

Right Livelihood Award 40th Anniversary Bangkok Conference Inspiring Change: Education for Right Livelihood

Conference and Public Forum Friday 21 February 2020

Right Livelihood Laureates Profiles

Bassey, Nnimmo (Nigeria): Environment/oil, received the Right Livelihood Award in 2010.



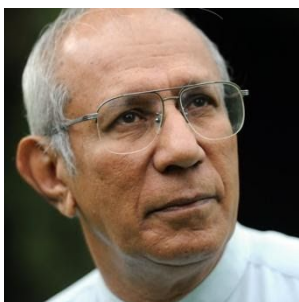
Nnimmo Bassey is a Nigerian architect, environmentalist activist, author and poet. Bassey started his work on human rights issues in the 1980s as a member of the Board of Directors of Nigeria's Civil Liberties Organisation.

In 1993, he co-founded Environmental Rights Action (ERA), also known as Friends of the Earth Nigeria, a Nigerian advocacy NGO, that deals with environmental human rights issues in the country. Bassey was ERA's Executive Director for two decades and is still the chair of its Management Board.

Bassey's major campaigning is focused on oil, and the enormous damage caused to Nigerian communities and other communities in the region (Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sudan), where oil is extracted. He works on supporting a broad movement across sub-tropical African countries where new finds of oil are being made.

Bassey is also central to the Right Livelihood College campus at The University of Port Harcourt in Nigeria.

Fazal, Anwar (Malaysia): Consumer movement, received the Right Livelihood Award in 1982



Anwar Fazal first became associated with the consumer movement in 1969 when he founded the Consumers Association of Penang (CAP). Later on, he worked on consumer affairs for, among others, the Government of Mauritius, the Hong Kong Consumer Council, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In 1978,

he was the first person from the Global South to become President of the International Organisation of Consumers Unions (IOCU), an independent, non-profit group which links the activities of consumer organisations in over half the countries of the world.

IOCU, which has since changed its name to Consumers International, promotes international cooperation in consumer protection and education, represents the consumer interest at the global level and facilitates the comparative testing of goods and services. Fazal is also the Founder of the Right Livelihood College (RLC), which today has 9 campuses around the world. He wanted to link young academics and civil society organisations with Award recipients to spread awareness about and further expand the pioneering work of the Laureates of the Right Livelihood Award.

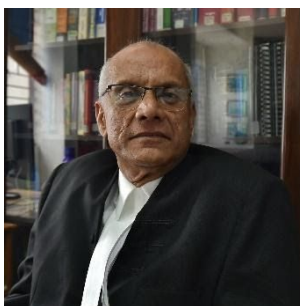
Fernando, Basil, Asian Human Rights Commission (Hongkong), received the Right Livelihood Award in 2014



Basil Fernando is an activist, author, and poet. He has been active in human rights and social action issues continuously from his youth. He practiced law from 1980 to 1989 at the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, with an emphasis on Criminal Law, Employment Law and Human Rights Law.

Fernando has held many positions linked to human rights, for example, an Appeals Counsellor for Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong as part of a project sponsored by the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and a Senior United Nations Human Rights Officer in Charge of the Investigation Unit in Cambodia under the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), and etc. He has initiated programmes for creating a popular culture of human rights through monuments and creative works in Sri Lanka. Mr. Fernando has conducted nearly 100 workshops and consultations on Reconciliation issues as well as on diverse aspects of Human Rights and Legal Reform. He initiated the Judicial Assistance programme for Cambodia and the Religion and Human Rights Programme of the Asian Human Rights Commission. In 2012, he co-founded the Asian Alliance Against Torture and Ill-Treatment.

Gonsalves, Colin (India): Human rights/law, received the Right Livelihood Award in 2017



Colin Gonsalves was born in 1952 and graduated in 1975 in engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai, but immediately switched his vocation to law as he became aware of its importance as a tool to address human rights abuses.

