

# YEARBOOK 2023-24



# 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 OUR COORDINATOR

**Sachin Pooran**

**PROJECT OFFICER AND  
YOUNG INFLUENCER  
COORDINATOR - MHSSS**



**Dear Young Influencers,**

**It has been a delightful experience working with all of you, different personalities from all backgrounds.**

**This journey has definitely been a momentous one recorded in the history of this program and I am proud of each of your contributions and remain pleased with the work that has been done and the amount of youths this program has impacted.**

**The work does not stop here as I challenge you to continue being an ambassador of this ministry by making a positive impact in your various communities.**

**I will share with you a quote I have learnt from a great leader it says :  
"action thy duty & reward is not thy concern".**



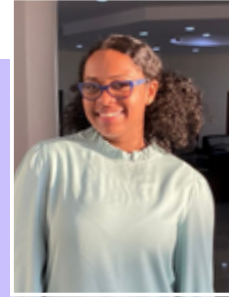
# 2023-2024 Cohort



**Angelita  
Chatergoon**  
Region 2



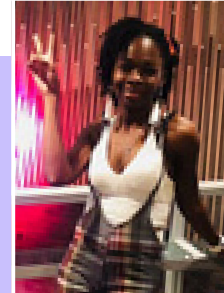
**Tabitha  
Alves**  
Region 2



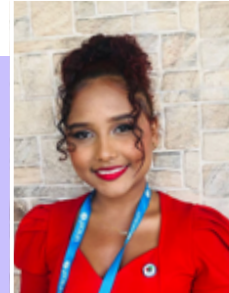
**Attiya  
Griffith**  
Region 3



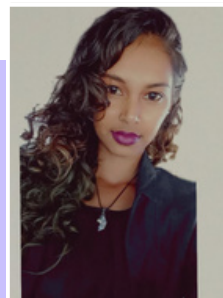
**Donlee  
Castello**  
Region 4



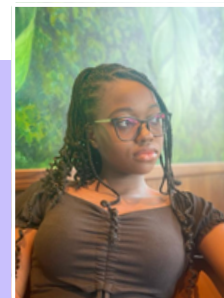
**Tryanna  
Anderson**  
Region 4



**Younica  
Sanchara**  
Region 4



**Chelisa  
Ramlochan**  
Region 5



**Crystal  
Charles**  
Region 6



**Daniel  
McAlmont**  
Region 6



# 2023-2024 Cohort



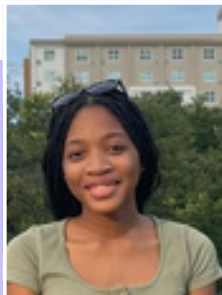
**Haresh  
Nandall**  
Region 4



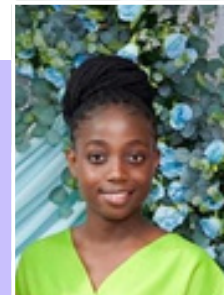
**Kimora  
Payne**  
Region 4



**Renika  
Anand**  
Region 4



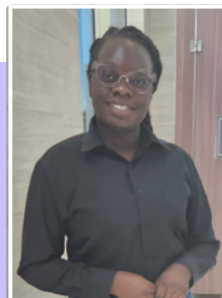
**Xaria  
Holder**  
Region 4



**Trafiona  
Peters**  
Region 4



**Stephanie  
Simon**  
Region 4



**Alicia  
Adams**  
Region 5



**Anuradha  
Gunpat**  
Region 6



**Delroy  
Marks**  
Region 6

# ✦ 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 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.

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





# National Activities

## Youth Parliament 2023

**Daniel McAlmond, Trafiona Peters, Yanacia Eastman and Younica Sanchara** were the Young Influencers who participated in the Senoir Category at the 8th. Annual Youth Parliament in August 2024. This National Platform allowed the young influencers to share their views and debate the on motions centered around the improvement of our country's policies and National development.

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.





# Beautification Project



The Young Influencers embarked on a Beautification Project at the Plum Park Children and Family Centre, promoting environmental stewardship through recycling tyres, planting flowers and trees, and fostering a fresh environment. They also led an impactful Anti-Bullying Campaign addressing bullying and body shaming. The day, filled with games, laughter, and camaraderie, was a collaborative effort that beautified the center and promoted kindness and inclusivity.





# Anti-Bullying Campaign



At the GCC Summer Camp, Young Influencer Delroy Marks led the Anti-Bullying Campaign by Batting Away Bullies, educating, inspiring, and spreading kindness!



The BackToSchoolDrive was a huge success, bringing smiles to the youngsters in Sophia. The day began with an Anti-Bullying Campaign presentation and interactive games. The children were grateful for their school supplies, and the event was made possible by the support and assistance of the Honorable Minister, Dr. Vindhya Persaud.





