



EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BOARD CANDIDATES

AMY ROMANELLO '16

SSDP Berlin



I'm currently a PhD student studying cognitive neurology at Charité University of Medicine in Berlin, Germany. I hold master's and bachelor's degrees in medical neuroscience and behavioral neuroscience. My research focuses on resting-state brain dynamics in patients with various diagnoses, as well as qualitative research about the potential of psychedelic-assisted therapy as a treatment for people with diagnoses not yet represented in targeted clinical trials.

Before moving to Berlin, I received my EMT license and spent 3 years working in inpatient and residential mental healthcare settings in Boston. I first joined SSDP in 2016, with special interests in peer education, harm reduction, and the potential roles of psychedelic substances in healthcare and society. I previously served as event coordinator and then president of the Northeastern University SSDP chapter. I'm currently a chapter leader of SSDP Berlin, a community-based chapter with members from local universities as well as non-students. Lately, I love to code, knit, read, and (when possible) travel to new places.

My previous experience in positions of leadership highlights my dedication to community outreach and knowledge exchange. During my time in SSDP at Northeastern, I spearheaded the organization and outreach for several campus and public events - from JSK lectures with peers to full-day psychedelic science colloquiums. I also contributed to on-campus recruitment, fundraising, and policy change initiatives, as well as state-level policy reform advocacy during the Massachusetts marijuana reform ballot initiative in 2016. In Berlin, I have helped to grow our local chapter membership, organized participation in "Support. Don't Punish." Global Days of Action, and supported other local harm reduction groups in their efforts to lobby German stakeholders to revise outdated drug policies nationwide. Beyond SSDP, I have been involved in youth STEM education programs for girls in Boston and peer mentorship programs in Boston and Berlin.

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE VOTE FOR YOU?

Overall, if elected, I would bring an empathetic, compassionate, and detail-oriented approach to my role on the SSDP International Board of Directors. My multidisciplinary background in neuroscience, mental healthcare, and local policy reform poises me to bring a unique set of skills to the board. At this early stage of SSDP International's development, I would aim to support the growth of our organization both internally and externally through fundraising initiatives, chapter-level and regional outreach, and new program development. Thank you so much for considering me as you cast your vote for the open positions on the SSDP International Board of Directors - I hope to be serving you soon!

ISAAC OLUSHOLA OGUNKOLA '19

SSDP Nigeria - Unical



Isaac is studying Public Health Science at the University of Calabar in Nigeria. Isaac's ultimate goal is bringing justice to health and providing an equitable access to healthcare especially for the marginalized communities. He is passionate about unifying public health, human rights and harm reduction harmoniously.

As a passionate early career researcher, Isaac has published a number of research articles on international peer-reviewed journals. In 2020, Isaac was shortlisted among 5 global finalists for the "Student of the year" award by Antibiotic Shared Learning Awards developed by Public Health England (PHE) for his project on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Isaac is the Pioneer President, Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP University of Calabar, Nigeria). He has secured a couple of grants for his local chapter and carried out advocacy engaging relevant stakeholders such as the National Drug law enforcement agency. Also, his chapter won the "SSDP RISING STAR AWARD" at the Sensible 2021 conference.

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE VOTE FOR YOU?

Having led my chapter presidency for about two years now, I have built leadership skills, seen the problem at the grassroots level. My role at the chapter level has enabled me understand the local context of the network. I believe being given the opportunity to serve as a member of the board of directors at the international level will enable me optimally utilize my experience garnered over the years locally to provide leadership and contribute to strategic decision making at the international level.

My strong sense of empathy coupled with analytical skills have been handy in proffering sustainable solutions on communication and community engagement at my local chapter even at the national and regional level of the network. My track record of delivering excellence and improving on my professional competencies makes me worthy of your vote for this sensitive position which is imperative to the organizational goals.

JACOB DODO '19

SSDP Nigeria - Kaduna



SSDP has broadened my horizon and perspective in such a way that I became an advocate for change and am still in the process of creating and initiating more divergent views in a positive direction for sensible drug policy that alleviate the lives of the youth and the messes in a positive perspective in order to a peace-building and purposeful society which will be free of violent extremists.

Addiction impacts millions of families of all types. We know what quality treatment looks like, but for too many families it's out of reach. They face insufficient insurance coverage and low-quality, even predatory, treatment options.

We can fix this. With our help, we can erase the stigma that has prevented treating addiction as the health care issue it is.

We can raise awareness, educate others and change policy as I am ready to volunteer earnestly to be a vehicle of change.

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE VOTE FOR YOU?

“I believe am best fit for the task”.

It’s so important to understand what you are voting about. This election goes beyond who will be voted for SSDP International Board. The votes are our voices on issues affecting drug user’s/drug addicts, education, employment and healthcare. Let’s all help make a difference in our community during this general election and make the voices heard about our vote, our health initiative and, our sensible drug policy.

“There are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave,

There are souls that are pure and true;

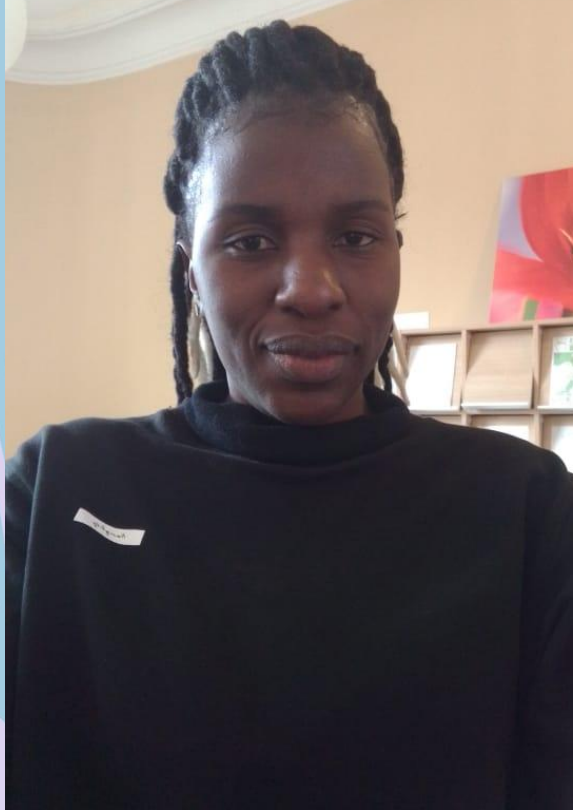
Then give to the world the best you have,

And the best will come back to you”.