Noticing a complete lack of legal aid for India's poor, Gonsalves and his colleagues began to visit other states, participating in meetings and taking the first steps to form a network of young lawyers and social activists. In 1989, his Peoples' Law Centre was renamed as Human Rights Law Network (HRLN).

Gonsalves and HRLN slowly but surely expanded their work to represent Adivasis, Dalits, slum dwellers, unorganised workers, women, children and advocate for the advancement of disability rights, LGBT rights and environmental law. Throughout its history, HRLN has focused on using the legal system to win practical results for the poor and marginalised sections of society, winning over 1,000 cases.

Gunasekra, Neshan (Sri Lanka), Legacy of Judge Weeramantry: Environmental protection/law, who received the Right Livelihood Award in 2007



Neshan Gunasekera is an educationist, coach, facilitator and lawyer from Sri Lanka. He is committed to bringing communities together for environmental protection, healing and conservation through the use of intergenerational, holistic and experiential learning. Neshan was the former Director (2007-2012), of the Centre set up by late *Judge C.G. Weeramantry*, former Vice-President, International Court of Justice and founding member of the World Future Council.

Christopher Weeramantry (1926-2017) was a world-renowned legal scholar and a former Vice-President of the International Court of Justice, who played a crucial role in strengthening and expanding the rule of international law. His work demonstrates how international law can be used to address current global challenges such as the continued threat of nuclear weapons, the protection of human rights and the protection of the environment.



Lenzen Abouleish, Mona, representative of SEKEM (Egypt)

SEKEM (Egypt), received the Right Livelihood Award 2003



SEKEM was founded with the idea of sustainable development and giving back to the community. The vision that brought Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish to dig the first well in the vast desert land still resounds in SEKEMs approach of conducting business. Like a compass, their vision, mission and values guide them in the everyday work in all SEKEM companies. Sustainable development towards a future where every human being can unfold his or her individual potential; where mankind is living together in social

forms reflecting human dignity; and where all economic activity is conducted in accordance with ecological and ethical principles.



Mona Lenzen Abouleish is a board member of the Heliopolis University SEKEM, working in the field of quality development and teaching in the CORE program for students and lectures. Lenzen Abouleish is a freelance teacher with lectures in training for eurythmists and further education in the fields of "eurythm in working life", eurythm in companies and social institutions. She works with the development and implementation of prevention courses on "Burn Out".

Longo, Fiore, representative of Survival International (France): Rights of tribal people



Survival International received the Right Livelihood Award in 1989. Over the past 50 years they have worked with over 100 tribes. They work with and for tribal people to amplify their voices on the global stage to exercise their rights to survival and self-determination. Survival educated the public about the threats tribal people are facing and works to change the world in favor of the tribes.



Fiore Longo is a Research and Advocacy Officer at Survival International, as well as Co-ordinator of Survival France. She works on Survival's conservation campaign and has visited many communities threatened with eviction from conservation zones in India and Republic of Congo. She is currently leading Survival's campaign against the creation of Messok Dja National Park.

Montenegro, Raul (Argentina): natural resources and indigenous people, received the Right Livelihood Award in 2004



Since 1985, he has been Professor of Evolutionary Biology at the National University of Cordoba. In 1982, he was the principal founder of FUNAM (Fundacion para la Defensa del Ambiente), and has been its President since 1995. At present, he is FUNAM's representative at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations. Raúl Montenegro has managed to bridge the gaps between the environment, development, universities, citizens and NGOs. He is a supporter of the Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA), an organisation that promotes democratic reform of the United Nations. In addition to his actions, Montenegro has come up with theoretical concepts in order to increase

the knowledge and understanding of balanced ecosystems, and has held numerous conferences on this topic. Raúl Montenegro leads the Right Livelihood College campus Cordoba.

