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GirlsCARE is a merging of girl power, of four Jamaican climate scholar activists determined to use our platform and voices to create space and empower young women to advocate for gender justice in climate action.

Why We Care?

The inequality and discrimination experienced by [marginalised] girls and young women are amplified by climate change:

- Sexual and reproductive health rights and access are disrupted due to climate induced disasters
- Violence against girls increases in the form of sexual abuse, trafficking and other forms of exploitation due to economic losses
- Empowerment of women and girls, political and economic is crucial to building the Caribbean’s resilience to climate change

How We Care?

We provide mentorship to girls and young women involved or interested in climate action.

We use our platforms to advocate for climate actions that are gender responsive.

We provide training and information on climate advocacy.
FRIDA is a young feminist fund that aids in strengthening the leadership of young feminist activists worldwide. It was formed to provide resources and opportunities globally to women and transgender youth. FRIDA believes that expressing support to young feminists is a vital step to the sustainability of women’s movements and organizations. Moreover, they believe in the collective power, expertise, and innovation of young feminist organizers to address causes of inequality in order to create lasting change in their communities.

AS A FEMINIST LED INITIATIVE, FRIDA:

- Provides small grants to support initiatives led by young women and transgender youth under 30 years old.
- Provides capacity development opportunities responsive to the needs of young feminist organizers, and opportunities focused on building relationships that strengthen networks of young feminist activists within multigenerational movements.
- Mobilizes resources to enhance the quality and quantity of funding for women’s human rights.
- Increases the knowledge for advocacy and also ensures that policies are inclusive to the priorities of young women and transgender youth.
The GirlsCARE Mentorship program is a young feminist led initiative that aims to empower women and girls as advocates for climate action that safeguards the economic, social and environmental rights of women in adaptation and resilience building efforts nationally and regionally.

Our specific goals in this regard are to empower women and girls to engage climate change by building awareness and technical capacity through mentorship and training to advocate for the adoption of gender sensitive and climate just approaches to youth engagement in adaptation and resilience building strategies at the national level, to promote women’s and girls economic, social and environmental rights and to promote an integrated approach to climate/gender justice in youth engagement and development planning.

The program objectives are achieved through:

- Mentorship
- Technical presentations
- Network building sessions
- Report and reflection writing
- Virtual activism and event planning

At the end of the mentorship program, each mentee will be assigned to a group project to carry out a virtual event/activity focusing on themes such as:

- Gender and Climate
- Climate Activism
- Feminist Activism
- Climate Justice

The objective of these projects mentee is to increase the awareness of these topics to the public and showcase what they have learnt during the program.
The Coordinators
Ayesha Constable

Ayesha has researched and published on gender and climate change as part of her doctoral studies, which links her interests in agriculture, youth and gender. She has served as member of several regional and global youth networks including the Caribbean Youth Environment Network, Commonwealth Youth Climate Network, is former Caribbean Coordinator for the Sustainable Development Solutions Youth Network, regional representative for Global Power Shift of 350.org and is currently a Global Advisor to FRIDA-the Young Feminist Fund.

Jhannel Tomlinson

Jhannel Tomlinson is a PhD candidate whose research is focused on community-based adaptation to Climate Change. She is the cofounder of Young People for Action on Climate Change, Jamaica and GirlsCARE Jamaica. She is the Caribbean Advisor for the NextGen Climate Board, Sustainability Lead for the JAWIC Board, the Prime Minister’s Youth Awardee for Environmental Protection, 2019 and was most recently listed as one of 50 youth advancing the future of food on the ‘50 next list’. She has represented Jamaica in Paris, Poland and Spain as a youth climate champion and will travel to Italy in September as the youth delegate for the Driving Ambition Youth Event.
ELEANOR
TERRELONGE

A 2018 Jamaica Prime Minister Youth Awardee for Environmental Protection, Eleanor Terrelonge is dedicated to environmental advocacy and action through youth involvement in climate change. She is the founder and director of the Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council (JCCYC) formed in 2017, which is a youth volunteer group raising awareness about climate change among young Jamaicans. She has represented Jamaica as a youth climate change and sustainability advocate in initiatives across the Caribbean region. Currently pursuing a PhD in Molecular Biology at the UWI Mona, she is also building a career as science communicator and writer.

