain sensibility that strengthens their ability to identify gaps and opportunities.

- **Think of a recent story that made headlines, and really impressed or even shocked you. Tell us more about it?**

"Why Machine Learning And AI Are The Future For Business" – How we define "sales" and other customer touching roles will evolve in ways we have not yet imagined as automation, Internet of Things (IoT) and cognitive technologies like artificial intelligence mature. From conducting numerous customer journeys and co-creation sessions, I consistently hear about the importance of human-to-human relationships. Interestingly, what I'm finding across various B2B clients is that more automation drives an increased customer desire for meaningful, value-based personal relationships. In the IoT economy, more people will be touching the customer, not less. To orchestrate meaningful conversations, business interactions must be proficient in a new core skill - Emotional Intelligence. The ability to understand people and build relationships is more important than how smart they are. In the end, only two things matter: trust and value-add beyond the product.

- **It seems that trust and confidence are waning in our societies and its thought leaders. What is your view?**

Values are losing their real meaning and genuine thought leaders are becoming

fewer. Societies are dealing with more complexities and human interactions are developing wider gaps. However, despite being disappointed from many of today's global figures, there is also a huge amount of potential as we discover new personalities that are eager to earn our trust and build new levels of confidence. Gifted thought leaders help to inspire and develop more leaders in our societies.

- **What is a major challenge for our world?**

Gender equality. Gender disparities remain in economic and political realms. While there has been some progress over the decades, on average women still earn 24% less than men globally. As of August 2015, only 22% of all national parliamentarians were female, a slow rise from 11.3% in 1995. Today, we still only see women in 27% of Vice President, 23% of Senior Vice President and 17% of CEO positions.



CHAD



Sebastian Rich

Conflict Photographer

“TRUST AND THE DEATH OF NEWS”

Every language in the world changes and morphs over time, both written and in spoken. Meanings are completely changed and given different inflection. Commonly now, in the English language in the 21st Century 'bad' can also mean 'good'. How on earth that particular unit of language came out of its cocoon black instead of white is beyond even the corruption of time. Individual words lost to vagaries of the gathering mists of Morpheus (the Greek god of dreams) only to be reread at some point in soon to be ancient dictionaries.

Just one word or callous action changes everything!

The word 'trust' is not actually lost. But now in the 21st Century the word 'trust' has very little of its original meaning left at all.

Sadly, out of the mouths of some trust comes like the Chameleon -esk word 'bad'... Trust can now mean 'I am lying through my teeth'. Infact, our battered friend 'trust' can now actually amplify the root of suspicion and deception.

With the advent of so many social media platforms we are all citizen journalists and to a greater or lesser extent we are unfortunately contributing to the death of news. We are breaking down the values of anything resembling trustworthy in journalism.

Nothing is researched further than a quick Google search, if at all. The holy grail of journalistic objectivity has now been turned into a grubby bowl of murky and muddied waters of individual subjective agendas.

The seemingly almost addictive need to 'get it out there right now' and as fast as

technology will allow has now brought a new phrase to journalism. 'Fake news'! How can it not be fake news! Something created that fast will be by nature devoid of any thoughtful content, research or anything trustworthy.

I know about the terrible crime of betraying trust all too well. As a young photographer I betrayed the trust of the dead. The worst betrayal of trust imaginable. The dead can't answer back and scream at you for the scumbag that you are.

I insert here an excerpt from my yet unpublished memoirs of a very dark time in my life where there was no light shining on anything resembling truth.

A car bomb had exploded in the crowded streets of Beirut, in Lebanon and a young photographer was on the prowl for a story.

Beirut 1983 - I rushed to the scene of a particular nasty car bomb to find the remains of a young family blown apart.

The body parts were all over the place. Torn legs hanging high in the remains of ripped shop front sunblinds.

A very young girl's headless torso dressed in a white and blue frock embroidered with pretty yellow daisies lay mangled in the wreckage. And what looked like every drop of her blood splattered in the back of a blackened and charred shell of the Mercedes.

