

READY TO ASCEND



# - Liberian Women READY TO ASCEND

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# PREFACE

The Elections and Democracy Activity (EDA), implemented by Democracy International with support from the United States Agency for International Development is a five-year program to support elected representatives to govern in the interests of citizens. This requires that those representatives reflect the nation's rich diversity. However there still are not enough women in political decision-making in Liberia.

Study after study shows that when more women are in political decision-making positions, it is better for all society, not just for women and girls.

Women leaders tend to prioritize policies that benefit the most vulnerable and issues that are top priorities for Liberians, such as healthcare, education, and economic development.

When more women are in office, action against corruption and a focus on public service delivery are also more pronounced.

Those countries where more women hold power are less likely to engage in war and less likely to perpetrate human rights violations.

Global research shows that, on average, women politicians work harder for their constituents, leading to a greater sense of connection with them by their constituents.

However, there are barriers in Liberia–just like the rest of the world–against women holding political office. Challenges related to money, violence, and social norms keep women from being in office at the same rate as men.

That is why EDA compiled this book of women who are *Ready to Ascend*. We call on decisionmakers to nominate or appoint women to leadership, so more Liberians can benefit from women's leadership. We call on those making appointments to actively consider women, including those in this book.

Many people helped give this book life. From 2021-2024, EDA conducted programs to find and support these women. Key partners included EDA's Women's Leadership grantees, Her Voice Liberia, Institute for Research and Democratic Development, and Women's Empowerment for Self-Employment; their consortium members - African Platform for Governance and Human Rights, Self-Help Initiative for Sustainable Development, Sister Aid Liberia, and the Women's NGO Secretariat of Liberia; and their 32 women-led, communitybased counterparts in every county. EDA consultants and staff conducted interviews, crafted profiles, captured photos, and designed the book.

The last word goes to the women who say "yes" to leadership. This act of service takes courage and commitment. We salute you. We admire you. We continue to support you.

Stephanie Lynn, Chief of Party Elections and Democracy Activity, June 2024





# Agnes F. Kortimai

Representative Candidate District 5, Lofa County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Women's Empowerment, Advocacy, Community Development, Leadership

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2014: Respond to Ebola Outbreak –Mercy Crop
- 2009: Advocate for women's right and supporting a female chief in Palama, Slaye District
- 2008 -2016: Support 200 women with micro loan
- Advocated for support from the women of Zorzor in the Netherlands for Zorzor District Women Care (ZODWOCA), securing over \$850,000 USD through UNDP

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2012 2018: County Coordinator National AIDS Commission
- 2010: Board Member National Human Rights Commission
- 2009: Board Member National Civil Society Council of Liberia
- 2008: Board Member WONGOSOL

#### Quote

66

A gender-balanced society promotes development; we need to respect human rights and dignity of all.

# Profile

Place of Birth: Voinjama, Lofa County Date of Birth: December 25, 1959

Agnes F. Kortimai is a dedicated advocate for women's rights and community development. She has committed her life to fostering positive changes in her community and beyond. Through her professional journey, she has equipped herself with the skills and knowledge needed to address pressing issues, particularly in HIV/AIDS, women's empowerment, and advocacy for marginalized groups. Her vision for Liberia is one of equality for women to have equal opportunities. Her goals for the community include empowering women and promoting male involvement in women's leadership processes. Agnes envisions running for the position of representative for District 5, Lofa County, where she can champion women's agenda and advocate for their rights at the legislative level.

# Education

- 2006 Certificate in HIV/AIDS Training USA-UN Assembly
- 2004 2005 Certificate in Advancement of Advocacy for the Rights of Women – First UNDP
- 2000 University of Liberia BBA Accounting/Management
- 1983 People's College, Monrovia High School





# Alwilso T. Brown

Representative Candidate District 9, Montserrado County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Manager, Entrepreneur, Medical Laboratory Operator, Administration on, Leadership, Bilingual, Humanitarian, Community Development

### Profile

Place of Birth: District 2, Margibi County Date of Birth: July 5, 1972

Alwilso T. Brown, a widow, hails from a family of strong bonds, with five sisters and two brothers. Alwilso has made substantial contributions to her community, including her role as CEO/Founder of Permanent Construction, her work as a humanitarian, and her dedication to employing youth in various skilled roles.

Her impact resonates in her effective personnel management and her commitment to community service. Alwilso envisions participating and winning in the 2029 elections for the Representative position in her district. Her future aspirations include leadership roles such as Deputy Minister, Assistant Director, or Minister in ministries or agencies, as well as the position of Superintendent.

### Education

- 2020: Medical Laboratory Science, Mother Patern College of Health Sciences
- 2011: Management and Managerial Accounting, Arthur Barclay Business College, Stella Maris Polytechnic University
- 1989-1990: Secretarial Studies/Bilingual, Don Bosco Polytechnic College, 1989-1990

# **Notable Achievements**

- 2023: Representative Candidate, District 9, Montserrado county
- 2005-2010: CEO/Founder Permanent Construction, Accountant, Administrative Head

### **Leadership Roles**

• 2005-2012: Executive Director for Permanent Construction

### Quote

A successful leader should be able to positively motivate others for the betterment of society.





#### Representative Candidate District 1, Grand Gedeh County, Liberia

### **Expertise / Passion**

Child Protection, Advocacy, Financial Management, Leadership Development

Amelia Polodee Beh

### **Notable Achievements**

• 2014: Respond to Ebola Outbreak – Mercy Corps

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2021: Financial Secretary for Tchien Section, Grand Gedeh - Ensured proper Management and Accountability of funds
- 2013-2016: County Vice Chair Baptist Women, Baptist Church in Grand Gedeh
- 2011: Advocate- Child rights Save the Children
- 2007-2008: Lead advocate- leading a protest to increase the volunteer repatriation package for refugee women in Ghana

### Quote

66

We need more women in leadership to make decisions about their concerns in

### Profile

Place of Birth: Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County Date of Birth: December 28, 1966

Amelia Polodee Beh has dedicated her life to advocating for vulnerable groups and community development. With a diverse educational background and extensive professional experience, including roles with organizations like Save the Children and the International Rescue Committee, Amelia has honed her skills in child protection, advocacy, and financial management. Her notable achievements include advocating for Liberian refugee women in Ghana and promoting child protection rights.

Amelia's vision for Liberia is one of inclusivity, where women have greater representation in leadership to address societal challenges. Amelia aims to contest in Grand Gedeh County District 1 to promote sensitization campaigns on WASH, leadership, and economic freedom.

# **Education**

- 2013: Certificate in Tracing and Placing Unaccompanied/Separated Children in Foster Homes - Save the Children in Jordan/Liberia
- 1997-1998: Training of Trainers in Business -International Rescue Committee
- 1994-1995: Certificate in Classroom Teaching - HADRA/Cote D'Ivoire
- 1986: High School Certificate Mike Tuleh Wilson High School, Grand Gedeh





# Amirna Layanue Waymah

Representative Candidate District 4, Nimba County, Liberia

### **Expertise / Passion**

Logistics & Warehouse Operations, Catering and General Management, Philanthropy and Community Empowerment Management

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2022: Donated school supplies and uniforms to 6 schools in District 4, benefiting approximately 2000 students
- 2021-2022: Empowered 5 women's groups with loans and grants to establish Businesses
- 2012: Special Mother of the Year

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2024: Nimba Women of Peace Liaison Officer - Ministry of Gender and County
- 2020-present: Supervisor United Congress Driver Union of Liberia, empowering 400 Drivers through customer service, safety, and etiquette trainings

#### Quote

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Our community thrives when we empower each other, especially our women, to take on leadership roles and drive positive change.

### Profile

Place of Birth: Clara Town, Montserrado County Date of Birth: September 22, 1983

Despite facing societal pressure against women in leadership, Amirna persisted, driven by the desire instilled in her by her father, a former District Education Officer. Amirna Layanue Waymah's journey reflects resilience and determination in the face of adversity. From her roots in Clara Town, Montserrado, to becoming a pillar of leadership in Nimba County, Amirna has navigated challenges with grace and purpose. Her educational journey, including a BSc in Accounting/Public Administration, coupled with professional experiences in logistics, warehouse management, and catering, has equipped her with a diverse skill set.

# **Education**

- 2016: Logistics and Warehouse Management - WFP
- 2014: BSc in Accounting/Public Administration - AME Zion University
- 2013: Certificate in Security Training Faith Intercessory Prayer Ministry Incorporated
- 2009-2010: Basic Course Certificate World of Faith Bible Institute
- 2006: High School Diploma Mother Bishop Marwieh Institute





Place of Birth: Montserrado County, Liberia Date of Birth: September 8, 1976

Angeline K. Togba, a native of Harper City, Maryland County, was born on September 8, 1976. She resides in Montserrado, District 13, happily married with one child. Angeline, the first of six siblings, lost her parents, who were originally from Maryland.

Angeline's professional journey is a testament to her drive and adaptability. She began her career as a Registrar at Cedar Clinic in 1994 and has since held various roles, each contributing to her diverse skill set. Currently, she serves as a Secretary at the National Port Authority, a position she has held since 2023. Her career highlights include impactful roles in security, shipping, forestry, telecommunications, and consultancy. Angeline's ultimate goal is to empower Liberia's youth, advocating for greater opportunities through active participation in leadership.

### Education

- 2021: BSc in Business Administration -African Methodist Episcopal University.
- 2011: Certificate in Leadership Ability.
- 1999: Certificate Computer Science Computer Net Association.
- 1994: Diploma Secretariat Science ST Mountains Commercial Institute.
- 1989: Diploma Cape Palmas High School.

# **Angeline Togba**

Representative Candidate District 13, Montserrado County, Liberia

### **Expertise/**Passion

Women's Empowerment, Microfinance, Vocational Training

### **Notable Achievements**

• 2014: Women's Leadership Award -Crusader for Peace

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2023-Present: Established Angeline Togba Vocational School - Trained 150 students in electrical work, soap making, cosmetology, event planning, and pastry (free school).
- 2012-2014: 5/20 Program, Coca Cola Factory Liberia.
- 2010- Present: Founder & Executive Director
  Potential and United Women of Liberia.
- 2010-Present: Independently distribute Christmas packages to community dwellers.
- 2010-Present: Contributed to the employment of 100 youth in the community.

### Quote

Regardless of who you are,
 Liberia is for everyone, and
 we need to work toward
 making it the best it can be.





Place of Birth: Gbatala, Bong County Date of Birth: October 16, 1961

Annie is a proud native of Gbatala, Bong County, hailing from a supportive family. She is a mother of two and deeply committed to the welfare of her community.

Annie Reeves embodies resilience and leadership, rooted in her upbringing in Gbatala, Bong County. Her educational journey from David Fejue Elementary School to Gboveh High School, coupled with a diploma in plumbing from LOIC, laid the foundation for her diverse career. From serving as a plumber at the US Embassy to becoming a respected District Commissioner, Annie's professional trajectory reflects her unwavering dedication to public service.

Annie's vision for Liberia is one of progress, with increased opportunities for education, employment, and female political participation. Annie aims to recontest for the District 5 seat to expand her advocacy efforts and further empower her community to improve the educational sector of her district and country.

### Education

- 1986: LOIC Diploma in Plumbing
- 1982: Gboveh High School Diploma
- 1971: David Fejue Elementary School, Gbatala

# **Annie Reeves**

Representative Candidate District 5, Bong County, Liberia

### **Expertise / Passion**

Plumbing, Leadership, Community Advocacy, Education

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2012-2023: District Commissioner -District 5, Bong County
- 2005-2012: Chairlady Unity Party

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2012-2023: District Commissioner: District
  5, Bong County, Spearheaded infrastructure development, advocated for gender empowerment, and facilitated financial aid for local businesses.
- 2005-2012: Chairlady of the Unity Party: Led successful campaigns, contributing to Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's historic victory as Liberia's first female President.

