

A portrait of Dr. Ariel King, a Black woman with long, straight brown hair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a brown and white patterned blazer over a matching top. She is leaning on a wooden chair with a red and white patterned seat. The background is a plain, light blue wall.

DR. ARIEL KING

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THE LEGACY OF DR. ARIEL KING

It is not easy to divert all your energy and resources into helping others. This is a road less traveled but Dr. Ariel King does it beautifully following in the footsteps of her mother. Let's learn about her life and how she is using the Ariel Foundation International to change the world.

EARLY LIFE

Dr. King is the only child of a long line of Matriarchs in her family. During her childhood, her mother was the most prominent figure in her life and this is where she draws inspiration from daily.

Her mother had her at an early age. However, that didn't deter her from pursuing an education in psychology. Dr. King always saw her mother with books and this is where her love for learning also stemmed from.

She set the tone for Dr. King to start her foundation and continue the journey of helping people all over the world.

CAREER

Dr. King started the foundation in 2000. However, it was registered as a non-profit organization in 2002. The basis for creating this foundation was the difficulties that the children and youth suffered daily.

The aim is to open channels and opportunities for the youth to prosper and take control of the future. It aims to involve the youth in decision making, leadership, entrepreneurship, and improving the lives of youth and their families.

All of her efforts are focused on her foundation and the work that they do.

Overcoming Challenges As A Woman In Her Field

The challenges Dr. King has mainly faced are all related to executing the ideas they have for the organization. While having a vision is great, it was hard for them to implement these ideas as they required a lot of work and patience.

Another challenge was the model of the foundation as it was solely dependent on volunteers. Now the model is more focused on funding so that they can continue to provide opportunities to the youth to take leadership positions in and for AFI in various organizations.

The youth are also incorporated into the Board of Directors so that they can have a say in the running of the Ariel Foundation too.

Some accomplishments of Dr. Ariel King and the Ariel Foundation International:

- * Received a Special Economic and Social Counsel (ECOSOC) Status with the United Nation (NY, Geneva, Rome, Vienna and Nairobi)
- * The first in history to Accredite Children and Youth as Delegates to represent the foundation at official UN meetings.
- * Accredited to the European Parliament as an NGO.
- * Developed International Community Children's Camps in Botswana, Liberia, and Morocco to help children who experienced trauma
- * Partnered with the World Humanitarian Forum
- * Membership with Eurochild, and Chair of Membership Committee

- * Founding and Board member of Women Impacting Public Policy
- * A Representative at the UN for the National Council of Women
- * Director and Chair of Advisory Committee for the African Orphans Educational Fund (AOEF)
- * Member of the Board and Trustee of Children's Rights Alliance of England (CRAE) Now Just for Law Kids
- * Member of the Board and Trustee of Acid Survivors Trust International

CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS

- * Community of 500+ volunteers with over 35,000 young changemakers impacted through initiatives at Ariel Foundation International
- * Established a global leadership community in 30+ countries and expanding with AFI's Membership Program for Leaders
- * Over 40 publications authored by young people from all over the globe and contributions included in various Policy papers shared with Member States
- * Eight veteran Board of Directors from 8 countries and 3 newly elected young (under 30) Board of Directors to lead the AFI programs. They are highly motivated individuals that have impacted leadership and entrepreneurship not just in their local communities but also internationally. They include:
 - H.E. Ambassador Joseph Huggins, USA (Chair)
 - H.E. Ambassador Ireneo Namboka, France
 - H.E. Ambassador Molelekeng Ernestina Rapolaki, Lesotho
 - H.E. Ambassador Izben Williams, St Kitts and Nevis

- Mr. Peter Schellinck, Belgium
 - Mr. Dave Crane, United Arab Emirates
 - Mrs. Bunthoeun Men, Cambodia
 - Mr. Kamal Muhamed, India
- Young (under 30) Board of Directors:
- Mr. Jayson Panathun Thong, Cambodia
 - Ms. Kanika Sahijwani, India
 - Mr Jose Alvarez, USA / El Salvador

LESSONS TO LEARN FROM DR. KING'S LEGACY

Dr. King has always been an advocate for the youth and children. Here are a few lessons you can learn from her legacy and incorporate in your life:

- * Find a way to adapt to those in power so you can have a say
- * Figure out how to be at the table of power and don't wait for an invitation
- * Preparation is key to success
- * Be part of the change you want to see around you
- * Never give up and always be yourself



www.arielfoundation.org

Tell us more about your mother. Who is she, what is her legacy?