Across the street through the bitter acrid smoke I could see a child's teddy bear smouldering in the rubble of a restaurant that had taken the full blast of the car bomb. I strode over to the smoking bear picked it up by its one remaining leg. Brushed the dust and burning sparks off on the side of my trousers and went back to the Mercedes. I turned the little girl's body onto her back so that it was more recognisable as a human be-

ing. I then threw the smouldering teddy bear onto what was left of the child to make a more poignant picture. I didn't even know or care if the teddy belonged to her.

I have long exorcised my ghosts at the expense of that little unknown child.

I believe I have become a better person, and an excruciatingly painfully honest photojournalist. I may well yet have to pay the ferryman for my lies and unforgivable behaviour. But for that I will have to wait and see, maybe not too long! This example may seem as an extreme corruption of the truth and something that may be abhorrent to most, I hope.

But 'Fake News' does start somewhere. With me it started in the extreme.

Today with social media its tiny steps of omitting inconvenient facts that don't fit in with a certain needed narrative. Thus, in turn snowballing into incoherent conspiracy of utter nonsense. There is no editor to fact check, there is no check at all, none. Terrifyingly I find myself agreeing with the abomination that is Donald Trump! There is fake news and it's here to stay! The trust in the media is long dead... RIP.

Sebastian Rich a photographer of war and occasionally peace!

Photos in this publication are courtesy of Sebastian Rich.



GTF 2017 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

In association
with

LIBRARY
HSILIRB



EXCELLENCE IN PEACE AND COLLABORATION

BHAI SAHIB BHAI MOHINDER SINGH, OBE KSG - Chairman, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha & Co-President of Religions for Peace

Bhai Sahib Bhai Mohinder Singh is the Spiritual Leader and Chairman of Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha, UK – a charitable organisation with its Headquarters in Birmingham. It has two sister organisations in Leeds and London with branches in India and Kenya. He is also Chairman of the Nishkam Centre which engages in a plethora of civic activities. He is the first British Sikh to be awarded the official title of 'Bhai Sahib' by the Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee, SGPC, Amritsar, for his selfless service in propagating the Sikh faith, engagement in interfaith work and heritage conservation.

Within the interfaith context, Bhai Sahib has been a senior member of the Elijah Board of World's Religious Leaders for seven years and a founding member of the European Council of Religious Leaders for twelve years. Whilst being one of fifty Co-Presidents, he is also a Trustee of Religions for Peace International, New York, and President of Religions for Peace UK.



EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP

MUHTAR KENT – Chairman, Coca-Cola Company

Muhtar Kent is Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Coca-Cola Company. From 2009-2017, he served as the Company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Kent joined The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta in 1978, holding a variety of marketing and operations leadership positions over the course of his career. Mr. Kent returned to The Coca-Cola Company in 2005 as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company's North Asia, Eurasia and Middle East Group, an organization serving a broad and diverse region that included China, Japan and Russia. Less than a year later, he became President of Coca-Cola International, leading all of the Company's operations outside North America. In 2006, he was named President and Chief Operating Officer, and he became CEO in 2008.

GLOBAL THINKERS AWARDS FORUM



EXCELLENCE IN POSITIVE CHANGE



DR. JUDI AUBEL – Co-founder, Grandmother Project – Change through Culture (GMP)

Grandmother Project – Change through Culture (GMP) is a non-profit organization officially registered in the US and in Senegal. GMP was founded in 2005 by Dr. Judi Aubel, an American anthropologist and public health expert and Elisabeth Mealey, an Australian journalist. GMP is committed to developing programs that build on existing positive cultural values and roles in communities, especially those of grandmothers, who are very important in families but often ignored in programs. Strategies to involve and empower grandmothers have contributed to: improved maternal and child health; increased school attendance by girls; decreased child marriage and teen pregnancy, and decreased female genital mutilation. GMP realized that grandmothers are an abundant and underutilized resource to promote positive change for women and children, especially for girls.



EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



NOORJAHAN AKBAR – Founder, Free Women Writers

Free Women Writers (also known as Dukhtarane Rabia) is a non-profit, non-partisan, and all-volunteer organization of writers, students, and activists based in Afghanistan and the diaspora and working for a more equal and just Afghanistan. Inspired by Afghanistan's first known woman poet, Rabia Balkhi, they promote gender equality, social justice, and human rights using their voices. In Afghanistan, where daily terrorist attacks, poverty, and war have led to the sustenance of a culture of violence and inequality, they use their pens to fight terrorism and patriarchy. They are also aware of the fact that global media often misrepresents Afghanistan, in particular, Afghan women. They hope to challenge the one-dimensional portrayal of Afghanistan by elevating authentic Afghan voices. In addition to publishing books, articles, and poetry for and by Afghan women and their male allies, they provide a yearly scholarship for one Afghan woman to pursue her higher education.





EXCELLENCE IN HUMANITARIAN WORK

PANTELIS DIMITRIOU - Managing Director, Iliaktida

Iliaktida was founded in 1999 in Mytilene, as a grassroots effort to support social integration of mental health patients in the island of Lesvos and gradually expanded to cover integration activities for all people with disabilities. At the same time with Lesvos always having been one of the migration gateways into Europe, Iliaktida has long been active in hosting and providing psychosocial support to migrants and refugees with an emphasis on vulnerable individuals and unaccompanied children through national, and international funding sources (including UNICEF and UNHCR). The economic and social integration of migrants has been at the core of our activities through a multiplicity of means such as skills building, provision of vocational training and informal education for unaccompanied children where a school for 170 children has been set-up in Lesvos.



EXCELLENCE IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

DR. RADHA BASU – Founder, iMerit

Radha Basu is widely recognized as a leading technology entrepreneur and mentor, and as a pioneer in the Indian software business. Radha grew Hewlett Packard's electronic software division from ground zero into a \$1.2 billion business. She then held the position of Chairman & CEO of Support.com, a Nasdaq-listed company, which she led through initial and secondary public offerings. Radha and her husband subsequently launched Anudip Foundation to generate livelihoods for India's unemployed and marginalized youth through digital and workplace skills development. In 2012, Radha founded iMerit, a technology-enabled services company that delivers digital data services for machine learning, content and support while effecting positive social and economic impact by employing marginalized youth and women. She serves on the boards of NetHope, Jhumki Basu Foundation, and Santa Clara CSTS.

GLOBAL THINKERS AWARDS FORUM



MASTER OF CEREMONY

JOHN STAPLETON

John Stapleton is an award winning journalist with more than 50 years experience in newspapers and television and was the Royal Television Society's Presenter of the Year in 2004 for his work covering the war in Iraq and a series of interviews with, amongst others, Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

John covered the Balkan War in Kosovo, the Tsunami in South East Asia, four American elections and has interviewed every Prime Minister since James Callaghan.



Programme 2017

18.30-19.15

Guests Arrival – Cocktail Reception

18.30-19.00

Live Jazz Music

19.00-19.10

Welcome Remark by **Roly Keating**, Chief Executive, British Library

19.10-19.20

Guests Move to the Dinner Area

19.20

Announcement – Opening

19.20

John Stapleton, Welcomes Guests

Opening by **Global Thinkers Forum CEO, Elizabeth Filippouli**

19.25-19.35

Keynote Speech

19.35-20.05

First Course

20.10-20.35

Awards Ceremony

20.35-21.05

Main Course

Live Jazz Music

21.05-21.10

Global Thinkers Mentors:

Nurturing the Next Generation of Leaders

21.10-21.45

Dessert / Networking

Live Jazz Music

21.45-22.15

GTF 2017 Awards Gala Concludes

There will be a Silent Auction and all proceeds will go towards the GTF Mentoring Programmes benefiting young people and women around the world.

HONORARY GUESTS



THE RT HON TOBIAS ELLWOOD MP

Minister of Defence, UK

Tobias Ellwood has been given a new role as Minister at the Ministry of Defence. Tobias was appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in July 2014. He was elected Conservative MP for Bournemouth East in May 2005. Tobias was educated in Bonn and Vienna when his parents were overseas as members of the United Nations. He returned to attend Loughborough University and subsequently completed an MBA at City University Business School. He also completed the senior executive course in National and International Studies at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Tobias was in the Royal Green Jackets from 1991 to 1996, and served in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Kuwait, Germany, Gibraltar and Bosnia.