DAINALYN
SWABY

Dainalyn Swaby is a communications practitioner who focuses on climate change awareness and the integration of climate responsive actions into the everyday activities of individuals and organizations. She has represented the Caribbean at forums internationally including the COP 25 Climate Change Conference. A 2019 Chevening Scholar, she recently complete a MA. in Global Communication and Development at Loughborough University, London. Dainalyn is the creator and host of Global Yaadie, a podcast series exploring culture, climate and sustainable development with people across the globe.
THE MENTEES
Aleyah Powell is a Green Ambassador for the Department of Youth and Sports in Nevis. She became interested in climate change once she learned the effects it causes to the environment and how anthropogenic activities affect the Earth’s climate. She is also interested in the actions that can be taken to reduce the harmful effects it causes to environments. Her goal is to influence persons to be more mindful of their actions and aware of their effects on the environment.

Caden Smith is a member of the Eco Club at her school where she developed an interest for environmental action. She aims to find ways to reduce the harmful factors affecting the environment. Her goal is to fuse her interest in marketing with climate advocacy to promote eco friendly businesses that work toward combating environmental degradation through climate change.
Chade՛ Smith is a University student studying Economics and Accounting at the University of West Indies, Cave Hill. She has a passion for service and governance. She believes that climate action is very important, as everyday we see harmful effects of climate change such as warmer temperatures and severe hurricanes. She decided to join this program to gain knowledge she needs to intelligently speak on climate change and action and to be a part of the fight and enact the change that the world needs.

Caden Smith is a member of the Eco Club at her school where she developed an interest for environmental action. She aims to find ways to reduce the harmful factors affecting the environment. Her goal is to fuse her interest in marketing with climate advocacy to promote eco friendly businesses that work toward combating environmental degradation through climate change.
Cordiesere Walters holds a Bachelor’s degree in Biology from Touro College in New York. She is a Youth Development Officer at the Department of Youth-Nevis. As a lover of nature and environment, she became more invested in learning more about climate protection, food security and green building in 2021. She believes she has a role to play in tackling climate change to help save our planet.

Dinara Perera

Dinara is a student at the University of Leeds studying Sustainability and Environmental Management. She is the Associate Director of the Mangrove Education Project and former Lead Ranger of the Cayman Islands Mangrove Rangers. Dinara participated in COP 26 and hopes to build her community organization skills to help address climate challenges in the Caribbean.
Isabela grew up in the Cayman Islands, falling asleep after long boat trips, jumping off the iron shore, learning how to stand up paddleboard, making sandcastles, and getting my scuba diving certification. Throughout high school, she collaborated with youth-led environmental activists within the organization, Protect Our Future. Currently, she is studying marine biology and art at the University of California Santa Cruz. She aspires to make her community more sustainable and inclusive, preserve our society’s maritime culture, and ensure more strong youth voices are heard.

Kalifa believes that Sustainable development is the masterful balance of meeting our needs without jeopardizing future generations ability to do the same. At 17, she believes her world is beautiful. She sees the world as fresh air, clear rivers, and a healthy environment and considers her country Jamaica to be an adventure. She worries that climate change will bar the fulfillment of this dream. She believes it is her job to help to save the environment which gives her so much.
Kesharna Stapleton

Kesharna Stapleton is a Youth Development Officer at the Department of Youth in Nevis. Her interest in Climate Change grew through her personal and professional experiences. She was motivated to join the GirlsCARE Climate Change Young Women’s Mentorship Program to learn more about climate change in regards to women and how she can help in the fight against Climate Change.

