



PRISCILLA GARCES. HIGH-RESOLUTION HEADSHOT AT PRISCILLAGARCES.COM/PRESS

TITLE

Founder and Executive Director, Always Forward Foundation

ALSO

United Nations Representative and Global Ambassador for Peace, Universal Peace Federation and WFWPI

BASED IN

Union County, New Jersey, USA

EDUCATION

B.S., Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University
M.S., Nonprofit Leadership and Development, Fordham University
Professional Certificate in Bilingual Translation, New York University

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish

PRONUNCIATION

Priscilla GAR-ses

CONTACT

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FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALWAYS FORWARD FOUNDATION

PRISCILLA GARCES

Disability-rights leader. United Nations Representative for WFWPI and Global Ambassador for Peace. Speaker on technology, accessibility and the future of work.

“The people a law touches must have a hand in writing it.”

PRISCILLA GARCES

SHORT BIOGRAPHY (60 WORDS)

Priscilla Garces is a blind disability-rights leader, United Nations Representative for the Women’s Federation for World Peace International, Global Ambassador for Peace, and the Founder and Executive Director of Always Forward Foundation, a New Jersey nonprofit teaching people with disabilities and women to use technology for work, independence and civic voice. She testified for New Jersey’s WorkAbility law and has twice been named to Insider NJ’s Top 100 Policymakers.

INTRODUCTION (SPOKEN, 20 SECONDS)

Our next speaker is a United Nations Representative for the Women’s Federation for World Peace International, one of New Jersey’s Top 100 Policymakers, and the founder of Always Forward Foundation, which makes sure the age of technology includes everyone. She is blind, she is from Union County, and she has spent her career making systems work for people they were not built for. Please welcome Priscilla Garces.

2019

Founds Always Forward, and becomes the first visually impaired woman to run for the Newark Board of Education.

2023

Appointed United Nations Representative and Global Ambassador for Peace.

2026

Named again to Insider NJ’s Top 100 Most Influential Policymakers.

MILESTONES

2012	Enters public life through the Lions Club, rising to Global Service Team Coordinator in 2018.
2019	Founds Always Forward. Becomes the first visually impaired woman to run for the Newark Board of Education and tops Insider NJ's list of New Jersey's most influential Millennials.
2021	Convenes the "Finding Our Voices" panel on the pandemic's toll on women; honored by Insider NJ for Women's History Month.
2022	Testifies for the WorkAbility legislation, signed into law by Governor Philip D. Murphy; co-organizes the international forum "Nothing About Us Without Us" with the UNESCO Center for Peace.
2023	Appointed United Nations Representative and Global Ambassador for Peace on behalf of the Universal Peace Federation and WFWPI; hosts the bilingual "Mujeres Empoderando" Women's Empowerment Forum at the Newark Public Library.
2024	Serves on the UN accessibility committee for the Summit of the Future, opening the year's largest multilateral gathering to delegates with disabilities.
2025	Launches the Peace Pharmacy and Garden Project with the Women's Federation for World Peace; hosts the International Day of Peace at Kean University.
2026	Named again to Insider NJ's Top 100 Most Influential Policymakers; first place, Mujer Generosidad, Inspirando Vidas Awards; speaks at the UN High-Level Political Forum.

A world not built for her.

A mission to rebuild it.

Priscilla Garces is an American disability-rights leader, United Nations Representative for the Women's Federation for World Peace International, Global Ambassador for Peace for the Universal Peace Federation, Climate Reality Leader, and the Founder and Executive Director of Always Forward Foundation. Over more than a decade of public service, from township advisory boards to the New Jersey Statehouse, from Capitol Hill to the United Nations, she has been guided by one principle: the people a law touches must have a hand in writing it.

01 Education and the first decade of service

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Diplomacy and International Relations from Seton Hall University, where she graduated with honors; a Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership and Development from Fordham University, where she was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society; and a Professional Certificate in Bilingual Translation from New York University.

Ms. Garces entered public life in 2012 through the Lions Club, rising to Global Service Team Coordinator in 2018. She served on the transition team of Governor Philip D. Murphy and on the state's Diversity and Inclusion Council, sat on the Steering Committee of the People's Climate Movement, and helped lead the "Impact of Voting" community campaign to bring accessible assistive technology into New Jersey polling places.

