

WOMEN'S FORUM
U.S.A

Washington D.C. | 29 March 2023

 **WOMEN'S FORUM**
FOR THE ECONOMY & SOCIETY

WOMEN'S FORUM USA 2023

Time to connect

29 March 2023

In partnership with

 **VITAL VOICES**
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



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THEME: TIME TO CONNECT



Since its inception in 2005, the Women's Forum has emerged as the leading international platform for transforming the power of women's voices and perspectives into forward-thinking economic and policy initiatives for societal change.

Gathering a community of 200 leaders from the economy and society, Women's Forum USA will promote the work of women who are driving sustainable progress. Participants will explore key topics to foster gender equality through the prism of the three pillars of **Health, Climate and Peace** to understand their interconnection.

The Women's Forum USA will be held on **March 29, 2023**. Organized in partnership with **Vital Voices Global Partnership**, a leading organization working with women leaders in the areas of economic empowerment, women's political participation, and human rights, this event will be held at the Vital Voices headquarters.

In addition, our interactive discovery sessions will provide the opportunity for our audience to engage in smaller groups to create synergies and discuss a variety of topics at the intersection with gender issues.

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INMAAT FORUM FOR LEADERSHIP

08:15-08:50

Doors Open and Coffee

08:50-09:15

Introduction and welcome remarks



Master of Ceremony: **Zinhle Essamuah**, Correspondent, NBC

- **Diane von Fürstenberg**, Founder and Chairwoman, DVF
- **Anne-Gabrielle Heilbronner**, President, Women's Forum for the Economy and Society
- **Alyse Nelson**, President & CEO, Vital Voices Global Partnership (*Rising Talent 2009*)

09:15-10:00

Peace and conflict resolution - Women at the frontline



Women play a unique role in conflict management and resolution, given they are the most impacted and vulnerable and simultaneously key actors of peace and resilience. They can be powerful drivers of the economy, supporting their families and society, vectors of solidarity in conflict times, frontline political leaders in peace negotiations and strong advocates for conflict resolution. Women act for Peace, let's hear their voices.

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Opening by:

- **Shafiqa Khpalwak**, Director of the Musawer Foundation and Wellesley Collage
- Moderated by **Melanne Verveer**, Executive Director, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security
- **Wai Wai Nu**, Founder & Executive Director, Women's Peace Network
- **Mu Sochua**, Board member of ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights
- **Muqaddesa Yourish**, Visiting Professor, George Washington University

10:00-10:40

Women's empowerment and leadership in decision-making



Raising women's leadership is a fundamental prerequisite to promote gender equality, and advocate for women's fundamental rights. At every level, starting with the civic engagement to decision making bodies, how can we raise awareness and increase women's participation?

- Moderated by **Michelle Bernard**, President & CEO, The Bernard Center for Women, Politics & Public Policy
- **Mandana Dayani**, Creator and Co-founder, I am a voter
- **Katrina Fotovat**, Acting Ambassador At-Large for Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State
- **Eric Holder Jr.**, 82nd United States Attorney General and Senior Counsel, Covington & Burling LLP

10:40-11:00

Networking break



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INMAAT FORUM FOR LEADERSHIP

11:00-11:20

Combating the global scourge of human trafficking

Conflicts and wars add to women's vulnerability, exposing them to increased risks of violence. An estimated 27.6 million people are currently victims of trafficking worldwide. Combating human trafficking entails many challenges - from identifying and prosecuting traffickers- to providing the correct support to survivors. How can local and state- level solutions be effectively implemented to fight the global scourge of human trafficking? How can we provide holistic support to survivors, including reintegrating survivors into the community and working with community leaders to promote awareness about trafficking in persons?

- Moderated by **Saba Ghor**i, Vice President, Vital Voices Global Partnership
- **Cindy Dyer**, Ambassador at Large, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State
- **Helen Gwanfogbe**, Adviser, Nkumu Fed-Fed

11:20-11:50

Breaking the cycle of violence against women

Gender-based violence remains one of the greatest obstacles to women empowerment affecting one-third of women worldwide and with devastating consequences for its survivors. It exists in different forms and facets, from sexual and domestic violence to psychological violence. Is there a common root to gender-based violence and why is it still so prevalent in our society? What common actions can public institutions, organizations and NGOs take to fight it?

