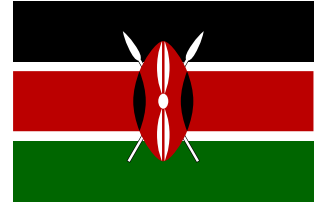


The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement



Spring 2023 Professional Fellow



Teopista Nannyanzi

Project Coordinator, Pan African Network of People with Psychosocial Disabilities (PANPPD)

“From the Fellowship Program, I would like to be able to benchmark best practices to ensure the inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities in political life as well as creating networks to support the realization of rights for this group of people.”

Teopista works as a project coordinator for the [Pan African Network for People with Psychosocial Disabilities \(PANPPD\)](#), a nonprofit organization that represents and advocates for the rights of persons living with psychosocial disabilities in Africa. Teopista manages PANPPD’s micro-grant initiative. However, her current work focuses on identifying challenges that persons with psychosocial disabilities have faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and advocating for their inclusion and participation in matters related to them, especially during this health crisis.

Prior to joining PANPPD, Teopista worked for the [National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda \(NUDIPU\)](#) as a research assistant. She also served as a board chair for the nonprofit organization Blind But Able. Building from her personal experience, Teopista believes that civic engagement is key to self-determination for persons with disabilities and that it provides them with the self-confidence they need in ensuring independence at all levels of living.

Teopista holds a master’s degree in international and cooperative disability law and policy from the National University of Ireland, Galway. After completing her studies, Teopista returned to Uganda, where she has been working on disability rights both at the national and regional level.

For her Fellowship, Teopista has proposed a follow-on project that aims to advocate for the right to political participation and representation for persons with psychosocial disabilities in Uganda. Toward that goal, Teopista plans to partner with organizations of persons with psychosocial disabilities and NUDIPU to gather information about the situation of persons living with psychosocial disabilities and jointly develop a position paper to be shared with key stakeholders.

Teopista will complete a four-week Fellowship placement training with the [International Foundation for Electoral Systems \(IFES\)](#) in Arlington, Virginia.

