

# Wanjala Wafula

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## Profile

I am the founder and Executive Director of the Coexist Initiative, a multi-global award winning Kenyan NGO working across Kenya and the entire East and Central Africa region to promote gender transformation, human rights and social justice. He is also the co-founder and co-chair of the Kenya National Men's Alliance for Gender Justice.

As Executive Director, I oversees budgetary duties of the organization and coordinate a team of 30 staff working across Kenya. I also coordinate the consultancy arm of the organization currently with fifteen organizations across the world. Coexist has won numerous international awards and been selected by experts in the field as one of the most effective organization's working to end violence against women and girls by addressing negative socialization processes, negative cultural practices, stereotypes and masculinities. This year, Coexist's work has also been selected by many UN agencies including UNHCR as examples of best practice and its materials translated into many languages across the world. I am a skilled and seasoned public/motivational speaker, group discussion facilitator and outcomes disseminator. I am able to use technical and interpersonal skills to enhance organizational efficiencies and generate an atmosphere of enthusiasm.

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- Date of Birth: 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 1970
- Marital Status: Married
- Nationality: Kenyan

## Education & Professional Qualifications

- PHD: Kenyatta University 2015:**Dissertation:** Linking climate change to gender injustice among pastoralists in Kenya
- Institute for Community Development (Diploma in NGO Management 2009)

- Computer applications (BCC). 2006
- M.A Conflict Management - Daystar University 2007
- B.A. Mass Communication, -Major, Community Development-Minor (1991- 1994 Daystar University)
- 'A' Level, Butonge High School ( Two Principles- Two Subsidiaries)

### Key Professional Skills

- Outstanding advocacy, interpersonal, communication and consultative skills
- Organizational skills; able to coordinate and manage a diverse array of duties
- Strong team player, with excellent people and work management skills and ability to lead, motivate and build results oriented work place teams
- Research: Both Qualitative and quantitative
- Demonstrated competence to manage a variety of activities in a time-sensitive environment and meet deadlines with attention to detail and quality
- Experienced in partnership building and networking
- Strong strategic thinking competencies, leadership and visionary skills
- Analytical and logical with the ability to think creatively and solve problems
- Immense ability to prepare accurate plans, projects and reports
- Ability to exercise prudent judgment involving issues of a highly-confidential,

### Professional Experience

#### **The Coexist Initiative 2004 - To Date;**

#### **Founder/ CEO**

Currently

#### **Coexist Initiative**

- Founder/ Director Coexist Initiative
- In charge of the overall strategic direction of the organization
- Providing expert program design and implementation
- Resource mobilization and general program management
- Representing the organization in events and functions
- Conceptualizing and implementing training programs for staff and other stakeholders
- Formulating theme based networks, synergies and liaisons

#### **Programs Coordinator**

## **Future Concern International, 2000 - 2002**

- General project implementation
- Supervised more than 100 project officers, field extension officers and interns
- Oversaw the organizations ability to implement projects sprout to the national level.
- Got the organization to join four leading networks.

## **Writer (Correspondent)**

### ***Nation Media Group- Daily Nation, 1996- 1998)***

- Filed news and feature stories in the realms of entertainment, human-interest stories, education, environment and sports.

## **Writer (Correspondent)**

### ***East African Standard, 1994-1995***

#### ***Nairobi***

- Filed news and feature stories in the realms of entertainment, human-interest stories, education, environment and sports.

## **Awards and Recognitions**

**Winner:** African Achievers Award winner 2012

**Winner:** Kenyatta University Shield of honor 2014

**Winner:** Global Intercultural Award- 2014 Vienna Austria)

**Winner:** Avon Global communications Award -2015- USA

**Recognition:** UNHCR- 2014-Best practice in men and boys engagement in promoting girls education

**Recognition:** Standing with the boys program- Global Advocate 2015

**Recognition:** UNHCR: Best practice in ending child marriage

## **Seminars & Workshops Attended**

- **Facilitator:** Commonwealth Secretariat: Capacity development of NHRIs in regard to effective and impactful strategies to prevent and eradicate CEFM in the Commonwealth. This intervention resulted in commitment by NHRIs to a

set of practical actions as contained in the Kigali Declaration [Rwanda 2015];