Am ready to give in my best in advocating for this change for a better and purposeful sensible drug policy community, society and the globe at large. I love impacting the lives of people positively wherever I find myself. This position is one of the most important offices in SSDP International Board. And, I am ready to be that change that will create and initiate that vehicle of chain reaction that will make the difference in advocating for change in SSDP International Board. I stand to be guided, counsel, teach and be thought, learn – relearn, in order to make the SSDP International Board make the difference it needs to make by initiating the global youths in building a peaceful and purposeful community, society and the globe at large.

MONALISA MAGOCHE '18

SSDP Zimbabwe



My name is Monalisa Magoche. I am a human rights enthusiast. I am very passionate about the human rights of people, I envisage a state where everyone's human rights are not infringed in any way. I believe in the existence of a drug policy reform that's rooted on the basis of human rights and public health. I have always had this strong desire to work for drug policy reform and social justice. I have been volunteering with SSDP since late 2018. SSDP has changed my view towards people who use drugs. My voice has been amplified and my advocacy skills have been enhanced. With SSDP I realised that the war on drugs is a war on us and it's imperative that I take part in advocating for sensible policies which are evidence based and put public health and social justice at the epicenter.

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE VOTE FOR YOU?

I am radical! I believe in the need of a youth voice in drug police reform. We all know that the policies which are currently there negatively affects access to services. I believe that if we unify we will change the narrative since these punitive laws have a negative impact on students and their state of health.

I have always witnessed that SSDP is an avenue for us young people to connect and speak our voices and become advocates in terms of being the voice of the voiceless. It is my great desire to be involved with the organizations advocacy processes, strategic planning and decision making processes. This way I will find a sense of fulfillment knowing that my work has changed the life of someone.

OGNJEN VUKOTIĆ '21

SSDP Serbia



I'm a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist, trained in several modalities such as Gestalt, Transactional Analysis, Psychodrama, Constellations, SAT and most recently Compassionate Inquiry, developed by Gabor Mate.

I've been in practice, working within the group therapy and individual context, since 2016.

In 2018. Together with several colleagues, I've co-created a school for Gestalt therapy education in Belgrade, Serbia, that is currently under the process of accreditation by the EAGT (European Association of Gestalt Therapists). Within the school, I've been operating in several roles:

- Psychotherapist**
- Education assistant**
- Project manager**
- PR and Marketing specialist**
- HR recruiter**

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE VOTE FOR YOU?

My passion toward safe and therapeutic usage of psychedelics, led me to join and contribute to the missions and visions of SSDP, where I'm currently a Chapter leader (Serbia) and a member of European Committee, leading a working group on SSDP's International Harm Reduction Handbook. Further contribution to overall psychedelic renaissance, I'm doing by developing my knowledge on the therapeutic usage of psychedelics, development of psychedelics therapy work frame and ongoing researches on psychedelics. I'm living and working in Brazil, from where I'm following the works with indigenous communities and connecting with other professionals working within the psychedelic therapy/research paradigm.

I've been a huge supporter of regeneration and different regenerative movements, formed with the goals of preservation of our Planet and the life on it. Furthermore, I'm an active part of SEEDS Regenerative Ecosystem - a crypto community with a goal to support individuals and organizations thriving towards regeneration.

In my free time, I'm making music, drawing and animating (using several Adobe Suite apps).

During my professional work experience, I've developed my organizational skills, applied in my everyday life and with others, such as working group or teams. I have more than six years of experience working within different groups, often formed from individuals of all ages and cultural context.

Working with the group, but also with individuals, in therapeutic context, developed my skills in focused following of the group process, organization of the group and supporting and developing the talent(s) of the group, and it's individuals.

Besides this, my experience working as an education assistant, developed my skills of empathic teaching and patience with the other, until I feel that the message has been received and integrated. I'm carefully following and being updated on abundance of current researches on psychedelics and their usage in therapeutic context. I've been a part of some psychotherapy/psychedelic communities, such as (CI, Psychedelic Society, Wavepaths, PRATI, MAPS, etc.). Likewise, I would like to support SSDP and contribute to its vision and mission, through it, helping all future and current professionals and students to find their place within the new ongoing mental health rethinking, psychedelics renaissance and huge marketplace that has been growing with it. Furthermore, I'm a team player, kind, empathic, passionate and artistic. I would love to use my life experience and skills to further develop SSDP and see it thrive even stronger towards the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible.

SHADRICK ABALA '19

SSDP Kenya - Nairobi



Shadrack Abala leans on young world's libertarian thinkers and is always happy to tell his life stories with an eye to intellectual development . He is a young liberterian and an advocate for Human rights with passion in Ideas of Liberty Shadrack holds a degree in Agribusiness Management and Trade and currently serves as a Country Director-Kenya Liberty Sparks.

VOTING OPENS SEPTEMBER 13TH
FILL OUT VOTER REGISTRATION FORM
IN ORDER TO VOTE