

# ICONS

# & ACTIVISTS

# 50 YEARS

of people making change





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50 years of people making change



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WOMEN'S  
**RIGHTS**  
ARE HUMAN  
**RIGHTS**

WOMEN'S  
**RIGHTS**  
ARE HUMAN  
**RIGHTS**

Power

CLAIM YOUR RIGHTS

## FOREWORD

A young woman steps through the door of the health clinic in her village, confident it is a place where her dignity and rights will be respected. She has come for support in planning her family. Even though she lives in an impoverished area, the clinic is easy to reach and a full range of options is available along with all the information she needs to make the right contraceptive choice—her choice. Later, if she decides to have a child, she will return, knowing that her pregnancy and delivery will be healthy and safe.

She is just one face of a historic movement that has touched the lives of millions of women and girls. Today, she is part of a “Sustainable Development” generation more likely than ever before to enjoy reproductive rights.

### **It is an extraordinary achievement.**

Yet it did not happen on its own. For the past 50 years, in every part of the globe, countless individuals—in ways not always readily seen or heard—have demonstrated courage and imagination, along with passion and drive, to advance women’s health and rights. They are agents of change who offer inspiration to us all.

# ICONS & ACTIVISTS

## 50 years of people making change

On the following pages, we pay tribute to changemakers. Celebrating their contributions is a fitting way to mark the 50th anniversary of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, and the 25th anniversary of the landmark 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD. They represent countless valiant others who have likewise made a difference. Their stories illuminate how far we have come—and how far we need to go.

At UNFPA, we are proud of what we have accomplished with our partners since 1969. Access to contraceptives has significantly expanded as a result of our policy work advising developing countries on national population programmes. As more women gained access to voluntary modern contraception, they also started having fewer children. These advancements made clear that choice brings change.

By 1994, the conversation had shifted. When 179 governments gathered in Cairo for the ICPD, they affirmed, in a visionary Programme of Action, that the path to sustainable development begins with individual rights and choices, and depends on the achievement of sexual and reproductive health for all.

Many of the people profiled in this book shaped and energized the global movement for sexual and reproductive health and rights. Others are poised

to carry it forward as we approach the goalpost for achieving Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The book is organized around 10 themes most central to the ICPD Programme of Action and the work of UNFPA. It also includes profiles of activists who champion causes beyond the UNFPA mandate that are part of an ongoing global debate about rights and choices. Under each theme, profiles are loosely organized to tell a story of how major issues have come together and evolved over time.

We still have a long way to go to fully implement the Cairo Programme of Action so crucial to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Change and choice have eluded hundreds of millions of women who currently lack access to contraception and quality maternal health care or who are subjected to gender-based violence or harmed by practices such as female genital mutilation and early forced marriage.

As we seek to tear down the remaining barriers standing between women and girls and their rights and choices, let us appreciate all the leaders and activists that over the generations stood by our side and accelerated change. They come from civil society, government and development institutions. They include thousands of dedicated UNFPA staff





**RAFAEL SALAS**

1969-1987



**DR. NAFIS SADIK**

1987-2001



**THORAYA AHMED OBAID**

2001-2011



**DR. BABATUNDE OSOTIMEHIN**

2011-2017

worldwide and my far-sighted predecessors at the helm of the Fund: Rafael Salas foresaw the need and took pioneering action to create the organization; Dr. Nafis Sadik led the way to Cairo and championed the ICPD Programme of Action; Thoraya Ahmed Obaid expanded programmes with emphasis on the cultural aspects of sexual and reproductive health and rights; and Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin ably steered a new era of advocacy for investments in youth towards a demographic dividend.

For 50 years, UNFPA has transformed the lives of women and girls by insisting upon their right to sexual and reproductive health as a fundamental part of their power over their own bodies and to realize their full potential. More recently, we have stepped up our efforts to eliminate gender-based violence as a non-negotiable and urgent priority for full equality and accelerated global action on the Cairo commitments. Motivated by our steadfast champions and all those we serve around the globe, we shall persevere in our life-affirming work—with hope and determination for a future of rights and choices for all, in a world where *no one* is left behind!



**DR. NATALIA KANEM**

United Nations Under-Secretary-General  
and Executive Director of UNFPA,  
the United Nations Population Fund

In 1994, at the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), icons and activists from around the world mobilized behind an unprecedented global agreement, the ICPD Programme of Action. For the first time, 179 governments committed to social and economic development that upholds human dignity and empowers people to chart their own futures. The ICPD was the culmination of a global movement to uphold the basic right of all couples and individuals to freely and responsibly make their own decisions about the number and spacing of their children, and to have the information, education and means to do so.

**PEOPLE**

**EQUAL**

**DEVELOPMENT**

Gita Sen

**“I think living the life of a woman drives me.**

**I was aware of gender inequality even as a girl, when a lot was about controlling what girls could be and do. Later, when I could see how the structures of power and inequality work in entire societies and economies—well, there was no going back.”**

Indian economist **Gita Sen** played a prominent part in mobilizing the global groundswell of civil society that forever shifted understanding of population and development at the ICPD in 1994. When delegates met what she calls the “irresistible force of the women’s movement”, the result was an historic commitment to women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, and their central role in development. Sen argues that real change for women will only come by breaking down power structures and shifting models of development, such as by reorienting economies so that they no longer depend on women working for free at home and in the worst low-wage jobs.





Joan Marie Dunlop

“ The [Cairo] conference showed what is possible when the international community acts with goodwill and integrity to overcome differences.... The Programme of Action leads the way for new approaches to population and development, **with women’s health, their empowerment, and rights at the centre.**”

A leading British advocate and activist for women’s rights, **Joan Marie Dunlop’s** passion to expand reproductive choices was fuelled by an early and painful experience of an illegal abortion. After her retirement from the influential International Women’s Health Coalition, which she founded, and before her death in 2012, she helped establish a group to encourage women’s voices in United States foreign policy.

Adrienne Germain

“ [At Cairo,] women, with supportive governments, transformed population policy to focus on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and adolescents.

**We changed the paradigm completely**  
to address the realities of their lives.”

Observing the realities of marginalized women in Peru as a young researcher informed **Adrienne Germain's** long career reshaping global development and funding priorities. She is recognized as one of the pioneers linking fertility and population policies with the status of women as far back as 1975, and she played a major role as a member of the United States delegation to the ICPD in Cairo in 1994, and to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. When she joined her long-time friend and colleague, Joan Dunlop, at the International Women's Health Coalition in 1985 (she is now president emeritus), she brought with her years of experience working with grass-roots organizations in developing countries.