- Moderated by **Stephenie Foster**, Author, Entrepreneur, Activist, Take Action: Fighting for Women & Girls
- **Marina Pisklakova-Parker**, Senior Director, GBV Advocacy, Vital Voices Global Partnership
- **Alivelu Ramisetty**, Chief Gender Justice and Inclusion Officer, Oxfam US
- **Miriam E. Rocah**, District Attorney, Westchester County District Attorney's Office

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11:50-12:25

It's time to connect: tackling health challenges for displaced people



Seldom accounted as a priority, migration and displacement due to conflict or other crises, is a significant risk factor for people's both physical and mental health. Conditions including pregnancy, trauma, or issues with menstrual health, make women more vulnerable and exposed to diseases or health problems during displacement. How to better understand the interconnection between displacement and access to health to implement effective solutions?

- Moderated by **Franscesca Donner**, Founder, Front Page News
- **Olya Kudinenko**, Founder & Chair of the Board, Kids of Ukraine/Tabletochki Charity Foundation
- **Yusra Mardini**, President, Yusra Mardini Foundation
- **Rouba Mhaissen**, Economist, Activist and Development expert and Founder, Sawa for Development & Aid

12:25-12:40

In conversation with **Vanessa Nakate**



Vanessa is a Ugandan 26-year-old climate justice activist and author, campaigning internationally to highlight the impacts of climate change on the African continent. In this conversation, Vanessa will bring her testimony on issues at the intersection of climate justice, climate migration, women's greater vulnerability to climate change and how educating girls can be one of the most powerful - yet underserved - actions to fight against climate change.

- Moderated by **Zinhle Essamuah**, Correspondent, NBC
- **Vanessa Nakate**, Founder, Rise up Movement

12:40-13:40

Networking lunch



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13:40-14:20

Discovery sessions



Participate in interactive and insightful sessions at the intersection with gender equality:

WOMEN'S LADDER TO SUCCESS IN STEM

Sarah Blakely Center for Entrepreneurship

Women have the potential to change the face of STEM. However, they need to tackle different challenges in these male-dominated fields, including lower self-confidence and lack of role models and support networks. In this interactive workshop, learn how to create the right conditions in your company for women to succeed in STEM fields?

- Moderated by **Melissa Shireen Jackson**, Owner \ Operator, Normel Solutions
- **Lakshmi Akunuru**, Director, Head of Transversal Business Analysis, BNP Paribas Global Markets IT, BNP Paribas
- **Stefany Bello**, Senior VP Digital partnerships, retail and commerce Mastercard
- **Malena Rice**, Assistant Professor, Yale University (*Rising Talent 2023*)

STARTING WITH THE WORKPLACE

InMaat Forum for Leadership

Women economic empowerment begins in the workplace. In a historic moment where workplaces are evolving at a rapid pace - a trend further reinforced by the pandemic - strong effort must be put in place not to strengthen existing gender inequalities and bias. What measures can be taken to eliminate both tangible and intangible obstacles for women and other underrepresented groups to thrive?

- Moderated by **Shelly Porges**, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Beyond the Billion
- **Michele C. Meyer-Shipp**, CEO, Dress for Success Worldwide
- **Anne-Marie Slaughter**, CEO, New America
- **Su-Lin Watson**, Managing Director, Standard Chartered Bank

THE FUTURE OF FOOD - CAN WHAT WE EAT CHANGE THE WORLD?

Ambassador Melanne Verveer Executive Board Room

What we eat - and the way we produce it - is today responsible for almost 1/3 of global GHG emissions. While the agricultural sector is evolving to adapt to a changing climate, consumers are increasingly conscious of the environmental impact of their diets. Is the world ready to change its dietary habits to ensure a sustainable future? Can women lead the change?

- Moderated by **Nina Gardner**, Director, Strategy International
- **Brandi deCarli**, CEO & Co-Founder, Farm from a Box (*Rising Talent 2016*)
- **Dorte Verner**, Senior Economist, The World Bank



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14:20-14:55

The power of a global network: women leaders in conversation with Diane von Fürstenberg



- Moderated by **Alyse Nelson**, President & CEO, Vital Voices Global Partnership (*Rising Talent 2009*)
- **Brea Clark**, Former Mayor, City of Norman Oklahoma
- **Kakenya Ntaiya**, Founder and President, Kakenya's Dream
- **Marina Pisklakova-Parker**, Senior Director, GBV Advocacy, Vital Voices Global Partnership
- **Diane von Fürstenberg**, Founder and Chairwoman, DVF

14:55-15:35

Inclusive Health: adapting to a changing world



The world and society are rapidly evolving and increasingly becoming conscious of women's specific health issues, including mental health, sexual and reproductive health. How can private companies, organizations and public institutions keep the pace and evolve to respond to the health needs of all, including minorities?

