



YOUNG INFLUENCERS



YEARBOOK 2022-23



About the Programme

The Young Influencers programme was launched by the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security in January 2021, as part of the Ministry's efforts to give youths a platform to address issues affecting and impacting them.

The programme comprises of young men and women between the ages of 15 and 25 from diverse backgrounds across all ten regions of Guyana who work with the Ministry to tackle social ills young people face within society and become a voice for youth across the nation.

The programme lasts for one year and involves education and training pathways for career development, integrates public engagements, and outreaches promoting young people's competencies and skills.



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

HON. DR.
VINDHYA
VASINI
PERSAUD

MINISTER OF HUMAN SERVICES
AND SOCIAL SECURITY



The Young Influencers Programme was conceptualised to provide Guyanese youth from across Guyana with a platform to discuss key issues affecting youth, to understand the workings of the MHSSS, and to develop solutions and support based projects around the areas dealt with by the Ministry as well as share powerful positive, inspiring and influential messages with their peers through various media.

I am delighted with the enthusiasm shown by this and the previous group and their avid participation in so many national and international programmes. Also very heartwarming, is the creativity and the interest in many programmes involving vulnerable populations and youth. I must highlight the special efforts towards our programmes focusing on disability, bullying, and body-shaming.

I wish our second batch of YIs the very best in their future endeavours and look forward to them offering mentorship to the incoming batch and also, to them continuing to be an active part of the MHSSS family. I thank them for choosing the YI programme.

MESSAGE FROM OUR COORDINATOR

**RHEA
RAMKHELAWAN-
TROINSKI**

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING
CONSULTANT AND YOUNG
INFLUENCERS COORDINATOR -
MHSSS



My Dearest Young Influencers,

When you started this programme none of us could have anticipated the journey we would have taken together. One year later, and I am beaming at each of you with pride and joy.

I am proud of you for taking each challenge in stride. I am proud of you for your creativity, teamwork, drive and love you put in everything you've done in the programme. Your excitement and dedication is contagious.

I can safely say that you have grown in the best ways. When I look at you all I see young adults who are thriving and ready to take on the world.

Never lose that spark, and remember that every challenge will push you to be your greatest self.

2022 - 2023 Cohort



Tatiana Norton
Region 2



Areeb Ali
Region 3



Corissa McClure
Region 3



Delisa Quintyn
Region 3



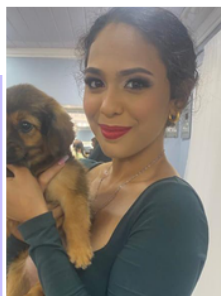
Devina Singh
Region 3



Imran Bacchus
Region 3



Rishti Gopal
Region 3



Saaya Prasad
Region 3



Allyiah Powers
Region 4

2022 - 2023 Cohort



Amrita Naraine
Region 4



Andrew King
Region 4



Dwright Ward
Region 4



Gavendra Gangadin
Region 4



Nandita Singh
Region 4



Nandray Bachan
Region 4



Nikhil Sankar
Region 4



Sherida Gibbs
Region 4



Terriann Wright
Region 4

2022 - 2023 Cohort



T'Sehai Holder
Region 4



Jerry Collins
Region 5



Seeta Dalloo
Region 5



Amrita Jagdeo
Region 6



Raquel Meenkum
Region 6



Tyreese Archibald
Region 8



Jared Tudor
Region 10



2022 - 2023

What did we do?



Volunteering with the Ministry



Part of being a Young Influencer is volunteering during important community engagements and initiatives through the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security.



The Young Influencers were actively involved in assisting the Ministry during the distribution of the Special Needs Children Fund in various regions across Guyana.



The Young Influencers volunteered at the Sexual Offences & Domestic Violence Policy Unit's "Love Shouldn't Hurt" Campaign at Giftland Mall.

