

Nguhi Mwaura:

Hi, welcome to Solvers, I'm Nguhi Mwaura.

Courtney Martin:

And I'm Courtney Martin. In this podcast you'll hear stories about how social innovators are tackling the world's biggest problems to build a better future.

Nguhi Mwaura:

On this show, we have conversations with people who are dealing with big complex problems, and we talk about that complexity and those solutions, but also about the solvers themselves, and what drives them to do this work. Today's episode is my conversation with Yordanos Eyoel.

Nguhi Mwaura:

Yordanos is the managing director at New Profit, a venture philanthropy fund based in the U.S. And as you know Courtney, we ask all our guests this one support question, "What are you solving for?" Yordanos answer, which you'll hear her say, is that she's solving for a crisis of trust in America.

Courtney Martin:

Woo! Distrust in America is such a big theme of this moment we're all living through, right? I mean, I'm just struck when I hear you say that, I'm like, "Does she think our democracy is actually worthy of trust?" That's where I get stuck lately. They're real reasons to be distrustful, you know?

Nguhi Mwaura:

Yeah. I think part of what you'll hear her talk about in this interview. Is how she approaches the idea of democracy in America as an outsider, and how she's had to learn about trust so intimately, because she's had to build it. So, yeah, I think she would say that there is something worth saving there, but she's very quick to acknowledge that these huge gaps between what is aspired to and what actually is.

Courtney Martin:

Yeah. I mean, I also wonder if she sees those gaps more accurately as an outsider. I think about some of the folks I've met along the way, who are drawn to doing democratic work or civic work, and some of them, especially when they're American born, tend to be sort of true Patriots, like very rah rah American exceptionalism type folks.

Courtney Martin:

And I can only imagine that if you're born outside this country, it might be easier to see it for both its beauty and its true problems, and not sort of come at it with this romantic view. So I don't know, I'm excited to hear if she's immune to exceptionalism, and how that might make her a better leader.

Nguhi Mwaura:

So Courtney, when this interview starts, you'll hear Yordanos talking about what it was like for her, during this coup that happened in Ethiopia. And her mother was a journalist in Ethiopia at the time, and had intel that this coup was coming. And so she actually fled to the U.S., and sought political asylum and left Yordanos behind, and she followed later on to join her mom in the U.S. And so we open up, and

she's talking about being a first grader, and what that was like in that moment to feel the tension around all the adults as she's a child.

Nguhi Mwaura:

And it's fascinating to kind of open up with that juxtaposition, of what it means when a democracy, or when a society is crumbling, not just a democracy versus the work that she does now. And I think that for her, she understands the costs of what it means to not fight for that democracy, and to in some ways lose that, and the instability that comes with compromising on some of those democratic ideals.

Nguhi Mwaura:

And so you'll hear that through her work with democracy entrepreneurs, that they are really thinking about, how do you build that bridge between what is, but what it could be. And so while maybe the narrative of exceptionalism is a little bit too early, they're doing their best to build that bridge to get there sooner.

Courtney Martin:

Awesome. I cannot wait to listen to this, let's do it.

Nguhi Mwaura:

So without further ado, here's my conversation with Yordanos Eyoel.

Nguhi Mwaura:

I'd love to start off by getting you to tell me the story of what happened when your mother had to leave Ethiopia. You've written about it saying goodbye to her at the airport, but we'd love to hear more about that moment?

Yordanos Eyoel:

Yeah. I mean, this is an unfortunate experience that many people have all over the world, right? Families being torn apart, because of political or economic instability. In the case of my family, my mother was a journalist in Ethiopia, she was a rising star, and by virtue of our profession, when there was a change in government, she immediately fell under threat. And it wasn't necessarily because of the things that she covered, it was just by virtue of being in the profession.

Yordanos Eyoel:

She hosted a show every Sunday on radio that brought social issues to the fore as well as pop culture, and then she also wrote different articles, primarily advocating for women's rights. And after a 17 year civil war, Ethiopia had a coup in 1991 that transitioned the government. And as a journalist, as a woman, but also someone who belonged to the Oromo tribe, my mother felt that the country was entering a state of instability, and she wanted to provide a better future for me.

Yordanos Eyoel:

And so she had the opportunity to come to the U.S. for a professional development opportunity, and she pursued the political asylum process. And through that, she was able to get her status, and eventually sponsor me. Now, complications with the U.S. immigration that actually took a four year process.