#### Quote



Women need to know that they are as capable as men in leadership and must support each other.





Place of Birth: District 2, Maryland County Date of Birth: January 19, 1972

Antoinette Worwelee Nimely, a proud native from Pinicess and Grand Cess, born to Anthony B Nimely and Beatrice M. Bedell. In her pursuits, Antoinette has set ambitious goals, aiming to empower more women for leadership roles by 2029. Alongside this, she aspires to run for public office, actively leveraging media platforms to advocate for women's leadership and good governance. Antoinett's commitment to education is evident through the awarding of university scholarships to 20 students at Tubman University. She has made a significant impact by empowering over 500 farmers, providing them with cocoa seeds to boost production and income. She contributed to the advancement of two schools in Grand Kru: Garraway Central High School and Stanford Dennis High School received essential equipment.

### **Education**

 BSc in Management - University of Liberia

### **Antoinette Worwelee Nimely**

Representative Candidate District 1, Grand Kru County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Women's Empowerment, Leadership, Governance, Agriculture, Education

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2013-2014: Trained by UNDP (TOT) Trained 15 focal persons and 219 civic educators
- 1998-2007: Second/First Secretary Liberian Foreign Service, Embassy of Liberia-Pretoria, South Africa
- 2008: Recognition of hard work during the Liberia Women's Colloquium

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2022: Head Trainer Trained women in Village Savings & Loans in five communities in Grand Kru, leading a team that trained over 150 women in savings, financial management, and access to finance.
- 2013-2015: Facilitator Constitutional Workshops: Trained over 1000 people in Bong County on the national constitutional conference at the Constitutional review.

#### Quote

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I envision a Liberia as a safe place where any child from around the world can visit and grow freely.



Place of Birth: District 17, Montserrado County Date of Birth: November 2, 1982

Atty. Welmon Blaye Sampson, a distinguished individual hailing from a humble background, is a seasoned professional with a remarkable journey in Law. Welmon's dedication and leadership have left an indelible mark on her community. Welmon's journey is marked by triumphs over challenges, including completing her education after her father's demise and achieving two bachelor's degrees within a decade. She surrounds herself with positivity and is driven by a vision for a Liberia where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential. As Welmon aspires to become a public servant, her goals for community development include human capacity building, healthcare, infrastructure, and sanitation. Her story is a testament to resilience, determination, and a relentless pursuit of a better Liberia for all.

### **Education**

- 2013: LLB Degree- Louise Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia
- 2006: BBA Degree in Accounting, African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU)
- 2005: IFC Certificate in Insurance and Risk Management, West African Insurance Institute, Banjul, the Gambia



# Atty. Welma Blayee Sampson

Representative Candidate District 17, Montserrado County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Law, Insurance, Leadership, Human Resources, Community Development

# **Notable Achievements**

- Established the first female-owned Insurance Broker Firm in Liberia at the age of 29.
- Became the first female Head of the Legal Department at Global Bank Liberia Limited.

# Leadership Roles

- 2018-2023: Assistant Minister for Labour Standards, Ministry of Labour
- 2014-2018: Attorney-at-Law, Yonah, Obey & Associates Law Office
- 2013-2015: Company Secretary, Global Bank Liberia Limited
- 2011-2013: President/Chief Executive Officer, Reliance Insurance Broker Liberia Limited
- 2009-2011: Legal Assistant, Yonah, Obey & Associates Law Office
- 2007-2009: Senior Underwriter, Sky International Insurance Corporation

### Quote

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Knowledge is key, always surround yourself with individuals who can help you grow in your sector.





Place of Birth: Maryland County, Pleebo Sodoken District Date of Birth: June 20, 1970

Bessie Worlo Nathan experienced the turmoil of the civil war, seeking refuge in Cote d'Ivoire with her family. Despite facing hardships, including halting her education at the 11th grade to support her family financially, Bessie remains deeply rooted in her Christian faith and believes in entrusting Liberia's future to God.

Bessie has consistently advocated for women's empowerment and community development. With a background in financial management and extensive experience in various leadership roles, including as a loan officer and dispatcher, she has demonstrated her commitment to serving others. Bessie's vision for Liberia is deeply rooted in her belief in the importance of women's representation and the restoration of the country's Christian values. Bessie aims to contest the next national election for the Seat of Representative in Pleebo, Solican District #2 in Maryland County to empower more women through business and leadership training. She advocates for keeping schools open during examinations like WASSCE to ensure students can continue attending classes.

# Education

- 2010-2012: St. Steven High School
- 1989: Zwedru Multilateral High School

# **Bessie Worlo Nathan**

Representative Candidate District 2, Maryland County, Liberia

# **Expertise/Passion**

Leadership, Community Empowerment, Financial Management

# **Notable Achievements**

- 2013: Recognized as a role model for the Transport Union by Bethel World Ministry.
- 2012: Received the National Rural Women Village Savings and Loans Award for service.
- 2007: Awarded as Special Mother for community service by Jasper Grand United Methodist Women in Pleebo

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2022: Addition of three classes at the Pleebo Community Women Day Care School and support for over 10 women in startup businesses as Board Chair of the Pleebo Day Care Center.
- 2020-Present: President of the Pleebo Women, providing counseling and empowering women through loans and business startups.
- 2020: Construction of the Women's Center in Pleebo during her tenure as President of Pleebo Women.
- 2006-Present: President of Rural Women in Maryland County, empowering over 500 women through Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA) and advocating for Women's rights.

#### Quote

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I see a Liberia where women play significant roles in the highest decision-making bodies, advocating for equality and representation in leadership.





Place of Birth: Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County Date of Birth: May 14, 1957

Betty Breeze Doh's life journey embodies resilience and determination. Adopted by the Breeze family, she embraced the value of education and overcame numerous obstacles to pursue success. She excelled academically, establishing herself as a leader in various fields. Betty's career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and her role as National Assistant to the Panel of Experts at the United Nations underscore her commitment to public service. Notable achievements, including being recognized as an Outstanding Woman of Liberia in 2019 and founding several women-focused organizations, highlight her dedication to women's empowerment and community development. Betty's vision for Liberia is one of progress, with a focus on education and empowerment for all. Betty aims to become a lawmaker to advocate for women's rights and envisions a Liberia with increased access to education and empowerment for all.

### Education

- 2003-2004: Gabriel L. Dennis Foreign Service Institute - Diplomacy
- 1994: National Institute of Public Administration, Lahore, Pakistan - Certificate Public Admin
- 1990: UNOPS Eastern and Southern Management Institute, Kenya
- 1985-1990: University of Liberia BSc. Mngt

# **Betty Breeze Doh**

Representative Candidate District 3, Grand Gedeh County, Liberia

### **Expertise/Passion**

Diplomacy, Leadership, Women's Empowerment, Financial Management

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2019: Outstanding Woman of Liberia
- 1993: Founding Member National Women's Commission of Liberia

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2017-2023: Development Superintendent: Played a key role in local development initiatives.
- 2012-2017: Founder/Executive Director -WOCDES: Continued community development efforts.
- 2011-present: Founder and Proprietress -Doh School of Academic Excellence.
- 2010-2011: City Mayor of Zwedru -Successfully addressed community hazards and improved workers' compensation.
- 2007-2009: Executive Director Women and Children Development Secretariat (WOCDES)

### Quote

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Empowering women is not just a goal; it's a necessity for progress.





Place of Birth: Monrovia, Montserrado County Date of Birth: October 8, 1980

Christine Juah Settro Dennis epitomizes resilience and entrepreneurship. Faced with limited job opportunities post-graduation, she ventured into business, successfully running the Big Treat Restaurant and employing over 50 young Liberians. Christine's commitment to education is evident through scholarships to over 30 Liberians. Her philanthropic efforts extend to community development, including road rehabilitation and clinic support. As the CEO of Big Treat Restaurant, Christine achieves business success and uplifts her community through empowerment initiatives. Christine aims to recontest the Representative seat of District 5, Grand Bassa County. She plans to lobby for constructing a health clinic to reduce infant mortality rates and revitalize the school system, ensuring teachers receive necessary incentives.

### **Education**

- 2007: AME Zion College BA in Sociology and Public Administration
- 2009: Glomasach Certificate in Entrepreneurship (10000 Women Program)
- 2009-2010: Interior Decoration and Catering Algow, Ghana
- 2016: Business Management Course -Brumskine Scholar, South Africa

# **Christine J. S. Dennis**

Representative Candidate District 5, Grand Bassa County, Liberia

### Expertise

Entrepreneurship, Business Management, Interior Decoration, Catering

# **Notable Achievements**

• 2022: Rehabilitated a 25km road in Grand Bassa County and supported medical facilities.

### Leadership Roles

- 2022-present: SPPRC, Provided service to two pastors and associates.
- 2016-present: Founder, ANIBO (We are with you) women's group
  - Supported one woman to become a female Paramount Chief in District 5, Grand Bassa county
  - Promoted reading by donating books to 3 schools
  - Provided scholarships for over 30 Liberians in 2011 (high school and University)
- 2008-Present: Founder, Big Treat Restaurant, employed over 50 young Liberians.

### Quote

66

Empowering women is not just a goal; it's a necessity for progress.





Place of Birth: Bong County, Liberia Date of Birth: September 6, 1973

Ciatta is the daughter of Grayce Turser and Charles Bambara. As a widow, she stands strong with four children, two adopted children, and five grandchildren. Ciatta aspires to to be a key player in Liberia's improvement within the next 12 years, focusing on enhancing the education system, healthcare sector, building better schools, and supporting the medical profession; she is also concerned about security.

Ciatta envisions a Liberia where education and healthcare thrive, characterized by advanced schools, well-equipped medical facilities, and a secure environment.

### **Education**

- 2013: Diploma in Leadership Program UNMAIL
- 2011: Diploma in Surveillance National Security Agency
- 2008: Diploma in Police Science Liberian National Police Institute
- 2007: Diploma in General Police Science -Liberia National Police
- 1998: Diploma in Nursing Volunteer First Aid
- 1989: Diploma Monrovia Central High



# **Ciatta Tryphina Bambara**

Representative Candidate District 8, Montserrado County, Liberia

### **Expertise/**Passion

Youth Development, Advocacy, Health, Education, Security

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2023: Founder/CEO STAR Base Established a vocational school, graduating about 200 youths
- 2007-2009 Founding member Citizen Bureau for Development and Productivity
- 1987-present- Provided shelter and security for homeless and displaced community dwellers

### Leadership Roles

- 2023: Representative Candidate Mont District 8
- 2017: Representative Candidate Mont District 8
- 2018: Warrior Art Contributed to building and donated land for the construction of a school for the youth
- 2007-Present: Base Hotel Liberia National Police
- 2007-2009: Class 32/33 & 34 Liberian National Police Recruitment of female police officers
- 2004-2005: Nurse Aid Merlin
- 1995-1996: Marketing Manager Simplicity
- 1991-1993: Chairlady for 0604 Crown Hill Community

#### Quote



Building a better Liberia requires a foundation of education, healthcare, and security. Together, we can lay the groundwork for a brighter future.



