

PROFILE: KEHKASHAN BASU

SDG Leader, TEDx Speaker, Social Enterprise Innovator, Musician, Author

Winner of the **International Children's Peace Prize**, 20-year old Toronto resident Kehkashan Basu, has been impacting the global fraternity with her work on peace & disarmament, climate justice, children's rights, promoting gender equality and social upliftment. Recognised as a **Global Sustainable Future Leader**, she is one of **Canada's Top25 Women of Influence** and a **National Geographic Young Explorer**.

Kehkashan is a powerful voice of future generations in the **nuclear disarmament dialogue** and spoke at the **Parliament of the World's Religions**, the **UN75 panel discussion on "A Conversation on Rethinking Disarmament"**, the **UN High level meeting on nuclear disarmament in 2018**, **Stanford University's "Accelerate Peace"** conference and **Yale University's Annual 2019 Graduate Conference on Religion & Ecology**.

Kehkashan is the founder of social innovation enterprise, **Green Hope Foundation** (www.greenhopefoundation.com), whose mission is to eliminate the threat of nuclear annihilation through a process of bottom-up advocacy, by building upwards from a ground level, creating consensus through education amongst all stakeholders, focussing on the inclusivity of children and youth and influencing our leaders to spend public money on education, law & order, infrastructure, healthcare and employment generation and not on armaments and self-destructing industries. Through her advocacy she addresses all aspects of this issue that include non-proliferation, risk-reduction, incremental measures and stronger prohibition measures.

To reach out to all age groups, she uses innovative communication modes of Art, Music and Dance to impart disarmament education to children and youth at her engagement workshops. Till date Green Hope has conducted 155 workshops in 25 countries, that have reached out to 80,000 young people. She has established partnerships with major school boards in Canada and the UAE and uses this platform to conduct awareness workshops. During the current pandemic, her advocacy has gone digital and through zoom webinars she continues to provide platforms of discussion that bring together experts as well as civil society stakeholders to amplify the call for nuclear disarmament. One of her most impactful events during COVID-19 was the **International Schools Debate** on the theme **"Nuclear disarmament is the only route to World Peace"** that had a live audience of 600. She composed a song for peace as well as a digital compilation of youth voices with the call to action **"We Want Books, Not Nukes"**. She was a part of the documentary film for the **75th Anniversary Remembrance of Hiroshima/Nagasaki**, produced by 4 of the world's largest interfaith organizations.



In addition to her ground-level work, she amplifies youth voices at the highest levels of decision-making. She spoke at the **United Nations on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**, moderated the **Secretary-General's student celebration of International Day of Peace 2019** and performed a peace song at the **Culture of Peace celebration at the UN in 2015**. She moderated a panel discussion on **"UN2020: Enhancing peace, disarmament and the role of women"** as well as a webinar on **"Lessons from Nagasaki"**. She is an active member of the **Parliament of World Religion's "Next -Generation Task Force"** and is also working with the **CTBTO Youth** network. Green Hope is now creating disarmament education toolkits for children and youth.

In recognition of her work on nuclear disarmament, she was awarded the first ever Voices Youth Award in commemoration of the legacy of Mikhail Gorbachev & George Shultz.

In 2013, at the age of 12, she was elected for a 2 year term as **UNEP's (United Nations Environment Programme) Global Coordinator for Children & Youth** and a member of its Major Groups Facilitating Committee and **she is the youngest person and the first minor, ever, to be elected into this position in the history of UNEP**. She is also a **United Nations Human Rights Champion** for her work on protecting children's rights and winner of the **2019 "Innovator of the Year" award** for her work on Education for Sustainable Development. **She has recently been chosen as a 2020 L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth Honouree and featured in National Geographic's 50th Earth Day anniversary issue as one of the youths saving the planet.**

Her internationally acclaimed work on sustainability has resulted in her appointment as the **Youth Ambassador of World Future Council - Germany**, a **Climate Reality Leader**, a **One Young World Ambassador**, **Honorary Advisor for the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development – New York**, **Global Teen Leader at We Are Family Foundation**, members of **World Oceans Day Global Youth Advisory Council** and **EarthEcho International Youth Leadership Council**. She is also the **youngest member of Canada's Women in Renewable Energy forum and the Council Lead at Toronto-St.Paul's Constituency Youth Council.**

She is a passionate advocate for gender equality and was invited to speak at the **European Parliament in Brussels in October 2015 during the European Week of the Girl event** and at the **World Bank's 2015 Youth Summit** in Washington D.C. Rock band U2, at their June '17 concert in Toronto, featured her as one of the incredible women changing the world during their song "Ultraviolet", including her in a montage of women who have changed the world. She is an ardent advocate for stopping violence against girls and women and a member of World Future Council's Commission on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. She is a signatory to their petition demanding an end to Female Genital Mutilation and has created her own video to demand protection for girls which she has promoted widely using the social media.