Rachel Kyte

“ With technology available, financial innovation possible, funds pledged and smart policy proven to be effective, citizens must mobilize around not just making the case for why act, but around questioning their leaders on

**‘Why are you not acting NOW?’”**

**Rachel Kyte** has been at the forefront of global climate talks and the point person at the United Nations behind a global push for modern energy for all. Early in her career, as an outspoken activist with the International Women’s Health Coalition, she led a team of women’s activists in line-by-line scrutiny of the agreement that became the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action, ensuring it was firmly grounded in women’s rights.

Dr. Lincoln Chen

“ In periods of excellent philanthropic work... it was the people—the personalities, predilections, experiences, and viewpoints of trustees, staff, and colleagues—that arguably have made the difference. **Money cannot create**

**NEW IDEAS,**  
**nor, alone, translate**  
**ideas into action.”**

Early in his career, **Dr. Lincoln Chen** took his elite medical education to impoverished areas of Bangladesh, intending to save lives. He quickly realized that his skills had limited relevance in a place with few resources and little technology. It was a lesson in humility that has informed a long and distinguished career as an academic and philanthropist. At the Cairo conference, he was an early proponent of its transformative call to link population policy to human development and human rights. A longstanding passion has been shaping a new generation of health-care leaders dedicated to equity and social justice. He is now president of the China Medical Board, endowed by John D. Rockefeller as an independent foundation.

美国中华医学基金会  
CHINA MEDICAL BOARD

中國醫學科學院  
北京協和醫院

書館旧址

ER LIBRARY  
ICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL  
OF MEDICAL SCIENCES



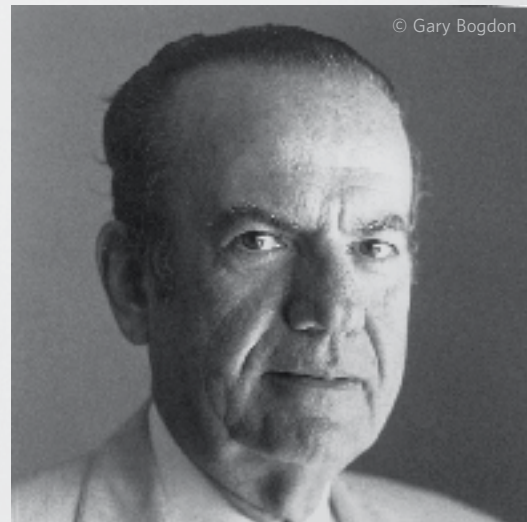
Susan Berresford

“**Ultimately**, we made a case to support the women’s movement.”

As a major American philanthropy, the Ford Foundation had long been notable for its steady support for expanding access to contraception, liberally injecting resources in family planning efforts around the globe. But in the years before the Cairo conference, a group of its staff began to push for a broader understanding of women’s reproductive health and the gender norms that constrain rights and choices. With a steadfast commitment to women’s rights, **Susan Berresford**, who eventually emerged as president of the foundation, led the charge, stressing investment in women so they can make their own choices. With her was renowned endocrinologist and World Health Organization official **José Barzelatto**, who had long asserted that development and human rights depended fundamentally on improving women’s lives. He steered the foundation’s Reproductive Health and Population programme launched in 1991 with a mandate to address the social, economic and cultural factors affecting reproductive health. Foreseeing that Cairo could be a turning point, he brought in **Margaret Hempel**, with experience in international development and feminist grant-making, to galvanize support for a new global agenda for reproductive health. Close alliances with the women’s movement proved a critical tactic. Among the most influential groups was the Women’s Environment and Development Organization, led by **Susan Davis**, a former Ford programme officer. She and a team of activists pioneered new strategies to shape the talks, conducting line-by-line scrutiny of drafts of the ICPD Programme of Action as it moved towards a final, historic consensus.



**FORD FOUNDATION**



José Barzelatto



Margaret Hempel



Susan Davis

Dr. Mahmoud Fathalla

**“Improvements in women’s health need more than what the health profession and the health service can offer. They need societal action that has long been overdue to correct injustices to WOMEN.”**

A deep respect for women—and outrage at assaults on their human rights—is at the heart of **Dr. Mahmoud Fathalla’s** legendary work on reproductive health. Among his numerous accomplishments was establishing the Egyptian Fertility Care Society, one of the first family planning organizations in the Arab world, which kindled a demographic revolution in that country. His insights, influence and searing prose put safe motherhood, the feminization of AIDS and gender-biased sex selection high on the international development agenda.







Cheikh Mbacké

**“ Investing in  
GIRLS AND WOMEN  
will increase the well-being  
of entire communities.**

**I have spent much of my professional life  
uncovering the nuances in telling this  
evidence-based story.”**

From his early life in a small town in Senegal, **Cheikh Mbacké** went on to drive a transformation of his chosen field of population and development in Africa. His argument: health and population data are not a peripheral pursuit, but fundamental to better health care. At the Rockefeller Foundation, among other leading international organizations, he helped propel a new generation of researchers and research institutes, and has led advances in regional thinking connecting demographics and economic growth.

Julia Bunting

“ All women and girls have the right, and must have the means, to decide freely and for themselves if and when to have children.

**Evidence shows us that when you give women and young people this right, their life chances are transformed.”**

At age 16, an exchange visit to rural areas of the United Republic of Tanzania opened the eyes of **Julia Bunting** to the gaping disparities in reproductive health care. As a champion of sexual and reproductive health and rights within the international development arm of the British Government, she helped reframe maternal mortality from an intractable to a solvable problem, and galvanized the FP2020 global pledge to extend family planning to an additional 120 million girls and women. Now leading the Population Council, she is determined to build the world's largest body of research on the best ways to support young girls.



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Handwritten mathematical examples using red dots to represent numbers, such as 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 6.

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Handwritten text: 'KuluPrenge mu r', 'Khumi', 'makumi 2', 'makumi', 'makumi'.



PRB

INFORM  
EMPOWER  
ADVANCE

The POPULATION  
REFERENCE BUREAU  
INFORMS people  
around the world  
population  
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Jeff Jordan

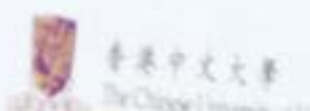
**“ Many of those dedicated to improving the lives and well-being of others are hungry for **SOLID EVIDENCE.**”**

As head of the Population Reference Bureau, **Jeff Jordan** brings passion and zeal to the field of demographic data and analysis, advocating for accurate, objective information to empower decision-makers. Only then can they create sound policies and programmes in population, health and the environment. Over his career, Jordan has worked on issues including HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health, and gender. Among other issues, he is known for work on GIS applications of health survey data, and demographic links to the environment and food security.