Rosana Fernandes, representative of the Landless Workers' Movement, MST (Brazil) which received the Right Livelihood Award in 1991: Land reforms



MST works in defense of Brazilian landless families. Brazil has the most inequitable distribution of land ownership in the world, with a high infant mortality rate, millions of street children and situations akin to slavery in the countryside. MST members work under the slogan 'Occupy, Resist, Produce'; landless peasants occupy unproductive land and start negotiations with the state or federal authorities to transfer that land to the peasants. MST then supports the farmers in forming agricultural cooperatives to produce effectively in competition with the big estates, putting themselves at great personal risk, since torture, assassinations, threats and intimidation are commonplace.



Rosana Fernandes is a long time member of MST's Political Education Sector and presently the General Coordinator of the Florestan Fernandes National School (ENFF). The school was founded by MST to educate and train its members and working class youths and adults around the world.

Perlas, Nicanor (the Philippines): environment/nuclear/spiritual, received the Right Livelihood Award in 2003



Nicanor Perlas is an adviser, global activist, writer and speaker on Artificial Intelligence, globalization, societal threefolding and Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD).

He has advised global civil society networks, social enterprises, UN and Philippine government agencies, including the Office of the President. Perlas headed global and national civil society networks, that were responsible for stopping 12 nuclear power plants, banning 32 pesticide formulations, and mainstreaming sustainable development, including organic farming in the Philippines, thereby educating citizens worldwide on their inherent power to create a better world.

He has written over 500 articles, monographs, and books including *Shaping Globalization: Civil Society, Cultural Power and Threefolding*, an international bestseller, translated in 9 languages. He is a member of the Philippine Senate

Technical Working Group on Artificial Intelligence and is helping the mayors of seven cities and towns practice participatory governance and direct democracy by empowering altogether more than 300,000 citizens to collectively embark on sustainable development. For the global impact of his work, he has been given, among others, the Outstanding Filipino Award (TOFIL), UNEP'S Global 500 Award.

Shiva, Vandana (India): ecology/women/grassroot, received the Right Livelihood Award in 1993



Vandana Shiva founded an independent institute – the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology in Dehra Dun – dedicated to high quality and independent research to address the most significant ecological and social issues of our times, working in close partnership with local communities and social movements. In 1991, she founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources – especially native seed – and to promote organic farming and fair trade. For the last two decades, Navdanya has worked with local communities and organisations, serving more than 500,000 men and women farmers.

Shiva has contributed in fundamental ways to changing the practice and paradigms of agriculture and food, also through her many books.

Her contributions to gender issues are also nationally and internationally recognised.

Suciwati, representative of Munir (Indonesia): Human Rights



Suciwati is an Indonesian human rights activist who continues to fight for justice for her late husband, Munir Said Thalib, who received the Right Livelihood Award in 2000, was murdered in 2004 on board of Garuda Indonesia flight, when he was about to undertake his International Law studies in Utrecht. Suciwati is also the founder of the Indonesian museum Omah Munir, opened in 2013, and the campaign titled "Menolak Lupa" or "Refuse to Forget", to make sure that people remember what her husband, Munir, has done for Indonesia.

Munir

Munir first came to public prominence at the end of the Suharto period through his role in the campaign in late 1997 and early '98, when two dozen pro-democracy activists were abducted under suspicious circumstances. At the height of this campaign, Munir founded the human rights organisation Kontras (Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence) with the backing of 12 pro-democracy NGOs.



Kontras focuses on fighting political violence, encouraging respect for due process of law, ensuring victims' physical and psychological recovery, and promoting reconciliation and peace.