02 A seat at the table, earned

She is a founding Cabinet Committee member of Emerge New Jersey, which prepares women to run for and win public office, and a member of the New Jersey Disability Collective, where she coordinated a statewide roundtable between disability advocates and elected officials on prioritizing disability policy.

In 2019 she made history as the first visually impaired woman to run for the Newark Board of Education, campaigning as an independent on a platform of empathy, direction and unity. The race placed her at the top of Insider NJ's list of New Jersey's most influential Millennials, and in 2021 Insider NJ honored her for Women's History Month.

RECOGNITION

- Insider NJ Top 100 Most Influential Policymakers, 2026, and the Top 100 Policymakers list following the WorkAbility law
- First place, Mujer Generosidad, Inspirando Vidas Awards, Mexico, 2026
- Insider NJ Women's History Month honoree, 2021; top of Insider NJ's most influential Millennials list, 2019

03 Trenton and Washington

Her defining legislative achievement came in Trenton. Working shoulder to shoulder with fellow advocates, Ms. Garces submitted written testimony and testified before committee hearings in support of the WorkAbility legislation, which Governor Philip D. Murphy signed into law in 2022 to expand economic opportunity for New Jerseyans with disabilities. That work earned her a place on Insider NJ's Top 100 Policymakers list. In 2026, the year the United States marks its 250th anniversary, she was again named one of New Jersey's Top 100 Most Influential Policymakers.

Her voice carries to Washington as well. Her open letter to Congress, "Please Save Medicaid," made the case for protecting the healthcare, assistive technology and support services on which Americans with disabilities depend, and drew the attention of a Member of Congress who weighed presenting it during a committee markup on Capitol Hill. A published commentator on disability, climate and civic policy, she has written for Insider NJ and the Friends National Resource Center, among other outlets.

04 The United Nations

On the world stage, Ms. Garces co-organized the 2022 international forum "Nothing About Us Without Us" with the UNESCO Center for Peace, convening leaders from Uganda, the United States Senate and the neurodiversity community. She co-organized the United Nations Day observance at Kean University with the Women's Federation for World Peace International, and in 2023 was appointed United Nations Representative and Global Ambassador for Peace on behalf of the Universal Peace Federation and WFWPI. She has since addressed Civil Society Town Halls at UN Headquarters in New York, hybrid sessions of the UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Future, the Hybrid Meet-and-Greet Forum in Vienna, and United Nations Day programs with partner NGOs and universities.

As a member of the UN accessibility committee for the Summit of the Future, she helped open the world's largest multilateral gathering of 2024 to delegates with disabilities. In July 2026 she spoke at the High-Level Political Forum side event "From Crisis to Transformation," calling for investment in clean-water access for at-risk populations through modern management systems and technology. In pursuit of policy ideas to bring home to New Jersey, she has traveled to Japan, Thailand and Dubai, and in 2026 she received first place in the Mujer Generosidad category of the Inspirando Vidas Awards in Mexico, which honor women whose service inspires others to act.

05 Always Forward, at home in Union County

In 2019 Ms. Garces founded Always Forward, a New Jersey nonprofit that connects youth, women, families and people with disabilities to the technology, education and support that open doors to opportunity. Under her leadership the organization has convened the "Finding Our Voices" panel on the pandemic's toll on women in 2021, the "Nothing About Us Without Us" global disability forum with the UNESCO Center for Peace in 2022, and the bilingual "Mujeres Empoderando: Ella Cree, Ella Puede, Ella Hizo" Women's Empowerment Forum at the Newark Public Library in 2023. Always Forward contributes to international policy dialogue on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Commission on the Status of Women, and in July 2025 launched the Peace Pharmacy and Garden Project with the Women's Federation for World Peace International to support local communities.