Place of Birth: District 13, Montserrado County Date of Birth: August 4, 1982

Amb. Daintowon Doman Pay-Bayee, a prominent advocate and human rights defender hailing from Nimba County, Liberia, has dedicated her career to championing the rights and inclusion of marginalized communities, particularly focusing on youth and Persons with Disabilities. Amb. Pay-Bayee's journey is marked by triumphs, notably her instrumental role in the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and her recognition by President George Manneh Weah, receiving the Order of Humane Order of African Redemption. Facing challenges in economic independence, she demonstrated resilience by leveraging her recent capacities and seeking further opportunities. Amb. Pay-Bayee's future aspirations involve vying for political office in the House of Representatives, and promoting an inclusive and barrier-free Liberia grounded in unity and love for the country.

# **Education**

- 2017: Get Ready to Lead, National Democratic Institute
- 2016: Young Political Leadership School (Africa), NAYMOTE
- 2011: Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Accounting, Management Minor with emphasis in Project Management, University of Liberia



# Amb. Daintowon D. Pay-Bayee

Representative Candidate District 13, Montserrado County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Politician, Advocate, Feminist, Activist, Human rights defender, Accountant, Administrator

# **Notable Achievements**

- 2004: Certificate of Achievement by the Human Rights & Peace Building Resource Center, (FIND)
- 2009: Certificate of Honor by the Moremi Initiative for Women Leadership in Africa

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2023-Present: Board Member of NUOD
- 2021-Present: Chairperson/Executive Director of National Commission on Disability
- 2021: Developed the National Strategic Disability Roadmap and reviewed the National Action Plan at NCD
- 2012-2018: Deputy Secretary-General for Administration, FLY. (two terms)
- 2017: International Visitor Leadership Program, US Department of State, USA
- 2016-2017: Instrumental in the review of the National Youth Policy and the National Youth Manifesto – Federation of Liberian Youth.
- 2012: Country Coordinator/Consultant (African Youth With Disability Network) Liberia Chapter.
- 2008: Country Coordinator- Lead in the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)-Young Voices International-Liberia

### Quote



I see an inclusive and barrier-free Liberia, where every citizen participates equitably in all spheres of life.





Place of Birth: Bokomu District, Gbarpolu Date of Birth: March 5, 1966

Debbie M. Gokpolu is a dedicated healthcare professional and community leader. Her journey began as a nurse at Boma Hospital, Foya, in 2010, where she served with distinction. She later volunteered with MSF and founded Sis D's Medical Clinic in 2014, providing essential healthcare services to her community. Debbie is also deeply involved in women's empowerment, founding the Yalafamu Women Group to empower 208 women in farming and skill training. Her leadership extends to the religious sphere, where she serves as the President of the Ladies' Auxiliary at the United Pentecostal Church, managing construction projects and steering auxiliary affairs. Debbie's contributions include the construction of two clinics and supporting numerous students to pursue higher education.

Debbie aims to rerun as Representative of District 2, Gbarpolu County, advocating for improved healthcare and access to basic social services for the people. She envisions empowered and financially stable women in the community, a developed Liberia with increased women's empowerment.

### Education

- Ongoing: BSc Candidate at Smarthe Institute of Management
- 2008: Smarthe Institute of Management AA Degree
- 1993: Children Assistant Program Certificate
- 1992: Monrovia Free Pentecostal High School Diploma

# Debbie M. Gokpolu

Representative Candidate District 2, Gbarpolu County, Liberia

### **Expertise / Passion**

Nursing, Community Healthcare, Leadership, Women's Empowerment

### **Notable Achievements**

• 2018: Honor for promoting health in the district by Traditional Mid-Wives Group

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2018: President of Ladies' Auxiliary at the United Pentecostal Church, managing 2 church construction projects and steering auxiliary affairs in Montserrado and Gbarpolu
- 2014-Present: Founder and Executive Director of Yalafamu Women's Group, empowering 208 women in farming and skills training.
  - 2008: Supported 8 students to acquire college degrees and 12 students their high school diplomas from the district.
  - 2003: Constructed a 12-bedroom clinic in Gokomu, Gbarnga Gborketa District 2, providing affordable healthcare.
  - 2003: Constructed another 7-bedroom clinic to expand outreach and healthcare access.

### Quote



Improving healthcare and providing basic social services are the cornerstones of building a stronger community.





# **Evangeline Israel King**

Representative Candidate District 10, Montserrado County, Liberia

#### **Expertise/**Passion

Youth Empowerment, Community Development, Leadership

### Profile

Place of Birth: Montserrado County, Liberia Date of Birth: September 29, 1980

As a single parent, Evangeline faced the devastating loss of her only daughter at 16. Motivated by this tragedy, she established her organization to fight against drugs, targeting marginalized communities, and transforming the lives of young people. The organization also extended support to people with disabilities and the elderly, providing basic needs.

Evangeline is currently taking care of three kids from parents in marginalized communities, symbolizing triumph over adversity. Reflecting on challenges and triumphs has shaped Evangeline's perspectives, emphasizing resilience, community support, and the power of transformation.

Evangeline aims to build a rehabilitation center for disadvantaged youth on a 22-acre property in Weala. She envisions a Liberia where every young person has a positive mindset, discovers their calling, and contributes to society.

### Education

- 2018: Columbus Plan Drug Advisory Program
  TOT Universal Treatment Curriculum (6,7 & 8)
- 2012: BSC in Public Administration, University of Liberia
- 2010: Certificate in Human Resource Management,Inwent Capacity Building Int. Germany

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2023: Certificate, Gender Champion of Liberia, US Embassy
- 2015-present: Executive Director, Kimberlin Youth for Jesus Christ Foundation

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2020: Ministry of Youth & Sports, Working with the Drug-Addicted
- 2006-2009: Executive Secretary, Monrovia City Corporation
- 2019: Youth Leader, Ministry of Youth & Sports
- 2015: Youth Leader, Winner Chapel Congo Town
- 2014: Youth Leader, St. Edward Catholic School

#### Quote



Empowering the youth is not just a task; it's a calling. Together, we can shape a future where every young person thrives.





# Florence B. S. Nepay

Representative Candidate District 4, Margibi County, Liberia

#### **Expertise/** Passion

Education, Human Resource Management, Community Leadership, School Administration

#### Profile

Place of Birth: Kakata, Margibi County Date of Birth: January 2, 1974

Florence B. S. Nepay is a dedicated educator and community leader from Kakata, Margibi County. Beginning her career as a registrar at Sah Phillip Joe Elementary Junior High School in Weala, she swiftly ascended through various roles, including Vice Principal and Principal. In 2011, Florence founded Agape International High School, demonstrating her commitment to providing quality education. Her vision for the future includes running for the Representative seat of District 4, Margibi County, to improve education and infrastructure, particularly advocating for women's economic empowerment and addressing drug-related issues through rehabilitation centers. Florence envisions a Liberia free from drugs and plans to work with the government to construct rehabilitation centers to train and rehabilitate

### **Education**

- 2021: Cuttington Junior College AA Public Administration
- 2017: Certificate in Human Resource Management - Access Training Institute
- 2016: Business Management Course Brumskine Scholar (South Africa) Management Institute, Kenya - Advanced
- 2016: Certificate in Human Resource National Red Cross (Kenya)
- 1989: Secretariat Science Boker Washington Institute, Kakata - High School Diploma Financial Management
- 1993: Akinamamawa Africa/Liberia Leadership Training (Women Empowerment)

- 1994: National Institute of Public Administration, Lahore, Pakistan - Certificate in Public Administration
- 2003-2004: Gabriel L. Dennis Foreign Service Institute Diplomacy

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2016-2020: First Vice President of the Liberia National Red Cross
- 2009-2012: First Vice President of the Liberia National Red Cross in Margibi

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2018-President: of Lady Auxiliary at the United Pentecostal Church, managing 2 churches construction projects and steering auxiliary affairs in Montserrado and Gbarpolu
- 2016: Chairlady for the Gotumo Town Community, coordinating community affairs and projects such as cleanup campaigns and skills training for women
- 2014-Present: Founder and Executive Director of Yalafamu Women Group, empowering 208 women in farming and skill training.

#### Quote



Leadership training should be extended to local government decision-makers to increase their knowledge of the value of women's political participation.





# **Gayduo Princess Kennedy**

Representative Candidate District 13, Montserrado County, Liberia

#### **Expertise/**Passion

Leadership, Youth & Sports Development, Event Decoration

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2019-present: Team Manager, Female National Team, Liberia Football Association
- 2017-2019: Kindergarten Classroom Teacher, Christian Bethel Preparatory School
- 2009: Senior Class President, Kulah Memorial Academy

### Leadership Roles

- Current: Actively engaging with young people during vacations, organizing quizzes and parties to foster youth development in the community.
- 2024: Program Chair, Choir Department, New Georgia Baptist Church
- 2020-present: Coordinator for New Georgia Estate Community Block C - Involving young people in community engagement, creating awareness, and organizing games and programs.

#### Quote

66 W ge ba

We need to promote gender inclusion to have a balanced society where we can all benefit equally.

### Profile

Place of Birth: JFK Monrovia, Montserrado County Date of Birth: December 29, 1988

Gayduo comes from a family of seven: five girls and two boys. She grew up in challenging economic conditions and was raised by her father. Both her parents are now deceased. As a teenager, she had to navigate life on her own, shouldering responsibilities at an early stage. She is a single mother to an 11-year-old daughter.

She is a single mother to an TT-year-old daughter.

Gayduo aspires to advance further and participate in local governance. She envisions a better Liberia for all, where basic rights are respected, women participate in leadership, gender balance is encouraged, and everyone has opportunities to contribute to Liberia's development.

### **Education**

- 2020-present: BSc in Public Administration and Sociology, Senior student, University of Liberia
- 2018: Diploma in Event Decoration, Addomills
- 2014: Computer Certificate, Inter Digital
- 2009: High School Diploma, Kulah Memorial Academy





Place of Birth: District 8, Tappita Nimba County Date of Birth: January 17, 1974

Gloria Dibah Yancy, hailing from Nimba County, District 8, is a seasoned professional with expertise in women's empowerment and development. Born to Mrs. Famatha J. Yancy and Mr. Freeman N. Yancy, Gloria's journey has been marked by resilience and dedication.

In her personal and professional life, she has reflected her commitment to continuous learning. Gloria has left an indelible mark on countless women across the country.

### Education

- 2023: Certificate in Human Rights Based Approach and Feminist Leadership, MSTCDC, Arusha, Tanzania
- 2023: Masters, Business, and Public Administration, University of Liberia
- 2021: Certificate, SHEA and Safeguarding, and Incidence Management, ActionAid International
- 2019: Certificate in Governance and Policy analysis with Monitoring and Evaluation for Governance and Reflection Action, MSTCDC, Arusha, Tanzania
- 2013: Post Graduate Diploma in Public Procurement Management, LIPA, Liberia
- 2011: Bachelors, Business, and Public Administration, University of Liberia

# **Gloria Dibah Yancy**

Representative Candidate District 8, Nimba County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Women's Empowerment, Program Management, SHEA/Safeguarding

# **Notable Achievements**

• Adept management of \$5M donor funds, establishment of 92 women and youth networks, and the empowering of 40 rural women through agriculture.

# **Leadership Roles**

- Current Role as Program Manager: Empowering local NGOs, community forums, and rural women in four counties, building capacities in advocacy.
- 2022: Global SHEA/Safeguarding Coordinator -Implemented safety measures across 47 countries.
- 2018-2020: Program Coordinator Managed 18 local organizations, strengthening capacities in program and financial management.
- Capacity Development: Contributed to the capacity development of over 1000 young people and 300 rural women and engaged in public awareness campaigns on women's and girls' issues.
- Support for Political Participation: Sponsored two women's participation in elections by facilitating their registration.