Leah Phillip

Leah is a 12 grade student from Trinidad and Tobago. She enjoys helping others and caring for the earth. Her passion for environmental activism has encouraged her interests in climate change as it has allowed her to see the extent of man’s destruction of our Earth. She chose to apply to this program to learn more about climate change and to play an active role in working towards a change, as she is passionate about helping the earth and society in order to preserve and build a prosperous future for all.
Lili Anne Aleria is a high school student from the Cayman Islands. For the past three years, she has been a member of a youth-led environmental group, “Protect our Future.” Throughout her participation, she has raised awareness among children on the impending consequences of climate change and has organized community cleanups in her area. She is seeking to learn additional skills and tools to tackle the climate crisis.

Lilly Haug is a 15 year old from Cayman Islands. She is currently in year 11 at Cayman International School. At School she is a part of the clubs Protect Our Future, Youth Ambassadors Program, National Honors Society and the founders of Clothes For a Cause. Climate change is very important to her because it affects her future of living on an island in the Caribbean.
Marci Mejia is a second-year student majoring in International Relations. Marci is a member of the Belize City Council Youth Shadow Council. She is the Public Relations officer of the student council, is the president of the Oceana Club, and the Model United Nations club at SJCJC in Belize City. She is also a member of the Belize National Volleyball Team and is active in community service. She recently created the Instagram page (@community.activist) to empower the younger generation through knowledge.

Marleigh has been passionate about environmental protection since primary school where she was initially introduced to pollution and global warming. Ever since, she has started a small activist group that works on environmental projects such as beach cleanups. She has been a member of many youth environmental groups and co-led Cayman’s very first tree planting project. By joining the GirlsCARE program, she can join my peers to amplify the voice of the youth, the environment and women in the Caribbean.
Megan is a graduate of Quest University Canada (May 2020), with a BA&Sc in Liberal Arts, concentrating in Environmental and Cultural Studies. Her academic interests have leaned towards preserving Jamaica’s rich natural and cultural exports, and working to highlight the threat of climate change to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) within the Caribbean. She looks forward to conversing with other passionate, like-minded young women through the GirlsCARE Mentorship Programme as she works to turn her thoughts into climate action.

Mia Cezair is a 11th grade student from Trinidad and Tobago. At school she is an active member in the environmental and gardening clubs. Her interest in climate change arose after learning of the negative ways individuals have changed the nature of the greenhouse effect through industrialization especially through large scale cow farming. Applying to this program is an opportunity for her to learn how to effectively contribute towards the fight against climate change and become a young woman who will truly make a difference to our world.
Moriah Hamilton is sophomore civil engineering student at Howard University. She is a young Guyanese enthusiast in activism, green engineering and sustainable development. She is excited for this project as she believes that mentoring provides a means for her to filter some of the information she has garnered for good and change.

Natalia is a sophomore student at the Cayman International School. She is a member of Protect our Future and Youth Ambassador Program. Additionally, she is a co-founder of the project, “Masks for a Cause”. Living on an island, She has the pleasure to live by the beach and appreciate it. Her home also encourages her to learn about the issues and effects of climate change. She is very passionate about my environment and would love this opportunity to help improve it.
Nataliyah Thomas

Nataliyah is a 15 year old that wants to see a good type of change in the world. Climate change is one of the biggest problems the world is facing at the moment and she would like to partake in mending our earth by sharing the things she knows and learning on what others have to say on the matter, so that the Earth could be here for generations to come.

Quiana Charles

Quiana Charles is a second year student at Sir Arthur Lewis Community College. At the age of 14, she became interested in climate change. She has gained the understanding that unless Climate Change is addressed now it will radically affect her lifestyle, devastate ecosystems, and have a negative influence on humanity. As a member of the mentorship programme she plans to instill environmental care in future generations through education. She believes as future generations grow, it would be ingrained in their minds how to properly treat the environment.
Rebecca Hulse is an environmentalist from Belize. She graduated from St. Johns College in Belize with a degree in Liberal Arts and Biology from a Canadian university. Most recently, she worked as the youngest and only-female supervisor on one of the largest farms in Belize and was involved in major, hands-on agricultural and commercial work. These motivated her to join the GirlsCare Mentorship Programme to equip herself with the knowledge and also get the opportunity to learn and connect with like-minded Caribbean women who want to make a difference.

