



KAREN NAMAIN PONG

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<http://karenpong.brandyourself.com/?source=sig> |

<https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toy/karen-pong.4266/> |

<https://www.sutori.com/en/story/human-rights-educator--E6WFxeQZSSkVvqicWWVC5byc> |

https://www.linkedin.com/public-profile/settings?trk=d_flagship3_profile_self_view_public_profile |

Driskou 35, 45221, Ioannina, Greece

About me:

I'm a versatile professional with more than 10 years experience in project management, non-formal education with youth and young adults and interpretation/cultural mediation. With my international background, I'm always looking for exciting projects in multicultural working environments. I'm eloquent and articulate with excellent communication, writing, analytical and linguistic skills.

WORK EXPERIENCE

03/2021 – 06/2021 – Athens, Greece

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION (NFE) TRAINER - FREELANCE – INEDIVIM - YOUTH AND LIFELONG LEARNING FOUNDATION (HELLENIC NATIONAL AGENCY)

Design and implement the online training course “*ESC for Young Refugees*” on 12/05-25/05 on the HOP Online Learning Platform. Program design and content development of 6 units, implementing 4 interactive ZOOM meetings with youth workers working with young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (YMRA). Participate in online prep meetings, design and implement evaluation of the event and produce the final report.

01/08/2020 – CURRENT – Ioannina & Polykastro, Greece

INTERPRETER & CULTURAL MEDIATOR (ENGLISH, GREEK, FRENCH) – EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR ASYLUM (EUAA) VIA INTERPRETI TRADUTTORI MEDIATORI SRL (ITM)

Support EUAA operations in Reception and Identification Services in Nea Kavala (August 2020-January 2022) and Katsikas (February 2022-present). Provide interpretation and cultural mediation assistance in the administration office in supporting the camp manager, EUAA reception assistants and other on-site stakeholders (DRC, IOM, ASB, Solidarity Now, Drop in the Ocean, EODY, Ministry of Education) as required. Delivering asylum decisions and travel documents, appointments for asylum interviews and fingerprint procedures, translating info materials, assistance in camp medical centre, monthly community meetings with the camp manager and residents, monthly verification of residents.

07/2019 – 09/2019 – Athens, Greece

NFE TRAINER - FREELANCE – EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVES (AE)

Implementation of an international workshop for the School of Transnational Activism (STA), held in Athens on 12/09-15/09. Preparatory work, team meetings, daily program design of the second STA workshop - workflow, methodologies and consistency of the sessions. NFE methods used for the transmission and transfer of knowledge (interactive discussions, brainstorming, games, ice-breakers, team building, group work, brainstorming sessions, visual tools, evaluation).

24/11/2018 – 31/10/2019 – Athens & Evoia, Greece

INTERPRETER & CULTURAL MEDIATION (ENGLISH, GREEK, FRENCH) – INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

Create a first contact with migrants and refugees in accommodation centres in Athens and on the island of Evoia. Establishing a relationship of trust, interpretation and cultural mediation, translating documents and materials from English or Greek into French, translating information material, providing general assistance to project FILOXENIA coordinators, participating in information sessions with beneficiaries (asylum seekers), assisting with mediation and in sessions with IOM staff (psychologists, legal assistants, social workers, facility coordinators), accommodation staff and authorities (asylum service, police), accompany beneficiaries to public services (finance office, hospitals, etc.).

04/2018 – 07/2018 – Ilion, Attica, Greece

GRANT APPLICATION WRITER & YOUTH WORK CONSULTANT – KEAN - CELL OF ALTERNATIVE YOUTH INITIATIVES

Develop and implement project ideas for European programs (EVS) for youth empowerment and capacity building focused on environmental awareness, design and write proposals for participation in European Programs (Erasmus+, European Aid) as well as in other programs such as Open Society, Stavros Niarchos Foundation etc., advocacy actions.