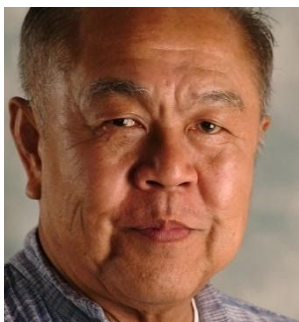
Ryoko Oikawa, Yuriko Yoshino, Miyuki Kinoshita and Hiromi Fukuzumi from the Seikatsu Cooperative Club (Japan), received the Right Livelihood Award in 1989: healthy, local food production and distribution



The Seikatsu Club traces its foundation back to 1965. In 1968, the Seikatsu Club Consumers' Co-operative (SCCCU) was founded. Since then, the Seikatsu Club has expanded its activities under the motto "autonomous control of our lives", including production, distribution, consumption and disposal, the environment, social services and politics.

The Club has determined itself to promoting self-sufficiency in food and the sustainability of local agriculture, even though this runs counter to international pressure, provoked by trade agreements such as Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and rules under the World Trade Organisation, which threaten to destroy family farming. The Seikatsu Club also aims to diversify working opportunities for women and has committed itself to exploring the scope for a people-oriented welfare system. They have also started various cooperatives running restaurants, bakeries, used goods stores, soap factories, child care centres and caring for elderly people. In 2018 such collectives had about 17,000 workers.

Sivaraksa, Sulak (Thailand): Democracy, justice, cultural integrity



Sulak Sivaraksa returned to Thailand after receiving an education in Great Britain and has since then played a leading role in the mobilisation of Thai civil society, which has repeatedly brought him into conflict with the local authorities. Some examples of his lifelong activism are the creation of a string of social welfare and development organisations; the proposal of alternatives to consumerism;

his concern for democracy, human rights and accountable government; the support of Burmese refugees in Thailand – for example the famous Jungle University for fleeing Burmese students. His work has inspired people beyond the borders of Thailand and his concept of development has been of great influence worldwide.

Some examples of the lifelong activism of “Ajarn” (= Doctor) Sulak are the creation of a string of social innovation and development organisations, such as the Spirit in Education Movement (SEM), International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB), Institute *for transformative learning (with INEB)*, and the early “Alternatives to Consumerism” network. He also founded the Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation and recent activities such as Awakening Leadership Training programme, School for Wellbeing Studies and Research, which is the Right Livelihood College Campus in South East Asia, Towards Organic Asia, and CURLS Summer School.

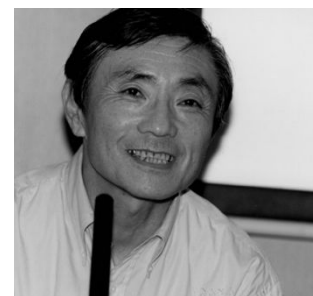
Stronell, Caitlin, Citizens Nuclear Information Center, CNIC, founded by Jinzaburo Takagi (Japan), who received the Right Livelihood Award in 1997: Nuclear power



Caitlin Stronell is an internationally-trained nuclear lecturer who is presently working as a researcher with the Japan-based Citizens’ Nuclear Information Center. In 2011, Fukushima power plant was destroyed causing contamination and health hazards to all beings in the area. The site is still contaminated. Ms. Stronell gives a broader picture of the manipulation of Fukushima survivors and the difficulties they continue to face, eight years after having to evacuate their

homes in the wake of the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear triple meltdown.

After working for the nuclear industry, Jinzaburo Takagi (1938-2000) put his energy and knowledge at the service of environment protection, with special emphasis on the fight against the nuclear threat, a topic on which he extensively wrote. His advocacy activity contributed to the scale-down of Japan’s plutonium programme, while abroad he helped other Asian NGOs to get correct scientific information on the risks and environmental implications of nuclear energy.



Experts

Christoforatos, Ellen, University of Kassel (Germany): Education



The Right Livelihood College partner Dr. Ellen Christoforatos from the University of Kassel is working on teacher training. Her focus is on education for sustainable development and global citizenship education.

Dr. Christoforatos has written the book "Education in a Globalized World: Teaching Right Livelihood" focusing on how to implement the ideas of the Right Livelihood Award

Laureates in education of teachers and teaching methods for a future-oriented teacher training.