### Quote



Across all sectors, we need a gender-sensitive and responsive Liberia, and to achieve that, we need to believe in ourselves, focus on our dreams, and trust God.





# Hellen Y. Yei

Town Chief Candidate District 2, Nimba County, Liberia

### **Expertise** / Passion

Community Leadership, Women's Empowerment, Trade and Skills Training

### Profile

Place of Birth: Diniomo, District 2, Nimba County Date of Birth: February 10, 1979

Hellen Y. Yei, hailing from Diniomo in Nimba County, is a dedicated single mother of five children. Despite limited formal education, she has emerged as a prominent figure in her community, leveraging her entrepreneurial skills and innate leadership qualities. Beginning her professional journey as a businesswoman in petty trade, Hellen has demonstrated a deep commitment to uplifting her fellow community members. In 2023, she assumed the role of Head of the Women's Group named Solesseh (It's good to play), where she focuses on empowering women through trade and skills training initiatives.

Hellen engages with her community, particularly in the town chief's absence, showing her dedication to grassroots leadership and community development. Hellen aims to become the Town Chief to effectively represent her people at various levels of governance. She seeks to advocate for her town at district meetings, empower women, support youth through education initiatives, and organize transparent elections to ensure democratic representation.

# Education

• 1999: Diniomo Public School

### **Notable Achievements**

• 2023-Present: Led the Solesseh Women's Group, empowering women through trade and skills training.

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2023-Present: Head of the Women's Group "Solesseh", focusing on empowering women through various initiatives.
- 2020-present: Actively engages with the community, particularly in the town chief's absence, to address local issues and support community development.

### Quote



I envision a Liberia where every citizen has equal opportunities and representation, contributing to the country's development.



Place of Birth: District 1, Grand Bassa County Date of Birth: March 12, 1968

Henrietta F. Martor, a dedicated healthcare professional and advocate from Grand Bassa County, embodies resilience and leadership. Henrietta's impactful career includes roles at local hospitals, international organizations, and leadership positions advocating for women's well-being.

Her achievements, such as being recognized as the Lead Advocate at IRC and receiving the Special Mother of the Year award, attest to her commitment.

### **Education**

- 2003: -BSC Sociology/Public Administration, AME Zion
- 2000: Midwife Tubman National Institute



# Henrietta F. Mator

Representative Candidate District 1, Grand Bassa County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Women's Empowerment, Climate Change, Advocacy, Sociology, Program Management

# **Notable Achievements**

- 2015: Special Mother of the Year Awarded by the Lutheran Church in Ganta for her dedicated work with women and children.
- 2006: Lead Advocate at International Red Cross
  Recognition for her extraordinary work on the staff welfare committee, advocating for women and girls.

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2018-Present: Executive Director Alliance for Women's Advancement, Generated funds up to \$200,000 in grants, implemented 4 programs in legal aid across multiple counties, benefiting about 200 persons.
- 2012-2014: Vice President of the Lutheran Women Fellowship- Increased income generation by 60%, empowering women in 11 parishes and led over 20 programs benefiting 300 women/children.
- 2006: IRC Program Manager (Nimba), Led a team of 15 staff, established safe spaces for women and girls, and formed women's groups for advocacy and awareness.

#### Quote

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In our shared resilience, we find our true power.

77





Place of Birth: Gibi District, Margibi County Date of Birth: July 25, 1973

Jackie M. Gray, born and raised in Gibi District, Margibi County, brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her community. Coming from a prominent family background, she has always been committed to empowering women and challenging gender disparities in leadership. Jackie's professional journey includes notable roles such as a consultant for the Ministry of Public Works and founder of both the God Favor United Women Organization and Ma Jackie Catering Center.

Jackie's vision for her community and Liberia at large is one of inclusivity, advocating for equal representation of women in leadership positions and working tirelessly to ensure access to education, social services, and rights protection, particularly for women and children. She plans to rerun as Representative for District 5, Margibi County in 2029 to advocate for women's and children's rights and protection.

She aims to build an orphanage home in her district and work with county authorities to provide access to education and social services for abandoned children and her hopes to contribute to Liberia's development by advocating for equal representation of women in leadership positions.

# Jackie M. Gray

Representative Candidate District 5, Margibi County, Liberia

#### **Expertise / Passion**

Women's Empowerment, Community Development, Advocacy

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2022: Successfully lobbied for road construction in Gibi
- 2022- Present: Employed 30 women and youth as farmers through her agriculture program, providing training and empowerment opportunities.
- 2021: Constructed 4 palava huts and installed two handpumps in her community
- 2020: Empowered over 50 women through financial loans and support via the VSLA project.

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2019-present: Founder/CEO God Favor United Women Organization
- 2018-2020: Consultant Ministry of Public Works
- 2010-present: CEO Ma Jackie Catering Center
- 2005-2017: Chairlady for Unity Party
- 2005: Chairlady of the Frances Lewis Farm Community

#### Quote



We all benefit from the training and support of the international community that strengthens women's leadership and supports the National Elections Commission.





# **Jackie Monbaydo Morris**

Representative Candidate District 2, Grand Bassa County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Entrepreneurship, Education Advocacy, Community Development

### Profile

Place of Birth: District 2, Grand Bassa County Date of Birth: May 13, 1989

Jackie Monbaydo Morris's journey from a traditional upbringing to entrepreneurial success and community leadership reflects her resilience and determination. Despite facing challenges such as pressure to marry young and enduring domestic abuse, Jackie pursued education and eventually established herself as the CEO of J&D Enterprise and the proprietor of Grazon Elementary School. Her commitment to education extends beyond her school, as she serves on the board to raise awareness and encourage enrollment.

Jackie's vision encompasses rerunning for the seat of representative in District 2, Grand Bassa County, to promote agriculture and education by establishing vocational schools, improve infrastructure, and advocate for healthcare access and the implementation of the 30 percent bill for women's political participation.

### Education

- 2013: Galla International Heavy Duty and Light Duty Driving Certificate
- 2012: Mary N. Chessman Cosmetology Certificate

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2023: Received a Certificate of Honor as the youngest female aspirant in District 2, Grand Bassa.
- 2023: Recognized as Mother of the Year by the United Methodist Church and Sister of the Year by the Baptist Church

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2023: Member of the Board at Grazon, advocating for education and community engagement.
- 2020: Organizes annual festive events for children and youth, distributes clothes, toys, and gifts to the elderly, and empowers individuals in agriculture through training and employment.

#### Quote



Women's empowerment through education transforms our communities, building a brighter future for all. We need more educated women in Liberia.





Place of Birth: ELWA, Montserrado Date of Birth: September 13, 1979

Jartu Cunlivia Barclay's life journey is marked by resilience, entrepreneurship, and a commitment to community development. Despite facing challenges, including displacement as a refugee, she emerged as a prominent figure in Gbarpolu County. Jartu is a multifaceted entrepreneur, owning the Hakuna Matata Entertainment Center and the Hakuna Matata Keep Faith Club.

Additionally, she is a dedicated farmer specializing in rice, cassava, and pepper farming. Her leadership extends to education, where she sponsors students and supports children's education through infrastructure development. Jartu's aspirations include advocating against gender-based violence, promoting women's rights, and fostering community development initiatives.

### **Education**

- 2019: Accounting/Management: University of Liberia
- 2011: Business Skills and Entrepreneurship Training: Agreds Ghana
- 2011: Computer: NIIT
- 2008-2009: Vocational Training: Beauty Therapy, Ghana
- 1997: High School: AGM Buchanan Street
- 1988: Junior High: Zuo Mission
- 1986: Elementary: Bopolu Bible Mission

# Jartu Cunlivia Barclay

Representative Candidate District 1, Gbarpolu County, Liberia

#### **Expertise / Passion**

Entrepreneurship, Agriculture, Advocacy

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2020: Recognized as Head of the Parent-Teacher Association and Mother of the Year.
- 2013: Received the Brave Soldier Award for keeping Karpeh Village safe during the war.

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2016-Present: Philanthropist Supported children's education through infrastructure development and student sponsorship.
- 2016- Present: Empowered farmers with tools and rain gear for agriculture.
- 2015-CEO/Founder Hakuna Matata Entertainment Center
- 2012-IOM/ Ghana-Interpreter (pidgen to standard English)

#### Quote



Women need to stand and support each other in the political dimension of our county to make the change we seek.





# **Jenneh Esther Morris**

Representative Candidate District 12, Montserrado County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Accounting and Administration, Business Leadership, Shipping and Logistics

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2010-Present: CEO, Jensudi Gold Investment Liberia
- 2001-Present: Shipping Director, Fight Sn Roll Shipping Company, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1995-2009: CEO of Jasda World, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1989-1991: Account Clerk, West Africa

### **Leadership Roles**

- Humanitarian: Supporting vulnerable groups through economic empowerment and education
- 2021: Rehabilitation of women's center in District 12, Montserrado
- 2020: Mother of Church, Trinity Healing Chapel
- 2012: Representative Candidate, District 12, Montserrado

#### Quote

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I believe in simplicity. Work behind the scenes and let the work speak for you.

### Profile

Place of Birth: Harbel, Margibi County Date of Birth: March 26, 1968

Jenneh Esther Morris, a dynamic leader from Montserrado, District 12, embodies a vision for positive transformation and community empowerment. With future aspirations focused on establishing a foundation dedicated to rehabilitating young girls and promoting education, Jenneh is committed to creating impactful change. Her goals for the community extend beyond individual success, aiming to contribute significantly through education and empowerment initiatives.

Jenneh's vision for Liberia is one of inclusivity and opportunity, where every citizen can thrive. Guided by principles of education, empowerment, and community development, she envisions a Liberia that embodies these values at its core. As a beacon of positive change, Jenneh Esther Morris stands as a dedicated advocate for the upliftment of her community, reflecting her commitment to fostering a brighter and more prosperous future for Liberia.

### Education

- 2018: AA in Account & Administration, Lagos State Polytechnic
- 1990-1991: Accounting, Lincoln Secretariat





Place of Birth: Monrovia, Liberia Date of Birth: November 27, 1980

Jennifer is part of the resilient Henshaw family, deeply rooted in Hoffman Station, Big Town, Maryland County. Proudly of Grebo and Congo descent, her family is from a devout Christian background and has faced both joys and challenges.

Despite facing adversity, including the tragic loss of her daughter to the LURD Rebel, the family stands strong. Jennifer envisions a fast-growing economic and developmental country in the next six years to which her organization will contribute its quota.

### Education

- 2021: Diploma Community Development and Gender Studies GATHER, Goldin Institute
- 2019: Diploma Human Rights and Advocacy Studies organized by Human Rights Watch International with support from the U.S. State Department
- 2017: Diploma: Digital Security and Media Advocacy organized by None on Record, with support from the UNOHR
- 2013: Policy Analysis and Gender Development, MS - TCDO Arusha, Tanzania
- 2007: Certificate in Communications and Public Relations - Ministry of Information and the World Bank
- 2003: BSC- Political Science University of Liberia

# Jennifer K. Henshaw

Senatorial Candidate Maryland County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Human Rights Advocacy, Feminism, Communications, Leadership

# **Notable Achievements**

- Established two leading Human Rights Advocacy and Democratic Organizations (LEGAL and SoSNoL)
- Built the capacity of over 100 young people in Liberia

### Leadership Roles

- Founder/Executive Director of LEGAL and the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Solidarity Sisters Network of Liberia (SoSNoL)
- Co-chair on the UN Spotlight Initiative and Technical member on the Liberia Feminists Forum
- 2016-2018: Anglophone Regional Representative - West Africa WACA Feminists Movement for CAL
- 2014-2016: Media & Communications Volunteer - Action Aid Liberia
- 2008-2009: General Coordinator Liberian Youth for Democratic Action

#### Quote



Work for the sake of humanity. As a human rights activist, communications specialist, and frontline defender, I will do just that.