03/2017 – 06/2017 – Thessaloniki, Greece

NFE TRAINER - FREELANCE – NEANIKI EKSELIXI (YIA)

Implementation of an 8-day international youth exchange, on the subject "*Conflicts Resolution through Dialogue*" organised by YiA in Yerevan, Armenia via Erasmus+ (22 participants from 6 countries). Design educational content and create e-learning activities, NFE methods for knowledge transmission and transfer, design of final evaluation and project report. **Youthpass Certificate.**

2016 – 2017 – Athens, Greece

YOUTH WORK & NFE CONSULTANT – GENERATION 2.0 FOR RIGHTS, EQUALITY & DIVERSITY (G2RED)

Provide resources on youth work and NFE opportunities for migrants/refugees/Greeks from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Organise and facilitate information on integration and social inclusion for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. Write project proposals for participation in European Programs (Erasmus+, Council of Europe Youth Service). Other activities: advocacy, fundraising initiatives, development and implementation of youth projects and awareness raising actions.

<https://g2red.org>

04/2015 – CURRENT – Bern, Switzerland

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM AGENT & CONSULTANT – TRAFFICKED VICTIMS UNIT (TVU)

Assistance, identification and protection of victims of human trafficking. Facilitate communication and cooperation between victims and authorities (Federal Police, immigration). Field research and intelligence gathering (undercover missions) on human trafficking and people smuggling. Writing intelligence (intel) reports. Attend Interpol Global Conference on Human Trafficking (2016, 2017). Assistance with the daily activities of a refugee camp in Lyss in summer 2016.

2013 – 2014 – Plovdiv, Bulgaria

PROJECT MANAGER & NFE TRAINER – EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CENTRE FOR CROSS CULTURAL DIALOGUE (EMCCCD)

Design, plan, organise, implement and write reports for international youth projects - "*Gender Matters? Gender Matters!*" (study session, European Youth Center Budapest, Hungary, 2014) and "*Young Women on the Move*" (training course, Thessaloniki, Greece, 2013). Recruit, shortlist, select participants, create educational content, lead workshops, design and conduct final evaluation, write final report. Participation as guest speaker in international conference on human trafficking held in Thessaloniki, Greece in November 2012.

11/2012 – CURRENT

PROJECT MANAGER, NFE TRAINER, CO-FOUNDER – YOUTH PEACE AMBASSADORS NETWORK (YPAN)

Volunteer work.

● **Independent Chair** (2019-2021)

Monitor/supervise the implementation of the Network's actions, Board accountability and performance, ensure the implementation of the strategic plan, suggest the replacement of the members of the Board, mediator between the members of the Board, resolve disputes, offer advice and guidance to board members independently. Participate in board meetings. Promote YPAN and its actions.

● **NFE Trainer & Project Manager**

Project management of numerous international youth projects: design, planning, draft grant application, preparation, implementation, facilitation, reporting. Areas of expertise: peace education, human rights education, human trafficking, conflict management/resolution, gender issues, gender-based violence, migrant/refugee rights, children's rights, inclusion, youth policy, NFE, intercultural dialogue, youth empowerment, capacity building.

youthpeaceambassadors@gmail.com | <https://ypa.network>

<https://medium.com/youthpeaceambassadors/with-whom-will-you-make-peace-today-1a18e09d53df>

● EDUCATION AND TRAINING

05/05/2021 – 31/05/2021 Online training course

INTERPRETING IN THE ASYLUM CONTEXT – European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

Training module for interpreters with different levels of experience and professional backgrounds (interpreters working for national administrations or international/European organisations, as well as freelancers), aiming to help interpreters acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to perform assignments professionally, efficiently and in accordance with international and national standards. It provided a general overview of the asylum context from the perspective of interpreters and the main interpreting techniques needed in asylum procedures.

Certificate of completion

16/06/2020 – 30/06/2020 HOP online platform

TRAINING FOR MENTORS IN EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS PROGRAMME – European Solidarity Corps (ESC)

Training to enable competence development in mentoring, through enhanced modes of training delivery and also through sharing, exchange and the construction of common understanding and goals among mentors in Greece and beyond, in view of improved future synergies and networking.