Dr Margo G. King, A Mother, a Mentor and Matriarch

Dr. Margo G. King, is a woman with compassion, tenacity and purpose. She was a good student who lived with having a child right after completing high school. Her Aunt who was a nurse, brought home her child from hospital, and encouraged her to continue her education in psychology from associate degree to masters to finally a doctorate in clinical psychology.

Dr. Margo King was the first Black Female to graduate with a PhD in Psychology from St John's University in New York. Years later as a practicing psychologist Dr. Margo King won the Nelson Mandela Community Service Award from the Association of Black Psychologists for improving the mental health of African-American and Hispanic Youth.

As a trailblazer, Dr. Margo King for 5 consecutive years, organized a of youth initiative program called "Preparing African-American and Latino Youth for the 21st Century" in a two-day program with workshops on history, conflict resolution, sexuality, legal rights, college and job preparation. that was attended by over 1000 youth between 13 and 21 years.

Dr Margo King created a cable television program, called "Creative Dating for the Developmental Disabled." In Later years she opened the King Psychological Services that she led until her retirement in 2008. Since then although she is retired, she helped to organize an Ariel Foundation International Senior Changemakers Summit, that resulted in a publication on challenges and solutions for Seniors. Now Dr. Margo King spends her grand-daughters (Ariana and Vicky) and traveling in Europe and being a much-loved

Matriarch of inspiration for the family.

**MAGAZINE FEATURE
INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

01. Tell us about how the Ariel Foundation International came into existence. What were some of the challenges? Roadblocks? And what finally brought it all together?

I created the Ariel Foundation because I saw the injustice and difficulties for young people to make a difference. The decision making process is predominantly led by rich and older people and they overlook the fact that young people are future leaders. Youth constitute 1.6 billion of the total population-how can their voice not be included in the decisions that concern them? The foundation gives young people the platform where they too could be heard.

I started the foundation in 2000 and was I able to register it as a not for profit organization in 2002. The organization was started as a 100% volunteer led organization with 100% donation directly to the children and youth programs and their families in the USA and developing countries, while other costs were covered by in kind donations, Management and the Directors. The organization was unusual also in that our focus was children and youth in Entrepreneurship, Leadership and community service from day one. We realized that children and youth would do well if we could help them to find their chi, their mojo, their essence to take them through the good times and the difficult times.

What makes AFI unique is that The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted special consultative status to Ariel Foundation International (AFI). NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC can designate representatives to obtain accreditation for meetings at

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UN premises worldwide. As a consequence, for the first time ever, children and youth are accredited as AFI delegates to various UN associated meetings and other national and international governmental activities, all around the world. Being a full member participant, the outcome of their deliberations are publications in their own words submitted to the UN, other bodies and the public. Through continued transparency and an emphasis on accountability, AFI takes to learning and improving decision making by giving our youth the opportunity and chance to participate at high level policy debates worldwide.

I would say that our biggest challenge has been to change our model of running a fully volunteer organization the day to day of the foundation. We have changed our model to funding the foundation and then planning programs so that we can continue to have young people take leadership positions in the organization and get compensated for their time and talent. Also, we have decided that youth need to be incorporated into the Board of Directors so that they are directly involved in the direction of AFI.

What finally brought it together? - A community of young changemakers from 30+ countries and elders who mentor them to help catalyze the impact in their communities.

02. Living in 2020, the world is changing fast. How do you see the Ariel Foundation meeting the unique challenges facing the world today?