The Young Influencers joined Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud and members of the diplomatic corps in the #nurturewithnature plant with a tree with a child campaign launching Child Protection Week.

This initiative sought to encourage the public to plant a tree with a child to symbolize the care, nurture and protection children need to grow.

National Activities

Youth Parliament

Terriann Wright and Devina Singh were the Young Influencers who participated in the Junior Category at the 7th. Annual Youth Parliament in August 2022. Terriann was presented with the award for the 'Best Speaker' on the Government's side. During their journey, they learned about Guyana's parliamentary procedure along with developing their interpersonal skills. Skills such as time management and problem-solving were also taught. They were given the opportunity to meet with various Ministers of Government, build relationships with peers, and be mentored by past Youth Parliamentarians.



Ideathon

The Ideathon Competition hosted at the Arthur Chung Convention Centre in December 2022, saw a huge turnout of young people ready to compete with their innovations.

Terriann Wright, Andrew King, and Jerry Collins represented the Young Influencers with their "EDUparME" application pitch in the education sector of the senior category.

EDUparME, which translates to Education, Partners and Me is an application that targets and solves issues with the student population who are likely to suffer the consequences of a lack of parental awareness which oftentimes led to school dropouts.

The team obtained the title of the "Best Overall Team" for their category after submitting their business proposals, and pitching them to government officials and non-governmental organisations amongst hundreds of other teams from different sectors.



The Speaker's Debate

This is a regional debating competition hosted by the Parliament of Guyana inclusive of multiple knockout rounds. Teams participate in debates to be heard by the Speaker.

The 'Young Influencers' Youth Group comprises Corissa McClure, Andrew King, and Saaya Prasad. They have continued to be victorious against their opponents and continue to advance to the other rounds with Corissa and Saaya winning 'best speaker' in various competitions.

Anti-Bullying Campaign



Launch of the Anti-Bullying Campaign – launched with Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud



An online campaign was launched where persons were encouraged to share their experiences with bullying and how to overcome it. We also had a Say it or Show it in 1-Minute – Video Skit Competition



In Region 2, YI Tatiana Norton engaged students of Johanna Cecelia and Abram Zuil Secondary School on the effects of bullying while in Region 5, Seeta Dalloo held an educational session and Jerry Collins worked with this Grade 5 class to create an ABC video for Social Media



The Young Influencers facilitated an interactive session on bullying, self-confidence and conflict resolution at the Sophia Plum Park Home



We had an anti bullying campaign presentation to at-risk youth at the Family Enhancement Unit Section of the Ministry of Human Services & Social Security

Booths & Public Appearances



Young Influencers at
FumaCon 2022

With these activities spearheaded by Amrita Naraine, the Young Influencers made an appearance at FumaCon held by Seishonen Guyana. There, we had a booth where visitors played our Monopoly trivia game, answering questions for the chance of winning a prize. We also shared information on the Ministry's anti-bullying campaign and the Young Influencers programme.

Young Influencers at
Safe Space's Pop Up
Event

The Young Influencers also had a booth at a Pop Up event hosted by Safe Space which aimed to promote women-owned small businesses. There, visitors played our Score 914 game for a chance to win a prize while being educated on the Ministry's 914 hotline and the Young Influencers programme.

Amrita, Tatiana and Nikhil also participated in the programme with pieces relevant to GBV.



Booths & Public Appearances



Young Influencers at the USAID's Launch of the Youth, Resilience, Inclusion, and Empowerment (Y-RIE) Programme.

Terriann Wright and Nandita Singh participated in a mini exhibition at the launch of the Y-RIE programme hosted by USAID at the Marriott Hotel, Guyana. This event saw the attendance of members of the Diplomatic Corps, Ministers of Government, and the nation's youths.

Wright and Singh engaged children, teachers, and other attendees from various schools and organisations informing them about the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security's Youth Programme and other services offered. Persons received pamphlets and teaching aids whilst were simultaneously gaining knowledge about the Ministry's hotline in the event they may need psychosocial support or to report instances such as abuse. In addition, prizes were also won by the students who took part in games that sought edutainment.

