

THE NEXT GENERATION LEADERS NETWORK

The Consumers International Next Generation Leaders Network will recognise, develop and support young voices from across our global membership.

This network will give the next generation of leaders in the consumer movement a platform to share ideas, insight and inspiration in order to help shape future action on a range of consumer issues from sustainable consumption to digital privacy, fairer food systems and product safety.

Meet the Network

Aaradhna Gupta, CUTS International (India), 26

Aaradhna works directly with consumers to solve their grievances as part of the Consumer Care Centre at CUTS International. Aaradhna is also involved in financial consumer protection activities and is particularly interested in the need for education on consumer rights in India. Aaradhna has a law degree from Nirma University, Ahmedabad and practiced as a lawyer prior to joining CUTS International.

Akshay Yadav, The Chair on Consumer Law and Practice (CLAP), National Law School of India, Bangalore, 26

Akshay is a law graduate with an LL.M. from Karnataka State Law University, Hubballi. Akshay is currently working at the National Law School of India, where he particularly focuses on consumer law and practice. Akshay has been involved in drafting a variety of policies, edited a number of consumer law journals and has worked on various projects sponsored by the Government of India & Department of Consumer Affairs, and the Government of Karnataka & Ministry of Law and Justice.

Anja Bolha, (ZPS) Slovene Consumers Association, 28

Anja is a PhD student and researcher at the Biotechnical faculty of the University of Ljubljana, and also works part-time at ZPS Slovene Consumers Association, where she covers topics including food safety, labelling, nutrition recommendations and food reformulation. Anja is also part of a Food Expert Group at BEUC (The European Consumer Association).

Anna Koshelnyk, All-Ukrainian Consumers Federation "PULSE", 27

Anna is a PhD student and Assistant at the Department of Commodity Science, Safety and Quality Management at the Kiev National University of Trade and Economics, and also works on a range of issues at the All-Ukrainian Consumers Federation "Pulse", including their Youth Movement and consumer protection campaigns. Anna's consumer advocacy interests include ensuring the safety and quality of food, medicines, and dietary supplements.

Candice Cheung, Hong Kong Consumer Council, 26

Candice works on planning and trade practices at the Hong Kong Consumer Council, including issues related to digital, e-commerce and data privacy. Candice also has a background and interest in environmental science and public health, and is therefore particularly interested in advocacy around sustainable consumption.

Chiarath Moutairou, Benin Santé et Survie des Consommateurs (BSSC), 23

Chiarath is a passionate consumer rights and women's leadership advocate, who assists the President of BSSC. Chiarath is trained as a medical biologist, with a Master's degree in Community Health and is passionate about promoting the health of communities and educating citizens in Benin on how to be socially and environmentally responsible.

Chris Churchill Omondi, Kenya Consumers Organization, 25

Chris is in charge of promoting consumer protection and education about consumer rights for young people at the Kenya Consumers Organisation. He is studying for a degree in Communication and Media Studies at Laikipia University.

Ebelechukwu Monye, (CAO) Consumer Awareness Organisation (Nigeria), 24

At CAO, Ebelechukwu focuses on media and development economics. She is particularly interested in improving access to finance in communities across Africa, as well as credit reporting, debt collection and preventing bankruptcy. Ebelechukwu is a graduate student of Georgetown's Master's in International Development Program.

Elizabeth Iberico, (ASPEC) Peruvian Association of Consumers and Users (Peru), 27

Elizabeth holds a degree in Food Science and Technology, and is currently completing her postgraduate studies in a Masters of Public Health and Global Health with a grant from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP-UN). In her role at ASPEC, Elizabeth specializes in promoting

health and food security, working directly with civil society organisations to develop and implement strategies that promote consumer rights in this field. Elizabeth also represents the 'consumer sector' in various committees, including the Codex Alimentarius.

Fatima Abou Abbass, Consumers Lebanon, 29

Fatima is an Environmental Engineer with a Master's degree in Biochemistry from Lebanese University, and has been an active member of Consumers Lebanon since 2017, where she is in charge of the Environmental Department of the Consumer Association. Fatima's consumer advocacy interests are predominantly focused around sustainable consumption and ensuring an overall healthy environment.

Genevieve Lloyd, Which? (UK), 28

Genevieve works on a range of consumer issues at Which?, from banking and pensions, to rail passenger rights. She currently leads their 'Freedom to Pay', 'Refund Us' and 'Reform Travel' campaigns. Genevieve is also interested in the international aspect of consumer issues – recognising that people across the world in multiple regions and countries are now facing many of the same issues, from digital rights and safety standards to ethical consumerism and sustainability.

Jonathan Vangee, Consumer Circle Suriname, 29

Jonathan is a Youth Member of the Consumer Circle Suriname, with an interest in tackling issues related to consumer finances, such as student loans, income tax and debt collection, as well identity theft and arbitration. Jonathan has a degree in General Economics from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, and is currently completing a Master's degree in Business Administration at the FHR institute, where he specialises in Sustainable Business Development.

Kamana Kafle, Socio Economic Welfare Action for Women and Children (SEWA NEPAL), 21

Kamana is studying a Degree in Agriculture at Purvanchal University, Himalayan College of Science and Technology and works on issues around agriculture at SEWA Nepal, in particular sustainable consumption and food security. Kamana hopes to engage young people in the production chain, organic farming and renewable sources of consumption.