Place of Birth: Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County Date of Birth: August 31, 1987

Jeziah M. Quiyea epitomizes dedication to community welfare and human development. With a diverse educational background spanning healthcare, business administration, and finance, Jeziah has leveraged her expertise to spearhead impactful initiatives. From her early days as a caregiver to her current role as CEO of Helping Hands Clinic, Jeziah has consistently demonstrated a commitment to providing accessible healthcare and educational opportunities. Noteworthy achievements include being recognized as Humanitarian of the Year and receiving awards for advocacy. Through her foundation, she has facilitated significant contributions, ranging from donating medical supplies to supporting education and agriculture.

Jeziah's vision extends beyond immediate aid; she seeks to establish vocational schools and recreational centers to empower youth and foster community development. Her aim is to create opportunities for at-risk youth and children through recreational and rehabilitation centers. She also aims to advocate for women's empowerment in healthcare and continuous professional development.

### **Education**

- 2023: Masters Degree: Business Administration and Finance
- 2022: Bachelors Degree: Business Administration and Health Management, Colorado University

# Jeziah M. Quiyea

Representative Candidate District 1, Grand Geddeh County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Healthcare Management, Business Administration, Advocacy

- 2012: Associate of Arts: Medical Assistant, Kplan College, Broom Mall
- 2008: High School Diploma: John Bartram High School, Philadelphia, PA, USA

# **Notable Achievements**

• 2001: Awarded the Certificate of Humanitarian of the Year by Women Tien District

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2019-Present: CEO -Helping Hands Clinic, offering free healthcare and support services to the community.
- 2018-Present: Philanthropist, Actively involved in providing aid, education, and agricultural support to various towns and radio stations in Zwedru.

### Quote



International institutions need to bring training to rural areas and knowledge to hard-to-reach communities, instead of taking women out of the county to learn.



Place of Birth: Gaye Town, Grand Gedeh County

Josephine Neewray's journey epitomizes resilience and dedication to community development. She has

emerged as a prominent figure in her district through her commitment to practical skills and community

empowerment. From her early training, Josephine's

path led her to found Forger, a venture focused on

Through organizations like Sonquoiyo, she continues

become the next Representative of Gbazon, District

leadership and women's political participation training

3, Grand Gedeh County. She aims to advocate for women's and youth empowerment, education, and

agricultural development. She plans to develop

programs to promote effective governance and

community advancement and advocate for the enforcement of access to health and free education

bills to foster national development.

to uplift women in agriculture. Josephine's vision

extends beyond personal success; she aspires to

Date of Birth: August 24, 1985

agribusiness, forestry, and advocacy.



# **Josephine Neewray**

Representative Candidate District 3, Grand Gedeh County, Liberia

#### **Expertise/**Passion

Agribusiness, Forestry, Advocacy

# **Notable Achievements**

- 2005-2017: Served as Political National Chairlady for Representative Alex C. Grant
- 2000-2001: Crowned Queen of Gaye Town, initiating programs for women's empowerment and rights.

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2022-2023: Founded and led Sonquoiyo, focusing on empowering women in agriculture through farm development and support initiatives.
- 2022-2023: Advocated for justice for juveniles and individuals charged with petty crimes, ensuring fair treatment and helping some receive bond releases.
- 2020-2023: Successfully lobbied stakeholders to supply schools and churches with musical instruments and sponsored students with scholarships.

Empowering women and

youth through education

community's progress.

and agriculture is key to our

Quote

66

Education

**Profile** 

- 2022: Cosmetology Certification, BDOTC Ministry of Youth and Sports Vocational School
- 2009: Diploma: World Wide Mission, Monrovia
- 2000: Vocational Training in Tailoring, JTZ Vocational School

99





Place of Birth: District 5, Lofa County Date of Birth: January 5, 1987

Kona S. Kollie is a Liberian national and corporate development consultant with 10+ years of Program Management experience. Her expertise as a women's empowerment specialist and program organization, coordination, supervision, and implementation continue to drive development impact and transformation at the grassroots and Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities in finding solutions for climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, together with land degradation and promoting Indigenous and Local Knowledge at the community level.

She has dedicated her career exclusively to developmental interventions on women's economic empowerment that drive social change and advocacy. Kona is the founder and Executive Director of the Youth Liberian Women Organization (WOFIM), an NGO focusing on young women and youth empowerment nationwide. Through Solidarity of West African Women, she ensured Liberian voices were heard throughout the region by surveying women on the Maputo Protocols on women's rights.

### Education

• 2010: Bachelor of Arts (Sociology), University of Liberia.

### **Notable Achievements**

• 2016: Oxfam's Women's Economic Empowerment Leadership Award Winner.

# Kona Sarah Kollie

Presidential Candidate Liberia

### **Expertise/Passion**

Women's Empowerment, Climate Change, Advocacy, Sociology, Program Management

- 2016: Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders
- Acquisition of 60+ acres of land in Grand Bassa County for WOFIM's conservation & eco-tourism purposes.

# Leadership Roles

- 2023: Elected by WONGOSOL as coordinator for Region 3 (Lofa, Bong, and Nimba counties)
- 2022: National Focus Point, Global Network of Civil Society for Disaster Reduction
- 2021: Local Non-Key Expert, Maritime Governance Assessment Mission on Liberia, SWAIMS.
- 2019: Formation of the Global Environmental Facilities Civil Society Network
- 2018: Lobbying for UNMAIL funding (\$300,000) for cold storage facilities, benefiting over 8,000 fishmongers
- 2016: Establishment of the National Fish Farmer Union in Liberia.
- 2014: Special Senatorial Election conducted voter education to increase women's participation.

#### Quote

66

Learning from challenges and triumphs has shaped my advocacy strategies. You'll never do a lot unless you are brave enough to try.





# Kula Watta Sirleaf Wesseh

Representative Candidate District 5, Margibi County, Liberia

#### **Expertise/**Passion

Public Health, Nursing, Community Empowerment

### Profile

Place of Birth: Kakata, Margibi County Date of Birth: March 25, 1973

Kula Watta Sirleaf Wesseh, married with six children, has dedicated her life to improving the health and well-being of her community. With a nursing and public health background, she has served in various capacities within the healthcare sector, starting as a Nutritionist with MSF-Holland and eventually becoming a Community Health Services Supervisor with the Ministry of Health-Nimba County Health Team. Beyond her professional career, Kula is deeply involved in community empowerment initiatives. She founded the "Touch One Touch All" women's group, which has been instrumental in addressing critical issues facing women in the district. Through her leadership, Kula has championed mobile healthcare outreach programs to provide vital health services. She has advocated for education by offering scholarships to students.

Kula's vision for Liberia encompasses equal access to social services for all citizens. She is determined to continue her advocacy efforts by rerunning for the District 5 Representative seat in Margibi to enhance the health sector and school system, advocate for people's rights and access to social services, and support developmental projects and programs to improve people's lives.

### **Education**

- 1989: Diploma: St. Augustine Episcopal Mission School, Kakata, Margibi.
- 2010: Certificate in Dispensing Drugs: Pharmaceutical and Dispensing School.
- 2016: BSc in Public Health: Adventist University.

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2023-Present: Active support for health and education sectors, including scholarships for students.
- 2023-Present: Founder of the "Touch One Touch All" women's group, empowering women in the district.

### Quote

As women, we need to stand up for ourselves and drive positive change in the Country.





Place of Birth: District 12, Montserrado County Date of Birth: October 12, 1992

Laura Targbeh Korvah is a proud leader committed to education and community development. As the fifth child of reverend parents, Laura's strong Christian background roots her journey. She supports education by providing scholarships to private schools and empowering women for the betterment of her people.

Laura aims to become a leader in championing women's and youth rights and healthcare. She envisions influencing policies at the legislative level to enhance the lives of the people. Laura conquered fear, negative social norms, and stigma by contesting the seat of representative for District 6, Montserrado County, and this helped her learn the importance of persistence and passion in pursuing opportunities. She is committed to improving women's and youth's educational and healthcare systems.

### Education

- 2023: MPH in Epidemiology, Cuttington University, School of Health Sciences.
- 2018: BCS in Biology, University of Liberia, College of Science and Technology.
- 2017: Certificate in Public Management, Harvard University, USA.

# Laura Targbeh Korvah

Representative Candidate District 12, Montserrado County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Public Management, Epidemiology, Social Work

# **Notable Achievements**

- 2021: Outstanding Leader of the Year Award, BELITCH Golden Image Awards.
- 2018: Appreciation as a mentor, YONER Liberia Diamond Challenge for High School Entrepreneurs.

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2023-present: Mentor, Elections & Democracy Activity (IREX).
- 2023: Regional Coordinator, WONGOSOL -Coordinator for Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa counties.
- 2019-present: President, National Young Women Political Council of Liberia
- 2019-Present: Executive Director, Laura Vocational Institute.
- 2017: Young African Leaders Initiative, Mandela Washington Fellowship (YALI)
- 2016-present: Executive Director, KINDLE Liberia
- Quote



I envision a Liberia where research drives development, fostering an improved educational system and healthcare for women and youth.





# Louise Kollie Haba

Representative Candidate District 4, Lofa County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Management, Public Administration, Advocacy

Profile

Place of Birth: Voinjama City, Lofa County Date of Birth: August 3, 1968

Louise is legally married and has four children, three boys and one girl. She is an entrepreneur and a dedicated advocate for community development and women's empowerment. With a management and public administration background, Louise has traversed various professional roles, from serving as a Social Worker at UNICEF to leading as the CEO of LOUBA Business Center. Her commitment to service is evident in her notable achievements and leadership roles. Louise has been recognized for contributing to community welfare, including constructing essential infrastructure like town halls and feeder roads. As a former President of the Caterers' Association of Liberia, she facilitated trade across southeastern counties. She advocated tirelessly for women's and children's rights, particularly in education and protection. Looking ahead, Louise aims to continue her advocacy efforts by recontesting for the position of Representative in District 4, Lofa County, with a vision of an improved education and health sector, increased educational incentives, and greater participation of women in Liberia's political landscape. She dreams of continuing to advocate for WASH projects across the county and constructing four resource centers.

### **Education**

• 2012: BSc in Management and Public Administration: AME Zion University. • 1986: Diploma: St. Samuel High School, Center Street.

### **Notable Achievements**

• 2011: Recognition as a Good Citizen by New Life Church in the Konia community.

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2016-2017: Philanthropist, constructed major feeder roads to promote trade and economic empowerment for women, constructed a townhall in Barwin Town, and funded the construction of the men's organization meeting center in Bomi.
- 2010: Advocate for women's and children's rights in Lofa and Monrovia, particularly for free education and protection.
- 2003-2007: President of the Caterers' Association of Liberia, facilitating the transport of goods across southeastern counties.

#### Quote



To improve the education and health sectors, we need to increase the quality of basic services and strengthen the systems





# Lucia L. Gbaindeh

Representative Candidate District 2, Bong County, Liberia

#### **Expertise/**Passion

Nursing, Business Management, Advocacy

#### Profile

Place of Birth: Samay, Bong County Date of Birth: January 14, 1993

Lucia L. Gbaindeh is the fourth of six children raised by a single mother. Lucia has emerged as a multifaceted leader dedicated to community development and women's empowerment. Starting her journey as a nurse at the Omega Community Health Center, Lucia later ventured into entrepreneurship, founding Dream Medicines Store in Gbarnga and Ma. Esther Business Center. She actively engages in advocacy and political leadership alongside her professional endeavors, aspiring to represent District 2, Bong County.