Faculty of Medicine CUHK

Organizers:





Alexandre Kalache

**“ We cannot afford to view older people as a sickly burden rather than a valuable resource.** The idea that older people clog up the workplace is misguided. For every three older people still in work, a vacancy opens up for a young worker because of the wealth created.”

It's an ageing world, and **Alexandre Kalache**, in his 70s now himself, is on the vanguard of thinking through new approaches to this historic shift. He led the creation of the World Health Organization's Active Ageing framework before becoming president of the International Longevity Centre-Brazil, an autonomous think tank and part of an international consortium. With a remarkable 30 years added to life expectancy in recent decades, Kalache urges making the new old age not one of simple retirement, but a long transition of active, valued participation in the workplace, society and politics.



Ted Turner

© Michael Loccisano/Getty Images

“ In an interconnected world,

our fates and  
**futures** are  
**connected.**”



© Daniel Hayduk for the UN Foundation

Kathy Calvin

“**GLOBAL** is a unifying bond for people. Once they get outside their own heads and their own communities and see themselves in a broader framework, it really changes their sense of what they can get done.”

In 1998, after selling CNN, the world's first 24-hour news network, media entrepreneur **Ted Turner** donated \$1 billion to the United Nations. The UN Foundation he created has bolstered campaigns to empower girls, make motherhood safer, leverage the power of data, and fight climate change, among other challenges. His gift also helped revive a culture of philanthropy among many of the world's ultrawealthy individuals, which later took the form of the Giving Pledge. CEO **Kathy Calvin** came to the UN Foundation in 2003 from a career that spans American politics, journalism, philanthropy and the corporate world. She is a member of the B Team, a group of global leaders working to catalyse a business model that prioritizes the well-being of people and the planet.

**UN FOUNDATION**

The Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development put individual rights and well-being at the centre of reproductive health, which became the mission of UNFPA. Since then, health-care systems around the world have taken steps to provide more people with the information and services they need to plan their families, give birth safely, avoid or treat sexually transmitted infections, and address infertility and reproductive health cancers. While gaps remain, the stage has been set for further expansion of services: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes sexual and reproductive health as essential to equitable development and women's empowerment.

**OUR**

**RIGHT**

**TO HEALTH**

Carmen Barroso

“ I strongly believe the language of human rights is the language of progressive change today.

**There is a revolutionary potential in the fundamental notion that**

**every human being,**

**simply by virtue of being human, is entitled to certain basic protection.”**

Throughout a long and distinguished career, including as director of the Western Hemisphere Region of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, **Carmen Barroso** has demonstrated a lasting commitment to expanding sexual and reproductive health care and empowering women to demand their rights. As the first director of the Population Program at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, she played a key role in the preparations leading to Cairo by supporting the voices of women, especially from Africa, Asia and Latin America.



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FOR THE LOVE  
OF THE EARTH  
LET'S DO  
SOMETHING ABOUT  
CLIMATE CHANGE

MARCH  
FOR  
SURVIVAL  
10%

IPPF

Patricia Rodney

**"Health** is not just about diet and exercise. It is the nourishment of the body, the mind and the spirit. **It includes how we see ourselves as a people.** It is our traditions and culture. It includes our confidence and consciousness."

Social justice and empowerment, especially of women and girls, through equitable public health and educational services are the threads that weave through **Patricia Rodney's** career, which spans more than four decades and three regions—Africa, the Caribbean and North America. Her early training in nursing grounded her later work as an academic and mentor to international public health professionals, while serving as assistant dean for public health education at Morehouse School of Medicine.





Dr. Allan Rosenfield

“ The societal disparity between men and women is at the core of the hazards against women’s health, and, in turn, against the well-being of their community.

**If you EMPOWER WOMEN, it changes not only their role in society but society as a whole.”**

A year at a teaching hospital in Nigeria, followed by what was supposed to be another year’s stint with the Population Council, shifted the career path of gynaecologist **Dr. Allan Rosenfield**. By the time he stepped down as the long-serving dean of Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health in 2008, he was a legend, and tributes poured in from all over the world. He had helped spark a demographic revolution in Thailand, promoted new protocols for treating HIV-positive pregnant women and preventing transmission of the virus to infants, advocated for quality and equity in public health in the United States and across the developing world, and, along with Deborah Maine, helped put the tragedy of maternal death high on the international agenda. He is also credited with expanding the notion of what a public health institution can accomplish.





OBJETIVOS



Dr. Nadine Gasman

“ We are louder now, both men and women are thinking about [sexual and reproductive health and rights].... I always say,

**‘Gender equality and women’s empowerment are very good for women. But also very good for men. They’re good for everyone.’ ”**

Now head of the National Women’s Institute (Inmujeres) in her native Mexico, **Dr. Nadine Gasman** has long worked to put gender dynamics at the centre of policy and programming. Decades of work in Brazil, Guatemala and Mexico powerfully clarified her understanding not only of pervasive gender inequalities, but also of the corrosive impact of violence against women. Later, as senior director of the UN Secretary-General’s UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign for Latin America and the Caribbean, she addressed this human rights violation at a regional level. She is particularly proud of relationships she has forged over the years with indigenous women, women of African descent and young people.

Rosemary Barber-Madden

“ I always responded to  
the needs and wants of  
**PEOPLE**

more than to top-down  
directives. And that approach  
has proved very successful....”

Working as a Peace Corps volunteer nurse in Brazil in the 1960s ignited **Rosemary Barber-Madden's** long development career, which has included collaborative approaches to designing programmes for sexual and reproductive health. As professor emeritus at Columbia University, she continues to help design, manage and evaluate large-scale programmes for international institutions.





Frances Kissel



Frances Kissling

“ My first exposure to the abortion issue was dealing with women who faced what for them were **deeply difficult situations in pregnancy,** who were **suffering very much.** And my sympathy always has been for [them].”

Based in the United States, **Frances Kissling** is a leading international voice on women, religion and reproduction, having headed Catholics for a Free Choice (now known as Catholics for Choice), a non-profit advocacy organization, for 25 years. For a brief period in her early life she entered a convent to become a nun. But swept up in the women’s movement of the 1960s, she left and was soon directing a clinic that began providing abortions shortly after the practice was legalized in New York State. Kissling was a prominent voice at the Cairo conference, developing a steady stream of arguments to shape the final consensus.