The Young Influencers had a booth at the launch of the President's Youth Advisory Council where we shared information on the programme and showcased our members.



Young Influencers at the Launch of the President's Youth Council

Booths & Public Appearances

Fitness Jam

Amazonia Mall held their "Fitness Jam" event in commemoration of Women's History Month and extended their invitation to the Young Influencers.

In attendance were Terriann, Rishti, Allyiah and T'Sehai.



Young Influencers Terriann, Rishti, Andrew, and Allyiah participated in the Walk against Child Labour with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security hosted by the Ministry of Labour. They were engaged in an informative session where they learned how to report Child Labour and the legislation governing the issue.

World Day Against Child Labour Walk



Diplomacy



The Young Influencers joined British High Commissioner Jane Miller OBE, and Deputy High Commissioner Judy Kpohgo for a Share and Learn session with UK Director EDGE and Special Envoy for Education, Gender and Equality, Alicia Herbert, where they shared their experiences in community service, activism and current projects being spearheaded by the YIs; the Anti-Bully Campaign and the Stop Body Shaming Campaign.



The Young Influencers participated in a networking event hosted by the High Commission of Canada, the British High Commission and other agencies. Discussed were ways in which they can support and promote women in the technological sphere. Further discussed were the cons of technology. The Young Influencers would have launched an Anti-Bullying Campaign in 2022 to aid in the tackling of these issues.



Recognized by the EU Delegation in Guyana, the European External Action Service in Brussels, Belgium invited three Young Influencers, Amrita Naraine, Raquel Meenkum and Delisa Quintyn to participate in the development of the next edition of the #OurVoiceOurFuture campaign in May, 2023.



In setting the agenda for the new edition of the campaign, the Young Influencers were involved in a series of panel discussions, highlighting the role of the EU in the promotion of peace and prosperity following the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the context of Europe Day celebrations.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

In observance of the 16 Days of Activism, a number of activities were held by the Ministry of Human Services to raise awareness of gender-based violence. The Young Influencers participated in some of these events as a means of adding their voices and making their contributions towards this cause. These activities included: the painting of the Orange Avenue, engagements in the launch of 16 Days of Activism and the Orange Walk Avenue, participating in the Talk Yuh Mind Walk and Rally, DefendHer, and Virtual Discussion on Cyber Bullying and the Cyber Crime Act.



16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence



As a part of the launch of this observance, the Young Influencers painted the avenue on Camp Street. It was painted orange and included educational elements for passersby to interact with in a fun way :)



We also participated in the programme of the launch. Seeta shared her experience as a social worker, Nikhil shared a poetry piece while Sherida, Dwight and Tatiana educated us with skits.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence



We took part in the Talk Yuh Mind Walk and Rally. After a walk to the National Park, our stamina was tested during a fitness session.

Then we participated in an honest conversation on GBV issues in Guyana. Before leaving, we added our handprints to reaffirm our commitment to the cause.



Some of the females of the group participated in DefendHER - a female only self-defence session hosted by Maxido Adult Self-Defense System.



16

DAYS
OF
ACTIVISM



16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence



Young Influencers, Imran and Terriann participated in a virtual discussion on the subject of Cyberbullying and the Cyber Bully Act. They sat down alongside Corporal Narine and Ms. Rhea. The session was an interactive discussion that was moderated by Terriann.

Corporal Narine, Cyber Crime Investigator, presented an overview of the Cyberbully Act 16 (2018) of Guyana. He related examples through which bullying on the internet or online can occur, some of which include - venting and feeling targeted through various social media posts and platforms. He highlighted the penalties of the crime, what should be done to resolve the issue prior to approaching the police, and outlined how the police investigations regarding such issues are done.

