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Announcing 2012 Fairness Award Grassroots Honoree

2012 Fairness Award: Empowering African Women



This year GFI has the honor to announce Ms. Lucy Kanu as the [2012 Fairness Award Grassroots Honoree](#). Lucy is a Nigerian social entrepreneur and innovator who has led a process of economic empowerment that prioritizes local aspirations, introduces outside resources, and builds scalability across sub-Saharan Africa.

The success of her organization, [Idea Builders](#), lies in local ownership of programs working with disadvantaged women and youth to provide sustainable livelihood and foster entrepreneurial spirit in the SME and agricultural space.

Lucy has developed a strong network of “role models” by inaugurating “mentoring walks” in 2008 across West Africa and around the globe. Taking this idea a step farther, she has established a mentoring program for businesswomen by creating trainings and workshops that reach thousands of women every year. Her work comprises expertise in agriculture services, policy advisory, rural development, and food security. She has over 15 years of national and international experience in both the private and social sector and has been recognized as an Ashoka Fellow, Commonwealth Fellow, Country Representative of Interface Africa, Council Member of ICCO West Africa, and founding member of Media Matters for Women. Lucy holds a degree in Business Management and has a certificate in Project Management from the Lagos Business School. She is also a Certified Advanced Techniques SME Coach, Mentor, Facilitator and Change Management Consultant.

Lucy exemplifies GFI's approach of engaging multiple stake-holders for sustainable and inclusive economic development, and we are delighted to see her in Washington, DC, this November 13th.

About the award

Each year the Global Fairness Initiative selects two honorees, one from the grass-tops level who has advocated for and invested in poor and marginalized communities and one from the grassroots level who has led communities in building a stronger voice and greater empowerment in their local and larger global community. Together, these honorees highlight the power of bringing together top-down opportunity and bottom-up leadership to drive change.



Every year the Fairness Award brings together a diverse audience to celebrate these leaders. Community and NGO activists, Washington leadership and dignitaries, thought leaders and social entrepreneurs all join together to celebrate partnership and honor leadership. Held at historic venues around the Washington, DC area, the Fairness Award has rooted itself in the local community as an event that honors global leaders and inspires local aspirations for Washington leadership, youth, and community-based organizations. Each year outreach is made to local youth from universities and high schools in the area as well as local NGOs and community-based organizations. Engagement opportunities are also created between the global Honorees and local community through an engagement series where honorees lead classroom sessions on leadership in local DC high schools. This connection of local and global is at the heart of the work of the Global Fairness Initiative where our mission is *“local solutions for a global economy.”*

History

On November 11, 2010 the first Fairness Award was given to recognize the vital role of partnership between the top and the bottom of social and economic development leadership. At the first annual Fairness Award, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton presented the Fairness Award to Ms. Ela Bhatt, Founder of the Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) of India, a group of 1.5 million poor women in India united in their struggle for empowerment. Together, these first honorees set a precedent for bringing together top-down opportunity and bottom-up leadership to improve the lives of millions of working families around the globe. The vision of GFI Founder, Karen Tramontano, and Executive Director, Caleb Shreve, the Fairness Award represents the values, mission, and experience of GFI and its decade of work to advance fair wage, create equal access to markets, and tackle public policy barriers to generate opportunity for the working poor and end the cycle of poverty.

Past Recipients



2011 Grasstops Honoree: José María Figueres Olsen

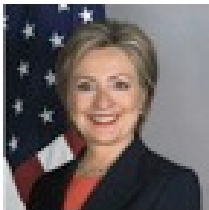
José María Figueres served as President of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998. He was the youngest President of a Central American country in modern times. During his presidency, he created a comprehensive national Sustainable Development strategy combining sound macroeconomic indicators, together with strategic investment in human development, and a strong alliance with nature through the

implementation of innovative environmental policies. Prior to serving as President he was Minister of Foreign Trade (1987-1988) and Minister of Agriculture (1988-1990). President Figueres later served as head of the World Economic Forum and is currently the President of the Carbon War Room.



2011 Grassroots Honoree: Ms. Albina Ruiz

For Albina Ruiz trash is good business! Concerned by health and economic condition of Peru's waste pickers, and by the environmental threats of inadequate solid waste disposal services, Ruiz developed a strategy that would positively impact thousands of Peruvian workers and entire waste management systems. Ruiz's idea was a four-part plan that focused on waste management workers and facilities; effective coordination with public agencies; dynamic public education campaigns; and mobilization of financial and technical support from private partners. As founder of Ciudad Saludable (Healthy City Group), Ms. Ruiz has improved the lives and livelihoods of over 6 million people in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, and India.



2010 Grassroots Honoree: Honorable Hillary R. Clinton

On January 21, 2009, Hillary Rodham Clinton was sworn in as the 67th Secretary of State of the United States. Secretary Clinton joined the State Department after nearly four decades in public service as an advocate, attorney, First Lady, and Senator. She has worked tirelessly to support communities around the world and at home - when she declared that "human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights" - inspiring women worldwide and helping galvanize a global movement for women's rights. Secretary Clinton is the author of best-selling books, including her memoir, *Living History*, and her groundbreaking book on children, *It Takes A Village*.

Photo Credit: State Department



2011 Grassroots Honoree: Ms. Ela Bhatt

Known as the "gentle revolutionary", Ela Bhatt is a pioneer in women's empowerment and grassroots development, and the founder of the more than one million-strong Self-Employed Women's Association in India. A lawyer by training, Bhatt is a respected leader of the international labor, cooperative, women, and micro-finance movements. She has won national and international praise and now serves on the elite group of "Elders," the most regarded collection of human rights ambassadors to the world. Widely recognized as one of the world's most remarkable pioneers and entrepreneurs in grassroots development, Ms. Bhatt has set the standard for bottom-up leadership in social and economic empowerment.

Photo Credit: The Elders

"Let us come together to recognize what has been achieved

but also for what remains to be done. It is a daunting task but not insurmountable.
By joining hands we can lead in building a fairer world."

-Ela Bhatt

Founder of SEWA and 2011 Fairness Award Honoree

Date Confirmed!

[Fairness Award 2012](#)

Tuesday, November 13th, 2012
6:00 to 7:00 pm Honoree Reception
7:00 to 8.30pm Awards Ceremony

The Historic Howard Theatre
620 T Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

RSVP Today

JOIN US AT THE 2012 FAIRNESS AWARD

TICKETS:
Please RSVP by calling 202.898.9022
or email us at rsvp@fairnessaward.org



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