Lucia's commitment to service is evident in her notable achievements, including recognition from the National Young Women's Political Party Council of Liberia and leading The Progressive Youth Movement for Positive Change. Through her leadership roles, she has supported educational initiatives, facilitated access to healthcare, and advocated for community infrastructure improvements.

Looking ahead, Lucia plans to further her education to empower herself for effective leadership, with a vision of a developed Liberia marked by robust education and economic systems. She hopes to pursue a Master's degree in public health and education to better advocate for laws and women's empowerment, more schools, better education, and improved healthcare access.

### **Education**

• 2015-2018: Diploma in Nursing: Phebe Nursing School

• 2009-2011: High School Diploma and WAEC Certificate: St. Mark Lutheran High School

### **Notable Achievements**

• 2024: Certificate of Participation from the National Young Women's Political Party Council of Liberia

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2023: CEO, The Progressive Youth Movement for Positive Change, supporting educational initiatives and providing tuition aid to students.
- 2023: Advocate for community electrification, repairing hand pumps to ensure access to safe drinking water for residents.

#### Quote

66 Bringing women to the table fosters collaboration and more effectively addresses the pressing issues facing society.





# Lucy Jappay Momo

Representative Candidate District 1, Maryland County, Liberia

### **Expertise/**Passion

Entrepreneurship, Civil Society Leadership, Facilitation, Refugee Programs

### Profile

Place of Birth: Maryland County, Liberia Date of Birth: May 10, 1973

Lucy Jappay Momo, a former contestant from Maryland County, District 1, was born in Rock Town on May 10, 1973. She stands as a beacon of empowerment and leadership. Her journey encompasses entrepreneurship, civil society advocacy, and impactful supervisory roles in refugee programs. With a heart devoted to economic development, Lucy's initiatives have empowered thousands of women through village savings and loans programs and provided vital business education and agriculture training.

From the quiet landscapes of Rock Town in Maryland County, Lucy Momo has journeyed from zero to hero, threading the paths of entrepreneurship, community leadership, and the

### **Education**

 2018-Present: BSC Business Administration (candidate), Tubman University.

### **Notable Achievements**

• 2009-2021: Head of the Civil Council of Maryland County.

 Golden Image Award (Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's Reign): Lucy won an 18-carat gold medal for high-performance impact in the county, particularly for her work with women on economic development.

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2018-2022: Supervisor for the Income Generation Program for Refugees, Caritas Cape Palmas. Successfully implemented the project, providing over 1500 women petty traders with seed funding and business management training.
- 2010-2015: Secretary-General for the Rural Women Structure in Maryland, Raised awareness about child labor and worked with 28 child vendors, rehabilitating them back to their families.
- 2015-Present: Vice Chair of Mano River Union Chapter (Taboo Capepalmas Chapter), Facilitated Liberian women's free travel to Ivory Coast for cross-border trade without harassment.

#### Quote



It's all about determination. Women can become great leaders.





Place of Birth: Current Hospital, Zorzor District, Lofa County Date of Birth: June 14, 1968

Marzu hails from humble beginnings. Her father worked as a laboratory technician at Teleweon Memorial Hospital, while her mother was indigenous from Voinjama. Despite facing challenges as a teenage mother, Marzu persevered, supporting her family while pursuing a career as a midwife. She is also a talented musician, composing songs for various occasions. She has dedicated her life to serving her community and advocating for marginalized women in Lofa County. Beginning her career as a midwife in Montserrado County in 1992, Marzu later ventured into roles such as an aide to the former First Lady Taylor and Lady in Waiting to the First Lady's Office. She founded the Community Development and Empowerment through Participation Program, demonstrating her commitment to grassroots empowerment. Marzu's notable achievements include serving as a Cultural Ambassador for Lofa County and spearheading initiatives like constructing the Female Traditional House in Voinjama town. Looking forward, Marzu aims to become a lawmaker for District 4 in Voinjama, Lofa County, advocating for women's rights, education, and equal representation. Marzu's dream is to see Liberia reach new heights in development and provide its citizens with basic rights and social services.

### **Education**

• Certified midwife.

# Marzu Komassa Boakai

Representative Candidate District 4, Lofa County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Midwifery, Community Development, Advocacy

## **Notable Achievements**

- 1991-1995: Cultural Ambassador for Lofa County.
- 2005: Constructed the Female Traditional House in Voinjama town.

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2006-2007: Constructed the New Market in Foya and renovated warehouses for IRC under the Community Development and Empowerment through Participation Program.
- 2005: Advocated for the training of children with HIV/AIDS in income generation programs.
- 2005: Constructed town halls and traditional women's burial sites to preserve community history and culture.

#### Quote

66

I believe education is key, but passion and perseverance are what make you accomplish your goals.

99





# Medee Kamah Wongbay

Representative Candidate District 5, Nimba County, Liberia

#### **Expertise/**Passion

Leadership, Law Enforcement, Advocacy, Women's Empowerment,

#### Profile

Place of Birth: Montserrado County, Liberia Date of Birth: April 14, 1979

Medee Kamah Wongbay was born to Ma. Kamah Doris Gbee and Arthur Wongbay. Despite facing obstacles, including a lack of support from her partner due to traditional biases and challenges as a Muslim woman in her community, Medee has pursued her political aspirations. She is a dedicated single mother of seven children who values the importance of breaking societal barriers to achieve her goals. Her career spans various fields, including law enforcement, contracting, and entrepreneurship. Notable for her advocacy for women's inclusion in the police force and her efforts to address social issues such as youth involvement in betting, Medee dedicates her work to effecting positive change in her community. As a single mother and a Muslim woman, she navigates societal challenges with grace, striving to empower women and girls and promote equality in decision-making processes.

Medee aspires to become a transformative leader, particularly for women and girls in her community, advocating for fair and equal decision-making representation. She seeks to provide training and education, especially for women, to enhance productivity and inclusion in development decisionmaking processes.

# **Education**

- 2017- 2024: University of AME Zion BSc in Public Administration and Sociology.
- 2010-2019: Liberia National Police Various certificates in Criminal Investigation, Gender-Based Violence, Protocol Etiquette in International Relations, and Crime Scene Management/Homicide Investigation.

• 2023: Peace, Election, and Violence-Free Training - Koffi Annan Institute, Ghana.

# **Notable Achievements**

• 2011: Advocated for women's inclusion in the force as an Intelligence Officer in the Liberian National Police.

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2024: Advisor to the graduating class, University of AME Zion, focusing on promoting punctuality, women's leadership, and fostering a good relationship with the administration.
- 2014: Advocated to FIFA to minimize youth killings through betting and eliminate hand-to-hand betting, leading to the introduction of online betting in Liberia.
- 2012-2016: Advocated for the presence of midwives at health centers to attend to pregnant women in the community.

### Quote

66

It's important for women to embrace challenges and defying social norms to pursue their ambitions.





Place of Birth: Voinjama City, Lofa County Date of Birth: September 16, 1980

Pendorah Cianah William Zayzay, born to a Lorma mother, is married and has two children; she is a dedicated advocate and leader committed to developing her community in Lofa County. With a diverse professional background, including roles in finance, health monitoring, and journalism, Pendorah has demonstrated her versatility and passion for service. As the Founder/CEO of Ciana Sustainable Agriculture Production and a Field Technician for the IFAD Project, she actively contributes to the agriculture sector's growth. Pendorah's notable achievements include serving as the Graduating Class President at Lofa County Community College and receiving recognition as Female Activist of the Year.

In her leadership roles, she has championed causes such as youth empowerment, gender-based violence prevention, and support for People with Disabilities. Pendorah's vision for the future involves advocating for access to justice, improving agricultural practices, promoting education for girls, empowering youth, and advancing women's rights. Pendorah aims to run for the seat of Representative of District 4, Lofa County, advocating for various community development initiatives, strengthening youth employment through agriculture, and contributing to overall community development.

# Education

• 2018: AA Degree in General Agriculture: Lofa County Community College

# Pendorah C. W. Zayzay

Representative Candidate District 4, Lofa County, Liberia

### **Expertise/Passion**

Agriculture, Advocacy, Leadership

- 2015-Present: Various advocacy, youth empowerment, and journalism training programs
- 2000: Wells Hairston Mechlin Street High School

# **Notable Achievements**

• 2018: Graduating Class President, Lofa County Community College

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2023: Representative Candidate, District 4, Lofa County, Voinjama
- 2020-Present: Field Technician Young Professional -IFAD Project – Ministry of Agriculture
- 2010-Present: Founder/CEO-Ciana Sustainable Agriculture Production
- 2010: Female activist of the year, Voinjama District youth
- 2008-2009: Voinjama District Youth Chair

### Quote

66

For a vibrant and peaceful Liberia, everyone – especially women – must be included in decision-making processes.





Place of Birth: District 8, Montserrado County Date of Birth: January 22, 1969

Princess Chicharito Ross, hailing from Montserrado's District 5, stands as a devoted mother of two children and two grandchildren. She overcame the loss of her daughter due to a poor health system by working on mental health, assisting other parents, and collaborating with the community and the Ministry of Health to promote better healthcare. This experience fuels her desire to represent her people and influence policies for improved healthcare.

Madam Ross aspires to work with the current Representative in District 5, advocating to strengthen the district's security sector to eradicate drugs from the country. She envisions a Liberia where women are empowered, holding active positions in government and leadership roles that align with their credentials.

# Education

- 2013: BBA in Public Administration, African Methodist Episcopal University
- 2002: AA in Travel Agency Management, Morris Community College

# **Princess Chicharito Ross**

Representative Candidate District 5, Montserrado County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Public Administration, Marketing, Sales, Customer Relationship

# **Notable Achievements**

- 2021: Recognized for Efficient Customer Relationship at Orange Liberia
- 2002: Acknowledged by Sister Aid Liberia for Political Empowerment and Leadership for women candidates and campaign teams

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2022: Community Vice-Chairman, Swanga Moore, SKD Boulevard - Advocated against secret killings, raised awareness about environmental issues, and obtained a permit for a police depot's construction.
- 2009-2021: Sales and Marketing, Orange Liberia.
- 2000-2009: Manager, Urban Group of Company.
- 1998-2000: Marketing Manager, Golden Key Hotel.
- 1989-1998: Social Welfare Directress/Relief Department, Liberia National Red Cross.

#### Quote

66

Empowerment begins with education, and education begins with empowerment.





# **Rachel Diah Bartuah**

Representative Candidate District 4, Nimba County, Liberia

### **Expertise/Passion**

Traditional Healing, Entrepreneurship, Community Empowerment

### Profile

Place of Birth: Nimba County Date of Birth: September 8, 1970

Rachel Diah Bartuah is a mother of six and a dedicated community leader and entrepreneur from Nimba County. With a background in entrepreneurship and traditional healing, Rachel has made significant contributions to her community's well-being. After serving as the CEO of Cross Border Trade, she transitioned to become a Traditional Healer in Nimba County, where she has successfully treated numerous illnesses. Rachel's leadership extends to founding the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) in District 4, empowering hundreds of women through financial training and access to loans. Her commitment to community development is evident in her efforts to organize youth groups and provide scholarships. Rachel's vision for the future includes promoting education for women and youth, advancing traditional healing practices, and empowering her community through sustainable initiatives. Rachel aims to rerun for the Representative of District 4 in the national elections to advocate for education and traditional healing. She also plans to establish a center for traditional healing training and patient care to improve community health and well-being.