In the current global scenario, millennials make up 60% of the global workforce. Yet, we are all part of the same, mutually inclusive global ecosystem- one simply cannot exist without the other. While governments, international organizations, the private sector,

NGO's, civil society and private individuals are engaged at different degrees in working together to respond to the current humanitarian challenges to save lives and restore human dignity, humanitarian principles and human rights must guide Covid-19 response and recovery. Youth is the worst hit with the onset of the current challenges.

AFI encourages and guides the vast youth community it reaches and through our Ambassadors to help building a sustained political will. It is important that our Youth creates an infusion of trust built upon the belief in our collective abilities to ensure that our humanitarian aid system responds to meet the challenges presented by Covid-19. While these challenges are unprecedented in the global nature of the pandemic, they also present a significant opportunity to put into practice many of the existing commitments that AFI has already made to improve effectiveness and efficiency in the system.

We published three youth reports on Covid19- AFI Changemakers Report on Impact of COVID-19 on Future Work: Problems and Suggestions, Young Ambassadors Views on CoronaVirus and Coronavirus & Africa - The Youth Perspective. We ensure their voices are not just heard and forgotten, but also permanently recorded. We mentor changemakers to become better leaders and entrepreneurs to serve their communities by intermingling the UN Sustainable Development Goals to ensure service to society.

03. Despite seeing an increase in global strife and conflict, why are you hopeful that the Ariel Foundation will have a positive impact on the globe? What steers such hope?

AFI plays a critical role to ensure that our Youth has a voice and that funds are

transformed into hope-giving support in the most difficult field contexts.

The world's problems are just accelerating the need for what we do. The pandemic and the resultant digital revolutions are polarizing problems and speeding up the need for a new mindset and heightened importance for online activities and communities. These communities need leadership, relevance and impact. That's what the Ariel Foundation has always trained our youth leaders to be able to achieve. To quote our South Asia Manager, Ms. Kanika Sahijwani (24 years, India), "Leadership and empowerment have a domino effect. You empower one young person today, they will empower many others tomorrow. How are you supporting the youth to catalyze the change they seek?"

04. Do you wonder if youths will be capable of meeting the challenges facing the world of tomorrow? How are preparing them for success and helping them create a brighter future?

It goes without saying that in our adult-run world, youth aren't often asked for their opinions and ideas on how to address society's greatest challenges. Yet a collective effort to reverse this trend is one of the most powerful steps we can take towards a tangibly better world. AFI provides for tools, contacts and channels for our youth to have their voice heard by policy makers as Young people have an acute sense of justice when it comes to society's issues. Looking at the world with fresh eyes, they see its problems as moral wrongs that can and should be righted. There is no reason in their minds why change isn't possible now, so they are eager to get involved – both by contributing to grassroots efforts and joining the search for long-term solutions.

Our Youth Ambassadors and volunteers are a limitless source of innovative energy and engaging them now will inspire a generation of lifelong changemakers. That's why AFI invites them to join the team today! We encourage youth to start their own social ventures and give them the support they need to be successful. And perhaps more importantly, AFI invites them to the decision-making table where their voices will truly be heard. Young people deserve the chance to explore and address the problems they see around them – and their contribution is an opportunity the world can't afford to miss.

05. What are fundamental qualities and characteristics you help youths develop through your foundation and how do you go about ensuring that they develop such qualities?

Youth associated to AFI in any form or capacity, comply with broadly defined competencies or capabilities, such as critical and creative thinking depending on the integration of three broad learning domains: knowledge, skills and values. Central to the criteria is the notion of quality. We value openness, honesty, transparency, creativity, kindness, innovation, resourcefulness and the interest in making the world a better place. Everyone in our team is dedicated to making those elements a key part of their growth and journey.

AFI adheres to a set of "design principles" that policymakers and practitioners in many different sectors use to improve outcomes for children. That is, to be maximally effective, policies and services should:

1. Support responsive relationships for children and adults.
2. Strengthen core life skills.

3. Reduce sources of stress in the lives of children and families.

06. How important in community involvement as it relates to fostering the talents and abilities of our youths? How does the Ariel Foundation achieve that involvement? What are your 5 ways the community can help youths' strong youths?