Adjoa Amana

“ At first there was so much stigma and misinformation about [HIV and AIDS].... A huge breakthrough came when I found out Philly Lutaaya, the biggest Ugandan singer at the time, had declared he had AIDS.... From then on,

**AIDS HAD  
A FACE,** [and] many came out to declare their status and volunteered [as] advocates for HIV prevention.”

Working with the World Health Organization in Uganda in the late 1980s, **Adjoa Amana** was a driving force behind the first behaviour change campaign to significantly reduce HIV prevalence. Now retired from international public service, she works with out-of-school youth who are living and/or working on the street in her native Ghana, linking them to a broad array of medical, educational and social services.

Dr. Peter Lamptey

“ [The heart of innovation] is applying **new approaches to an existing problem** where the current strategies and approaches do not work—bringing in new ideas that change the way we do things, that **IMPROVE the way we do things,** and also can be scaled up to the rest of the country.”

At the height of the HIV epidemic, **Dr. Peter Lamptey** pioneered research and innovative interventions for Family Health International (now called FHI 360) to address heterosexual transmission of the virus in over 55 developing countries. He has been called a “global wise man” for his impact on health policy throughout Africa and beyond, including his promotion of community-based health-care models that provide an array of services to address widespread non-communicable and infectious diseases, as well as reproductive health concerns.



Yolonda Richardson

**“Women’s  
leadership is  
critical for global  
development and  
progress.”**

Although she began her career as a corporate attorney, **Yolonda Richardson** soon shifted her skills to advancing human rights, gender equality and access to health care. In her work managing the maternal and child health portfolio at the Carnegie Corporation of New York, she focused attention on delays that contribute to the deaths of many women in childbirth, as well as on expanding investments in girls' education. At Africare, she designed more than 150 rural development projects to improve community health, agriculture and governance. She later headed CEDPA (Centre for Development and Population Activities), raising its public profile. Her commitment to global public health continues in her current role at the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.



Barbara Klugman

**“ If you want to move an issue, you need to build out your alliances, and the broader they are, the stronger your voice.”**

**Barbara Klugman** studies how change happens, including by analysing organizational networks—especially those pushing for gender equality and social justice. It was a skill she honed while helping civil society organizations imagine policies for post-apartheid South Africa, and during negotiations around world conferences on population and development in Cairo as well as on women in Beijing. She now applies her breadth of expertise—as an activist, an academic, a donor and an evaluator—to strengthen organizations in her native South Africa, where she established and ran the Women’s Health Project.







Sivananthi Thanenthiran

“You only get what you  
fight for. We need to  
put our perspectives out  
there and forge ahead,  
**FEARLESSLY.**”

As a young feminist in Malaysia, **Sivananthi Thanenthiran** promoted female political candidates. But while researching a book on reproductive health and rights, she discovered how much work remains to be done there and joined activists at ARROW, the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women. She eventually became the organization’s executive director—and a tireless advocate for marginalized women and girls making their own life choices.

Ulrika Karlsson

“Sexual and reproductive health and rights are at the core of human rights. If you cannot decide over your own body and life, you have nothing.

**Therefore, we must never give up this FIGHT.”**

As a member of the Swedish Parliament for more than a decade, **Ulrika Karlsson** dedicated her political life to promoting democracy and human rights. In presiding over the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, she championed sexual and reproductive rights and oversaw an insightful report detailing restrictions on sexual and reproductive rights and LGBT rights in particular. Currently, she serves as a special adviser on global health with the Inter-Parliamentary Union.



The share of women who die giving life is smaller than ever before. Yet a global target on reducing maternal deaths has not been met. For many women, basic care during pregnancy and childbirth is still out of reach. And preventable maternal deaths and complications during delivery point to continued health system failures. People from health care, philanthropies, civil society and elsewhere join UNFPA in the drive to make motherhood safe, without exception.

**MAKING**

**MOTHERHOOD**

**SAFE**

Munira Sha'ban

“ I wanted to be involved in helping two souls: **the baby and the mother.**”

**Munira Sha'ban**, Jordan's most beloved midwife, has hardly stopped for breath since she began studying nursing at age 15 and later specialized in midwifery. After studying in London, she pioneered family planning education in her own country at a time when it was quite controversial. She has trained midwives, helped create a textbook for new practitioners, lectured widely and developed a code of ethics for the profession, among other things. Now in her mid-70s, she came out of retirement several years ago to support and counsel pregnant women who are Syrian refugees.





مسئوليتنا بالامان

بزواج بعد ال ١٨  
سلم إلي و إلكم

- تجنب الحمل المبكر
- تجنب الزواج المبكر
- تجنب العلاقات الجنسية المبكرة
- تجنب العلاقات الجنسية غير الآمنة
- تجنب العلاقات الجنسية غير الشرعية
- تجنب العلاقات الجنسية غير المتساوية
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UNFPA



Deborah Maine

“**So often** we’d go to a hospital and they’d say, ‘We could do a C-section, but the light is broken over the operating table.’ So really, **for want of some small things, lives were being lost.**”

A job working with Margaret Mead at the Museum of Natural History in New York City wasn't action-oriented enough for **Deborah Maine**, when she was a young anthropology student. Instead, she became a public health expert, and may have saved millions of lives through her effective advocacy for better maternal health care, and especially for access to lifesaving emergency obstetric care. She and Dr. Allan Rosenfield took the international health field to task for leaving mothers behind in efforts to save children, sparking global attention to the tragedy of preventable maternal death.

Grace Ebum Delano

“ My reason for wanting to be a midwife was based on the reproductive history of my family, especially that of my mother, who had infertility for 12 years, wasted pregnancies and high infant mortality....  
**I wanted to contribute to a reduction in infant and maternal mortality by correcting misconceptions,** using such tools as education, counselling, and provision of quality maternal and child health services.”

**Grace Ebum Delano's** mother had little schooling. But she supported her daughter's drive for education, which ultimately led to her nursing and midwifery training. Delano became the nurse in charge of the first family planning programme at a university teaching hospital in Nigeria. As co-founder of the Association for Reproductive and Family Health, she pioneered expanding family planning and reproductive health-care methods from urban to rural areas, hospitals to communities, doctors to health-care workers, and adults to young people.





Barbara Kwast

“ When you have looked into the panic-stricken eyes of a woman dying on the labour ward floor, then **behind the numbers, there are faces.**”

A midwife, educator and epidemiologist, **Barbara Kwast** was a pioneer in the global maternal health movement. At the World Health Organization in 1987, she helped launch the global Safe Motherhood Initiative. She has been instrumental in seeing the once-neglected issue become an international human rights, equity and social justice priority. Her research on the importance of competent, compassionate midwives and the root causes of maternal deaths has contributed to significant reductions in maternal mortality rates.

