



2018 HRFN Conference in Mexico City

Plenary Session Speakers

Transforming social protests into political influence and power: what lessons from Africa to the Diaspora?



Fadel Barro

Coordinator of the Senegalese social movement Y'en A Marre

Fadel Barro is a journalist and one of the founders of the Senegalese Citizen Movement Y EN A MARRE, born in January 2011. He was one of the architects of the first Popular University of Citizens' Engagement (UPEC), which was held in July 2018 and brought together more than 500 participants from over 50 social movements on the continent and its diasporas. Named one of the 50 most influential African intellectuals by the Pan-African

magazine *Afrique Magazine*, Fadel Barro is the recipient of Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience award.



Briggs Bomba

Project Director Zim Alliance, TrustAfrica

Briggs coordinates the Zimbabwe Alliance, a funding collaborative that works to promote civic engagement in Zimbabwe. Anchored by TrustAfrica, it identifies, engages and supports local initiatives through grant making, capacity building, networking and mobilizing international solidarity. Previously Briggs served as Director of Campaigns for Africa Action, Washington, D.C. He holds an M.A. in Social and Applied Economics from

Wright State University (Ohio, USA). He has served on the steering committees of the Zimbabwe Social Forum and Southern Africa Social Forum and on the board of Jubilee USA. Briggs is a leading analyst on democracy and economic development in Africa.



Opal Tometi

Founder, Black Lives Matter; Executive Director, Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)

Writer, activist, and immigration rights advocate Opal Tometi is best known as one of the three founders of the Black Lives Matter movement. Since 2011, Tometi has worked for Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI). This groups works to improve the lives of African Americans, Afro Latinos, and African and Caribbean immigrants. Tometi also worked for the Drop the I-Word campaign which raised awareness about the way we discuss topics

such as the Great Migration, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Black Diaspora. She is involved with Black Organizing for Leadership and Dignity (BOLD) that helps black activists develop their skills. Tometi is also a board member of the Puente Human Rights Movement, a Phoenix-based organization that protects the rights of immigrant families and communities. She was also a founder of the Black-Brown Coalition of Arizona. Her full bio is available [here](#).



Juslene Tyresias

Peasant Movement of Papaye (MPP)

Juslene Tyresias is the program director and member of the executive committee of Mouvmman Peyizan Papay/Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP) in Haiti. Prior to this post, Tyresias served as a trainer within MPP for over decade. She also serves as MPP's representative to various cross-sector movement coalitions and collaborations within and outside of Haiti. Founded in the early 70s, MPP is one of the most prominent peasant

movements in Haiti, and a founding member of La Via Campesina.