Digital Badge | <https://hop.salto-youth.net/user/view.php?id=2367&course=39>

23/11/2018 – 30/11/2018 UNDSS online platform

BSAFE - BASIC SECURITY IN THE FIELD (BSITF) AND ADVANCED SECURITY IN THE FIELD (ASITF) COURSE – United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)

BSAFE is the new online Field Safety Awareness Training. It replaces both Basic Field Security (BSITF) and Advanced Field Security (ASITF). BSAFE is mandatory for all UN personnel, including staff, interns and consultants.

Certificate of completion | <https://training.dss.un.org/thematicarea/category?id=6>

31/10/2017 – 11/11/2017 MOOC (Massive Open Online Course)

ESSENTIALS OF YOUTH POLICY – Council of Europe and European Commission

The main objective of the course was to equip learners with the basic skills to engage in youth policy. Participants learned about the essential elements of youth policy, the stages of youth policy (development, implementation, evaluation), its impact in the lives of young people, and they reflected on their future stages in youth policy.

Certificate of completion | <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/online-course-on-youth-policy>

04/2015 – 12/2016 European Youth Centres in Strasbourg (EYCS) and Budapest (EYCB)

TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR YOUTH IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (TRAYCE) – Council of Europe

Long term training.

Educational features: self-assessment and competency-based learning plans, mentoring, 2 residential seminars at EYCB and EYCS, practical activity (training course with YPAN 2016), product (blog on human trafficking, video of YPAN), e-learning and job shadowing, 361-degree feedback.

Trainers' certificate | <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/trayce> | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=os5VYvrUdkg>

08/2014 – 09/2014 – Vilanova i la Geltrú, Spain

TRAINING OF TRAINERS - UNDERSTANDING AND WORKING WITH CONFLICT – Fundació Catalunya Voluntària and partners (World Peace Initiative, UNOY, Generations Solidarity)

The training provided potential trainers/multipliers/trainers with the training and facilitation skills needed to support communication processes in conflicting contexts (conflict in the organisation, in the classroom, during a training, seminar or event). Tools explored to manage conflicts: mediation, negotiation, resolution, management and transformation, inner peace through meditation.

Completed 6 months

Outline: Practicing Professional Skills 1 (Foreign living language: English, Business games and conference 1); Evaluate an activity (Accounting, Management control, Financial analysis); Build a collective project (Marketing, Strategic Planning, Management); Know the legal environment of the business world (Corporate law, Human Resources Management, Labor law). Group and individual work, research, case studies, assignments.

Incomplete | <https://formations.univ-larochelle.fr/master-management-administration-entreprises?lang=fr>

04/2011 – 06/2013 European Youth Centres in Strasbourg (EYCS) and Budapest (EYCB)

YOUTH PEACE AMBASSADORS PROJECT (YPA) – Council of Europe

Longterm training.

Residential seminars focused on the protection of human rights in conflict-affected zones, peacebuilding and conflict transformation; a consolidation seminar in Andorra, organised by the Ministry of Education of Andorra; co-creation of a network of young peace ambassadors (YPAN). Jan. 2013 – April 2013: Organised and implemented a conference on human trafficking in partnership with the American University of Paris as practice activity.

Certificate & Portfolio | <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth-peace-dialogue/youth-peace-ambassadors>

09/2005 – 05/2009 – 5 Bd de la Tour-Maubourg, Paris, France

DOUBLE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS - MINOR IN INTERNATIONAL LAW – The American University of Paris (AUP)

- Fall 2006: initiated member of Omicron Delta Epsilon - international academic honor society in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and outstanding achievement in economics
- 2006-2007: Studies abroad at UCLA, California, USA (Global Studies program)
- 2008-2009: Senior class president - senator in the student government association (SGA)

Field(s) of study

- Arts and humanities

Thesis: International Criminal Court: Why the United States Should Join

3.255 GPA | <https://www.aup.edu/about>

● **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Mother tongue(s): **ENGLISH** | **FRENCH** | **PIDGIN**