Terriann and Imran asked questions relevant to young people and their misuse of social media which can have long lasting effects, while Ms. Rhea shared some tips on using social media wisely and Corporal Narine provided some useful advice.



We Lift 3



The WE LIFT 3 event was a great opportunity for women entrepreneurs to showcase their businesses and connect with potential customers and partners. The event also provided a platform for women to learn about the Ministry's services and resources that can help them grow their businesses.

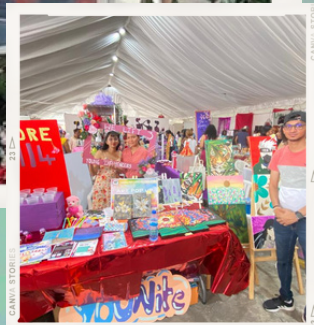
- The two-day event was hosted by the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MHSSS) and aimed to provide exposure and networking opportunities to over 200 women-owned businesses in Guyana.
- The event was held in the parking lot of Movietowne and showcased different areas of business such as art, jewelry, food, peppers, seasoning, and more.
- The Ministry's services were also available on site, such as registering for the Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN).

The Young Influencers 2022 made a big impact at We Lift 3. They conducted an art sale that displayed pieces painted by young female artists from across the country. The art sale was a great success, raising funds for the projects the Young Influencers aimed to conduct. Eighty percent of the proceeds from the art sale were donated to these projects with the remaining given to the artists.

Some of the female artists were on site to assist in the sale and market themselves by distributing business cards. They were happy to have the opportunity to show their work and connect with potential buyers.

The Young Influencers' booth featured educational games that were free to play by the public. All players were guaranteed a prize if they won the games. Many people were attracted by the games and participated, making the booth a popular attraction.

The Young Influencers also participated in the opening of the event by reciting the poem, "A Powerful Woman." Their recitation was inspiring and set the tone for a great event. The event was a fun, exciting, and successful event due to the hard work of the young influencers. They made a positive impact on the community and raised awareness for important causes.



Holiday Celebrations



Christmas 2022



The Young Influencers gathered at the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security for a "Jingle and Mingle" where they helped to wrap presents for the Ministry's 'Wish Upon a Star' programme. In addition, they had the opportunity to decorate the 'Eye Care' Christmas tree along with Minister Persaud. They engaged in wonderful conversations and snacks.

Later, they returned to assist with Region 4's gift distribution.

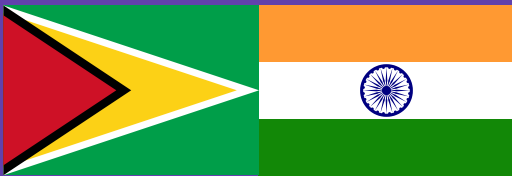


Another day, some YIs including Mrs. Clause Rishti took part in Christmas Cheer at a state care children's home where they decorated the Christmas tree and baked cookies.



Holiday Celebrations

To celebrate India's Republic Day, the Young Influencers were invited to participate in a Rangoli Competition at the Indian High Commission.



Phagwah 2023



The Young Influencers were invited to join in the Ministry's celebration of Phagwah/Holi. We were treated to a cultural programme, delicious 7 curry and sweet meats. In addition, we had a fun time playing with powder.

International Observances & Social Media

World Social Work Day

Seeta Dalloo, a Young Influencer and a Social Worker shared her experience as a social worker. In addition, social workers play a crucial role in society. They assess complex situations and provide guidance and support to persons within communities to assist in the development of individuals and families.



International Women's Day Video

Young Influencers Terriann Wright, Nandita Singh, Allyiah Powers, Rishti Gopal, and T'Sehai Holder raised awareness as it relates to Women and Technology. These Influencers shared that with technological education amongst women, they will be able to lessen gender inequality and promote their innovations which will help to transform our society for a viable future.