## Education

• 1992: Diploma, William V. S. Tubman High School

# **Notable Achievements**

- 2021: Honored as the Traditional Healer for District 4, Nimba County
- 2021: Empowered over 380 women through the Village Savings and Loan Association in District 4

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2021: Founder and Head of the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) in District 4, Nimba County
- 2019-2020: Organized youth groups and provided scholarships for 200 girls and 250 boys in the district
- 2015: Traditional Healer, Successfully treated more than 30 illnesses in Nimba County

### Quote

66

Promoting traditional and natural healthcare in Liberia is a way of empowering the health sector.





# **Regina Baaneh Walker**

Representative Candidate District 2, Grand Kru County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Secretariat Science, Education Advocacy, Women Empowerment

### Profile

Place of Birth: Barclay Ville, Grand Kru County Date of Birth: October 6, 1964 Regina Baaneh Walker is the daughter of a professional teacher turned traffic court judge. She has a diverse background in secretarial science, education advocacy, and women's empowerment. Beginning as a secretary at various embassies, including the British and American, Regina later ventured into education administration and business management. Her notable achievements include lobbying for educational resources, establishing women's empowerment programs, and founding savings and loan associations to foster financial independence of women.

Regina's leadership extends to her current role as the Deputy Organizer of the Knights of St. John International, District 2, Monrovia Grand Auxiliary, where she serves her community with dedication and integrity.

Regina aspires to contest the national Representative election of District 2, Grand Kru County, to advocate for education and facilitate community development through vocational training centers and library construction projects. Regina aims to further empower women and promote education to build a Liberia where women participate fully.

# Education

- 2013: Legislative Staff Training, National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- 2012: Legislative Staff Professional Development (NDI)

- 2009: Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women Entrepreneurs Initiative, CHF Liberia
- 1989: AA in Secretarial Science, Don Bosco Polytechnic

# **Notable Achievements**

• 2021: Established the Grand Kru Women Empowerment Program and Attena Village Savings and Loan Association

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2022: Deputy Organizer, Knights of St. John International, District 2, Monrovia Grand Auxiliary
- 2018-Present: Mediator, Peace negotiations and dispute resolution in District 2, Grand Kru County
- 1989: Lobbyist for educational resources for Dorris Banks High School from the British government

#### Quote



We must empower women now and prepare them ahead of the national elections to give them a better chance to contest and win in 2029.





# Salome Annie Kesseley

Representative Candidate District 4, Margibi County, Liberia

### **Expertise/**Passion

Youth Empowerment, Advocacy, Community Development

## Profile

Place of Birth: Firestone, Margibi County Date of Birth: June 14, 1992

Salome Annie Kesseley is a resilient advocate and community leader from District 4, Margibi County. Salome faced adversity early in life, losing both parents during the Ebola crisis. As the youngest of six from her mother and the only child of her father, she carries the weight of responsibility as a single mother to her three children and the guardian of two adopted children. Despite personal hardships, she has dedicated herself to uplifting her community through various initiatives.

Starting her career as a reporter, Salome ventured into entrepreneurship and activism, founding the Salome Political Movement to address pressing issues like education, healthcare, and gender-based violence. She marks her leadership with programs empowering girls' education and scholarships for marginalized individuals. Salome aspires to serve as District 4 Representative to advocate for development, including improved healthcare and education, and combating gender-based violence. Salome's vision for Liberia transcends her personal struggles, aiming to effect positive change through political leadership and community empowerment.

# **Education**

- 2024: Certificates of Participation in Impact African Summit 1.0 - (LYFT) and National Young Women's Leadership Conference
- 2018: Kakata Community College High School Diploma.

• 2016: Certificate in Interior Decoration, Soap Making, and Tie-Dyeing

## Notable Achievements

 2024: President, Impact African Summit 1.0 - LYFT Africa

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2023: Founder and President, Salome Political Movement, initiating programs for girls' education and healthcare empowerment
- 2023- Present: Advocate, Collaborates with Senator James Emanuel Nukleya on community issues and scholarship drives
- 2023-Present: Philanthropist, Provided financial aid to youth and women for healthcare, business development, and scholarships
- 2023: President, Youth Department at Free Pentecostal Global Mission
- 2013: Full member, Press Union of Liberia

#### Quote

66

Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge.





# Sandy F. Cummings

Representative Candidate District 17, Montserrado County, Liberia

### **Expertise/**Passion

Diplomacy, Banking, Entrepreneurship, Community Advocacy

## Profile

Place of Birth: Tubmanburg, Bomi County Date of Birth: October 7, 1982

Sandy F. Cummings is a dynamic leader who brings diplomacy, banking, and entrepreneurship expertise to her community. Her journey is marked by a decade in banking at Afriland Bank, other administrative roles, and a commitment to community service.

Sandy actively contributes to community wellbeing by initiating peace forums and supporting the Gender-Based Violence task force. She succinctly captures her vision for Liberia: a nation where every voice matters, and together, we maintain the peace that defines us.

# **Education**

- 2023: Diplomacy-Gabriel L. Dennis Foreign Service Institute.
- 2010: BSC, Management/Public Administration University of Liberia.

# **Notable Achievements**

• 2023: Elected Vice President at the Gabriel L. Dennis Foreign Service Institute.

- 2021: Humanitarian of the Year
- 2018: Founder, Sandy Cares Foundation, offering support to young mothers and scholarships to students.

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2022: Established two peace forums with elders to resolve conflict and mitigate violence in Banjor and Hotel Africa Road.
- 2020-2021: Branch Manager, Afriland First Bank.
- 2020: Supported the GBV task force and onestop center with materials to manage cases around Sexual & Gender Based violence.
- 2018: CEO, Sandy Cares Foundation.
- 2013-2015: Head of Foreign Transfers, Afriland.

#### Quote

In unity, we find strength.Liberia can be a nation where every voice matters.



Place of Birth: Montserrado County Date of Birth: May 28, 1973

Sia Keah embodies the spirit of resilience and empowerment, rising from humble beginnings to become a driving force for change in Gbarpolu County. She shouldered responsibilities from a young age, supporting her mother and siblings by selling pepper. After being denied formal education due to financial constraints, Sia's determination led her to Gbarpolu County in 1997, where she established businesses to ensure her children's education. Today, she owns and manages two successful establishments, Sia and Son Guest House and Sia Bar and Restaurant. Her journey, marked by adversity and determination, exemplifies her commitment to community development and women's empowerment. Despite facing financial constraints and educational barriers, Sia's entrepreneurial spirit propelled her to establish thriving businesses, ensuring a better future for her family and community. As a leader, she has held various roles, advocating for Gbarpolu's recognition, empowering women, and championing community initiatives. Sia's vision extends beyond her success, aiming to enhance water and sanitation, promote agriculture, and foster women's leadership in her community. She aims to expand her businesses to support vulnerable individuals and run for the District 1, Gbarpolu County seat of Representative.

# **Notable Achievements**

• 2016: Elected as the Kizzy Governor of Gbarpolu County.



# Sia Keah

Representative Candidate District 1, Gbarpolu County, Liberia

#### **Expertise/** Passion

Entrepreneurship, Women Empowerment, Community Leadership

- 2011-2014: Served as the first Civil Society Chairperson for Gbarpolu County.
- 2005: Recognized for her contributions to Gbarpolu County's creation by Chief Jallahlon.

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2022: Head, Concerned Citizens of Gbarpolu County, Women in Business.
- 2021: Spokesperson for Gbarpolu County Women.
- 2020: Chairperson, Liberia Women Business Association, Gbarpolu Branch.
- 2017: Chairperson for the Governor of the six districts of Gbarpolu County.
- 2002: The only female to advocate for Gbarpolu County's identity and recognition as a County.
- 1998-1999: Engaged in women's empowerment initiatives and business advocacy.

#### Quote

66

Women are the driving force in any society; we need to take a seat at the table and make informed decisions.





# Siah M. Hare

Representative Candidate District 11, Montserrado County, Liberia

#### **Expertise/**Passion

Gender Affairs, Advocacy, Community Development

### **Notable Achievements**

# Profile

Place of Birth: District 8, Montserrado County Date of Birth: June 15, 1967

Siah M. Hare, a dedicated Montserrado native from District 11, has been married for 28 years and is a proud mother of five children and two grandchildren. A devout Christian with strong principles, she has contested in Montserrado County District 10 (2011) and District 11 (2023). Despite unsuccessful election attempts, Siah is motivated and focused and maintains good relationships with her constituency. Siah aspires to collaborate with partners in governance to organize programs preventing Sexual Gender-Based Violence and Harassment, promoting a culture of reporting all forms of violence. Siah's goal is to enhance community development and contribute to national betterment.

### **Education**

- 2018: Certificate in Management and Performance Appraisals for African Countries, Anti Academy in Cairo.
- 2018: Certificate in Advanced Specialization, Women, Peace, & Security.
- 2017: Public Sector Management Certificate, Liberia Institute of Public Administration.
- 2010: BA in Sociology, University of Liberia.
- 2010: Post Graduate Diploma in Development Diplomacy, Gabriel L. Dennis Foreign Service Institute.

- 2023: Community development, collaborating with community elders to enhance community development
- 2022-Present: Awareness creation, Organized women's groups and educated ten women about the importance of International Women's Day and provided startup funds for 1 Village Savings and Loan club.

### **Leadership Roles**

- 2018-Present: Gender Desk Officer Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Plans, coordinates, and drives gender affairs, representing the Ministry in all gender-related matters nationally and internationally.
- 2016-Present: Focal Person for Performance Management System, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DLI) Supervised performance management for all employees, providing training and submitting analysis reports to the World Bank on behalf of the Ministry.
- 2008-2009: Coordinated business affairs and led the team in Liberia, Multi-Level Marketing Business (Golden Neo-Life Dynamite - GNLD), Saphir.

#### Quote



I pray for the passage of the affirmative action bill to see more women in leadership positions.





# Siah J. Tandapolie

Representative Candidate District 11, Montserrado County, Liberia

### **Expertise/**Passion

Human Resources, Advocacy, Program Management

## **Notable Achievements**

• Certificates from the National Democratic Institute, USAID, and other women's Institutions for participation in women's leadership training.

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2011: Electoral Supervisor/NEC, Lower Lofa (Foya & Kolahun Districts): Responsible for staff recruitment, training, and election supervision.
- 2009: Field Assistant (Data Collection)/MADET Foundation, Monrovia.
- 2023-Present: Human Resource Supervisor, Liberia Telecommunications Corporations (LTC Mobile).
- 2013: Electrification Advocacy: Advocated for the electrification of public institutions in her district by GIZ.
- 2017: Scholarship and Financial Aid: Provided scholarships to over 200 students and financial aid for more than six years.
- 2017: Community Development: Contributed to constructing market buildings and engaged in legal advocacy in her district.

#### Quote



Leadership must prioritize competent women for empowerment based on merits and qualifications.

### Profile

Place of Birth: District 11, Montserrado County Date of Birth: May 9, 1982

Siah J. Tandapolie is the daughter of the late Hon. Moses Saah Tandanpolie, Sr. and the late Jartu Tawah Tandanpolie. She is the mother of five biological children, aged 9 to 24 years. One of Siah's standout accomplishments is her leadership in conducting training programs for over 25 staff members. Siah is a trainer of trainers. She has demonstrated her role in fostering a skilled and competent workforce. Additionally, her triumph in a Supreme Court case is a remarkable achievement, demonstrating her resilience and legal acumen. Siah brings a wealth of experience, expertise, and a proven track record of success, making her an invaluable asset to the organization. Her story is one of continuous growth, achievement, and the pursuit of excellence in her professional and academic endeavors.

