

# YouthActionNet®

a program of the International Youth Foundation

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## Welcome: New Fellows in Turkey and Spain

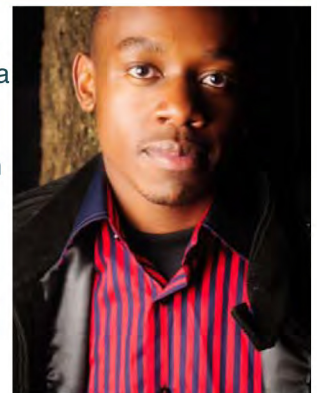
YouthActionNet® extends a hearty congratulations to the first class of fellows to be selected through the BILGI Young Social Entrepreneur Awards in Turkey. Among those honored at the February awards ceremony were the 25-year-old developer of a robotic device that collects waste from seawater and a 20-year-old who is promoting environmentally-friendly brick production that results in safer housing.

The ten Fellows in Turkey join ten additional young leaders in Spain as the newest members of YouthActionNet®'s global network of young social entrepreneurs leading change in their communities. Today, this network includes more than 400 social innovators in 60 countries.

Read more about recent events in Turkey and Spain under Network News below!

## Fellow Spotlight: George Gachara

In response to the violence following the 2007 Presidential election in Kenya, George Gachara co-founded [Picha Mtaani](#) (swahili for Street Exhibition). Its goal: to equip young people to serve as agents of change and reconciliation in their communities. George, who recently authored [The Reverse is True: A Reflective Journey](#), is now working to foster greater dialogue among the nation's youth in advance of the 2012 elections.



[Click here for more  
events](#)

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Watch as George describes his work and social change goals in this [two-minute video](#), produced by the global public relations firm, [Porter Novelli](#), a YouthActionNet® partner.

**Reminder:** Help us spread the word about the **2011 YouthActionNet® Global Fellowship**. Application deadline: March 11. [Learn more](#).

## Fellow Updates

**2009 Fellow Dina Buchbinder Auron**, founder of [Deport-es para Compartir](#) in Mexico, was named an Ashoka Fellow. Ashoka Fellows are "leading social entrepreneurs who have developed innovative solutions to social problems... and demonstrate unrivaled commitment to bold new ideas." [Learn more](#).



**2008 Fellow Bright Simons**, co-founder of [mPedigree](#), won the [Grand Prix NetExplorateur 2011](#). The annual award, given out at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, recognizes the world's best digital innovation.

**2008 Fellow Nnaemeka Ikegwuonu**, founder of the Smallholders Foundation was honored as Nigeria's '[Young Person Of The Year](#)' at the Future Awards on January 30.

**2007 Fellow Tal Dehtiar**, founder of [Oliberté](#), which sells premium footwear made in Africa, was featured on *CNN Business*. [Watch the video](#) or [read the story](#).

**2006 Fellow Selene Biffi**, founder of [Youth Action for Change](#), recently launched [Plain Ink](#), a social venture that creates and distributes free comics teaching practical skills (e.g., health, food security) to children and communities in Afghanistan and India. To sustain its mission and work, Plain Ink, will produce and sell bilingual, illustrated children's books in Italy.

**2003 Fellow Harjant Gill** has just completed his latest documentary film. *Roots of Love* tells the stories of six different men, ranging in age from 14 to 86, and the changing significance of hair and the turban among Sikhs in India. The film explores the inherent conflict between tradition and modernity, pragmatism and faith. [View the trailer and learn more](#) about the film.

## Network News

The [BILGI Young Social Entrepreneur Awards](#) honored its First Class of Fellows in Turkey. Hosted by Istanbul Bilgi University, a member of the Laureate International Universities network, and supported by the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation, the Awards identify young social entrepreneurs who have succeeded in making positive contributions to their communities. The ten Fellows selected annually receive mentoring to develop their leadership skills, attend customized training programs, and are eligible to receive cash awards to enable them to improve their projects. [Learn more](#).



The [Universidad Europea de Madrid Prize for Young Social Entrepreneurs](#) held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual awards ceremony honoring ten young leaders who have developed innovative solutions to community challenges in Spain. Since 2008, Universidad Europea de Madrid, a member of the Laureate International Universities network, has hosted the award with the support of the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation. The Fellowship includes intensive learning and leadership development sessions, matching with mentors, and a 3,000 Euros award. [Read more.](#)

**YouthActionNet® is poised to launch two new national programs for young social entrepreneurs in Chile and Peru in 2011.**  
Stay tuned for details.

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