Kawkab Al Harazi, Yemeni Association for Consumer Protection (Yemen), 29

Kawkab heads the Women and Child Department at the Yemeni Association for Consumer Protection, where she works on a range of awareness raising programmes which seek to defend the rights of consumers. Kawkab is particularly interested in promoting women's rights in Yemen.

Lucia Aguilar, Users and Consumers Union (Argentina), 29

Lucia is a practicing lawyer specialised in consumer rights and a member of the Users and Consumers Union. Lucia is passionate about educating consumers on their rights and is currently enrolled in a Degree in teaching to help her achieve this goal.

Maizatul Aqira Binti Ishak, ERA Consumer Malaysia, 25

After graduating with a Consumer Studies degree in 2019, Maizatul took an Executive Research and Policy position from ERA Consumer Malaysia, an affiliate of the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations (FOMCA). Maizatul works on several projects and campaigns in the Malaysian community and is particularly interested in financial knowledge and capability.

Maria Hammarling, The Swedish Consumers' Association, 29

As a public health professional with an interest in public policy, Maria's focus in her role at the Swedish Consumers' Association is advocating for a fair, just and robust transition to a sustainable society for all. Maria is currently involved in a number of policy developments including the European Green Deal and the transition to a toxic-free circular economy.

Martina Grncharevska, (COM) Consumer Organisation of Macedonia, 23

Martina works as a legal advisor at the Consumer Organisation of Macedonia, and has a passion for human and consumer rights. Martina is particularly interested in consumer protection in relation to financial services and product safety.

Mey Ling Ho Cruzado, UNCUREPA (National Union of Consumers and Users of the Republic of Panama), 18

As a member of UNCUREPA, Mey Ling Ho leads the Young Consumers programme, where she promotes issues related to responsible consumption and healthy, sustainable diets. Mey Ling Ho also leads a group of young consumers in the Healthy Eating Movement of Panama, helping to educate consumers on reducing food waste and encouraging healthy eating habits.

Melissa Frias, (DGC) General Consumer Directorate (Portugal), 27

Melissa works as a legal advisor at DGC, where she has implemented a new project, the "Electronic Complaints Book", a platform that gathers information from traders, enforcers and regulatory authorities for the use of consumers. Melissa has a particular interest in advocacy around consumer issues related to technology, such as data privacy.

Moitamo Lebang, Botswana Consumer Center For Advocacy, Research and Orientation (BCCARO), 30

Moitamo aspires to have consumer representation within the boards of public utility companies such as telecoms, power stations and water utilities corporations in Botswana. Through this network, he hopes to establish links and collaboration between BCCARO and other consumer organisations globally.

Nur Asyikin Aminuddin, Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association (FOMCA), 30

Nur has been working at FOMCA since 2014. Nur works specifically on Product Safety Standards, working to ensure a safe and reliable marketplace by notifying government on product safety and ensuring product recalls. Nur has a particular interest in food safety and has also been involved in standards development in Malaysia. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology from the University of Malaya.

Patrick Veyret, CHOICE (Australia), 27

Patrick works on campaigns and policy at CHOICE, Australia's largest consumer advocacy organisation. Patrick campaigns on making finance fairer for people, covering a wide range of policy issues - from fairer credit cards to mortgages, insurance, and financial advice. Apart from campaigning on consumer finance issues, Patrick's work has also included reforming renting in Australia, regulating pet food, and ensuring that hand sanitisers are up to standard.

Qiao Zhang, Consumers Japan, 25

Qiao is an active student member of Consumers Japan and is currently studying at Utsunomiya University. Qiao's interests include advocating for sustainable consumption, with a particular focus on promoting a zero-waste society.

Ravinesh Uthayasuriyan, Selangor Consumer Association (SCA), 24

Ravinesh is a graduate from Universiti Tenaga Nasional, and now works at Ravinesh Uthayasuriyan - Selangor Consumer Association (SCA), an affiliate of FOMCA, where he manages awareness and education programmes to advocate for energy efficiency and sustainable lifestyles across Malaysia. Ravinesh is also involved in stakeholder engagements by the Energy Commission in the development of electricity tariffs and demand forecasting.

Vedavati Chiplunkar, (MGP) Mumbai Grahak Panchayat (India), 23

Vedavati works on social media at MGP, and has a particular interest in consumer challenges in the medical and pharmaceutical field as well as in protecting consumers on digital platforms. Vedavati holds a Master's degree in Philosophy and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Psychology. Vedavati also writes articles on fashion and lifestyle for a regional newspaper, and teaches Spanish language via private tuition.

Virginia Christou, Cyprus Consumers Association, 27

Virginia is a lawyer in Nicosia, with an interest in consumer protection law and international commercial law. Virginia is an active member of Cyprus Consumer Association, where she is involved in consumer advocacy around unfair commercial practices and abusive clauses in bank or purchase documents. Virginia has also been involved in a number of European projects run by BEUC, such as the "STEP Project" and "Consumer Pro Project".

Zeinabou Coulibaly, (ASCOMA) Consumers Association of Mali, 25

Zeinabou works as part of the Investigation Team at ASCOMA. Zeinabou holds a general license in Private Law, and her interests include the defence of consumer rights with a particular emphasis on product safety, access to healthcare and consumer education.