# Booths & Public Appearances



During the "Sip and Create" Awareness Event by the Counter Trafficking in Persons Unit of the Ministry of Human Services & Social Security, the Young Influencers showcased their playwright and acting talents. Renika Anand and Delroy Marks wrote a play about a mother and daughter escaping an abusive marriage only to be trapped by traffickers posing as job recruiters. They are eventually rescued through the C-TIP hotline and receive help through the FREE WIIN programme. Kudos to actors Delroy Marks, Chelisa Ramlochan, Michael Richmond, Christine Persaud, Crystal Charles, and poet, Kimora Payne.





# Booths & Public Appearances



The Young Influencers, in collaboration with the Family Enhancement Unit and Child Care & Protection Agency, held a forum on mental health, anti-bullying, and body shame, promoting dialogue and cooperation, updating the anti-bullying manual, and sharing experiences.





# Booths & Public Appearances

## Love Shouldn't Hurt Campaign

The Young Influencers conducted a sensitization campaign at Giftland Mall alongside Sexual Offences and Gender Based Violence Unit's Love Shouldn't Hurt Campaign. Interacting with attendees, engaging in educational activities, and fostering team cohesion.

In attendance were Haresh, Kimora, Stephanie, Younica, Xaria, and Chelisa



## Eat, Move & Feel Well Campaign

At the Guyana Football Federation Inc.'s Enhancing Community Wellness Nationwide Programme Launch, Young Influencers set up a booth to showcase our programme and the Ministry of Human Services & Social Security's work. Our girls and Youth Action Network - U.S. Embassy Guyana members participated in a football competition, embracing the "Eat, Move & Feel Well" theme.





# Community & School Outreaches



A group of young influencers recently organized an engaging event, visiting state homes to connect with youths and children. The interactive sessions focused on crucial topics like mental health and bullying. The influencers passionately spoke to the kids, sharing insights and fostering open conversations. To lighten the atmosphere, they also incorporated fun games, creating an inclusive and supportive environment for the young minds.

The Young Influencers hosted a session called "Unboxing your thoughts" an all girls interactive session focusing on social issues such as drug abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence and more.





# Diplomacy



## *Celebrating the noteworthy achievements of The Get Safe Online Ambassadors*

Our Young Influencers attended the Reception to Celebrate the Recent Noteworthy Achievements of the Get Safe Online Ambassadors in Guyana at the British High Commissioner's Residence. The evening was filled with Lo-fi music whilst attendees network as our cohort seized the opportunity to congratulate the awardees, exchanging ideas and also used it to strengthen our relationship with the British High Commissioner.



Three of our Young Influencers were invited to engage in an evening of farewells and enlightenment to honor the 2023-2024 batch of scholars and to promote sensitization about the Chevening Scholarship. Hosted by Her Excellency, Mrs. Jane Miller, British High Commissioner to Guyana.

# 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: Launching Event for prevention of violence against women and girls, Mentoring Session for Men and Boys, Mural Painting on the Seawall, community walk to end femicide etc.

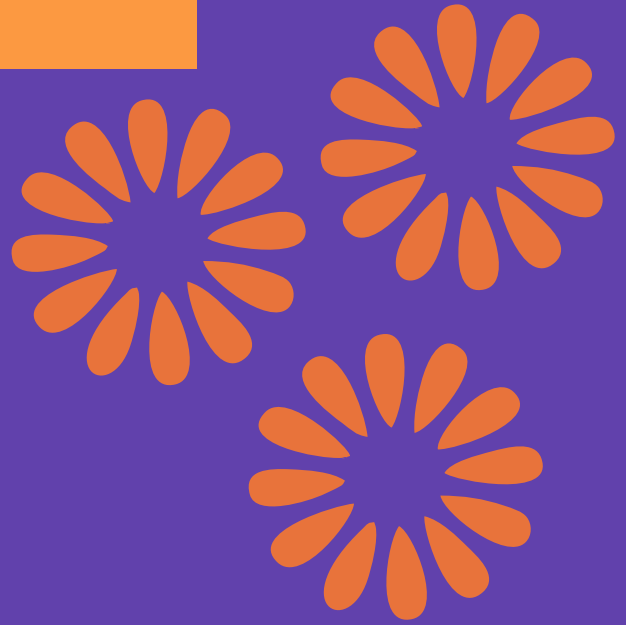




# 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence



The Community walk to end femicide



The community walk served to bring awareness around the issue of gender based violence and femicide. It entailed a walk which ended at the seawall bandstand.

# 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence



Launching Event for prevention of violence against women and girls

Mural Painting on the Seawall



Mentoring Session for Men and Boys

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 4

The WE LIFT 4 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 patrons 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 at the National Aquatic Centre 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 2023 had a dynamic and engaging presence at WE LIFT 4. Our booth prominently displayed our current projects, such as the Anti-Bullying Campaign (ABC) and our Go Green project. These initiatives highlight our commitment to fostering a safer, more sustainable community. The booth also featured a variety of fun games that attracted many visitors. All players were guaranteed a prize if they won, which made our booth a popular attraction throughout the event.