AFFILIATIONS

- United Nations Representative and Global Ambassador for Peace, Universal Peace Federation and Women's Federation for World Peace International (since 2023)
- Chair, Union Township ADA Committee
- Union County Advisory Board on Persons with Disabilities; Human Services Advisory Council
- Board of Trustees, New Jersey Fund for the Blind
- State Chair, Youth Engagement wing, G100
- Founding Cabinet Committee member, Emerge New Jersey; member, New Jersey Disability Collective

PRESS AND WRITING

- Insider NJ: Top 100 Most Influential Policymakers, 2026; Top 100 Policymakers following the WorkAbility law; Women's History Month honoree, 2021; most influential Millennials, 2019
- "Please Save Medicaid," open letter to Congress
- Commentary on disability, climate and civic policy for Insider NJ and the Friends National Resource Center

She has also organized the "Act Now for a More Peaceful World" International Day of Peace celebration at Kean University, bringing together State Senator Joseph P. Cryan, diplomats and young people; contributed to Echoes of Civil Society, formerly the UN Civil Society Conference Outreach Committee; and led a collaborative campaign to prevent domestic violence during the 16 Days of Activism, which culminates each year on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Protecting the most vulnerable from gender-based violence is a throughline of everything she does. A sought-after speaker, she addressed the 30th anniversary of the Women's Federation for World Peace International in 2022, spoke to high school students at the "Stand Up Against Hate" program in 2024, and delivered the 2026 commencement address at Edward T. Bowser School.

At home in Union County, Ms. Garces chairs the Union Township ADA Committee and serves on the Union County Advisory Board on Persons with Disabilities and the Human Services Advisory Council. She sits on the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Fund for the Blind and serves as State Chair of the Youth Engagement wing of G100, a global network of one hundred wings devoted to gender equality, safety and economic empowerment. In June 2026 she stood with nonprofit leaders and elected officials at the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits' inaugural Advocacy Day at the Statehouse, testifying on the need for sustained public investment in the organizations that serve New Jersey families and pressing for better access to the technology platforms on which they depend.

Some leaders measure their careers by the doors that opened for them. Priscilla Garces measures hers by the doors she has held open for others. In New Jersey and around the world, her work rests on one conviction: leadership is service, and every person deserves to be heard.

SPEAKING TOPICS

01

Technology and the disability employment gap

How new tools can turn one of the widest workforce gaps in America into one of its biggest sources of new talent, and what employers and lawmakers can do now.

02

Technology for an informed, independent life

What it means when a blind person can read any document, understand any letter and navigate any system, and why that access must be universal.

03

Nothing about us without us, in the age of technology

How people with disabilities can use technology to take part in policymaking, and how governments can make its adoption inclusive and accountable.

04

Women, disability and the future of work

Why closing the technology skills gap for women and girls is an economic strategy, not only an equity goal.

SELECTED APPEARANCES

- United Nations High-Level Political Forum side event “From Crisis to Transformation,” New York, July 2026
- New Jersey Center for Nonprofits inaugural Advocacy Day, New Jersey Statehouse, Trenton, June 2026
- Commencement address, Edward T. Bowser School, New Jersey, June 2026
- “Act Now for a More Peaceful World,” International Day of Peace, Kean University, 2025
- “Stand Up Against Hate” program, Regional Highpoint High School, June 2024
- United Nations Civil Society Conference, hybrid sessions, Nairobi, 2024
- Civil Society Town Halls, United Nations Headquarters, New York
- United Nations Day observance, Kean University, September 2023
- “Mujeres Empoderando: Ella Cree, Ella Puede, Ella Hizo,” Newark Public Library, March 2023
- 30th anniversary of the Women’s Federation for World Peace International, October 2022
- “Nothing About Us Without Us” forum with the UNESCO Center for Peace, March 2022
- Committee testimony on the WorkAbility legislation, New Jersey Legislature, Trenton, 2022

APPROVED DESCRIPTIONS

One line

Always Forward Foundation is a New Jersey educational nonprofit teaching people with disabilities, women and underserved communities to use technology for work, independence and civic voice.

Always Forward Foundation, 50 words

Always Forward Foundation is a New Jersey 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit. Founded and led by a blind disability-rights advocate, it teaches people with disabilities, women and underserved communities to use technology for work, independence and civic participation, and brings their lived experience to the rooms where policy is made.

Founder, 50 words

Priscilla Garces is the Founder and Executive Director of Always Forward Foundation. A blind disability-rights leader, she is a United Nations Representative for the Women’s Federation for World Peace International and Global Ambassador for Peace for the Universal Peace Federation, twice named to Insider NJ’s Top 100 Policymakers, and speaks on technology, accessibility and the future of work.

INVITATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

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Keynotes, panels, legislative testimony, agency briefings, university lectures and international forums, in person or online.

ASSETS

Headshot, logos, social images and the full brand kit: priscillagarces.com/press

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