## Education

- 2023: Master's degree in public administration (MPA) with emphasis in Public Personnel Administration, Cuttington University Graduate School of Professional Studies.
- 2021: Diploma in Public Procurement Management, Liberia Institute of Public Administration.
- 2009: Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) with a minor in Economics, African Methodist Episcopal University.





# Sonie Jalliet Kamara

Representative Candidate District 1, Bomi County, Liberia

### **Expertise/** Passion

Community Mobilization, Agricultural Development, Volunteerism

#### Profile

Place of Birth: Bomi, Tubmanburg City Date of Birth: April 3, 1988

Sonie, born to Fatu H. Kamara and Abel B. Jallah, hails from a diverse background, with her father being Grebo by tribe. Despite facing adversities and lacking support, Sonie has exhibited resilience in pursuing her ambitions, balancing her roles as a mother and aspiring leader and a commitment to community service as she navigated challenges to advance her education and career.

Sonie's professional journey spans various roles, from serving as a Voter Identification Officer to volunteering with organizations like UNFPA and Plan Liberia. As a dedicated agent at Mobile Power Liberia, she continues to contribute to her community's development. Sonie's leadership extends beyond her professional roles; she founded Creative Sister and actively engages in initiatives empowering women entrepreneurs.

Her vision for Liberia encompasses equal representation for women in leadership and access to resources for aspiring female politicians. Sonie aims to enter politics to advocate for her community's needs and promote social services. Her plans include developing a farm to empower women and youth while achieving food self-sufficiency. She envisions constructing essential community infrastructure like a Palava Hut and a community latrine to enhance sanitation.

### Education

• 2021-2022: AA Degree in General Agriculture from Bomi Community College.

• 2020: Certificate in Vegetable Crops from Bomi Community College (2020).

## Notable Achievements

• 2023: Awarded as Development Chairperson for Tubmanburg, Vai Town 1 Community, Bomi County.

# **Leadership Roles**

- 2023: Founder, Creative Sister. Donated funds for community development and conducted awareness campaigns on peace and security. Organized a cleanup campaign to promote WASH practices in her community.
- 2020: Box Keeper and Secretary for Plan Liberia's Village Savings and Loan Association (Successful Women).
- 2011: Founder/Secretary and Treasurer of Creative Sister.

#### Quote

Agriculture is key, and this is where you find more women. By strengthening this sector, you empower all.





Place of Birth: Montserrado County Date of Birth: July 4, 1982

Tenneh Amelia Kamara Subah, the eldest of 13 children, hails from a family that valued education despite her parents' lack of formal schooling. Raised by her godparents who prioritized education, Tenneh inherited a commitment to learning. Her journey reflects resilience and determination to uplift her community through education. Despite challenges, she pursued an extensive educational journey and became a beacon of change in River Gee County. Her career path evolved from teaching to journalism and community leadership. As the founder of the Early Trumpet Educational Foundation School System, she champions educational access.

Tenneh's commitment extends to women's empowerment, evidenced by her founding role in Women Alert Liberia, focusing on reproductive health and citizenship education. Her vision for River Gee County revolves around fostering inclusive education and promoting women's representation in decisionmaking throughout the county.

## Education

- 2023-Present: Pursuing a degree in Chemistry from William V. S. Tubman University, Harper-Maryland.
- 2008: Microsoft Word Certification from Koffi Annan Institute of Information and Technology, Ghana.
- 2008: Guidance and Counseling Diploma, Center for Leadership and Christian Counseling
- 2001-2002: Certificate in Teacher Training from Haywood Mission School.



# Tenneh Amelia Kamara Subah

Representative Candidate District 2, River Gee County, Liberia

## **Expertise/**Passion

Education Advocacy, Women's Empowerment, Journalism

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2021: Certification of Appreciation for mentorship from the Gender Peace Network
- 2018: Certificate of Appreciation from the River Gee Students' Union

## **Leadership Roles**

- 2024-Present: Founding Member of the Education Network of Liberia.
- 2020-Present: Established RICHES to support vulnerable children (adolescent mothers/ orphans/and children of adolescent/and street children) in education and Village Savings and Loans groups for women's economic empowerment.
- 2017-Present: Supported teacher training and women's empowerment initiatives.
- 2012: In River Gee, along with IBIS, supported 50 teachers in acquiring WAEC certificates by resitting the exam.
- 2011-Present: Founder/Board Chair of Women Alert Liberia in River Gee.

### Quote

66

When a woman is educated, she is equipped to advocate, challenge, and build the future of her country.





# Victoria Barduae

Representative Candidate District 16, Montserrado County, Liberia

## **Expertise/** Passion

Youth Empowerment, Political Science, Public Administration, Leadership and Mobilization

# **Notable Achievements**

- 2023: Montserrado District 16 Representative candidate
- Youth of the Year, Conqueror Tabernacle
- 2023: Special Mother of the Year
- 2023: Founders, Achievers Vocational school with 150 students on scholarships in soap making, arts and craft, and tailoring.
- 2022-present: Youth Member of District 16

## **Leadership Roles**

- 2023-present: Chairlady, Women's Wing, Liberia First Movement Political Party - Leading 15 women, mobilizing, training, and empowering them through economic initiatives.
- 2023-2024: Women Lead Chair, Liberia First Movement Political Party
- 2015: Secretary, Bushrod Technical Service
- 2015-Present: Customs Broker, National Port Authority of Liberia
- 2014-2015: Clerk, Monoprix Supermarket

#### Quote

66 If we focus and believe in ourselves, our dream to make our country great will come true.

## Profile

Place of Birth: Grand Bassa County Date of Birth: March 5, 1993

Victoria Barduae is the first of six children, born to Mr. & Mrs. Samuel and Amelia Barduae. Victoria aspires to become the President of Liberia and plans to start her leadership journey through the House of Representatives.

Victoria's goals for the community are to collaborate with the government to revitalize under-resourced areas in District 16, Montserrado County, and advocate for basic social services such as toilets, youth centers, and sanitation in the densely populated New Kru Town community. She also wishes to foster youth development across Liberia.

# Education

- 2023: Candidate, BSc in International Relations (Public Administration Major, Political Science Minor) University of Liberia
- 2013: Diploma, Trinity United Methodist High School



Place of Birth: Monrovia, Montserrado County

Madam Koiquah, a seasoned social worker, has demonstrated versatility and leadership throughout her career. Madam Koiquah's community contributions are profound, focusing on community development, women's economic empowerment, mentorship for young girls, vocational and skills training scholarships, and advocating for essential services and justice for victims of gender-based violence.

Passionate about creating a positive impact, Madam Koiquah aspires to align her career with sustainability initiatives. She envisions providing essential services in her community. Madam Koiquah aims for an improved legislature and advocates for larger leadership roles for qualified women and young people.

### Education

- Ongoing: Candidate for Masters of International Relations, University of Liberia
- 2016: BA, Major in Sociology and Minor in Management, University of Liberia



# Victoria Torlo Koiquah

Senatorial Candidate Montserrado County, Liberia

# **Expertise/ Passion:**

Social Work, Grants Management, Project Leadership

# **Notable Achievements**

 2017- Present: Managing funding from various donor institutions, facilitating training programs, and successfully securing major grants, contributing to the implementation of vital projects. She received recognition for her long-serving dedication at Plan International Liberia.

# Leadership Roles

- 2021 Present: Founder & CEO of Promoting Equality and Accountable Care – Liberia (PEACE Liberia)
- 2021-Present: Member, Board of Directors, Women's NGO Secretariat (WONGOSOL)
- 2021: Consultancy, Women's Empowerment for Self-Employment
- 2021: Spotlight Initiative Program in Liberia, WE4SELF.
- 2017-2018: Business Development Coordinator/ Grants Coordinator, Plan International Liberia.
- 2011-2017: Project Manager, Plan International Liberia.
- 2007-2011: Child Data Team Leader, "Groupement des Prestataires de Services" (Group of Service Providers) GPS/Plan International Guinea.

#### Quote

Working well together as women will lead us to the success we envisage.





Place of Birth: Tchen District 1, Grand Gedeh Date of Birth: November 29, 1972

Watchen is a mother of three children and a dedicated businesswoman involved in retail food supply at the local market. Watchen began her career as a market woman at 18, driven by the need to support her family. Watchen aims to create opportunities for market women and single mothers to access basic services. She plans to rerun for office to advocate for their needs.

Watchen's goal is to become the first woman to represent the district, highlighting that no woman has won in over sixty years' worth of elections.

Watchen envisions a Liberia where women are actively involved in all decision-making processes and where she can contribute to the country's development from Capitol Hill.



# Watchen Ophelia Boley

Representative Candidate District 1, Grand Gedeh County, Liberia

#### **Expertise**/Passion

Advocacy, Community Development, Women's Empowerment

### **Notable Achievements**

- 2023: Advocated for the installation of 30 streetlights across three communities for improved safety and security.
- 2022-Present: Successfully lobbied for the construction of 6 hand pumps to improve water and sanitation in the community.

### Leadership Roles

- 2019: Served as Vice President of Tchen Abelego, addressing women's issues in the local vernacular.
- 2019: Provided materials and support to women's groups in the community.
- 2018-Present: President and Founder of Success Women - Susu Club, empowering 75-80 women through financial support and collaboration.
- 2018: Successfully lobbied county authorities to provide 100 women and their children basic food supplies.
- 2016: Founded Claire Marie Weah Concern Women to help single women in need.

#### Quote

My mission is to empower women and advocate for their needs, ensuring they have a voice in our community and beyond.





Place of Birth: Ganta City, Nimba County Date of Birth: November 29, 1987

Winifred Mesi Guanue hails from a family with a legacy of leadership. She inherited a sense of responsibility and leadership from her family upbringing. With a background in midwifery, she has dedicated herself to improving maternal health and advocating for women's empowerment. Starting as a volunteer midwife, she has tirelessly served pregnant women, providing essential care and support during childbirth.

Winifred envisions herself as a voice for the voiceless, advocating for improved healthcare and social services in her district. Her goals include strengthening the local health system, supporting disadvantaged youth, and fostering community development. She seeks to empower women politically, recognizing their vital role in decisionmaking processes. She aims to leverage her position as a transformative leader to address broader community issues and uplift disadvantaged youth through access to essential services and counseling. Winifred emphasizes the importance of women's participation in politics, believing it is essential for a more inclusive and representative democracy.

# Education

- 2024: Midwifery Degree, United Methodist University
- 2021: Diploma in Midwifery from Tubman National Institute of Medical Art (TNIMA)
- 2008: High School Diploma from Youth Academy High School, Ganta

# Winifred Mesi Guanue

Representative Candidate District 7, Nimba County, Liberia

# **Expertise/** Passion

Midwifery, Community Health, Leadership

# **Notable Achievements**

• 2021: Certificate for Best-Performing Clinical Student at JFK Hospital.

# Leadership Roles

- 2022: Midwife at Jordan River Clinic in Lapazee Zoo.
- 2020- Present: Volunteer midwifery services for approximately 400 pregnant women.
- 2020-Present: Philanthropist, Financial aid for delivery fees and support for health projects benefiting women and children.
- 2020: Counsellor, Family planning counselling for young girls and mothers to promote sexual reproductive health.
- 2018: Volunteer Midwife at JFK Hospital

### Quote



Leadership is not for men alone. Women are as capable as men and with the right support women become great leaders.