GTF 2017 ADVISORY BOARD & GLOBAL GROWTH PARTNERS



GTF ADVISORY BOARD



The Rt. Hon. the Lord Alderdice

Chairman, The Centre for Democracy & Peace Building, Belfast

As Leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland, Lord Alderdice played a significant role in the Talks on Northern Ireland including negotiation of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. He was the first Speaker of the new Northern Ireland Assembly and on retirement in 2004 was appointed to the Independent Monitoring Commission, tasked with closing down terrorist operations and overseeing normalization of security in Northern Ireland.



Mrs Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani

Founder Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum,
Fellow, Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative 2017

Mrs Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani, Founder Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum is well known in international government and business circles as a high-impact change agent focusing on leadership in cultural and gender issues. In January 2017, Haifa was invited to become a Fellow of the Advanced Leadership Initiative at Harvard University to join 45 global leaders for an intensive, multi-disciplinary year long Fellowship to address significant social problems.



Mohamed Amersi

Founder & Chairman, Amersi Foundation

Mohamed Amersi is actively engaged in the full spectrum of activities ranging from for-profit, responsible-profit and non-profit. He is the Founder & CEO of Emergent Telecom Ventures, an entrepreneurial Emerging Markets Consulting, Advisory and Asset Management firm specialising in Telecoms, Media & Technology. The nonprofit activities are directed through The Amersi Foundation, which actively supports causes and charities in Education, Poverty, Conflict and Religion in Africa, Middle East and Asia.



Greg Beitchman

Vice President , CNN International

Greg Beitchman is VP Content Sales and Partnerships, CNN International. In this capacity, he is responsible for overseeing and developing the network's content sales business internationally, with a focus on leveraging its broadcast and digital assets.

GTF ADVISORY BOARD



Sir Dirk Brossé

Music Director, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia

Sir Dirk Brossé is a multi-faceted composer and a respected conductor on the international music scene. He is currently Music Director of 'The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia', Music Director of the Filmfestival Ghent and Music Director and Principal Conductor of the 'Star Wars in Concert World Tour'.



Reem N. Bsaiso

Founder & Managing Partner, Global Outreach/ Consultant

Reem is a Senior Consultant specializing in knowledge economy policies and public reform; her focus is on merging ICT in Education and national training schemes, working with international agencies on ICT in Education in the MENA region, such as World Bank, UNESCO and EU Investment Bank.



Victoria A. Budson

Executive Director, WAPPP Harvard Kennedy School

Victoria A. Budson is a founder and the Executive Director of the Women and Public Policy Program (WAPPP) at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. WAPPP is the preeminent institution for advancing interdisciplinary research on approaches to closing gender gaps, educating students and leaders on gender policy, and implementing policy changes at local, state, and national levels.



Maxime Chaya

Corporate Ambassador, Sportsman & Climber

Lebanon's foremost sportsman and climber, Maxime Chaya was the first person from his home country to hoist its flag atop Everest. He did so at the climax of his challenge to ascend the highest mountain on every continent – the Seven Summits – while also skiing to the North and South Poles.



Jana Cohen Barbe

Partner & former Global Vice Chair, Dentons

Jana Cohen Barbe is a Partner and the former Global Vice Chair of Dentons, the largest law firm in the world. Since its inception, Jana has been integrally involved in the development and implementation of a strategic vision that created a top-tier global legal business with 149 locations in 61 countries.



Michael E. Economakis

Executive Vice Chairman & CEO, A.G. Leventis Group (Nig.) Plc

Michael E. Economakis started his career in Coca-Cola Hellenic the 2nd biggest bottler of The Coca-Cola Company in the world, operating in 28 countries. Over the first years he worked in Sales, holding a variety of Sales Field and Commercial positions. He is currently Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of A.G. Leventis Group (Nig.) Plc a listed Conglomerate with operations in Automotive, Logistics, Food, Real Estate, Retail.



HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan of Jordan

President, The Royal Scientific Society

Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan is President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT). The Princess is the Chair of the World Science Forum 2017, which was held in Jordan, she is also Director and Chair of the National Campaign for Public Awareness of the Drivers of Change.