Yordanos Eyoel:

So it was incredibly difficult to be separated from my mother during that year at a time, but it taught me really valuable lessons about ensuring the stability of governments, and helping to contribute to a healthy civil society to ensure that families don't encounter those kinds of disruptions, because of instabilities related to political turmoil.

Nguhi Mwaura:

As a child, what did you understand about what was going on in Ethiopia at the time, and understand about what your mom was doing and why she was doing it?

Yordanos Eyoel:

That's such a great question. I mean, I will tell you, my first memory of everything that was unfolding was in the first grade. We were at recess, and it was unfortunately cut short, and our teachers came and they told us to go back into our classroom. And we just sat there, and I just remember how eerie and quiet it was. And I could tell that our teachers were nervous. And as a six year old, I'm trying to process, "Okay, what is going on? Did something at school happen? Are we going home?"

Yordanos Eyoel:

At some point, someone came and gave a note to one of my teachers, and I was called to the principal's office. I go to my principal's office, my mom is there, which is very uncommon, because it was in the middle of the day. And no explanation, my mom said, "We're going to go home." And we went out to the streets, again, incredibly quiet. We were able to catch a cab, go home. And by the time we got home, my entire family was on my grandparents' house, that's when I realized that a coup had taken place. And my mother, as I said, she was a journalist, so she had access to information before it became fully public. And so that's kind of my first memory [inaudible 00:07:44].

Yordanos Eyoel:

I don't know you can make sense of that as a six year old, but bombs were going off, my grandparents were sheltering people at their home, and so we had cousins that were staying with us. I remember one cousin was just deeply traumatized, and I think stayed with us for over a month. And the other striking thing, honestly, when I went back to school, Ethiopia is an incredibly ethnically diverse, vibrant country. And when I was in the first grade or even kindergarten, we understood that, "Okay, you come from this ethnic group, you come from this ethnic group." But there wasn't really any tension.

Yordanos Eyoel:

And I think when I went back to school in second grade, your ethnicity meant something, and I remember that very distinctly. Because I happened to be a blend of two ethnic groups, the Oromos and the Amharas. In the second grade I realized that, wow, that actually means something, it was the first time I experienced that. And and I've carried it that throughout my life, just the sense of living kind of in the middle of both worlds. Being African, but also American, being Oromo but also Amhara.

Yordanos Eyoel:

And so I think I have always seen myself as a bridge builder, someone who grew up privileged in some ways, but also is a victim of systemic racism and structural inequity in other ways. We experienced

poverty in the U.S., although had a privilege background Ethiopia. So those early experiences were really formative in how I think about politics, the role of politics, and the micro impacts that it has on families.

Nguhi Mwaura:

And actually that leads perfectly into my next question, which is how does being an immigrant shape how you think about democracy, and being that bridge builder, how does that shape how you think about democracy, and your work?

Yordanos Eyoel:

It plays a huge part in how I see the world, and how I think about my work. My work is really centered around building trust and inclusivity, and that comes from being an outsider. And in my high school, not only was I an immigrant and somebody who was still learning English to some degree, and trying to assimilate to the American culture, but I was also the only black girl in my International Baccalaureate class, and so there were so many things that I was holding. And when I think about what it means to create an inclusive society, I think it is an advantage to have the perspective of an outsider, right?

Yordanos Eyoel:

Because then you could think about, okay, not only what it means not to have privilege, but how do we create and shape systems, so that we are creating conditions that enable all kinds of people to thrive, no matter where they come from, no matter what their socioeconomic background is, or educational access and opportunities they've had. So all of that is really informed by my own lived experience, and I try to bring that to my work.

Nguhi Mwaura:

I'd love to just pull on that thread about narrative, and people's identity and how that shapes how they see a society, and then how you build a democracy. When you think about the U.S. and the kinds of narratives about being a great melting pot, and also being the greatest democracy on the planet, how much do you think that those narratives have helped, and where do you think they may have hindered how the U.S. has grown as a democracy, and what is valued and what isn't?

Yordanos Eyoel:

Narrative plays a huge part in creating a sense of identity, and creating a common vision for a country, for a group of people, so it's really, really important. I mean, right now we're living in a very polarized time, not only politically, but culturally there's fragmentation in every possible way you can imagine, across based on where you live, where you're based geographically, based on your political affiliation, ideology based on race.

Yordanos Eyoel:

And narrative is really what's amplifying it, whether it's driven by truth or misinformation and disinformation. I think the tension we face in America is that, they're kind of the ideals of America, and then there's the America today, right? And the ideals, we all pull them because that is what we're pursuing, that is the reality we're trying to create, this democracy that is truly inclusive, this democracy that honors all voices and all lives, right?