On 20th September 2015, **Kehkashan launched her first book, "The Tree of Hope"**

at the United Nations in New York, during the UN Children’s Summit. The book tells the story of young people taking actions to mitigate climate change and Kehkashan received a Gold Award from “Voices of Generations” for this book. Her blogs have been published by the Huffington Post, UNICEF and many other portals.

Kehkashan is the youngest member of Canada’s Women in Renewable Energy as well as the Middle East Solar Industry Association which is the region’s largest association of professionals, activists associated with the solar energy industry which is seeking to popularise its usage as an alternate to the fossil fuel industry. She also launched **KidsRights “Push! For the Environment Campaign”** at the Ziggo Dome arena in Amsterdam during the Young Impact celebrations, reaching **out to over 10,000 youth**. Green Hope’s work featured in former **US Vice-President A Gore’s 24Hours of Reality global broadcast of 2017** which engaged half a billion viewers worldwide.
<https://youtu.be/xXSnTF7Bwgl>

Recent Media Links:

UNAI: <https://academicimpact.un.org/content/disarmament-education-youth-forefront-disarmament-dialogue>

<https://academicimpact.un.org/content/75-un75-conversation-rethinking-disarmament>

Voices Youth Award: <https://parliamentofreligions.org/blog/2020-08-05-1307/global-interfaith-organizations-inaugurate-%E2%80%9Cvoices-youth-award%E2%80%9D-75th>

UNESCO : <https://en.unesco.org/news/green-hope-foundation-taps-power-and-passion-youth-protect-planet>

73rd session of the UN General Assembly - UN High level meeting on nuclear disarmament
<https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/kehkashan-basu-speaking-un-high-level-meeting-on-nuclear-disarmament/>

Credo Magazine Cover : http://fore.yale.edu/files/MAG_Credo_XXVIII_Ehrgeiz_en.pdf

Woke Magazine : <https://www.ourwoke.com/post/the-amazing-kehkashan-basu>

Canada’s Top25 Women of Influence :
https://www.womenofinfluence.ca/2018/09/06/top-25-women-of-influence-2018-kehkashan-basu/#.W_C_SdhKiu4

NAAEE Top30 under 30 : <https://naaee.org/about-us/people/kehkashan-basu>

CTV Canada: <https://lnkd.in/djSFWYq>

AWARDS

- 2020 Voices Youth Award – Gorbachev Shultz Legacy award for Peace**
- 2020 L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth Honouree**
- 2020 Starfish Canada's Top25 Environmentalists Under 25**
- 2020 Women Super Achiever Award winner**
- 2019 John Muir Conservation Award for Habitat Restoration**
- 2019 Straubel Leadership Award**
- 2019 Community Award for Youth Service: Awarded by the Committee of Youth Officers for the Province of Ontario for outstanding youth service.**
- 2019 Innovator of the Year: Awarded at HundrEd Innovation Summit in Helsinki on 8th Nov 2018 chosen from the world's top 100 innovations in Education.**
- 2018 Green Apple Environment Award: Presented annually by The Green Organisation , UK at the Houses of Parliament, London**
- 2018 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award**
- 2018 Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work: one of the five Caribbean & the Americas Region Winners**
- 2018 Rising Star Award -Toronto on the occasion of International Women's Day**
- 2018 International Diana Award**
- 2017 National Energy Globe Award**
- 2017 Turner Social Change Prize**
- 2016 International Children's Peace Prize**
- 2015 Non-Resident Indian of the Year**
- 2015 International Diana Award**
- 2014 Solar Pioneer Award from Middle East Solar Industry Association**
- 2014 Global Education Supplies & Solutions: Ambassador for the Environment**
- 2014 Kids are Heroes, USA award**
- 2014 GOI Foundation Japan and UNESCO award : 2nd prize winner in the 2014 International Essay Contest for Young People from among 13,635 entries from 151 countries.**
- 2013 International Young Eco-Hero Award – Action for Nature USA**
- 2012 Korea Green Foundation Award**
- 2012 UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) award for essay to stop desertification**