Shiann is a high school student from Bahamas. She has always had interest in activism, specifically women’s rights activism and more recently climate change activism. She plans to pursue the areas of Political Science, Geography and International Relations during her future education ventures. She was motivated to apply for this program because she wants to be more informed and well rounded in my knowledge in climate change by learning from those who have had experience in the field and to contribute my own ideas.
Suphane Dash-Alleyne is a student at the University of Guyana pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies. Having worked with many environmental centered youth led NGO’s and been involved in many events such as community outreach, webinars and panel discussions, she is extremely passionate about the climate education movement, which she believes is seriously lacking in our educational system. She is always interested in programs like the GirlsCare mentorship program as it will build capacity and the knowledge gained will be valuable in her activism journey.

Tianna is a sixth form student from Jamaica. Her interest in climate change was sparked by her knowledge gained from her high school curriculum. Focusing on the natural sciences has allowed her to appreciate the environment even more. This motivated her to apply for the GirlsCARE Climate Change Mentorship Programme 2022, as this experience will grant her the opportunity to make a difference in the world by helping to preserve the earth and all its inhabitants, through combating climate change.
Aaliyah Noble

Aaliyah Noble is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Mechatronics Engineering at the Caribbean Maritime University. In the future, she hopes to start an engineering company to provide efficient and environmentally friendly solutions. She also hopes to create more opportunities to get more women involved in sustainable engineering. She is currently a member of the JCCYC (Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council) and an intern at Ocean Uprising.

Alejandra Padin-Dujon

Alejandra is a recent graduate of the London School of Economics (MSc Development Studies ‘20) and Yale University (BA Modern Middle Eastern Studies and Mathematics /Philosophy ‘18). She is currently employed as a policy analyst at the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Environment, where her work ranges from impact assessment to international climate policy. She speaks Spanish, French, and Arabic, and is a dual citizen of the USA and St. Lucia. In her spare time, Alejandra likes to dance and drink guava smoothies.
Ashley Lashley

Barbados

Ashley Lashley is a UNICEF Youth Advocate who has a passion that focuses on social development issues related to health, the environment, children, and women’s rights. She began her youth activist journey at the age of 16 when she formed the Barbados Schools Against Non-Communicable Diseases. In 2020, Ashley founded HEY (Healthy and Environmentally-Friendly Youth), a global climate change and health campaign seeking to build bridges between youth in the Caribbean and around the world. She started an initiative called Model Patrol Academy which hosts special developmental workshops twice (2) every year that targets young aspiring female and male models from across Barbados.

Ayesha Constable

Jamaica

Ayesha has researched and published on gender and climate change as part of her doctoral studies, which links her interests in agriculture, youth and gender. She has served as member of several regional and global youth networks including the Caribbean Youth Environment Network, Commonwealth Youth Climate Network, is former Caribbean Coordinator for the Sustainable Development Solutions Youth Network, regional representative for Global Power Shift of 350.org and is currently a Global Advisor to FRIDA- the Young Feminist Fund.
Cristina Samwaroo

Christine Samwaroo was born and raised in Guyana. She studied at Iona College and The New School. Christine focused her studies on climate justice and sustainability in Guyana and the Caribbean. She has a Master’s Degree in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management. In 2018, Christine decided to move back to Guyana to follow her dreams of doing environmental work in her country. She worked as a Senior Environmental Officer at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Currently, she is the Co-coordinator with Women4Biodiversity. Christine is both a Climate Reality Project and Green Faith Youth Fellow. Most recently, Christine co-authored a children’s book on climate change and health called ‘The Sprouts and the Mystery of the Flood’.

Dainalyn Swaby

Dainalyn Swaby is a communications practitioner who focuses on climate change awareness building and integration of climate responsive actions into the everyday activities of individuals and organizations. She has represented the Caribbean at forums internationally including the United Nations Youth Climate Summit and the COP 25 Climate Change Conference. A 2019 Chevening Scholar, she recently complete a MA. in Global Communication and Development at Loughborough University, London. Dainalyn is the creator and host of Global Yaadie, a podcast series exploring culture, climate and sustainable development with people across the globe.
Dizzanne Billy

Dizzanne Billy is communications and marketing specialist who enjoys applying her knowledge and practical experience to the environmental and climate change movement. She holds an MSc degree in Global Studies, having completed her thesis on the study of the effectiveness of global environmental governance in the biodiversity agenda. Dizzanne is the Communications and Outreach Manager for the global youth-led climate journalism network - Climate Tracker and an active climate change communicator, publishing on climate change and participating and leading discussions on the theme, locally, regionally, and internationally.

