

Gala Diversity 2020

Celebrating Professionals of African descent

Why this Gala ?

After several years in two multinationals, I have realised that corporate Human Resources campaigns in favour of diversity very often addressed gender inequality and LGBTQIA+ issues, leaving ethnic diversity out of the debate.

Beyond the corporate space, I understood that the variety of the many African identities was still fuzzy in collective representations, and therefore had an impact on the representation of people of African descent themselves within the Swiss society.

So why not organising an annual Gala where inspiring professionals of African descent could talk about their professional and personal paths and explain how their identities have been a strength in what they have achieved. Furthermore, a Gala like this one could enable the participants - all curious about diversity topics - to network and get to know the many initiatives, associations, projects, ventures, already set up in French-speaking Switzerland, also addressing this issue.

I thank you for your participation and wish you an outstanding evening,

Amal Safi, Gala organiser



Programme of the evening :

6-7pm :	Welcoming of the participants and pre-dinner drinks
7-8pm :	Conferences
8-8:15pm :	Concert
8:15pm :	Dinner
10:30pm:	Gala ends

Speakers

Amal Safi



You have to start to be at the place where you manage to really be. The rest is movement which, through the state of being, transforms itself into existence. And the secret consists in doing. - Thibault de Montalembert

Organiser of the Gala, founder of The House, organization aiming at infusing creativity in business, and advocacy in the private sector.

Born in Geneva of Algerian parents, Amal anticipates that many of them will be the next influencers and decision-makers of the private, public and creative sectors in Switzerland

Amal has founded The House of the Mighty in 2016, an organization aiming at analyzing trends and at providing creative ideas for the business sector to position ethically and organise in a sustainable way.

In English

Eliezer King



As long as the lions won't have their historians, hunting stories will tell the hunters' feats. - African proverb

Passionate about History, Philosophy and Politics, Eliezer King was born in Dominican Republic from Dominican parents. He migrated to Switzerland when he was 12.

During his talk, Eliezer will attempt to be the historian of the lions and the lionesses, who will certainly recognize themselves in the audience. He will mention the outstanding trajectory of Saint Maurice, a soldier born in where stands today's Egypt and who marked the Swiss identity and culture.

Eliezer's talk will shed light on a past made of unbreakable links between the people of the world, putting in perspective the way we envision our different identities.

In French

Amani Bathily



Freedom is what you do with what's been done to you - Jean Paul Sartre

Amani posits that if the vastity of African cultures teach us one thing : it is the art of resilience and freedom in the face of adversity.

Passionate about human rights and social equity, with two MA's in Philosophy and Politics, Amani seeks to develop projects which combine the knowledge of both the public and private sector, she is now with four other women, creating Safro, an organisation which strives to support the Afropean community in Switzerland.

Amani shall discuss how lessons of freedom and resilience African cultures' teach us, have inspired her to create an organisation putting emphasis on the richness and complexity of Afropean cultures in order to overcome stigma and discrimination.

In English

Simon Ntah



Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. - Malcolm X

Lawyer at the bar of Geneva since 2005, after having completed an outstanding academic record at the Universities of Geneva, Utrecht (NE), and San Diego (USA), Simon Ntah is an attorney engaged against discrimination, and also used to plead publicized criminal cases.

Simon will discuss the notion of cultural legacy. As world citizens, our cultural heritage only makes sense when you share it, and it can be enriched only when exposed to others. Discovering the other is also getting to know yourself and enriching yourself, as well as giving meaning to your path.

In French

Musical interlude

Performance by Lesley Reynolds and Greg Cunningham



Networking



Rezalliance is a network project gathering health and employment rights experts. The network's mission is to take action against all forms of harassment in the working space. Experts are sensitive to diversity issues, carefully and rigorously selected to ensure a tailored and optimal support of each individual - regardless the cause of harassment (gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion or other).

To learn about the launch of the network, to benefit from the support or simply to encourage this project for a more inclusive society, just follow **Joëlle Payom** on LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/in/joelle-payom) and subscribe to the LinkedIn page of REZALLIANCE.

Aimée Bamakunde has created a YouTube channel, launched on a symbolic date, March 8th, International Women's Day. The channel is called **«Elles Osent»**, or «They Dare» and is a window presenting women who take charge, not only entrepreneurs, but women who get in command of their own lives, who refuse to surrender and dare to trust themselves. Those women work with determination to overcome their limits. More information on Youtube.com





Perrine Bah Yabi is the co-founder of the brand **Wax Up Africa**, a clothing and accessories brand working exclusively with wax fabrics made in Africa. Since 2019, Perrine is also the manager of WUA LABoutique, a space dedicated to trends, transmission and African creativity.

waxupafrika.com

WUA LABoutique : 32 rue des Grottes, 1201 Geneva



African Professionals Network Switzerland (APNS) is a Swiss-based Association which provides a platform to African professionals for networking, and to ultimately contribute to the development of each other, and to a better Africa. The Association was founded in July 2016 by African professionals in Geneva including entrepreneurs, workers in the private and public sectors as well as in the international organisations.

His president is **Augustine Agyeman-Duah**
apns.ch



Hadar is a professional network gathering people of African descent established in Geneva and whose main goals are : professional, intellectual, economic, social and cultural developments of its members, as well as the promotion and integration of young professionals in the labour market in Geneva and Switzerland.

For more information:

hadar.ch

info@hadar.ch

Innovation & Diversity Price



Eligible tenders:

An innovative entrepreneurial, intrapreneurial (within a company), academic, artistic or media-related idea.

Conditions:

- Must contribute to an awareness about Afro-descendant diversity in the social, economic, academic or media spaces.
- Better if the idea has already been tested.

Examples of eligible tenders:

- Exhibition of art pieces developing the topic of diversity in a Swiss museum
- HR campaign promoting Afro-diversity
- Publication of texts written by authors of African descent.

Award

- Given at the second edition of the Gala Diversity, expected for 2021
- 2 coaching sessions by experts

Deadlines:

January 31st : submission of tenders to amal.safi@thehouseofthemighty.com

March 31st : announcement of the selected tenders

For more information: amal.safi@thehouseofthemighty.com

