

## MEET LANI ANAYA



Age: 32 Country of origin: Mexico  
Country of residence: Sweden

### What would the title of your biography be?

The title of Lani's biography would be "Mexican Peacemaker," as this has been the field she has worked in the most and her home nation of Mexico, a nation that historically has dealt with high levels of violence for all people, but specifically for women.

### How would you use a time machine?

Lani oftentimes wishes that she could go back to her childhood with her friends in Mexico as it was a time where she could truly enjoy her roots.



Brazil youth and peacebuilding work Lani co-led with Global Peace Foundation Brasil.



## How has your migration experience influenced your work?

During her time in college, Lani studied International Relations—being drawn to the topic because of her intercultural relations having spent time in Africa, East Asia, South America, in addition to Mexico. This intercultural aspect has heavily influenced her work, through topics such as communication, the values of other cultures, and the leadership that comes out of it.



Kenya: Lani with women of the community-based organization in Ngong, Kenya.

## What do you hope to accomplish by 2030?

Lani hopes that as a global community, we all work together to have the 2030 SDG goals completed, and that no one is left behind in that vision. She desires a world where inequalities have shrunken, and opportunities are readily available to all. She also hopes for less polarization and more dialogue. In terms of her specific work, she hopes to see advancement in young people getting involved in decision making.



## If you had a superpower what would it be and why?

If Lani could have a superpower, she would choose bilocation—to be in two places at once. It would allow her to travel to many places and build relationships and enrich herself fully in different cultures. This power would help her move quickly whenever she has the desire to visit these places.

## How do you connect with your diaspora community and support it in both countries of origin and residence?



In other places she has visited, Lani recalls it being a lot harder to connect with her Mexican community abroad, but in Sweden she is part of a group that meets frequently. It is with this group that she is able to connect and speak her language. She also connects through her work, where she is able to travel and give back to her community by training young people and sharing her knowledge. In Sweden, she works with the Lutheran Church International Development Office where she is able to contribute to her region through peace and humanitarian development.



Lani with some of her friends from her teenage years.

## Which Sustainable Development Goal is most relevant for your work?

SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 4 (Quality Education) are most relevant to Lani's work. She focuses a lot on developing trainings for private companies and civil society on the SDGs in hopes that they too utilize their resources to help accomplish these goals.



Lani and her mentor, Francisco, teaching about UN 2030 Agenda at the Ibero American University.

## What would you tell other young people who want to make an impact in their communities of origin and residence?

Lani would suggest other young leaders to fight for their seat at the table where their voice can be heard. She explains that sometimes asking is not enough and sometimes you'll have to shout. "Every young person has something to contribute either with their educational background or their personal experience" says Lani.

