

The logo for NYLESA, featuring the letters 'NYLESA' in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. The 'Y' is stylized with a white outline.

**NYLESA**

New York Local Expatriate Spouse Association

Supporting United Nations Spouses

A large blue rectangular box containing the text 'STEERING COMMITTEE' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

# STEERING COMMITTEE

March 2021 – March 2022

A large orange rectangular box containing the text 'CANDIDATES' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

# CANDIDATES

# List of Candidates

**Chair** Soraya King

**Co-Chair** Natalia Chernysh

**Treasurer** 1. Jooyoung Kim      2. Fisayo Ojelabi

**Welcome Group Coordination** Gift Nkhoma Lwamba

**Career Group Coordination** Amelia Poveda Irlles

**Communication Group Coordination** Ana Danchevska

# Soraya King

For Chairperson



*I am from Zimbabwe of multi-ethnic origin. My background is in sales, marketing, advertising, and HR. For the past 10 years I have worked at various levels including Chair/Director in different NGO and volunteer organizations in a number of African countries.*

*Having been in NYC since October 2019 and an SC member since March 2020, I found NYLESA is the family away from home. NYLESA has encouraged me to do more, be more; to be interactive, patient and listen, to develop new skills and push personal boundaries. You get out what you put in!*

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Going for the Chair position, I plan to continue with and build on the previous SC's programmes.

As the COVID situation remains, the need for member support remains the key priority for NYLESA. The message of being welcome, part of a family is a key focus for me together with member engagement.

We must continue to aware of member's needs, through research and personal conversations, and respond to them with the necessary programmes.

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# Natalia Chernysh

For Co-Chairperson



*I am from Russia. I have a Masters in French Language and Literature, and have lived and worked in Saint-Petersburg, and UN's duty stations in Nairobi and Vienna.*

*I joined NYLESA right upon our arrival in New York and started volunteering for the membership team in 2018, after about a year of being a member of NYLESA.*

*Since one of my favorite sayings goes: "Do something! If it works, do more of it", I have decided to run for the Co-Chair position one more time. This will give me the opportunity to use everything I have learnt over the past year for the best of NYLESA.*

*I believe that if we all as members contribute, even just a little, NYLESA will thrive on and keep helping UN spouses in their sometimes not so easy life in a foreign country.*

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I am volunteering in the hope that new spouses arriving to this great and controversial city will find in our community help and support, the same way I did when I joined NYLESA.

I'd love to continue to make membership management clearer, more effective and looking for ways to keep our existing members and attract new ones.

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# Jooyoung Kim

For Treasurer | Candidate 1



*I am from Korea. I graduated with a BA in Polymer science and engineering from Kyungpook National University, South Korea, and a master of international business from the University of Melbourne, Australia. For about a decade, I worked as a businessperson in Korea and Japan.*

*I came to New York 2 years ago when my husband joined UNICEF as his first UN post. It was a difficult decision to leave all the relationships and career behind and follow him. But I accepted to go further beyond uncertainty.*

*As soon as we arrived, I joined NYLESA and became an active volunteer member. I have built new relationships and obtained useful life information through NYLESA. In parallel, I prepared my CPA career path. Currently, I am a U.S.CPA candidate (exam passed) and work as an accountant in a local CPA firm.*

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As a treasurer, I would like to not only maintain the legacy of past treasurers but contribute to building the momentum of NYLESA bouncing back from the Covid-19 pandemic.

I plan to manage financial transactions transparently and prepare all the records and reports professionally.

Additionally, I would like to share more financial and taxation information relevant to us, G-4 Visa holders, so that a broader range of members can be benefitted from becoming active NYLESA members.

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# Fisayo Ojelabi

For Treasurer | Candidate 2



*I am from Nigeria. I have had a career that spanned from Veterinary Medicine to IT Project Management.*

*I am very passionate about wildlife conservation, and I am an avid member of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation.*

*Our family moved to New York in August 2020 for my wife's position with UNICEF.*

*The NYLESA community welcomed me and has been invaluable resource for my understanding of New York life and getting settled fast.*

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Becoming a Steering Committee member would be an opportunity for me to serve NYLESA members and help collaboratively raise the association's profile even more.

I plan to continue the work of the past Treasurers by ensuring transparency and timeliness in financial reporting. I will also look for ways to source additional income streams for the organizational purse.

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# Gift Lwamba

For Welcome Group Coordinator



*I am a Zambian. I arrived in New York in October 2017 as a spouse to a UNICEF staff. I am currently a member of NYLESA, IDCN, IFG (NYLESA equivalent in Lesotho).*

*I have been a Business Office Specialist for 13 years+ in the financial and legal sectors in Zambia. I have a passion for people to self-advocate for themselves as a community or team to improve their lives.*

*Against this backdrop, I would like to offer my services to contribute to improving the quality of life of expat spouses in settling down and be part of a bigger family.*

*NYLESA is a common ground for most spouses to socialize, connect, network and support each other to settle in NYC.*

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Going for this position, I plan to apply some of the lessons learned from my office work and civic duties to represent the interests of the membership by liaising with teams in overcoming challenges and promoting common ideas.

With my expertise, experience and personal attributes, I will add value in planning, organizing and coordinating team events with others.

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# Amelia Poveda Irles

For Career Support Group Coordinator



*I am from Spain. My background is in communications, international affairs, education and culture management. I have several years of experience working for public administrations, private companies, and local and international NGOs. I love being part of a great team, helping organizations to create meaningful impact and engagement opportunities with their publics.*

*I arrived in New York in September 2020. Fortunately, adjusting to my new life was comparatively easy thanks to NYLESA. During a challenging time, all NYLESA resources, meetings and activities turn out vital to better integrate and understand my life in New York. For me, NYLESA is a crucial community and a relevant source to learn from each other's experiences and support one another.*

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As CSWG Coordinator, I plan to encourage NYLESA members to take ownership of their job search and take advantage of all the services the CSWG has to offer.

At times like these, connectivity with other members can make all the difference between exhaustion and enthusiasm.

Working with other team members, I plan to create empowering experiences and encouragement for NYLESA members to be leaders in their career development process in New York.

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# Ana Danchevska

For Communication Group Coordinator



*I am born in Croatia, raised in Macedonia. Arriving to New York at the end of 2019 for my partner's job, I have been enjoying the life here ever since.*

*I have an Economic Science Degree, years of experience in administration, finance, HR, and arts management.*

*I became a member of NYLESA in March 2020 and joined the Steering Committee in May 2020. To me NYLESA means support, connection, communication, growth, productivity and fun.*

*2020 has been a unique year, I spent it with an unforgettable team and precious membership.*

*Let's create one more year of great accomplishments.*

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I would like to continue with the Communications Group Coordinator position for one more year. I plan to lead and contribute to the work of the communication team, provide support to other teams and the Steering Committee, and continue promoting our association.

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