Yordanos Eyoel:

But the systems have not fully reflected those values that they've been constructed, at times even actually to dishonor those values depending on who the architects were, and historically that has been privileged white men in the U.S. And so the work that a lot of the leaders that I support, and the work of democracy entrepreneurs, and organizers and justice warriors, is really to create alignment between the ideals of America and the reality of America. And if we look at electoral system voter suppression, voter intimidation, all of those things.

Yordanos Eyoel:

Our criminal justice system, our achievement gap in our education system, the wealth gap between people of color and white Americans, all of those things would indicate that we're not living out our ideals as a society, as a country. And so narrative is really important, but you were kind of living in this duality of, yes, we have the ideals that we're aspiring to become, but we have a lot of work to do in order to fully realize them for all Americans.

Nguhi Mwaura:

Just as you were speaking, I had that vision of kind of the ideal of America, as being one cliff and the reality of America being the other cliff, and these democracy entrepreneurs being this bridge, and you called yourself a bridge builder.

Nguhi Mwaura:

I would love to hear more about who are democracy entrepreneurs, how do they build this bridge between the two, who are the types of people who you consider democracy entrepreneurs?

Yordanos Eyoel:

The definition about democracy entrepreneurs is similar to other innovators, these are individuals who are building on innovative models, to either dismantle or repair the broken systems in our democracy. And this can take on many forms. So this could come in the form of organizing, organizing has been happening for a very, very long time. And whether people are doing that in a kind of traditional way as we know about organizing, relational, through one-on-one meetings, and community gatherings, or whether that's happening in a way that digitally, there are lots of digital organizing innovators now particularly.

Yordanos Eyoel:

And we've seen, I think the power of that, especially during the pandemic, and the 2020 election process, or cultural organizers of folks that are using music and art and spoken word, and working with artists to really shape the narrative, and inspire people to take action. So organizers would be type of democracy, entrepreneurs, folks who were building a diverse talent for public service. We need talented people to go into government, or folks who are building narrative, that counteracts misinformation and disinformation.

Yordanos Eyoel:

And so whether that is creating alternative sources of media, particularly at the local level, there are folks who are innovating and trying to revive that and bring that in, and really equip people with particularly local and relevant and historical information. So there isn't one type of democracy entrepreneur, but these are all people who are building really innovative and entrepreneurial models, to

address these big systemic issues we face in our democracy. And I can give you some examples of the types of organizations that we've worked with, if that would be helpful.

Nguhi Mwaura:

Yes, please. Yeah. And not to pick favorites, but who's making you most excited when you look out onto the landscape of different democracy entrepreneurs?

Yordanos Eyoel:

Yeah, there are lots of organizations, this isn't really a burgeoning field. So I like to compare it with maybe where social entrepreneurship was 20 plus years ago, where you had these crop of really innovative leaders, who are revolutionizing how the NGO sector operates, who are bringing practices from different industries, and driving like data-driven decision-making and innovation, and to the third sector, the NGO sector. And I see democracy entrepreneurs in similar vein, they're building this ecosystem, so it's still very nascent, it's highly siloed.

Yordanos Eyoel:

There aren't a lot of funders who have made this kind of a pillar investment area, and that's part of the work that I do really. Inviting, particularly the philanthropic community, to see this as kind of the foundational issue area for all other things we want to see. If we want to see increase in economic access, if we want to address educational inequity, if you want to address health inequity, we have to ensure that we have a stable and robust and healthy democracy. But that said to answer your question, so types of entrepreneurs that I'm seeing that I'm excited about, you know, one is PushBlack.

Yordanos Eyoel:

So PushBlack is the largest non-profit media organization for black Americans, and it was really born out of the need to equip people with historical information, that they never got from their history class in high school or college, because black history to a large degree has been left out of American history, and to use these historical facts to empower people. And so PushBlack does that through daily messages, and they've built this incredible community that has just been growing like wildfire over the last number of years. And today they reached over 9 million people across their various platforms.

Yordanos Eyoel:

It started on Facebook, it's expanded to Instagram, I think they are a game-changing organization, and they really see themselves as a potential megaphone for the black liberation movement in the U.S. today. Another organization that is doing really incredible work is The People. And so this is an amazing story of one individual, who wanted to create change in their seat. Her name is Katie Fahy, she after the 2016 presidential election posted on Facebook asking people, "Hey, I want to end partisan gerrymandering in Michigan, who wants to work with me?"