Christy Turlington

“If we can’t **support a woman while she is giving life, then we don’t support women.**”

A harrowing childbearing experience ignited **Christy Turlington’s** desire to support other women in giving life safely. The top model began her film directing career with *No Woman No Cry*, a documentary about maternal death and disability that was released around the same time that she launched the non-profit Every Mother Counts, dedicated to ensuring that every mother not only survives, but thrives.





EVERY  
MOTHER  
COUNTS



Edna Adan

**“ If the woman who delivers  
[the children] has been given some  
training... women will have a better  
chance of survival. And that’s my hope,  
that’s my goal. And if I leave before I do  
it, I leave that legacy to the world.  
It’s got to be done.”**

One of three surviving daughters of a prominent medical doctor (two others died in childbirth) and a survivor of female genital mutilation, **Edna Adan** never lost her compassion for the plight of many Somali women and girls. Hoping to prevent such suffering for others, she became the first certified nurse-midwife in Somaliland and later advocated against harmful practices at the World Health Organization. Years later, using her pension and the proceeds from the sale of a Mercedes, she established the Edna Adan Maternity Hospital, which serves as a training ground for a much-needed workforce of nurses, midwives and lab technicians.



© Rahman Roslan/Getty Images

Jill Sheffield

“One woman dies in childbirth every 90 seconds somewhere in the world... We know what the solutions are. They’re agreed. They’re affordable. We just have to decide that the lives of **GIRLS AND WOMEN ARE IMPORTANT TO SAVE.**”



Katja Iversen

“We need a health system that is  
**READY TO DELIVER FOR WOMEN**  
whenever a woman is ready to deliver.”

Women deliver, as the dynamic duo of **Jill Sheffield** and **Katja Iversen** has demonstrated. By the time Jill stepped down from Women Deliver, the global advocacy organization she founded in 2007 to generate investment in maternal health, she had worked closely with her successor, Katja Iversen, a communication and advocacy expert, for several years. They bonded over their mutual commitment to the cause, and their complementary talents brought visibility, funding and energy to maternal and reproductive health.

**WOMEN DELIVER**



Margaret Mannah-MacCarthy

**“ Deaths of mothers and babies spiked during the Ebola crisis.**

**It was an eye-opener that showed us the issues facing our health system.**

**Now we are tackling them.”**

Throughout conflict, mudslide disasters and the Ebola crisis, midwife **Margaret Mannah-MacCarthy** continued to deliver babies and save the lives of mothers in her native Sierra Leone. She has been instrumental in scaling up her profession in the country, pushing for the establishment of two additional training schools and increasing midwifery graduation rates more than sevenfold from 2010 to 2018. This has proved crucial in a country that had fewer than 100 midwives in 2010, leaving those who did practise overwhelmed when the Government made free health care available to pregnant women.

Dr. Catherine Hamlin

“ My dream is to eradicate obstetric fistula in Ethiopia. I won’t eradicate it in my lifetime, but you can in yours.”

When **Dr. Catherine Hamlin** and her husband left Sydney, Australia, for Ethiopia 60 years ago, they planned for a three-year stint. Now, at age 95, she continues her decades of work with the hospital she founded in Addis Ababa, the first there to specialize in treating obstetric fistula. Some 60,000 women have been treated at the hospital for this debilitating condition, which is often a consequence of early childbearing and female genital mutilation.





Dr. Sonia Ehrlich Sachs

“ Health was declared a human right in 1948. The [Sustainable Development Goals] mandate that we finally deliver on the promise of **HEALTH FOR ALL.**”

An advocate for universal health care as envisioned in the Sustainable Development Goals, **Dr. Sonia Ehrlich Sachs** has led efforts at Columbia University's Earth Institute to design and implement low-cost primary health systems, aimed especially at mothers and children, in low-income countries. She coordinated health research and interventions for the Millennium Villages Project, a 10-year initiative to improve rural communities in 10 sub-Saharan African countries.





Joy Marini

“There are many things that can impact health, such as education, poverty or gender equity. So we’ll work with the government and various partners to help a person **not only survive but THRIVE.**”

Her background as a physician’s assistant has informed **Joy Marini’s** work as the lead on Johnson & Johnson’s international philanthropy around maternal and infant health, gender-based violence and gender inequality, and the economic empowerment of women. The company encourages partnerships to support international development goals, particularly those focused on women.

Access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning is a human right. All men and women should have information and a range of quality contraceptive options to make the best choices based on their circumstances and responsibilities. The unmet need for family planning has declined dramatically over the past 50 years, as evidenced by slowing fertility rates in much of the world. Still, 232 million women who would like to prevent pregnancy remain without family planning, with adverse consequences for their lives and aspirations.

**EVERYONE**

**HAS THE RIGHT**

**TO CHOOSE**

Cecile Richards

“Today [in the United States] we’re at a 30-year low for unintended pregnancy, a historic low in teen pregnancy, and the lowest abortion rate since Roe v. Wade.

**This is one of the biggest public health**

**SUCCESS STORIES**

**of the last century.** It didn’t happen on its own—it happened in large part due to better and more affordable access to birth control.”

“Strong, kickass women” have been a constant in **Cecile Richards’** life. The daughter of Ann Richards, the legendary governor of the state of Texas in the United States, she grew up immersed in politics. The pro-choice activist used her political savvy to staunchly defend sexual and reproductive rights throughout her long tenure as head of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, fending off numerous trumped-up accusations and efforts to cut off funding from one of the most reliable providers of integrated, affordable reproductive health services.





**STAND UP FOR  
WOMEN'S  
HEALTH**



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Mechai Viravaidya

**“ People are normally embarrassed when you talk about sex generally around the world. But if you can bring humour into it, when they laugh, they forget about the embarrassment.”**

Affectionately known as the “Condom King”, **Mechai Viravaidya** spearheaded innovative—often humorous—ways to make contraceptives acceptable and readily available throughout Thailand. His leadership of the Population and Community Development Association, which he founded in 1974, contributed to dramatic declines in the country’s birth rate and to saving 7.7 million lives through HIV prevention. Now in his late 70s, he is focusing on modernizing education in Thailand, emphasizing leadership, life skills and small business development to revitalize rural communities.

Dr. Fred Sai

**“ If the majority of African women get through their secondary education, I’m sure that family planning will find a place in every home. Let’s get women educated beyond the first seven or so years and we will see a major movement.”**

Raised in poverty by his widowed mother, **Dr. Fred Sai** witnessed the toll of malnutrition, infant and maternal death, and frequent pregnancies on the lives of women in his native Ghana. By the time he passed away in 2019, after a 50-year career, he had helped guide national policies on family planning and nutrition, served as the president of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and played a leading role in two major UN conferences on population and development. He is widely credited for his ability to forge consensus out of strong opposing views, including the shaping of the landmark ICPD Programme of Action.