Other language(s):

GREEK

● **DIGITAL SKILLS**

Social Media/Social Network | Internet Browser (internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, etc.) | Skilled internet user | E-learning Platform (zoom Google Meets Skype Google Classroom Padlett) | Knowledge of communication platforms (Skype, Zoom) | Microsoft office (Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Access, Teams) | Google tools (Gmail Drive Google forms etc) | sutori | Canvacom | Video conferencing experience (Zoom, Skype)

● PUBLICATIONS

XENOPHOBIC ATTACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA: A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HOW XENOPHOBIA CAN THREATEN PEACE ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

War and peace in Africa/Guerra y Paz En África
2020

My chapter (Chapter 6) of the publication illustrates the state of xenophobic attacks in the Republic of South Africa (RSA), particularly attacks on African nationals living and working there, with recommendations on how the problem can be addressed. The essay was written in English, translated and published in Spanish by the association Casa África, in Spain.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=7-4izjp6iXk&feature=youtu.be>

● NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIPS

07/2017 – CURRENT

Voices of Young Refugees in Europe (VYRE)

Strasbourg, France

Active member. Represented the Network in international activities.

<https://www.wearevyre.net/news/karen-pong-represented-vyre-at-the-open-forum-on-freedom-of-movement>

11/2012 – CURRENT

Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (YPAN)

Council of Europe member states

Founding member, former Independent Chairperson (2019-2021), project manager and NFE trainer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=os5vYvrUdkg&t=4s>

2005 – CURRENT

Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE) - The International Economics Honor Society

AUP - Paris, France

Initiated into the Paris Chapter of ODE during my university studies after which I obtained a BA degree in International Economics.

<https://www.omicrondeltaepsilon.org>

● CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

09/10/2020 – 10/10/2020 – Russian Center for Science and Culture, Brussels, Belgium

BRUSSELS DIALOGUE-2020 “Shared history and common future. 75 years responsibility for peace”

Guest speaker from YPAN (Independent Chair of YPAN)

Forum dedicated to the preservation of historical memory, and the role of the United Nations and the Council of Europe in maintaining peace and achieving sustainable development goals post WWII. The Forum promoted dialogue between young people from Russia and European countries, and the creation of a common cultural, scientific, information and educational space, inviting the youth of European countries to cooperate with peers from Russia.

<https://ruscentre.be/en/forums/jorge-a-s-nchez.html>

30/01/2019 – 31/01/2019 – Serafio Complex, Piraeus & Petrou Ralli, Athens, Greece

Preventing human trafficking in supply chains through government practices and measures

Delegate invited by the Office of the National Rapporteur. Regional conference co-organised by the Office of the National Rapporteur, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Municipality of Athens, O.A.S.E. and Athens Partnership, with support from the Bloomberg Associates Foundation. The objective was to bring together relevant stakeholders (businesses, NGOs and government) to discuss policies and define best implementation practices for state, national and local institutions, private sector companies and the civil society to ensure that goods purchased and services contracted by central and local authorities are not manufactured and delivered through the exploitation of victims of human trafficking.

06/11/2017 – 07/11/2017 – Sheraton Grand Doha Resort and Convention Hotel, Doha, Qatar

5th INTERPOL Global Trafficking in Human Beings Conference

Delegate of the Trafficking Victims Unit (TVU). This annual INTERPOL meeting brings together lawyers, law enforcement authorities, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector to strengthen international cooperation, exchange information and experiences, and consolidate strong networks to combat criminal groups organised behind human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Organised by INTERPOL with the support of the Qatar National Committee for Combating Trafficking, the event focused on new trends in human trafficking and migrant smuggling, as well as international responses and cooperation with the private sector and NGOs.

19/10/2016 – 21/10/2016 – Palazzo dei Congressi – Lugano, Switzerland

4th INTERPOL Global Trafficking in Human Beings Conference

Delegate of the Trafficking Victims Unit (TVU). Conference organised by INTERPOL and the Swiss police on human trafficking as a global threat. Main focus was on human trafficking in the context of irregular migration, identification of victims by law enforcement, improving police cooperation and prosecution and trafficking in the supply chain.

