



Wales and the Guarani

Together for tomorrow



Cardiff Speaker profiles

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JU KEREXU - TENONDÉ/EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR AT CGY



Juliana Kerexu Mirim Mariano Vilma was born in an Indigenous territory called Ilha da Cotinga in Paranaguá, Brazil. She made history by becoming the very first female chief in her area! Juliana does many incredible things—she is a Guarani teacher, poet, spiritual leader, crafter and an actress.

As an important female leader, Juliana brings women together through national gatherings, defends Guarani territory, the Atlantic Forest and Pampa grasslands. She works hard to ensure that future generations can grow up speaking the Guarani language and are connected to their spirituality, culture and struggle for life and land. Guided by the teachings of the nhaneramõi (Guarani elders), she keeps ancient traditions alive while solving today's problems. Her strength inspires her own village, as well as groups of Indigenous women and friends all across Brazil and the world!

VILMA VERÁ RIOS - REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR WESTERN PARANÁ AT CGY



Vilma was born in the Pirajuí village, a protected piece of land for Indigenous Peoples. At 16, she moved with her family to the Guasu Guavirá Indigenous Land in Paraná. There, she realised how hard it was to live on land that people were fighting over. At 17, she gave her first speech about the struggles of Indigenous youth and women. This is how she became a proud **Avá-Guarani activist**.

Now, Vilma is famous worldwide for her hard work. She speaks out against large businesses taking land to grow soy, poisonous bug sprays, racism, and unfair treatment of women. Today, she teaches her mother tongue and is a regional leader in the organisation that represents the Guarani People - Comissão Guarani Yvyrupa (CGY).

MINDUÁ [JULIANA VILHALVA]- COMMUNICATIONS FELLOW AT CGY



Juliana grew up watching her father, grandfather, and wise elders fight for their land. Inspired by her cousin Patrícia, who makes films, Juliana discovered she could use the power of words, videos, and photos to help her community and amplify their voices. At just 16, she joined the organisation that represents Guarani People - Comissão Guarani Yvyrupa (CGY) to share the true stories of her people.

Today, she lives on the southern coast of São Paulo and travels to different states in Brazil to lead, share information, and bring people together. She is a proud young leader who uses media and storytelling, to protect her ancient culture and teach the next generation how to stand up for their rights.

LLYR GRUFFYDD (MS)



Llyr is the Cabinet Minister for Rural Resilience and Sustainability. In this role he is responsible for many environmental issues, including:

- measures to slow down and adapt to climate change
- supporting agriculture and sustainable farming
- looking after our forests, rivers and seas
- biodiversity and conservation

For a full list of his responsibilities, visit :<https://www.gov.wales/llyr-gruffydd-ms#204392>

Llyr started his career as a youth worker helping young people. He also worked on business projects to help the local economy and gave expert advice to the National Trust in Wales to help protect nature and historic places.

After running in a few different elections, he was successfully elected to the Senedd (Welsh Parliament) in 2011. In May 2026, he was given a very important job in the Welsh Government Cabinet to look after "Rural Resilience and Sustainability." This means his main job is making sure that Wales can adapt to crises like extreme weather and protecting its precious resources for the future.

BISHOP VAUGHAN SECONDARY SCHOOL



Pupils from Bishop Vaughan Catholic Secondary School, Swansea have achieved their Deforestation Free Champion status. They investigated their school meals and discovered there were forest-risk ingredients on the menu.

The class took action by reimagining the ingredients of a favourite sweet treat-the cookie, to make it deforestation free. This was lots of fun, the Fairtrade cookies were a great hit with everyone and the pupils proved that it is possible to make forest friendly food.



They shared their learning with the school and now aim to work with Swansea Council to get the cookie onto the menu, and ensure that there is no deforestation linked to their school meals.

SARA, YOUTH CLIMATE AMBASSADOR



"Since a young age, I've been deeply concerned about the climate and the decline of our natural world. Since joining the YCA last year, I've gained incredible experiences such as taking part in a panel, attending London Climate week and being interviewed on a radio show.

This community has assured me that there are other young individuals fighting for climate justice which has helped to calm my climate anxiety.

As co-vice chair, my role in the group is to coordinate our weekly meetings when needed, help with admin and give input regarding our various projects.

I sincerely believe that educating the next generation on the extent of the crisis is imperative in order to strive for a better future."