

Lebanese-born Yasmine Al Moghrabi is a Regional Youth Leader, PhD Student in Transportation Engineering (Integrated Intelligent Transportation Systems/Traffic Engineering), and global road safety and climate action activist named one of the top 10% of Changemakers from around the world who have acted in favor of Global Goals.

Yasmine Al Moghrabi spent the first 25 years of her life in Lebanon before moving to the USA for her studies. While she acknowledges there are some differences in rights and accessibility between her two homes, the situation for women is similar in both countries – particularly the need for women to prove they are just as capable decision-makers in the transport sector as men. Learning from her own experiences of successfully proving her worth, she believes all women have the power to create their own destinies.

“Women can accomplish anything. When I started my path in engineering, I didn’t get any support and I saw how women in engineering, especially transportation, are not taken as seriously as men. I think an important skill is having confidence and knowing that you really can add value to projects by bringing your perspective and knowledge to the discussion.”

As a road safety engineer and activist, Yasmine feels a feminist transport system does not limit the focus of its efforts to women and girls. Rather, the most effective way to build a feminist transport system is to fight the root causes of transportation issues that can affect everyone: Why do people make the mobility choices they do? What are their daily challenges and aspirations?

“As the regional youth leader of road safety in North America selected by the Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety, I always empower women and young people to insist on improving road safety. At the same time, I feel so happy when I see the achievements of women. I tell them, ‘Good luck, I am so proud of you!’ We need more of that, women supporting women.”

Yasmine is inspired by the stories of women, especially young people, who are change agents, finding opportunities to gain practical advice on how to partner with other women from different backgrounds, cultures, and lifestyles. She values the chance to connect with other women who are passionate about making the world a better place by addressing important global issues. For her part, she has contributed through the attendance and participation in many activities, competitions, TV interviews, research, projects, and conferences related to the Sustainable Development Goals, and transportation. Yasmine is also a social media content creator, with the Instagram page Road Safety by Yasmine (@roadsafety.yasmine) which provides interactive and creative road safety content.

“My passion for development and my quest to be part of a group of women who will make roads safer for everyone globally has pushed my work to save lives. I believe that local and global efforts are not just a vision but an achievable initiative. I understand how beneficial it is for all generations.”

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In addition to be one of the four youth delegates representing the voice of youth around the world at the United Nations High-Level Meeting (HLM) on Road Safety, as well as countless other prominent events, in September 2022, Yasmine was selected to participate in UNITE 2030’s Camp 2030. The event brings together top Youth Leaders from across the globe for six days of innovation and co-creation for working towards the achievement of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. For her, it was an opportunity to represent women in transportation.

“Around the world, women are driving change and claiming fundamental freedoms and rights. They are improving conditions for themselves and their communities, finding opportunities to learn, work and participate in decisions that affect them. Every woman can do something if they have the resources, the opportunity, the skill, the confidence.”

“I was the only young woman from the transportation field. Everyone was curious about the relationship between my field and the Sustainable Development Goals, and surprised that I am involved in transportation and passionate about road safety. I explained I am happiest when the things I do can make a difference in the lives of others.”

As a young feminist voice in transport, Yasmine is driven by the knowledge that despite the risks, she can succeed through confidence, by not being afraid, and by following her passion. “It’s not just about being a transportation engineer; it’s all about the passion I have and feeling the responsibility to take action to save the lives of vulnerable road users, especially women and young people, who are the greatest victims of road crashes. We all need to address the issues by using one voice, and women’s voices are a driving force.”

Yasmine highlights how often the greatest successes start out as fantastic goals. In some cases, those goals have seemed so out of reach as to be impossible. Without a sense of optimism and a belief in themselves, those who have achieved the most might have achieved nothing.