Yordanos Eyoel:

And hundreds of people responded, and she said, "Wow, there's something here." And that turned into this really exciting organizing campaign, that brought people from across political lines, across socio-economic lines, across racial lines. And they ended up mobilizing 14,000 people, collected hundreds and thousands of signatures, to get on the 2018 ballots, and they were able to get the vote that they needed to actually end partisan gerrymandering in Michigan. And so really excited about this kind of idea.

Yordanos Eyoel:

I think in the early days of social entrepreneurship, we thought, "Okay, if you have something successful somewhere, you scale it, like a product and you open different sites and chapters all over the place." What I'm excited about democracy entrepreneurs, and also the trend that I'm seeing in this space, particularly with systems change leaders, is it's really about elevating the local leadership, and the leadership of those that are proximate to the issues, and that really understand the context that they operate in. So those are two examples of types of organizations that we're seeing and we're excited about.

Nguhi Mwaura:

And it sounds like from these examples that you've given, that you're really thinking about democracy entrepreneurs as folk who are able to think about, what does it mean to give, empower people, to get them more engaged civically? I wonder, because it sounds ideal, it sounds great, but what are some of the challenges that you're seeing some of these entrepreneurs face, and what are the forces that are pushing back against really scaling, or helping people actually get the resources that they need?

Yordanos Eyoel:

I spent about two years trying to understand the barriers democracy entrepreneurs face, and I have to say, this is one lever amongst many levers to change the system. So I want to be clear about that. We believe that this is a lever that has been grossly underinvested in, and so that's why we're really committed to elevating the voices and work of these leaders. But I spent about two years trying to understand, okay, looking at the entrepreneurs, and the type of work that they're doing, what are the barriers they face, and from my perspective, how can philanthropy help remove some of those barriers so they are successful, and they can work in concert with folks we're pulling other levers, whether legislative or legal, whatever it may be.

Yordanos Eyoel:

The first thing that I uncovered from the many, many conversations I had with leaders, is the lack of consistent funding. We have this kind of boom and bust cycle that takes place in the U.S. when it comes to democracy funding around election cycles, particularly federal election cycles, it goes up. And they build these infrastructure that they didn't have to dismantle after an election cycle, because they don't have the resources to keep it up. And so that's kind of the number one issue that democracy entrepreneurs face, this really cyclical nature of the funding process.

Yordanos Eyoel:

The second aspect is capacity building support, right? People get into this work because they really deeply passionate about the impact they want to see, and they may have really niche expertise around organizing, or around content creation around media and narrative. That doesn't mean that they have the know-how, or the support around how to build an organization, how to manage your finances, how to hire and manage people. That container, how to build a container so all of this work can happen, and happen in a sustainable way. And that just does not exist for democracy entrepreneurs.

Yordanos Eyoel:

There are lots of organizations like Ashoka and New Profit, Echoing Green and others, that built that infrastructure over a 20 year period for social entrepreneurs. But because this is such a nascent sector,

there hasn't been a concerted effort to build the same kind of support system, for leaders who are doing this work. And mind you, it's incredibly demanding, these are leaders were fighting against the status quo, and existing powers structure. And so there is an incredible mental and emotional burden these leaders take on, because they're literally fighting against power structures. And so they need deep support.

Yordanos Eyoel:

What I tell people is that, don't only think about how you can contribute to a campaign, think about who's doing democracy building work in your community, and allocate some of your contributions to those organizations as well. Because those organizations are going to be there in your community for a long time, it's really important to think about how you can support democracy organizations, as well as elected officials, and different campaigns that people might be passionate about.

Nguhi Mwaura:

Great. So I'm going to issue you with a challenge. So if democracy entrepreneurs are able to pull on this lever, that works in conjunction with all the others that it takes to create an ideal democracy, a democracy that lives up to those values espoused. In your mind, what is a one sentence, kind of boiling down of what that democracy looks like, who's involved and yeah, what is this new reality that Americans will be living in?

Yordanos Eyoel:

I don't know if it's one sentence, but I'll just give you the characteristics. So one is that it is truly inclusive, meaning that there aren't any systems or laws or policies, that restricted the participation of all individuals, who should participate in our democracy, and who are eligible to participate in our democracy. Two, that we reduce the influence of money in our political system, so that it really opens up the opportunity for anyone, irrespective of how much money they have, or what company they work for, or where they are geographically, their voice and their contributions monetarily, time, otherwise have the same type of impact.