- **Lead Speaker:** Commonwealth Secretariat: Child marriage dialogues with NHRIs, traditional structures, faith-based organizations and civil society from Kenya, Malawi and Uganda. This work was done in partnership with the University of Pretoria and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa. [Kenya 2015];
- **Resource Person:** A working session in London aimed at conceptualizing further programmatic work with the Commonwealth Secretariat [London 2015]
- **Delegate:** A working session with the AU Commission to strengthen and formalize collaboration with the African Union Commission on a number of areas of comparative advantage for the Secretariat such as work with NHRIs, traditional leaders and their governance structures, parliamentarians and regional mechanisms; the sharing of Secretariat collaborations with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and their regional action plan to end child marriage; and to discuss further regional partnerships including participation in the forthcoming AU Girls Summit [Ethiopia 2015];
- **Resource person:** Commonwealth Secretariat Popularization and Operationalization of the Kigali Declaration in the rural district of Karonga, Malawi with traditional chiefs, men and boys, and young girls who were forced into marriage/escaped from forced marriage [Malawi, September 2015];
- **Facilitator:** Gender responsive budgeting processes: GVRC Nairobi 2015
- **Coordinator:** Project on eradicating the beading practice among the Samburu of Northern Kenya- UNSCO 2014
- **Speaker:** Global Conference on child marriage- Girls not Brides- Casablanca Morocco 2015
- **Speaker:** Global summit on ending sexual violence in conflict- London 2014
- **Presenter:** Sexual Violence research institute working session on sexual

violence in schools- Kampala Uganda 2014

- **Lead consultant:** Kenya Education Equality project (KEEP)- WUSK/Windle Trust 2014
- **Moderator:** East Africa symposium on child marriage- Darussalam Tanzania 2013
- **Host:** East Africa men and boys GBV working session 2013
  
- **Moderator:** Girls not Brides work- Cape town South Africa 2012
  
- **Main Facilitator:** Kenyatta University Gender Week 2012
  
- **Keynote speaker:** International SGBV conference (LVCT and KU) 2012
  
- **Lead Trainer:** Inaugural minorities sexual rights symposium 2012
  
- **Consultant:** integrating regional gender policies ( Juba- Southern Sudan)
  
- **Keynote speaker:** National Gender stakeholders forum March 2011
  
- **Rapporteur:** CEDAW Kenya chapter symposium 2011
  
- **Main facilitator:** 16 days Campaign 2011
  
- **Women HIV Prevention Symposium:** Group leader Sep. 2011
  
- **Facilitator** at the Sonke Gender justice regional training on masculinities in Cape town South Africa (June 2010)
  
- **Trainer** at the regional symposium on men and gender based violence in Kampala Uganda (September 2010)
  
- **Keynote speaker** at East African Gender festival held in Nairobi from the 3rd to the 5th of June 2010. My topic was “*Construction of Masculinities*”.

- Trainer at the 1st Conference on the Inter-linkage between Sexual Violence and HIV/AIDS. My topic was the *“Role of Men in Eliminating Gender/Sexual Violence”*. (October 2009)
- Facilitator and trainer at the regional training on the role of the media in fostering peace and gender equity in East Africa (January 2010)
- Keynote speaker at the health rights advocacy forum workshop. Topic *“engendering health services”* (February 2010)
- Trainer under the Future Concern sponsored safe school program (February - May 2009)
- Chief consultant at refugee referral mechanisms training hosted June 2010

### Professional Memberships

- Commissioner: Journey to manhood project 2013
- Partner: Young women Christian association Kenya (YWCA)
- Partner: Amref Kenya
- Moderator: Implementation of the sexual offenses Act task force ( 2011)
- Member: Gender technical Committee(National Aids Control Council 2009-currently)
- Member: Kenya Union of Journalists
- Partner : Safe Date USA- Kenya
- Founder - Its time campaign- Kenya
- Executive Committee member of The Coexist Initiative
- Women HIV Prevention Symposium: Steering Committee

### PUBLICATIONS & Media Outputs

- **Blogger:** [wanjalawafula.wordpress.com](http://wanjalawafula.wordpress.com)
- **Host:** Reproductive health and gender based violence Radio show on Kenya Broadcasting cooperation
- **Author :**Chronicles of an African pro-feminist 2013

- **Author:** Our Voices our cry- 2012
- **Author:** In my Days—Mululu publishers 2006
- **Publisher/ Editor :** Weekly Gospel, Glory times, and The Weekly Evangelist publications

#### Some Links

<http://www.catapult.org/project/engaging-men-eradicate-child-marriage-0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cnW0CwulXE&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDVoga1WdVQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJzdHgeH7PY>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWfaYlQ\\_les](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWfaYlQ_les)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIMsybNoSfY>

#### Interests

- Writing
- Traveling and nature walks

#### Referees

Please feel free to contact the under mentioned in regard to my competence, work ethic and performance.

**Peter Grant**

Co-Director, Restored

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**Prof. Philomena Njeri Mwaura PhD**

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