World Teacher's Day

Jerry Collins, who currently works at the Blairmont Primary School shared his fond memories of working as a teacher. Additionally, teachers are superheroes who nurture students' emotional and social development whilst imparting knowledge.



World Day Against Child Labour

Young Influencers Tatiana Norton, Gavendra Gangadin, Corissa McClure, and Terriann Wright collaborated to bring awareness to Child Labour. In their social media post, they provided statistics that shared that approximately 160 million children fall victim to this issue. In addition, they explained how to detect Child Labour and the relevant authorities that need to be contacted whilst encouraging other youths to be an advocate against Child Labour.



Balancing Extracurricular Activities and Education

Young Influencer, Devina Singh shared tips that will help other young individuals to balance their school and extracurricular activities without it affecting the other. She also shared that different days should be designated to different activities so that your schedule will be organised whilst giving yourself time to not be flustered with all of the tasks you set out to achieve.

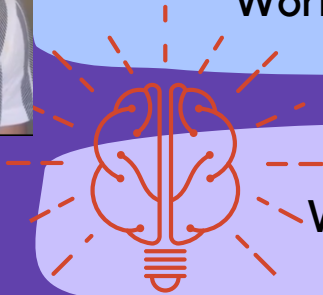
Other Social Media Campaigns



International Youth Day



World Suicide Prevention Day



World Mental Health Day



International Day of the Boy Child



International Men's Day



Words/Messages from YIs 2022-23

"Greatness is within all of us, we just need to let it shine through - one of the things I learned while being a young influencer." - Jerry Collins

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together" - Rishti Gopal

"We all have ability. The difference is how we use it." - Stevie Wonder
- Delisa Quintyn

"One love, One heart, One destiny" - Raquel Meenkum

"I was gifted a tremendous platform as a YI. Tap into it, be the change you want to see. Challenge and push yourself" - Nikhil Sankar

"Gratitude produces happiness, be grateful" - Allyiah Powers

"With discipline and consistency, you can achieve anything" - Nandray Bachan

"Don't allow others' perceptions of you, or even your perception of their perceptions, control how you live to become enslaved or entrenched in the ways of society" - Tatiana Norton

"Be the change you want to see in the world" - Mahatma Gandhi
- Seeta Dalloo

"Omnia vincit amor (love conquers all)" - Saaya Prasad

"My experience as a Young Influencer of 2022 was great. I've been engaged with fellow colleagues from region 1 to 10 doing various activities and projects to help our young generation to be better role models in society. It was really great. I had a lot of fun, heard a lot of jokes, played games, distributed stuff to children, learnt and interacted with new faces and lots more. I would recommend that you young people out there to be a part of the programme - learn how to communicate and interact with persons and show your true gifts. Show the younger ones an elderly that we have a place in tomorrow's world and something to teach and show" - Tyreese Archibald

Words/Messages from YIs 2022 - 23

"Here's to the future, where
our influence can help create
a world truly worth
remembering" - T'Sehai
Holder



"Overcoming your fears
and anxieties and putting
yourself out there is
definitely worth it" -
Nandita Singh

"It's always something" - Areeb Ali

"Live for today not tomorrow
because the future is now" -
Jared Tudor

"Don't just become the change
you want to see but always
believe in that change and
continuously aspire to improve
and inspire others." - Andrew
King

"You miss 100% of the chances you
don't take" - Corissa McClure

"I was able to connect with
other young leaders who share
similar values and interests as I
do" - Imran Bacchus

"In the face of adversities, you
must persevere with grace" -
Terriann Wright

The Young Influencer program
allowed me to develop so much of my
soft skills, showcase my talent and
made me to learn so much more about
societal ills - Dwright Ward

"Influence lies not in the loudness of
our voices, but in the resonance of our
ideas, for it is through the depth of our
thoughts and the power of our
convictions that we inspire meaningful
change" - Amrita Naraine

Ministry of Human Services & Social Security

Young Influencers

2022-2023 Cohort