Charlotte Ellertson

**“ Our goal is not to promote oral contraceptives but to **remove obstacles** that prevent women from using them.”**

When **Charlotte Ellertson** died in 2004, she left behind two young children, a wealth of groundbreaking research focused on contraceptive methods, and Ibis Reproductive Health, the organization she had founded two years earlier and that continues to thrive. Her aim was to apply research and advocacy, with all due urgency, to achieve her vision of a world where everyone can exercise the right to a safe, healthy, and pleasurable sexual and reproductive life.



Melinda Gates

“ My journey as a public advocate began with family planning... But I quickly realized...that it’s **not enough to speak up for family planning... I had to speak up for WOMEN.**”

The daughter of a rocket scientist, **Melinda Gates** was enthralled by the notion of breaking through the gravitational force of earth to soar, unbound, in the freedom of space. This “moment of lift”, taken into the social sphere, has been a source of inspiration for her over the two decades in which she has led the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. There, she emphasizes partnerships and projects, including girls' education and family planning, that empower women to overcome forces pulling them down.





Margaret Sanger

**“ No woman can call herself free who does not own and control her body.**

**No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother.”**

One of 11 children of a woman who died at age 50, and an obstetric nurse on Manhattan’s Lower East Side, reformer **Margaret Sanger** was acutely aware of the issues associated with multiple pregnancies. A century ago, she founded the first “birth control” clinic, in Brooklyn, New York, which later metamorphized into the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. At mid-century, she convinced **Gregory Pincus**, who had long been interested in hormones and fertility, to work on the birth control pill. An initial \$40,000 check from **Katharine McCormick**—an MIT-educated biologist, suffragist, heiress and smuggler (of contraceptive contraband for her friend’s clinic)—allowed Pincus to team up with fertility researchers **Min Chueh Chang** and **Dr. John Rock** to bring the first oral contraceptive to market, sparking a revolution in sexuality and reproductive freedom.



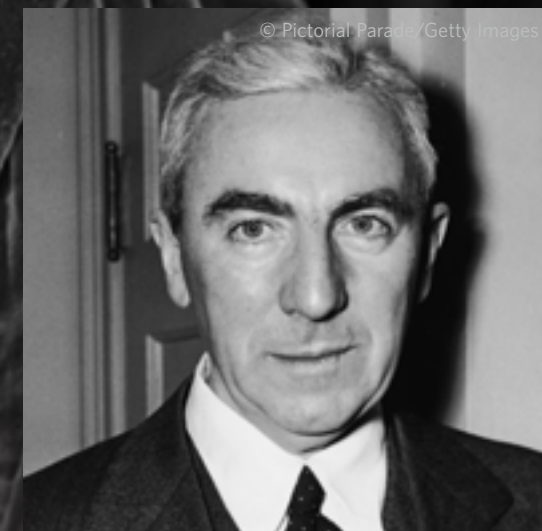
Katharine McCormick



Min Chueh Chang



Gregory Pincus



Dr. John Rock

Dr. Oladapo A. Ladipo

## “Contraception is central to sustainable development!

Failure to moderate population growth in developing countries through an effective family planning programme will have adverse effects on health, the economic power of families, education, quality of life and the environment.”

Regarded as the “father of family planning” in Nigeria, **Dr. Oladapo A. Ladipo** is a widely recognized obstetrician and gynaecologist as well as an inspirational teacher and powerful advocate for equitable sexual and reproductive health care. He has been an outspoken proponent of smaller families in a country where large families remain the norm. Nearly three decades ago, he co-founded the Association for Reproductive and Family Health, one of the country's leading non-governmental organizations, which works with a broad range of partners to improve lives in underserved communities.

# Empowering Women for a Healthier Future in Delta State

BREAKING FAMILY PLANNING ACCESS BARRIERS WITH BIPA-SC



**THE PROJECT**  
The project aims to increase the availability, accessibility, and affordability of BIPA-SC, expanding the family planning services for women of reproductive age in Nigeria. The project is led by the Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH) in partnership with the Centre for Communications and Social Impact and is funded by the Federal Ministry of Health.



**The facilitator & accelerated scale-up of BIPA-SC/Out-lets in Nigeria (ARFH)**  
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All forms of progress and change hinge on gender equality. Realizing sexual and reproductive health on an equal basis frees people to claim other rights, such as going to school, finding a decent job or having a say in their family and community. Since no country has yet achieved gender equality, UNFPA walks shoulder-to-shoulder with activists on the front lines in the continued struggle to end all forms of gender discrimination, once and for all.

**GENDER**

**EQUALITY:**

**NOTHING LESS**





Marie-Angélique Savané

“ To change the status of women in the patriarchal system, **WE NEED REVOLUTIONS** that change the conditions of men and women, hence the concept of gender.

**You cannot be a  
FEMINIST without  
being a militant.”**

After growing up watching her father favour her brothers, she knew she had to be the best everywhere. So she became one of the pioneers of feminism in Africa. A sociologist and activist, **Marie-Angélique Savané** championed a series of legal and social reforms to move Senegal closer to gender equality. A leading light in an emerging African civil society in the seventies and eighties, Savané founded the Association of African Women for Research and Development and was a founding member of the Forum of African Voluntary Development Organizations.

Fawzia Koofi

“ I want my daughters to be respected as human beings; that’s the country I’m **FIGHTING FOR.**”

As an infant, **Fawzia Koofi** was left to die under Afghanistan’s burning sun, one of “too many” daughters in a large family. Her mother relented in time, and then insisted that her daughter go to school. Koofi originally intended to become a doctor, but the brutal Taliban regime derailed her hopes for medical school. Not long after the regime was toppled, and despite a savage trajectory of loss that included her husband, she launched a campaign to send girls to school. It was the proving ground for the birth of her political career. She became one of the first women elected to the newly established Afghan Parliament, and the first to serve as Second Deputy Speaker.



Bella Abzug

**“We are bringing women into politics  
to change the nature of politics,  
to change the vision,  
to change the institutions. Women are  
not wedded to the policies of the past.  
We didn’t craft them. They didn’t let us.”**

She was known for her colourful hats and her unflinching, often pithy commentary on the nature of politics and power. From her broad perspective, women’s struggle was much more than a quest for equality with men—it was about reversing a legacy of social, economic, political and ecological crisis. Starting as a lawyer with a fervent commitment to civil rights, **Bella Abzug** became a nationally recognized presence in the United States Congress and a grass-roots activist. She co-founded the Women’s Environment and Development Organization, which quickly assumed an influential role on the international stage, including at the Cairo conference and the UN Fourth World Conference on Women.