In addition to showcasing our projects and engaging the public with interactive games, we participated in the opening event, performing a powerful poem written by Young Influencer Renika Anand. Our performance set an inspiring tone for the entire event and highlighted the creative talents within our group.

The event was not only fun and exciting but also a great success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Young Influencers. We made a significant positive impact, raised awareness for important causes, and connected with many individuals who support our mission. Our efforts at

WE LIFT 4 demonstrated our commitment to making a difference and highlighted the vital role of youth in driving social change.





# Holiday Celebrations



Christmas 2024

MERRY CHRISTMAS



The Young Influencers gathered at the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security for a festive event called "Jingle and Mingle." During the event, they contributed their time and effort to wrap presents for the Ministry's "Wish Upon a Star" program. This initiative aims to bring joy and fulfil the wishes of those in need during the holiday season.





# Holiday Celebrations



**Easter 2024**



**HAPPY  
EASTER**



The Young Influencers held an Easter hat and basket competition for the state care children, promoting bullying prevention and fostering positive connections. Minister Vindhya Persaud attended, supporting the cause.



# Holiday Celebrations



Mashramani 2024



54th Republic Day:  
Celebrating our Peoples  
& Our Prosperity

# International Observances & Social Media

## *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 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.

## *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.

## *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.

## *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.



# International Observances

## United Nations 68th CSW

Younica Sanchara had the esteemed privilege to attend the 68th Commission on the Status of Women United Nations Conference in New York. Ms. Sanchara represented the young influencers and her country on the international stage as a youth delegate. Through this experience, she was able to highlight our country's commitment to involving youths in governmental processes. Younica used this opportunity to support the fight for gender equality, stating that "Women are agents of change, and with prioritized focus on their protection, rights, and empowerment, a just and equitable society is guaranteed."



Throughout the four days at the United Nations, Ms. Sanchara attended the opening session of the 68th Commission on the Status of Women, the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality. Followed by a panel discussion hosted by the European Union on the Group of Friends for the elimination of violence against women, A high-level ministerial round table discussion themed "mobilizing financing for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

As well as the United Nations Security Council's open debate on peacebuilding and sustainable peace under the theme "Promoting Conflict Prevention and Empowering Women and Youth."

Ms. Sanchara attended a UN side event: a conference on the crimes against humanity in Afghanistan with a gender lens.

Notably, Guyana's youth delegates,



# Words/Messages from YIs 2023-24

"In this life, never allow your wants to overpower your needs. So we must all take care of our needs and our wants will follow."  
~Stephanie Simon

"If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change."  
~Wayne Dyergh ~ Donlee Castello

"Let your faith be bigger than your fear." ~ Trafiona Peters

"If you don't fight for what you want , don't cry for what you lost" ~ BG ~ Anuradha Gunpat

Anais Nin ~ "Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage" ~ Crystal Charles

"Let us, by beginning to change, become bridges that stretch like a bright mind to a better future." ~ Renika Anand

"The most powerful leadership tool you have is your own personal example. Example is not the main thing in influencing other but it has twice the value as a good advice.. So set an example of your self so other may follow." ~ Alicia Adams

"Keep smiling it costs nothing." ~ Chelisa Ramlochan

"Young people are like seeds planted in the garden of tomorrow, bursting with potential and vigor. Our boundless energy and fresh perspectives breathe life into the world, igniting innovation and driving positive change. With each step we take, we pave the path towards a brighter future, where dreams flourish and possibilities abound. Our enthusiasm is contagious, inspiring others to join in the journey towards progress and prosperity. As the torchbearers of tomorrow, youths hold the key to unlocking the doors of opportunity and shaping the world they inherit. With our passion, determination, and resilience, we're the architects of a tomorrow filled with promise and hope." ~ Kimora Payne



# Words/Messages from YIs 2023 - 24

"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us."

~Wilma Rudolph ~ Angelita Chattergoon



Passion ignites the soul and purpose directs the flame, together they light the path to personal fulfilment, and there lies the secret of happiness. ~  
Younica Sanchara

"We can't heal the world today but we can begin with a voice of compassion, a heart of love, an act of kindness." ~  
Mary Davis ~ Xaria Holder

Young Influencers are crafting change, inspiring hearts, one empowered voice at a time. ~  
Daniel McAlmont

"Believe in the beauty of your dreams and the power of your potential. Embrace each day with courage and kindness. You can make a difference." ~ Tryanna Anderson

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with your first step." ~  
Tabitha Alves

"Life's an open book, embrace the risks on its pages today, not tomorrow. Let's use the wisdom gained this year to guide and inspire the next generation. Wishing my fellow young influencers the best as we close this chapter together." ~ Attiya Griffith

# Ministry of Human Services & Social Security

## Young Influencers

### 2023-2024 Cohort