At AFI we encourage community service and involvement of your children and youth in projects that they have developed or to participate in actions to bring about a positive change in the local and also global communities. We encourage children and youth to not only see the challenge before them, but to also develop a way to make it better. For example, we encourage youth from all over the world to participate in Global Youth Service Day (usually in April). They develop an answer to a problem that they see that meet a goal (for example Sustainable Development Goals) in the environment, education, poverty reduction, mental health, gender equity, partnerships. On the one day, AFI children and youth around the world give back to their local communities. The success of this has inspired thousands of children and youth to see, do, change the world around them.

The five ways that community can help children and youth:

1. Invite them to be, serve and actively engage in the community planning with you.
2. Inspire them to be open to evaluate issues, solutions, along with actions.
3. Encourage them to trust themselves, their ideas and their solutions by trying them.
4. Expect leadership, excellence and solutions.

5. Give credit and recognition for the actions, the participation, the courage to state truth.

It's not enough to prepare young people to see and interact with the world differently; we also need to prepare the world to see and interact with young people differently. With schools and cities, families and communities, governments, nonprofits, and the private sector, AFI is shaping a world where adults not only value young people, but seek their input. We help young people identify, process, and understand the problems that directly impact their lives and communities. And then we encourage them to participate in service learning and volunteer opportunities to play a role in tackling those issues. It is also important to stop treating children as kids we need to spoon-feed and begin treating them as future leaders who need to learn through inspired action.

07. What has been the greatest achievement of the Ariel Foundation so far?

Ariel Foundation's greatest achievement is getting ECOSOC Status with the United Nations and then using our platform to forever change the history for both the UN, children /youth. The United Nations did not allow children under 15 to go into the buildings unless it was for a one-hour tour, to go to the book/gift shop or accompanied by a family employee.

As an organization with ECOSOC Status, we realized that a "Delegate" has no age requirement. So, we accredited children and youth as Delegates to go the UN meetings as Delegates for the Ariel Foundation International, with their own views. Children and youth are now representatives to United Nations official meetings in NY and in Geneva.

08. What unique rewards have youths received by getting involved with the Ariel Foundation?

Our changemakers have won many prestigious awards and fellowships such as Chevening Scholarship, The Diana Award, Karamveer Rex Award to name a few. They have also secured various academic awards and better jobs due to their community citizenship. They have gained global recognition for representing the voice of youth at the heart of international diplomacy- the UN, European Parliament, African Union, etc and are published authors who have showcased exemplary leadership on committees and lead projects. Most importantly, our changemakers have evolved into better versions of themselves with a renewed vigor to positively affect their societies and seek the means to make their vision a reality!

09. What unique rewards have donors and sponsors received from supporting the Ariel Foundation?

Youth are at the heart of our foundation and in all of our programs. We create immersive sessions between our young changemakers and sponsors to ensure a bilateral learning experience and understanding of prevalent problems of the organizations and the youths' solutions to the same through a sustainable and fresh lens. Our donors and sponsors are also invited to partake in representation of their views through various Policy Papers and events as part of AFI Delegation. We also bridge the gap between organizations and young talent by creating global partnerships and in process support the 17 sustainable development goals and assist in SDG8- Decent work for Economic Growth.

10. The Ariel Foundation is your legacy to the world Dr. King. Why?

The voice of our Youth, the future, must be heard. Economic growth and technological innovation have led to better health and living conditions than ever before for more than half the people in the world, but unless our financial, economic, environmental, and social behaviors are improved along with our industrial technologies, the long-term future is in jeopardy. Listening to our Youth and acting as responsible adults will help secure a sustainable future.

Fundamentally, the SDGs are about the legacy we bequeath to today's children. For that reason alone, children should be placed at the center of the SDG endeavor. The SDGs are the agreed upon global frame work for working in the present to leave a legacy of a healthy, sustainable planet and future for our children; the UN Human Rights Council sees a clear link between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which is the world's most widely ratified human rights treaty at 194 countries. The case for putting children at the center of the SDGs is based on their rights, sustainable economic development, a life course approach to wellbeing, and the notion of intergenerational justice and fairness. Furthermore, making children the human face of the SDGs helps us define progress towards sustainability.