22/11/2014 – 24/11/2014 – INTERPOL Headquarters, Lyon, France

3rd INTERPOL Global Trafficking in Human Beings Conference

Delegate and observer of Youth Against Human Trafficking in Europe (YAHE) organisation. Conference on the subject of human trafficking bringing together investigators and experts, international organisations and cooperation partners to share methods and experiences in the fight against this crime, organised by INTERPOL and sponsored by the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department.

12/11/2013 – 14/11/2013 – INTERPOL Headquarters, Lyon, France

2nd INTERPOL Global Trafficking in Human Beings Conference

Delegate and observer of YAHE organisation. Conference bringing together some 150 law enforcement agencies and experts from non-governmental agencies from nearly 50 countries to explore how thanks to new technologies, human trafficking has become a lucrative industry, with new avenues of sexual exploitation and abuse, and used by traffickers, organised by INTERPOL and sponsored by the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department.

10/09/2013 – Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brussels, Belgium

New York Convention 65 years later: Observations and New Perspectives

Delegate and observer of YAHE organisation. Inter-ministerial conference and round table on the political policies put in place to fight against trafficking in human beings and the exploitation for prostitution.

11/04/2013 – The American University of Paris, Paris, France

Youth Against Human Trafficking: Getting Students Involved

Project manager and organiser. Human rights conference as a practical activity of the YPA project. The objective of this conference was to promote awareness on campus as an effective and powerful tool for young people in the prevention of human trafficking and to inspire university students and young people to become advocates and activists motivated and committed to the prevention of human trafficking.

<http://artemsia.weebly.com/artemsia/youth-against-human-trafficking-how-to-get-students-involved-in-prevention>

04/12/2012 – 05/12/2012 – 200 Aldersgate, St Paul, London, UK

Trust Women: Putting the Rule of Law Behind Women's Rights

Delegate sponsored by International Herald Tribune. Conference on the role of women against violence and exploitation organised by Thomson Reuters Foundation and International Herald Tribune.

www.trustwomenconf.com <https://www.flickr.com/photos/50399309@N05/albums/72157632185138778/page2/>

● **HOBBIES AND INTERESTS**

Cooking, indoor rock climbing, dance, hiking, fitness & sports, music, reading, travel

Travels to numerous cities in these countries: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, China, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, United Kingdom, United States United.

● **CREATIVE WORKS**

2020

We Want Peace...Education

Course developed for primary, secondary and VET teachers on peace education as a process of promoting the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to bring about behavioural changes that enable children, young people and adults to prevent negative conflict and violence at home, at school and in the workplace. Published and to be implemented via Teachersrise, an organisation based in Padova, Italy, between 2022-2023.

<https://www.teachersrise.eu/courses/we-want-peace-education/>

2017

Human Rights Educator - Where I began...where I've been...and where I am today...

Created to facilitate my presentation to the pupils of my former high school, St Lawrence college in Vari, Attica, when I was invited to speak to them about my work in human rights and in the youth field.

<https://www.sutori.com/en/story/human-rights-educator--E6WFxeQZSSkVvqicWWVC5byc>

● **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Kostas Simitopoulos – Field Coordinator - Camp Manager RIS (Ministry of Migration & Asylum, Greece) – k.simitopoulos@migration.gov.gr – (+30) 6907017153

Mr. Simitopoulos was the Camp Manager at Nea Kavala camp in Polykastro (June 2021 - January 2022).

Traianos Tregkas – Camp Manager RIS (Ministry of Migration & Asylum, Greece) – info@tanda.gr – (+30) 6947008832

Mr. Tregkas was the Camp Manager at Nea Kavala camp in Polykastro (May 2020 - May 2021).

Stephan Fuchs – Co-Director at Trafficked Victims Unit – fuchs@trafficking.ch – (+41) 764648010

Mr. Fuchs is heads and coordinates the actions of TVU. We have been collaborating since 2015.