



## Women empowering women

**Marion Osieyo, 26, Kenya/UK**

When Marion moved from Nairobi to London at the age of 10, she could not have imagined how much further her adventures would take her. From a very young age, she developed an ability to connect with people and understand their challenges wherever she went.

“I remember going to India in 2009 and meeting a little girl in the streets of New Delhi”, she said. “I soon established a connection with her and her family, all wonderful people. They asked me if I could take her with me to London. That really left a mark on me.”

This inspired Marion to take active part in a series of campaigns, joining various non-governmental and not-for-profit organisations. She led projects in Asia, Africa and Europe to promote human rights and education for women and girls from refugee and low socio-economic communities.

Most notably, she was selected as a [Young Leaders](#) to take part in the 2015 [European Development Days \(EDD\)](#) because of her active involvement in the fight against poverty, inequality and climate change with the Action 2015 Network.

Extremely receptive to new cultures and encounters, she then moved on to the next stage of her life becoming an Advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and successfully coordinating campaigns on sustainable development, poverty reduction and the protection of refugees. As she says “we are no longer living in a world where countries are sharply divided between developed and developing, North and South, but rather on a continuum across various issues.”

Following the EDDs, she was chosen to be one of the first editors of the Young Leaders for Development Blog, a platform where all EDD Young Leaders exchange innovative ideas on sustainable development. She also started her own blog, "[Digging Deeper](#)", where she reflects on international development and encourages other young people to join the debate and become leaders. “What inspires people is having a vision, and being able to make a difference,” is Marion’s philosophy.

In the run up to the 2015 UK general elections Marion and a group of colleagues decided to set-up a dialogue with young people, to encourage political engagement and actions on issues that really matter to them. She brought together over 200 young people and the platform reached over 60 countries.

“Joining the EDDs' Young Leaders Programme made me realise that I am more courageous than I initially thought. It gave me and my fellow Young Leaders the same platform as key decision-makers in the sector, and made us feel comfortable about sharing our ideas. I encourage all young people around the world, especially women, to grab that hidden courage and raise their voices: we need to be heard.”



Marion Osieyo at Global Girl Media UK - panel session for International Women's Day 2017



Marion Osieyo during EDD 2016