

Youth Advisory Group 2021 Metro





Hashwina Vimalarajan

Hashwina is a proud Tamil Woman and migrant to Australia. Hashwina completed a Bachelors of Environmental Science and currently works as a consultant. She is also a CMY Shout Out speaker and a Create Change Fellow at Democracy in Colour. Hashwina uses her lived experiences with discrimination and social injustice, to advocate for women's rights and refugee and migrant's rights in her roles. She is passionate about her advocacy work, is a cultural critic and public speaker and has worked in environmental and social justice roles with organisations such as Oxfam, The Earthwatch Institute and The Environment Institute of Australia.

Nickila De Silva

Nickila is currently studying International Studies, majoring in Anthropology. Having grown up with a Sri Lankan and Malaysian background, Nickila has experienced first-hand some of the challenges young people from migrant backgrounds face today. Nickila says that pushing away one's culture to fit into school or work environments stems from underrepresentation, which is one of the key issues young migrants face today. She hopes that through the YAG, she is able to address this, as well as the mental health of young people, cultural stigmas, family violence, racism & discrimination, gender roles and the treatment of women. Nickila hopes to be able to tackle these prominent issues faced by multicultural youth today and make a positive impact.



Batoor Bakhtani

Batoor is a Bachelor of Commerce student at the University of Melbourne, who migrated to Australia from Afghanistan in 2010. He is currently the treasurer with the Victorian Afghan Student's Association, where he has hosted a series of online mental health workshops for multicultural youth. He hopes that through the YAG he is able to address cultural factors that prohibit young people from seeking mental health advice. Batoor also values the importance of youth empowerment and is a passionate advocate for these issues alongside the promotion of education. When Batoor isn't reading about investment opportunities for university and working towards positive mental health, he plays the 'Tabla', an Indian classical instrument.



Anirudh Nair

Anirudh moved to Australia from Dubai when he was 5 years old, and is currently working full-time as an Accountant, having completed his Bachelor's Degree at university. He states that one of the biggest issues young migrant youth currently face is their safety in Australia. Although there are anti-discrimination awareness campaigns and protection services available, a majority of migrant youth are still subject to racial prejudice and vilification. Anirudh is extremely passionate about making Australia and Melbourne more inclusive and is eager to ensure that people from any gender, race or culture feel at home. He believes that education at schools and workplaces is a good place to start.

Anna Louey

Anna is a Brunswick resident, currently working full-time at Moreland Council. She completed her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne and has also studied at The University of California. When Anna isn't acting on stage, she finds ways to make her community a better, more progressive, and more inclusive place.

Having been born in Australia with parents who migrated from China, Anna advocates for the need to dismantle racism, discrimination, and inequality. She believes that social change on a systemic scale is pressingly needed, and that we can start that journey by providing multicultural young people with a voice and accurate representation.



Prathiksha Ashok Raj Kumar

Prathiksha is a Year 11 student at a selective school in Victoria. She joined the YAG to represent the experiences of multicultural youth in schools and other environments. An issue she is passionate to address through the YAG is the lack of education and programs that aim to thoroughly educate young people about racial discrimination issues. Prathiksha also hopes to uplift voices of multicultural young people in schools and advocate for support for them.

In her spare time, Prathiksha is passionate about philosophy and enjoys getting involved with hobbies including volleyball and debating.



Saanjana Kapoor

Saanjana is a proud intersectional feminist passionate about gender equality and advocating for issues faced by migrant and refugee communities. She is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts at The University of Melbourne, majoring in Politics and International Studies.

Saanjana is a 2021 One Girl Ambassador and a delegate at this year's WE Lead forum. Her writing has been published in Voiceworks, Underground Writers and Cordite Poetry Review and she is also currently a sub-editor for Farrago Magazine.

Georges Du Royaux

Georges is a Law and Arts student at Deakin University. He joined CMY's YAG as he was passionate to provide value to young people of multicultural backgrounds in areas usually not highly prioritised. As someone passionate about multicultural inclusion in elite sports, Georges has been working with various youth soccer clubs on the inclusion and development of pathways, to include more diverse young players.

He is a firm believer in cultivating and nurturing young people in areas outside of the conventional pathways and believes young people, especially those of multicultural backgrounds, should be given opportunities to follow their passions so that they are able to succeed and better contribute to society.



Shailja Sharma

Shailja is an Australian of Fiji-Indian descent, who is passionate about community development and empowering multicultural youth. Currently completing her Masters in International Relations, Shailja hopes to work in trade relations and human rights.

Shailja has interned at Plan International Australia and the Victorian State Parliament, and is passionate about queer issues, access to education, and empowering young leaders. In particular, Shailja has focused on gender equality in terms of barriers to education and political representation. She has also competed in Model United Nations internationally, winning awards in New York and in Sydney.



YAG members at the Orientation Retreat

CMY's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) provides an opportunity for young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds to have input into CMY's work, including program development and speaking on issues that should be at the forefront.

Views and ideas expressed by YAG members have been instrumental in the decision-making processes of CMY management and the Board.

If you would like to arrange a consultation with members of our Youth Advisory Group, please contact the Youth Leadership team on youthleadership@cmynet.au or call (03) 9340 3700.

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