

Speaker Biographies



Nicole Aandahl is the senior vice president for People and Culture, which is dedicated to elevating diverse voices and perspectives to lead to more ideas, more innovation, and more robust policy solutions. Ms. Aandahl has served as a thought leader on diversity and inclusion throughout her international affairs and legal career. Prior to joining CSIS, Ms. Aandahl was senior counsel with Torres Law, where she provided legal counsel to U.S. and international companies on global trade law. She has served in senior roles at international aerospace and defense companies such as Airbus U.S. Space and Defense and Qinetiq North America. Prior to joining industry, Ms. Aandahl worked on nonproliferation, WMD interdiction, and export control policy at the Departments of Defense and Energy. She is a member of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law Board of Visitors and has served on the board of the National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide. Ms. Aandahl holds a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, an M.P.H in mental health policy from the George Washington University, and a B.A. from Howard University in Russian studies.



Hadeil Ali is director of the Diversity and Leadership in International Affairs Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a leading think tank in Washington, D.C. The program is dedicated to elevating diverse voices and perspectives to lead to more ideas, more innovation, and more robust policy solutions. Ms. Ali serves as a thought leader on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the national security space. She previously served as a program manager with the Abshire-Inamori Leadership Academy at CSIS, where she led professional development opportunities for interns, staff, and external stakeholders. Prior to joining CSIS, she worked for World Learning, where she managed State Department grants and led youth educational development initiatives in the Middle East. Ms. Ali is the chair of the Think Tank Diversity Consortium. She is the events and programming lead with the Race Across the Pond Initiative at Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security, and Conflict Transformation (WCAPS) and a facilitator with the Anti-Racism Project. Ms. Ali has published numerous pieces with CSIS, Inkstick Media, Business Insider, and Medium on the topics of DEI and National Security. She has participated in dozens of panels, lectures, and conferences throughout the US. She is a '22 ICAP Fellow. She holds an MA in contemporary Arab studies with highest honors from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and a BA in international relations and communications summa cum laude from Drury University. She speaks French, Arabic, and Spanish.



Naz Subah is a program coordinator with the Diversity Leadership in International Affairs Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). She started her career in financial services, making her way through human resources, management consulting, and strategic planning. She spent close to five years at Liberty Mutual, where she built her research, storytelling, advising, and financial analysis capabilities. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management & Administration, with minors in international studies and philosophy. Naz has always been vocal about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues, whether as a student ambassador and advocate at Boston College or as a leader of multiple employee resource groups in her professional work. She recognizes that leveraging DEI is crucial in policymaking to ensure proper consideration of diverse perspectives for decision-making. Naz is joining CSIS as she pivots her career to be more aligned to foreign policy, intending to advance CSIS's DEI journey to make it a leader in this space.