Elizabeth Filippouli

Founder & CEO, Global Thinkers & Global Thinkers Forum

In 2016, Elizabeth was named among Oxford University's Said Business School's 42 top graduate entrepreneurs. In 2015, Filippouli and Global Thinkers Forum launched an international mentoring programme, Global Thinkers Mentors, pairing youth and women from all over the world with accomplished individuals. Elizabeth's background is in journalism.



GTF ADVISORY BOARD



Lili Hall

Founder & CEO, KNOCK, inc

Lili Hall is founder & CEO of KNOCK, inc, leading with acute insight into brand development on a global scale. She founded KNOCK in 2001 with a commitment to impeccable client service and nimble response to new opportunities. In conjunction with two sister companies—TREAT & COMPANY and Neighbor—Hall's teams create impactful, effective work for national and international brands.



Dr Roger Hayes

Senior Counsellor, APCO worldwide

Dr. Roger Hayes (FCIPR, Member Emeritus IPRA) is a leading international public relations and public affairs professional with 30 years experience in trade associations, corporations and consultancies and has also advised governments.



Gary Horsley

Senior Communications Consultant

For more than 30 years Gary has been a consultant on international communications issues, helping to shape strategies that reach out to client audiences, markets and partners across the globe.



Roya Mahboob

Founder & CEO, Digital Citizen Fund

Roya Mahboob is a serial entrepreneur President and co-Founder of Citadel Software Company, EdyEdy, DeFelora. She is also CEO of the Digital Citizen Fund, a non-profit organization focused on #DigitalLiteracy to empower women and children in developing countries. Roya is famous as a leader for being among the first female tech CEOs in Afghanistan, being among the time 100 most influential people in the world for 2013 by TIME magazine.



Haitham Mattar

CEO, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority

Haitham Mattar, CEO of the Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority, was appointed in May 2015 to drive the economic growth of Ras Al Khaimah by positioning the Emirate as a world-class destination for business and leisure tourism. With over 25 years of experience in global destination and hospitality management and marketing, Mattar has held senior roles with leading global brands including Marriott, InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), and most recently Hilton Worldwide.



HRH Queen Sylvia Nagginda Luswata

Buganda Kingdom, Uganda, Founder & Patron, Nnabagereka Development Foundation

Her Royal Highness the Nnabagereka Sylvia Nagginda is the wife of the King of Buganda, King Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II. Her Royal Highness is the first Nnabagereka (Queen) in the history of the Buganda Kingdom to set up a fully-fledged Office, a very crucial phenomenon that has greatly complemented the ongoing development work in the Kingdom and in Uganda at large.



Femi Oke

Senior Journalist, Al Jazeera English

Femi Oke is an international journalist, broadcaster and moderator. She is currently based in Washington, D.C., where she hosts the interactive current affairs show “The Stream” for Al Jazeera English. Oke’s reporting has been recognised by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Communications Agency, InterAction and the Radio and Television Academy of Uganda.



Akinwale Omoboriowo II

Chairman & CEO, Genesis Energy Holdings

Akinwale Omoboriowo II (AOII) is a 1993 graduate of Economics from University of Jos, Alumni of the London Business School, from where he acquired specialist training in Electricity Pricing & Modelling course in 2006, and a 2011 Post-Graduate Diploma Alumni in Strategy & Innovation from the Prestigious Oxford University’s SAID Business School, U.K. AOII has over 20 years of experience in the Oil & Gas and Power Sectors in Africa.



GTF ADVISORY BOARD



HRH Prince Pavlos

Crown Prince of Greece, Prince to Denmark (Chairman)

Crown Prince Pavlos is an investment consultant, being co-founder of numerous investment groups including Brigantine, Ortelius Capital Partners, Ivory Capital Group and Griphon Asset Management.



Saskia Sassen

Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology & Co-Chair, The Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University

Saskia Sassen is the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Co-Chair, The Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University (www.saskiasassen.com). Her recent books are *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages* (Princeton University Press 2008), *A Sociology of Globalization* (W.W.Norton 2007), and the 4th fully updated edition of *Cities in a World Economy* (Sage 2011).