Opening by:

- **Angelina Spicer**, Comedian, Activist, The Postpartum Rebirth
- Moderated by **Olga Granaturova**, COO and CBO, Normunity/ Brighter Ventures
- **Catharine Bowman**, MS Student Researcher, Stanford University, (*Rising Talent 2020*)
- **Peggy Clark**, CEO & President, International Center for Research on Women
- **Emma Codd**, Global Inclusion Leader, Deloitte
- **Emily Johnson**, Partner, Watchell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

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15:35-16:10

It's time to connect: from individual to environmental health



As the effects of climate change become more tangible, not only the planet, but also the health and wellbeing of people - and in particular women - are at risk. Many issues - such as water, food, cities, health systems - lie at the intersection between health and climate, and tackling them with a gender lens is crucial. How do we nourish and recognize the connection between individual and environmental health for a more sustainable world?

- Moderated by **Gayle Tzemach Lemmon**, Adjunct Senior Fellow for Women and Foreign Policy, Council on Foreign Relations
- **Deborah Birx**, Senior Fellow, George W. Bush Institute
- **Mekala Krishnan**, Partner, McKinsey & Company
- **Leah Lizarondo**, Founder, Food Rescue Hero
- **Alicia White**, Founder, Project Petals

16:10-16:25

Networking break 

16:25-17:00

Women at the heart of climate action



The environmental crisis is driving significant changes in people's lives worldwide in an inequitable way. Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate change, due to pre-existing inequalities and greater vulnerability. Despite this, they are often absent from environmental decision-making bodies. How to take into account women's visions and perspectives in the transition to a more sustainable world?

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- Moderated by **Nina Gardner**, Director, Strategy International
- **Kate Guy**, Senior Advisor, US State Department
- **Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim**, Climate activist and Coordinator, Association of Peul Women and Autochthonous Peoples of Chad (AFPAT)
- **Hilda Flavia Nakabuye**, Activist and Founder of Fridays for Future Uganda & Fellow, Girl Rising
- **Mary Peltola**, Representative, U.S. House of Representatives

17:00-17:40

Beyond engagement - concrete objectives for sustainable corporate action



The current political and economic context is calling for an increased commitment of the private sector to accelerate its environmental and sustainable action. As we are facing the climate emergency, business as usual - in every sector - is constantly challenged, and companies are called to put their effort into becoming inclusive and environmentally exemplary. Let's listen and learn from inspiring women leading these strategies and promoting concrete environmental actions.

- Moderated by **Cynthia Illouz**, CEO The Women's Voices and CHARI-T Media
- **Claudia Berger**, Sustainability Director, EQUANS
- **Ruxandra Cama**, Partner, Steptoe & Johnson LLP
- **Bénédicte Constans**, Head of Communications and Public affairs, Zurich Insurance

17:40-18:20

Reimagining Education for a more inclusive world



Education is an underlying issue to climate, health and peace action worldwide. While access to education remains a crucial tool to tackle global challenges, current educational systems are struggling to adapt to the rapid shifts the world is facing. How to reimagine the education system in a more inclusive way, with gender equality as an underlying principle?

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DIANE VON
FURSTENBERG
SKYLounge

Opening by:

- **Anne-Gabrielle Heilbronner**, President, Women's Forum for the Economy & Society
- Moderated by **Kavitha Nair Bindra**, Assistant Dean and Executive Director, Executive Education, Yale School of Management
- **Shabana Basij-Rasikh**, Co-founder and President, The School of Leadership, Afghanistan
- **British Robinson**, CEO, Barbara Bush Foundation.
- **Leticia Tituana**, Chemical Engineer, Activist & Fellow, Girl Rising
- **Ananya Tiwari**, Executive Director, SwaTaleem

18:20-18:45

WomanLifeFreedom - Iran, what next?

For over 6 months, since the murder of Mahsa Amini, the Iranian population has risen for freedom and women's rights like never before. Is this the next revolution? Where do we go from here and where will this lead?

- Moderated by **Kathryn Pilgrim**, Journalist, Kitty Pilgrim Media
- **Nazanin Boniadi**, Activist and Actress
- **Prince Reza Pahlavi**, Crown Prince of Iran

18:45-18:50

Closing remarks

- **Zinhle Essamuah**, Correspondent, NBC

19:00-20:00

Cocktail reception

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Questions?
Consult our [website](#)

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