Peggy Antrobus

“ At the UN women’s conferences, women from around the world first encountered each other in a sustained and ever-deepening process...[that] was to nurture and **expand this movement in a way that not even its strongest protagonists could have imagined.**”

Having grown up on multiple islands in the Caribbean in a family strongly dedicated to public service, **Peggy Antrobus**, though a self-described shy child, went on to become a pioneering feminist activist and author. After the first World Conference on Women in Mexico City in 1975, where she led the government delegation from Jamaica, she joined other activists in launching what became the global women’s movement. As one of the founding members of DAWN or Development Alternatives for Women in a New Era, she forged links with feminist scholars and activists across the global South. Their investigations of connections between race, class, gender, and political and socioeconomic systems strengthened feminist advocacy and activism. Antrobus collaborated with other activists and scholars to create the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action as well as the Women and Development Unit at the University of the West Indies, leading the latter until she retired in 1995.



Lise-Marie Dejean

**“ Women are beginning to represent themselves as people with rights. It’s a beautiful gain.** When a person is psychologically ready to defend herself as a human being, that’s a big victory. She won’t get lost. **She won’t allow anyone to walk over her.”**

Widely renowned in Haiti as a defender of women’s rights, **Lise-Marie Dejean** was born not long after the 1934 founding of the country’s first feminist organization, which fought for women’s rights to education and political participation. She became a doctor and took her medical skills to some of the poorest and most remote regions of Haiti. As the head of a major Haitian women’s organization—Solidarite Fanm Ayisyèn or SOFA—she helped open women’s clinics in crowded urban slums. As the first leader of the national women’s ministry, created after the ICPD, she overcame death threats and demonstrations to get it running.







**WOMEN'S  
MARCH**

Gloria Steinem

**“ Don’t think about making  
women fit the world—  
think about  
making the world  
fit **WOMEN.**”**

Now in her 80s, activist **Gloria Steinem** plans to keep her torch—and use it to light the torches of others. The image crystallizes Steinem’s lasting influence as a feminist, journalist, icon, iconoclast and “wandering organizer”, as she describes herself. Wherever Steinem saw a lack of opportunities for women, she sought to shake up the status quo, disrupting conventional media by founding *Ms.* magazine, for example, and conventional politics through the formation of the National Women’s Political Caucus. When the mother of the first US female astronaut to go into space was asked for her thoughts, she reportedly said, “God bless Gloria Steinem.”

Radhika Balakrishnan

# “What is the economy for?”

It’s a very basic question but a very radical one. What we posit is that the economy should be for the realization of rights.”

Early in her life, **Radhika Balakrishnan** started out to become an engineer. But when she became involved with the women’s movement as a university student, it was not long before she switched to economics. Now the faculty director at the Center for Women’s Global Leadership and a professor in Women’s and Gender Studies at Rutgers University in the United States, she has spent a career probing gender, economics and human rights. Through numerous scholarly works, she has sought to shift perspectives on economic policy by applying international human rights norms.



Jocelyn Dow

**“ In a globalizing world, we must ensure that consumers and investors are fully aware of the actions and impacts companies have on women, on families, on the planet.”**

In Guyana, the tradition of women speaking their minds and claiming their due share is exemplified by **Jocelyn Dow**, an activist at home and abroad. Dow co-founded Red Thread, a women’s collective in Guyana that mobilizes grass-roots women, and joined inimitable feminists Bella Abzug and Mim Keller in the pioneering Women’s Environment and Development Organization, an international advocacy group. Determined to model environmentally sound development and break barriers for women in business, she created a furniture enterprise renowned for its sustainable use of non-timber forest products.







Margot Wallström

**“A feminist  
foreign policy  
is an analysis  
of the world.”**

When **Margot Wallström** was in her early 20s, a rising activist in Sweden’s Social Democratic Party, a boyfriend held a knife to her throat. The shock was something she would never forget, even as she vaulted into global prominence as the Swedish Foreign Minister in 2014 and launched a “feminist foreign policy”. Putting gender equality at the core of Sweden’s international relations, the policy reflects Wallström’s own experience as well as her years as the United Nations special representative on sexual violence in conflict. The policy, which she sees as standing against women’s systematic and global subordination, puts her on the vanguard of new thinking connecting the security of women to the security of nations.

Teresa C. Younger

“ We’re such a small world and such a small community, and yet we feel sometimes so far away from each other. But **we have shared stories to tell and we have shared problems to solve,** and we can only do that if we take the time to **LISTEN to each other.**”

For 20 years, **Teresa C. Younger** has stood with women and communities in the United States in mobilizing around some of the most critical issues affecting their lives. As the executive director of the State of Connecticut’s Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, she orchestrated successful campaigns to raise the minimum wage and provide paid sick leave. Heading the Ms. Foundation for Women, she funded a groundbreaking report on sexual abuse in the prison pipeline and led a campaign to hold the National Football League accountable for violence against women. She has been a leading voice in challenging philanthropies to examine and increase investments in women and girls, particularly those of colour.





Graça Machel

“ Let us give a face and a voice to that **GIRL CHILD** who has been ignored. When at last she is front and centre of our development efforts, **it is she who will CHANGE THE WORLD.**”

As a fiery young woman, **Graça Machel**, joined the Mozambican Liberation Front in its armed struggle against colonialism and apartheid. After the liberation of her country, she served as Minister of Education. Later in life, she wielded her prestige among the general public and her influence within the corridors of power to advocate for women and children, and for mechanisms to secure their rights and open new opportunities.



Thelma Awori

**“ The never-ending discussion on poverty and the disadvantage mentality does not lift our sights to what African women have done to overcome many of these challenges.**

**Looking at these achievements gives dignity and recognition to women, which they so much deserve.”**

**Thelma Awori** can remember tagging along with her mother as she taught illiterate women to read in their rural community in Liberia. Her father’s sister was a traditional bearer of cultural knowledge. Inspired by these two women, she committed to a life of service to marginalized people, first at the United Nations and more recently through the establishment of the Sirleaf Market Women’s Fund. For thousands of rural women scratching out a living as market vendors, it has meant a chance to obtain credit, literacy training, child care and better market facilities.

Amina Mama

**“Women are weavers:  
we are very good  
at making links  
and building  
connections.”**

Born into a mixed Nigerian/English family, **Amina Mama** knew the rich diversity of northern Nigeria at an early age, but was forced to leave as communal divisions began to fester. Since then, as a writer, feminist and activist, she has been committed to strengthening women's activism across Africa. She led the establishment of the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and founded the scholarly journal *Feminist Africa*. Mama has always insisted on a feminism that challenges the status quo and makes a political impact, and has pursued a number of research topics linking race, gender, poverty and militarism.