Sharon Schweitzer, J.D

Cross-Cultural Consultant, International Protocol Expert, Access to Culture

Sharon Schweitzer is a cross-cultural trainer, international business etiquette expert, award-winning author, and the founder of Access to Culture. As a third culture kid, she has lived, studied, worked, and travelled to more than 70 countries on 7 continents. Along with tenures at renowned Austin and Dallas-based law firms, she served several years as an assistant attorney general. Sharon has a depth of experience assisting clientele from Fortune 500 companies to start-up firms.



Elif Shafak

Author, Columnist, Speaker & Academic

Elif Shafak is an award-winning novelist and the most widely read female writer in Turkey. She is also a political commentator and an inspirational public speaker. She writes in both Turkish and English, and has published 15 books, 10 of which are novels, including the bestselling *The Bastard of Istanbul*, *The Forty Rules of Love* and her most recent, *Three Daughters of Eve*. Her books have been published in 48 languages.



Geraldine Sharpe Newton

Senior Communications Advisor

As a Public Relations Executive, Journalist and TV Producer, on both sides of the Atlantic, Geraldine Sharpe-Newton has worked at the heart of media relations and corporate communications for more than three decades. She has been head of communications for three of the world's major news organisations, CBS News in the US, ITN in the UK and CNN International.



Muna AbuSulayman

Partner, Directions Consulting

Muna AbuSulayman is continuously chosen as one of the Most Influential Arabs in the World in various publications due to a unique and diverse cross-sector 20 year work experience. Internationally recognized as an expert in Management, education, Sustainable Development, Female Empowerment, she has spoken at the World Economic Forum, UN, and The World Bank on Development, using innovation to alleviate poverty, Gender, and building communities.



Marc Ventresca

Fellow & University Lecturer, University of Oxford

Marc Ventresca is an organisational and economic sociologist who teaches strategy, leadership and organisation theory at Said Business School with a focus on innovation and on how new markets get built.



Derek Wyatt

Director, Code Investing

Derek is just stepping down as Chair of Royal Trinity Hospice, the oldest hospice in the world, after nearly seven years at the helm. He is chair of FISP, a think tank which examines how our digital world will look after 2020 and chair of the Major Stanley's Trust at Oxford University RFC.



GTF GLOBAL GROWTH PARTNERS



Salim Amin

Chairman, Camerapix

Salim Amin is Chairman of Camerapix, founder and Chairman of The Mohamed Amin Foundation and co-founder and Chairman of A24 Media. As Executive Producer and Presenter, Salim finished a documentary chronicling his father's life in March 2006 entitled "MO & ME" which has to date won ten Awards for Best Documentary in the United States, Canada, India and on the African Continent, including the Grand Jury Award at the New York International Film Festival.



Deema Bibi

CEO, Injaz

Deema Bibi is currently the CEO of INJAZ, a non-profit organization established in 2001 with a mission to inspire and prepare youth to become productive members of their society and accelerate the development of the national economy.



Stephen Cole

Chairman, Institute of Diplomacy & Business

Stephen Cole is one of the most experienced and versatile faces of International Television News. He has anchored 24-hour news since 1989 from the studio and from some of the world's major trouble spots.



Robert Davidson

President, Arundel Consulting Inc

Robert is the President of Arundel Consulting Inc. Arundel Consulting develops business and tax strategies, marketing and communications for entrepreneurs with international ambitions.



Susan Foley Rocco

Founder, Producer & Host, Women to Watch™ Media, LLC

Susan Foley Rocco is Founder, Producer and Host of Women to Watch™ Media, LLC – the premier global media platform for women leaders. With a long-standing, professional background in marketing, communications, sales and advertising, Susan quickly identified the need for a stand-alone multimedia platform to inspire and encourage women to pursue leadership roles worldwide.



Dr. Daniel Fung

Vice Chairman, Salzburg Global Seminar

Daniel R. Fung, SBS, SC, QC, JP, is the first person of Chinese extraction who served as Solicitor General of Hong Kong (1994-8) under Chris Patten, the last Governor of the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong and the Honorable C H Tung, the first Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR, is a specialist in complex commercial litigation and in public law.



