

Ashuien Alor

South Sudan/Canada



Ashuien left his home country, South Sudan in 1983 when civil war broke out, and his village was destroyed. He fled to Khartoum as an internal refugee, and worked odd jobs to support himself while attending school in the evenings until he graduated from high school. Against all the odds, he qualified to apply for university admission at the Cairo University in Khartoum.

In 1989, he was forced again to flee as a refugee to Egypt in 1993. There, he returned to university and graduated in 1996 with a law degree. While in Egypt, he received protection from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and was granted asylum in Canada in 1999 as a landed immigrant.

He volunteered with his Sudanese community in Winnipeg and joined the University of Manitoba to study Social Work. After graduation, he worked with New Directions for Children, Youth, Adults and Families, an organization that provides social programs and employment for youth involved with the justice system as a Case Manager for youth and families from war-torn countries.

He supported the African Communities of Manitoba to coordinate a research project funded by the government of Manitoba. This project was aimed at helping with the integration of African newcomers in Winnipeg. He is also a leader in his community and is past President of the Federation of Aweil Communities in Canada.

He is committed to contributing to peace and conflict resolution through the use of the ideas and energies of young people, and has extensive experience working with immigrant groups from war-torn backgrounds.

Marie-Paule Attema

Rwanda/Canada



As a Rwandan-born first generation immigrant in Canada, Marie-Paule Attema is passionate about promoting peace locally as well as globally. In the last 10 years, Marie-Paule has worked with the most marginalized and isolated populations in South Africa, Guatemala, and Canada.

Marie-Paule is currently working with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a non-profit organization that focuses on relief, development and peace. Within MCC Marie-Paule has held various positions including working with male sexual offenders as they reintegrate into the community after being incarcerated. In her current position, Marie-Paule works to eliminate persistent homelessness in the Canadian context by supporting men and women as they transition from homelessness to stable housing.

In 2012, Marie-Paule joined the board of directors for Peaceworks, a non-profit organization that specializes in peace education for youth. Marie-Paule is humbled and grateful for being selected as a Peace Fellow to pursue a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland and looks forward to expanding her knowledge and experience in the field.