11. How has COVID-19 impacted the Ariel Foundations interactions with youths and community members? What changes has your organization had to make in order to continue to effect a positive change while simultaneously keeping participants safe?

AFI realizes that in these difficult times of crisis there still remains a massive source of energy creativity, and new ideas that has been build just beneath the surface of our communities, barely tapped so far but nearly bursting to emerge. Many of today's greatest social issues accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic have a particular impact on young people. Given their typical roles as students and care-receivers, youth often experience issues like gender inequality and violence much differently than adults. This perspective is an essential part of the AFI DNA and is critical to incorporate in the solution to any social problem, because it reveals new dimensions of each issue and suggests opportunities for innovation.

The current crisis has accelerated AFI to be functioning already tomorrow as it was planned to be within five years' time. Digitalization and enhanced media channels are familiar to our youth securing the pace of change and keeping all participants alert and safe. The pandemic intersects with rising mental health issues in childhood and adolescence. At AFI we promote good mental health as it is important during self-isolation, which can be compounded by lifestyle restrictions, exacerbated loneliness, comorbidities and feelings of worry and guilt for using resources.

12. You have an extremely diverse Board of Directors. How important has that been in ensuring your organization's success?

The Board is structured around the awareness that old ideological, political, ethnic, and nationalistic legacies have to be addressed in these challenging times to maintain the long-range trend toward democracy. Since democracies tend not to fight each other and since humanitarian crises are far more likely under authoritarian than democratic regimes,

expanding democracy is sine qua non for building a peaceful and just future for all. The Board is a Team of strong and experienced independent individuals capable of listening to our youth and mentoring them towards leadership.

Meanwhile, international procedures are needed to assist failed states or regions within states, and intervention strategies need to be designed for when a state constitutes a significant threat to its citizens or others. In doing so the voice of our Youth is our source of inspiration and motivation to have it heard in all ranks of society, whether political, economical or societal. AFI is the only organization to our knowledge where our Youth can become and is member of the Board and is mentored by a more seasoned and experienced Board Member.

13. What are key ways the public can get involved with the Ariel Foundation?

The COVID-19 impact is redefining the global challenges facing humanity and they are transnational in nature and trans-institutional in solution. No government, international organization, or other form of institution acting alone can solve the problems humanity is facing today: climate change, cybersecurity threats, organized crime, rich-poor gaps, environmental pollution, international finance, gender discrimination, changing disease situations, and the need for sustainable development. Our Youth needs to have their voice heard and AFI will show the public how it can be done. The public should stop, look and listen to what our Youth has to say and respect, as well as fund AFI for doing so.

This summer, owing to the pandemic and the myriad challenges it brought with itself, we realized that we need to broaden our leadership program and expand beyond the children and youth bracket.

We launched our Membership Program with no age bar for anyone who needs a platform to learn, develop and expand their leadership skill-set. Now, anyone from any country and age can join the AFI community and carve their path to leadership.

Tell us more about your mother. Who is she, what is her legacy? Take as much time and space you need to answer this question. (3 additional photos added to the file about my mother's accomplishments).

My mother, Dr. Margo G. King, is a woman with compassion, tenacity and purpose. She was a good student who lived with having a child right after completing high school. Her Aunt Rosalie, a nurse, who I was named Rosita (little Rose), brought me from the hospital and encouraged her to continue her education in psychology from associate degree to masters to finally a doctorate.

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In addition she founded the first conference of its kind in the United States called "The

Contemporary Black Male Experience in America" (Mentor – Dr. Jeffries) National Conference at the World Trade Center in 1990 with 43 speakers from various areas including a Dr. Maulana Karenga – creator and founder of Kwanzaa, Arthur Ashe (before he died), Marcus Garvey Jr. , Dr. Na'im Akbar, Jim Brown, and Dr. Alvin Poussaint to address issues confronting Black men.

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