Christopher Gaunt

Chairman, British Chamber of Commerce Turkey

Christopher Gaunt is a highly accomplished and respected businessman with invaluable international experience across a number of key business sectors. Having graduated in UK with a degree in Modern History, he began his career in 1973 in the Wine and Spirit Division of the Whitbread Brewery Group.



Valerie Keller

Global Leader, EY Beacon Institute / Executive Director, Markets

Valerie Keller has deep expertise in leadership, purpose-driven transformation and innovation. She is global head of the EY Beacon Institute and an executive director of Ernst & Young LLP in its Global Markets group. As a former chief executive officer, she has established healthcare facilities, housing developments and social enterprises.



GTF GLOBAL GROWTH PARTNERS



Nikos Koumettis

President, Coca-Cola Central & Eastern Europe BU

Nikos Koumettis is appointed President, Central & Eastern Europe Business Unit of The Coca-Cola Company, based in Athens, effective August 1st, 2016. The Unit will comprise 26 diverse countries, with new additions, Russia, Belarus & Ukraine.



Attiya Mahmood

Pakistani Diplomat

Attiya Mahmood has served as a Pakistani diplomat for over 35 years. Her credentials include Ambassadorial posts to the Kingdom of Morocco, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Indonesia. Most significantly, during her tenure in Jordan from 2010-13, she witnessed the transformative events unfolding in the region.



Hani Masri

President Tomorrow's Youth Organization (TYO)

A long time advocate for Middle East peace and children's issues, Mr. Masri founded Tomorrow's Youth Organization. This non-profit organization provides programs in Technology (IT), Arts, Sports and Health for impoverished children aged 4-8, as well as social and economic development programs for women.



George Mavrelis

Senior Executive, Insurance, Coach & Leadership Mentor

George Mavrelis is a senior business executive in Greek insurance industry since the decade of 1990, holding diversified positions in the Commercial and Operational sectors of Insurance Companies. George currently serves as an International Consultant in the Insurance Industry.



Dr. Rita Rakus

Aesthetic Medical Practitioner

Dr Rita Rakus MBBS FBCAM Cosmetic Doctor To The Stars – ‘A’ list of celebrity patients includes Amanda Holden, Karren Brady, Lisa Butcher and Annabelle Bond OBE Welcome to the practice of Dr. Rita Rakus who has been named by the media as the ‘London Lip Queen’.



David Rodin

Carnegie-Uehiro Senior Fellow, Global Ethics Fellow

David Rodin is a leading authority on the ethics of war and conflict. He is a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs in New York and Senior Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. His publications include *War and Self-Defense* (OUP 2002), which was awarded the American Philosophical Association Sharp Prize, articles in leading philosophy and law journals and a number of edited books.



Fernando Salvetti

Founder & Managing Partner, Logosnet

As an “edupreneur”, Fernando is a pioneer in the fields of immersive simulation, augmented and virtual reality, knowledge dissemination, communication of science and technology, international and cross-cultural communication, soft-skills development.



Lucian Sarb

Chief Content Officer, Euronews

Lucian Sarb serves as the Editorial Director and Member of the Board of the global news channel, Euronews. Since 2009 Lucian has been in charge with the editorial strategy of the most viewed news broadcaster in Europe, a multiplex of 24-hour news with 450 journalists from more than 35 different nationalities.



GTF GLOBAL GROWTH PARTNERS



Souad Talsi MBE

Founder, Al-Hasaniya Moroccan Women Centre

Born in Morocco, Souad came to the UK as a young child and has lived and worked here in London ever since. As an active member of her local community, she saw the need for a centre to serve women of Arab origin and founded Al-Hasaniya Moroccan Women's Centre.



Dr. Rebecca Thomley

CEO, Orion Associates - Founder, Headwaters Relief Organization

Dr. Rebecca Thomley is an entrepreneur and a licensed psychologist. She is the CEO of Orion Associates and its related companies. Orion Associates provides services for related and unrelated companies, including profit and non-profit organizations. Orion Associates has been recognized for the last three years as one of the top ten fastest growing woman-owned businesses nationally.



