

SARAH ROMA

Sarah is the Founder and Principal at Solutions for Igniting Social Transformation, LLC (SolutionIST), where she provides consultant and advisory services for nonprofit and philanthropic organizations. She also teaches policy advocacy as an adjunct faculty member at the School for International Training (SIT) Graduate Institute.

Sarah has over 20 years of experience working globally and domestically on social change with and for women, girls, children, and youth. She works with and across different sectors, including grassroots and community-based organizations, INGOs, coalitions, women's funds, private foundations, and multilateral organizations. Since founding SolutionIST, Sarah has consulted with organizations such as Mama Cash, the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, Count Me In!, CARE, Save the Children, Child Fund, Girls First Fund, IntraHealth's Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative, and Amref's Advocacy Accelerator. She has particular expertise in women's and girls' rights and gender justice, and advocacy and activism, and supports organizations to become more strategic, reflective, and impactful in their work.

Prior to SolutionIST, Sarah was the Director of Women, Girls, and Population at the United Nations Foundation (UNF) where she led strategy development and implementation for the Foundation's work on women and girls. As the Director of Field Policy and Advocacy at Save the Children, Sarah integrated advocacy as a core component of the organization's work, developing a global strategy and organizational infrastructure for advocacy capacity strengthening. She led the design and implementation of the first-ever Save the Children International advocacy guide and Advocacy Measurement Tool to track advocacy progress, results, and learning; and developed and led workshops with hundreds of staff and partners from over 40 countries.

Sarah's work has also included designing and managing a leadership development program for Kosovar women, and working on a youth-led advocacy program for young women in Washington, DC, where she supported a group of teen women to successfully advocate for the passage of a sexual harassment policy in DC public schools. Sarah has also conducted research and educational outreach on issues related to violence against women and girls, served as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and also started and ran the first service-learning program at Banneker Public High School in Washington, DC and taught middle school in rural Japan.

Sarah received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Carleton College and a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School, where she was the recipient of the Pforzheimer Foundation Nonprofit Fellowship, and the Women and Public Policy Program's Agnes Gund Fellowship.