Yordanos Eyoel:

The third piece is really about trust. So I envision a democracy where people trust their elected officials, elected officials reflect the demographics of the country. So right now there's a huge disconnect between who America looks like, and the make up of Congress, the make up of state and local legislatures, and we want that to be an alignment, there's a reason myself and so many other women of color, we're excited to see vice-president Kamala Harris step into her office. She often says, "I am the first, but I will make sure that I am not the last."

Yordanos Eyoel:

And so we want more people who represent America to be in elected office, really representing us. And then going back to the point I made about trust, I envision a democracy where people trust the institutions of government. Today, only 17% of Americans say they trust the government, this is not a new trend, this is something that has been on the decline for the last five decades. And the very last piece I will say is, there is a strong civil society that supports, but also holds our public sector accountable.

Yordanos Eyoel:

Right now, our civil society is really weak, partly because philanthropy has not, as I said, really supported the democracy building work in the U.S. There's been a lot of concerted effort globally, but it has not been as concerted in building and strengthening democracy in the U.S. We need to build these kinds of 21st century civil society institutions, that can provide the platform to be for people to be stewards of our democracy. So I think that's as important as to maintain the health of our democracy. So I know that was more than a sentence, but those are the various dimensions I'm thinking about.

Nguhi Mwaura:

Well, if it's not a sentence, then I will take a type four points, so well done. To kind of wrap us up, as a democracy entrepreneur yourself, and as someone who's fighting the status quo, and the powers that be that would have people kind of locked out of that type of civic engagement, what are some words that you go by back to, to nourish you or some words to live by?

Yordanos Eyoel:

So you may be familiar with this. There's a really incredible quote by Martin Luther King Jr. that is often referenced, the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice, and that is really the concept that I was trying to capture, that the work that we're doing now is grounded in what the civil rights movement achieved in the 1960s. The ongoing work, the civil rights work that others have led, the voter rights work that others have led for many years since then.

Yordanos Eyoel:

For organizations that are doing democracy work, voter turnout, voter participation is a power metric that the sector uses. But what I'm really interested in is transforming people's mindsets, helping people see that they have power. And that is a lot harder to measure, there's a lot that that quote carries, but that's one key takeaway that I get from it as well.

Nguhi Mwaura:

Yeah, I love that. And I love the idea that people have marched along a path, and you may walk that same pathway and you get to build the road, but we will have a part to play. And I love that it's Martin Luther King Jr. quote, because it does feel like the civil rights movement was one part of that march towards a truly inclusive democracy, and what democracy entrepreneurs right now are doing, is just another part of that march towards hopefully justice.

Nguhi Mwaura:

Yordanos, thank you so much for joining us, really appreciated you taking the time and loved hearing just about what you're solving, and what it's going to take to truly build an inclusive democracy. Thank you.

Yordanos Eyoel:

Thank you so much for having me, and thank you for all the work that you're doing.

Courtney Martin:

Wow. That was so interesting Nguhi, I feel like what really stuck with me from that interview, was thinking a lot about this codification of a field, sort of this democracy entrepreneurship field, that she's building and says is very nascent and that kind of thing. Because it made me think a lot about social

entrepreneur-ism, and she drew that parallel herself. I feel like there have been so many wonderful things about the creation of a field of social entrepreneurship, but there's also been some real downsides.

Courtney Martin:

And part of that is about who creates the field, who sets the norms for the field, who creates the structures of how the funding flows in that field, which makes me very excited that Yordanos is one of the leaders structuring this new field of democratic entrepreneurship. Because I think just as one example, social entrepreneurship has been obsessed with scale, and you and I have talked about that in some ways that's really misguided.

Courtney Martin:

And I think that's because there were like a bunch of white American men, or Western men who thought that that should be like a universally held positive value, is how far can entrepreneurs scale, and then we decide how worthy they are in light of that. So anyway, it just made me think, I wonder what pitfalls the field might run into as it is codified, as opposed to being this sort of like fresh, messy, interesting space. And also excited that Yordanos, again, is the one shaping it, because maybe it will have less of that kind of scale obsession.

Nguhi Mwaura:

Yeah, absolutely. And I think that the thing that she is really quoted on is this idea that democracy is not just about voting. So I think that it's so easy to, as you said, in this codification of this new field, to think about what can you count, and then it's easy to be like, oh, photos turned up or, we registered this many people, but actually it is about broader, more messy ideas around, how do we build up trust in this government? How do you engage outside of election cycles, whether they be federal or local? How are you thinking about what it actually means to participate in the leadership of whatever community it is that you are a part of?