Achilles Tsaltas

Vice President International Conferences, The New York Times

With more than 26 years of experience in the media, Achilles Tsaltas is currently the Vice President of The New York Times' successful International Conferences division based in London.



Alireza Zaimi

Managing Director, Global Equity Division Bank of America

Alireza is a Managing Director within the Global Equity Division of Bank of America Merrill Lynch in London. He heads the Asset Owners Groups in Europe, Middle East and Africa with a mandate to cover the most prominent private investment offices, asset managers and wealth funds for the firm across various asset classes.

Looking ahead to GTF 2018

In the pipeline for 2018:

- Growing our mentoring programmes 'Telemachus' and 'Athena'
- Expanding to Africa in partnership with NDF (Nnabagereka Development Foundation) in Uganda
- Multiplying our conversations across various platforms and venues
- Engaging more stakeholders both as contributors as well beneficiaries
- Launching or endorsing new initiatives to advance our triple mission (accountability in leadership, supporting youth and empowering women)

Stay tuned...

Special Thanks to:

The GTF Advisory Board, the Global Growth Partners, the Sustaining Partners and GTF Supporters for their continuous support, insights, guidance and contributions. They are all Ambassadors of Excellence and Ethos.

Patrick Fleming and the British Library team for our great collaboration and their support.

All article authors for contributing their thoughts and expertise. The views reflected in their articles and interviews are independent.

To Photographer Sebastian Rich for his powerful photography that is featured throughout this publication.

The inspirational, creative Woven Ink team for putting together the GTF story so beautifully.

Conor de Lion for our great collaboration for the World Science Forum 2017 Jordan.

The talented and hard working GTF 2016-2017 Team for their commitment, energy and team spirit:

Ellie Papoutsani
Katerina Chatzi
Konstantina Ntogka
Danai Kiriakidou
Michelle Meineke
Priya Jain

WOVEN *ink*

Woven Ink are an independent visual minute and animation studio, existing to help people and organisations tell their stories in compelling and beautiful ways.

Visual communication, be it in the form of an animation, live capture visual minutes, or an illustration, allows an audience to engage more deeply and consciously with the content.

www.WovenInk.co.uk
hello@wovenink.co.uk



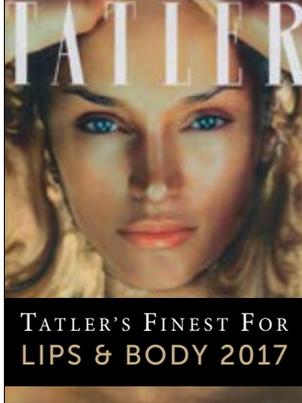
DR RITA RAKUS



The ROYAL
SOCIETY of
MEDICINE

WALL OF
HONOUR
INSCRIPTION

In recognition of Dr Rakus' outstanding work in the field of cosmetic medicine



MULTI AWARD-WINNING
COSMETIC CLINIC SPECIALISING
IN LIP ENHANCEMENT,
FACIAL REJUVENATION AND
BODY CONTOURING

To book a complimentary consultation
call 020 7460 7324 or visit www.drriarakus.com

34 Hans Road, Knightsbridge, London SW3 1RW (opposite Harrods)

British Library Membership

Enjoy a year of unique and memorable experiences for you, your friends and family with British Library Membership.

Unlimited free entry to our exhibitions means you can visit as often as you want. Relax in our exclusive Members' Room. Enjoy priority booking for our lively programme of talks and performances, and up to 20% discount in our public restaurants, cafés and shops.

www.bl.uk/membership





Trust - or, too often, the lack of it - is one of the central issues of our time. Without trust, institutions don't work, societies falter and people lose faith in their leaders. This is why we selected the issue of 'Trust' as our 2017 overarching theme.

What are the implications of the global trust crisis? How can we 'break' this distrust cycle?

In today's world it is critical to acknowledge the work of individuals and institutions that cultivate and promote trust, integrity and accountability.

Global Thinkers Forum
8, St James's Square
SW1Y 4JU London UK

globalthinkersforum.org
globalthinkersmentors.org

©2017