Jameela Geddes

Jameela Geddes is an environmental development practitioner and educator, with an immense passion for nation building and emergent youth leadership. In 2017, she represented Jamaica at a multilateral leadership summit, on Forestry Law and Economic Governance (FLEG) in Beijing, China here she spoke on forestry law/ international environmental policies and governance. She was a member in the Climate Reality Leadership Corps, where she received training from former United States Vice President, Al Gore, in working to solve climate crises and build a healthy future for Earth. She founded View My World Photography Camp, which uses technology to engage children 6-17 years old, in environmental advocacy; reflecting her passion for the discipline and youth leadership, in the protection and preservation of the natural environment.
Jhannel Tomlinson is a PhD candidate whose research is focused on community-based adaptation to Climate Change. She is also a scholar activist who is cofounder of Young People for Action on Climate Change, Jamaica and GirlsCARE Jamaica. She is the Caribbean Advisor for the NextGen Climate Board, Sustainability Lead for the JAWIC Board, the Prime Minister’s Youth Awardee for Environmental Protection, 2019 and was most recently listed as one of 50 youth advancing the future of food on the ‘50 next list’. She has represented Jamaica in Paris, Poland and Spain as a youth climate champion and will travel to Italy in September as the youth delegate for the Driving Ambition Youth Event.

Dr. Joyelle Clarke is a youth activist encouraging environmental justice through activism and volunteerism. She has been involved in livelihoods research for over 10 years working on areas of post sugar economic transition, agricultural livelihoods, cooperatives, and climate change. She has been an educator for the past 5 years, working closely with the Cayon High School Environment Program. She has engaged in consultations specific to reviewing of the Early Childhood sector in St Kitts, in partnership with UNESCO; transforming schools into green spaces in collaboration with the GEF Small Grants Program and Cayon High; and youth empowerment through educational programs for domestic violence with professionals from St Kitts; as well as environmental career fairs at the Cayon High School.
Kristeena Monteith

Kristeena Monteith is a creative producer, community organizer and writer, helping organizations and changemakers create meaningful community and communications based social change projects, campaigns and movements. Currently, she is the Community and Outreach Officer at WE-Change Jamaica, a feminist organization focused on advocating for and with LBTQ women. Kristeena additionally is a Senior Creative Producer at Talk Up Radio, a radio programme and youth community tackling global social and political issues with a team of young Jamaicans. Globally she volunteers to support young people in expanding their capacity for sustainable civic participation as a United Nations Young Leader for the SDGs and Restless Development Youth Power Panel Coordinator.

Leah Fouchong

Leah Fouchong is a Geographer Teacher at St. Francois Girls’ College for over the past thirteen years. She has a Master’s degree in Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development. Leah has participated in several international conferences and workshops such as the Conference of Caribbean Disaster Management, Jamaica 2010 and the Conference of Youth on Climate change, Peru 2014. She founded the Facebook community; Changemakers for the Environment to empower the public to learn, advocate and actively volunteer in environmental initiatives. She also founded an environmental enterprise, Coexistence Expeditions which is an eco / geo tourism business aimed at promoting sustainable tourism through education, awareness and empowerment.
LENeka Rhoden

Jhannel Tomlinson is a PhD candidate whose research is focused on community-based adaptation to Climate Change. She is also a scholar activist who is cofounder of Young People for Action on Climate Change, Jamaica and GirlsCARE Jamaica. She is the Caribbean Advisor for the NextGen Climate Board, Sustainability Lead for the JAWIC Board, the Prime Minister’s Youth Awardee for Environmental Protection, 2019 and was most recently listed as one of 50 youth advancing the future of food on the ‘50 next list’. She has represented Jamaica in Paris, Poland and Spain as a youth climate champion and will travel to Italy in September as the youth delegate for the Driving Ambition Youth Event.