Nguhi Mwaura:

And so I think already there's the innate messiness, because it's not just about what you can count, but it's about those relationships that you can build. It's about the connections within community, and then it's that trust of that community then has an its leadership, and its government. And that inherently, it doesn't lend itself to an eMoney dashboard, or to a donor report at the end of a cycle, it just doesn't, and I think that it's something you have to experience and not just sit back.

Nguhi Mwaura:

And I'm excited, because I think that everyone has a stake in this. So the way in which we engage in it, it's not just some people over there is problem anymore, it's really a big question around how are people going to govern themselves going forward, as we're going to be facing more and different crises as we've seen in the past couple of years.

Courtney Martin:

Yeah, and like that really important point she made about boom and bust cycle with funding within democracy, which I think is also a boom and bust cycle of action. It's like, I was one of the people feverish early writing letters leading up to this election, and thinking about what am I doing in between

the presidential elections, both very locally, but at the state level, and perhaps the national level to keep flexing my muscle as a citizen, to keep thinking about what kind of country I want to live in, and what am I doing on a really more regular, and I should say joyful basis to do that.

Courtney Martin:

She seemed so wise about feeding the organizations that are getting people like me to think beyond those four year spurts of action, that then feel like we won or lost, based on who was elected, it's just such a sort of shallow way to think about engagement, and I think it's actually the norm among a lot of Americans.

Nguhi Mwaura:

Yeah. And I think that, that this one type of a definition of what democracy is, does need to kind of fall away, because more and more, there's going to have to be the space to think about communities, and how you, you remain connected to these people who are right around you, not just the voters in Georgia, but just, who's my neighbor? Who's running for the school board? Or whatever it might be.

Courtney Martin:

One thing I was thinking about, I wonder what your take on this would be. I feel like in this last election, there was a lot of conversation about, black women are basically saving America on this front, they are the only ones who are actually doing democratic entrepreneurship that matters and is effective. And there's just like all of this sort of worship at the feet of, of course, people like Stacey Abrams, but a slightly bigger crew of women who've been recognized.

Courtney Martin:

And on the one hand, that's awesome, because it's like, okay, we're finally giving credit where it's due. On the other hand, it almost reifies weird narratives about black women as like taking care of the rest of us, they're actually [crosstalk 00:34:53], yeah. I don't know, how do you feel about that? Did you think about that at all when you were talking to Yordanos?

Nguhi Mwaura:

I did think about that a lot. I thought about it, because as a black woman but also as an immigrant, the different hats that she had to wear, but also the compulsion to come into a space, and to think about like, how do I not just like assimilate to a completely different culture, but how do I improve? How do I contribute? And I think that the response that I have to everyone who's like, "Black women will save America." Is like, great, then pay them like they're going to save America, then pay attention to them like they're going to save America.

Nguhi Mwaura:

If they are that important, it is not enough to put up a social media post that says, "Yay, Stacey Abrams!" No, it's thinking about who are the black women who are organizing in my community? How do I support them? How do I pay them? How do I pay them? That is my one message. Pay them like they're about to save America.

Courtney Martin:

This transcript was exported on May 25, 2021 - view latest version [here](#).

Pay them. You heard it here on Solvers, I love that Nguhi, so good. So if you were inspired by Yordanos, get online right now and send a check to some incredible local black woman activist in your community, or organizer or whatever, I think that would be a fantastic outcome from this really important conversation you guys Nguhi.

Nguhi Mwaura:

Well, that's it for this episode of Solvers, you can subscribe to the show on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, or wherever you're listening to this.

Courtney Martin:

And if you like what you heard, in addition to donating to black women all over the country who are running amazing organizations, please rate and review us, and share this episode with someone who you think would love to hear Nguhi's conversation with Yordanos and her incredible story. See you next week.

Courtney Martin:

Solvers is brought to you by the Skoll Foundation, powering social innovators to transform our world. Solvers is produced in partnership with Aspen Ideas by [inaudible 00:37:02], with help from Jessica [Flutie 00:37:04], Ava Hartman, Brian Jacobs, Trisha Johnson, Marcy [inaudible 00:37:07], and Zach [inaudible 00:37:08]. Our theme music is [inaudible 00:37:10].

Courtney Martin:

And we'd love to hear what you thought about the episode, so email us solvers@skoll.org or tweet us @SkollFoundation, #SolversPod, or me Courtney at @courtwrites, we would just love to hear what you think. See you next week.