Marisa Hutchinson

Dr Joyelle Clarke is a youth activist encouraging environmental justice through activism and volunteerism. She has been involved in livelihoods research for over 10 years working on areas of post sugar economic transition, agricultural livelihoods, cooperatives, and climate change. She has been an educator for the past 5 years, working closely with the Cayon High School Environment Program. She has engaged in consultations specific to reviewing of the Early Childhood sector in St Kitts, in partnership with UNESCO; transforming schools into green spaces in collaboration with the GEF Small Grants Program and Cayon High; and youth empowerment through educational programs for domestic violence with professionals from St Kitts; as well as environmental career fairs at the Cayon High School.
SARAI HUTCHINSON

Sarai is a 21-year-old senior at the Orville E. Kean campus who majors in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science. She loves the outdoors and spending time having memorable experiences. As an island girl, it is her goal to learn how to swim and snorkel and to explore her interests in oceanography and plant biotechnology. She is a member of the Gardening Living Learning Community on campus at UVI with a love for the environment. Her hope is to be an environmental advocate in whatever small ways possible.

TANEQUE HESLOP

Taneque Heslop has seven years of experience in disaster risk reduction, environment, climate change and climate financing initiatives at the government and civil society organizational level in Jamaica. Moreover, knowledge of the UNFCCC negotiation process and National Determined Contributions. She has experience at the national and regional level working with a diverse set of stakeholder and also experience working with international development partners such as Global Affairs Canada and UNDP. She loves working with people and helping others achieve more than they expected of themselves.
TIPS TO BE A SUCCESSFUL ACTIVIST

✓ Find your why. Why are you a climate activist?
✓ Join organizations and groups that focus on the issues you advocate for
✓ Your voice is important, use it to increase the awareness of the issue at hand.
✓ As an activist, time management is very vital.
✓ Education is important, make use of every opportunity to educate yourself and your peers
✓ Encourage grassroots activism and in every opportunity hold elected officials accountable for the things that need to be done
✓ Social media is a very useful tool, use it to your advantage especially to increase awareness and climate conversations.
✓ There is no set way to be an activist, all it requires is yourself and your passion. As such, remember who you are and mark your path.
✓ Activism can be tiring and disappointing. Always schedule time for self care, this is important
✓ Awareness is a major aspect of activism, however the way information is shared among people is also vital.
Communication is the key to successful mentorship.
- Communicate and share your expectations with your mentees
  Share your stories and experiences of your journey
- Do not be afraid to share mistakes you have made or any failures you have experienced along the way
- Take time to get to know your mentee personally
- Find ways to educate and challenge your mentees through different projects and tasks
- Help your mentee to articulate their personal values and goals.
- Provide helpful feedback to aid mentees to build on their skills and qualities
- Share your network with your mentee
- Consistency is key, be consistent in how you communicate and work with your mentee, if possible set fixed times to meet.
- A mentorship is a learning process for both the mentor and mentee, try to be open minded.
BRIDGET BURNS
Director of the Women’s Empowerment and Development Organization

MARIA ALEJANDRA ESCALANTE
Climate and Environmental Justice Advocacy Officer at FRIDA

JEVANIC HENRY
Sustainable Development Practitioner

MARIA REYES
Member of Fridays for Future

XIOMY ACEVEDO
Director and Founder of Barranquilla+20

DIZZANNE BILLY
Communications and Outreach Manager at Climate Tracker

DAINALYN SWABY
Creator of podcast series, Global Yaadie

EMMA LEWIS
Environmental Blogger and creator of “Emma’s Blog”

SADIE DECOSTE
Co-founder and co-director of the Loss and Damage Youth Coalition

INEZA GRACE
Co-director of the Loss and Damage Control Coalition

SANAM AMIN
Feminist activist, Writer and Researcher
ANNEX

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- Mentor/Mentee Contract
- Reflection Template