**“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. We cannot and must not accept gender-based violence, discrimination or bullying.”**

As Patron of UNFPA for the past decade, **Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark** is an ardent advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights. She brings hope to the women and young girls she meets during her travels; she does so with her genuine interest, professional insight and profound empathy. The Crown Princess is a respected and eloquent speaker on sexual and reproductive health and rights, not least as they relate to maternal health, youth and humanitarian issues. “In engaging with women and girls around the world, two things strike me,” she says. “On the one hand, how disturbing it is that we continue to witness abuse and violation of women’s basic human rights, and on the other hand, how very encouraging it is that in every community I visit, I meet amazing women with huge potential to make positive change—when they get the chance. These women give me hope for the future.” She also speaks up on behalf of those who have no voice or find themselves marginalized in our communities, be it girls facing female genital mutilation or the LGBTQI community.



Audrey Mbugua

**“ [Campaigning for transgender rights] has to be done so that people are able to live lives that are full of dignity, where people are not hindered from being who they are.”**

For **Audrey Mbugua**, the pressure of always feeling trapped in the wrong body grew so great a decade ago that she attempted suicide. Mbugua went on to pour her anguish into activism in her native Kenya and secured official registration of a group to defend the rights of transgender people. She is so well known that strangers stop her on the street to tell her she is brave and beautiful, which she sees as evidence of a fundamental change.

Joni van de Sand and Laxman Belbase

“We need to mobilize

## **MEN AND BOYS**

to dismantle patriarchy, while being **fully accountable** to those most impacted by patriarchy—women, girls, gender non-conforming people, and those on the margins of the margins.”

Combining expertise in feminist-informed network building, human rights-based advocacy, social work, and outreach and organizational development, **Joni van de Sand** and **Laxman Belbase** co-lead the Global Secretariat of MenEngage Alliance. It links civil society organizations around the world that engage men and boys around women’s rights, gender equality and social justice. Through its network, van de Sand and Belbase have opened new space to reflect on men’s roles and responsibilities as critical to transforming deep-rooted inequalities. By applying the lens of intersectional feminism, which considers how different forms of discrimination and oppression overlap, they broaden understanding of the complexity of the power and privilege that patriarchy grants men and boys, as well as the norms that negatively affect people of all gender identities and expressions.



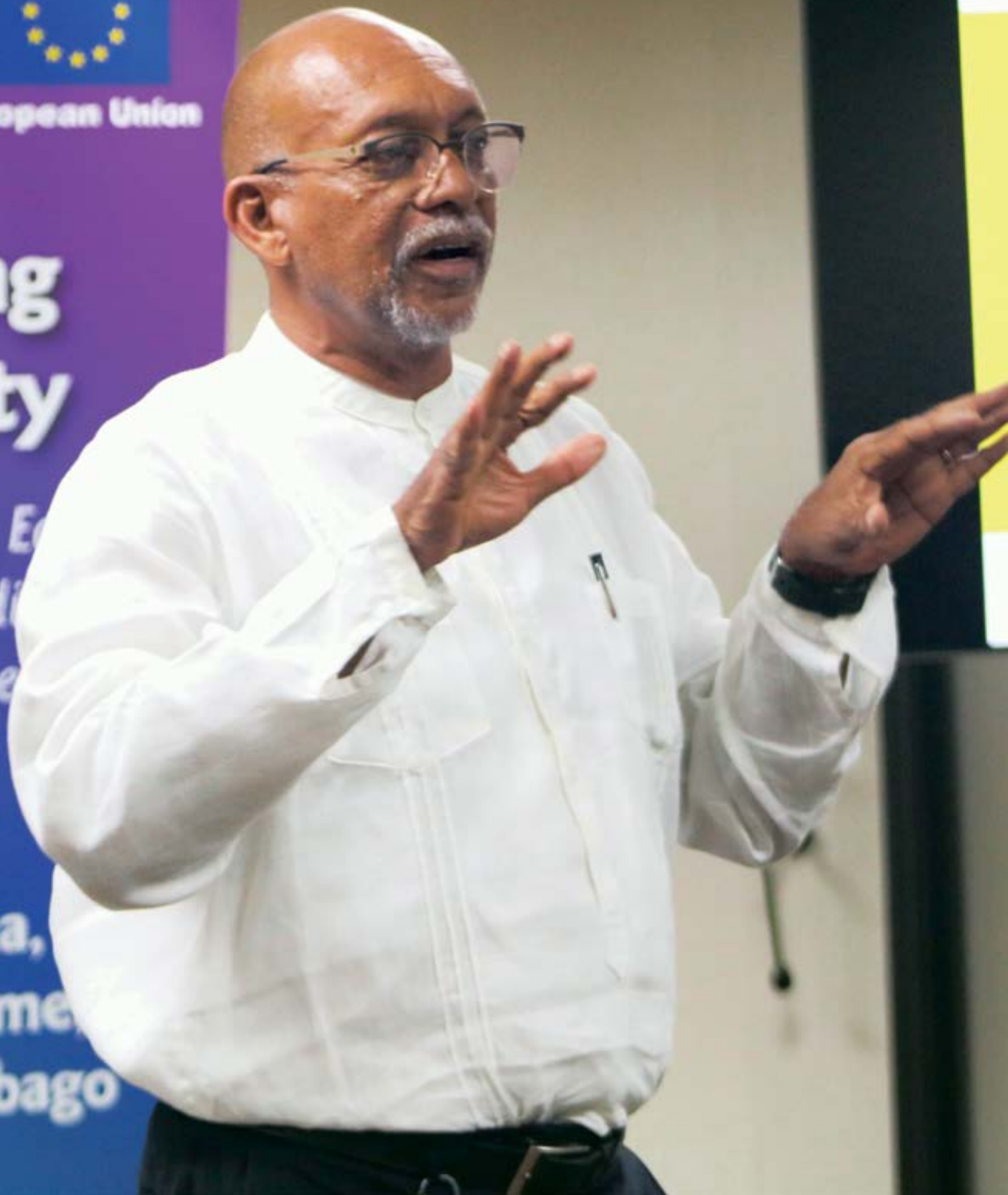


European Union

# thinking masculinity

Ending Gender Equality  
Means of Ending  
Gender-Based Violence  
in Schools

ze, Guyana,  
ca, Suriname,  
ad and Tobago





Peter Douglas Weller

**“ For many people the idea of putting resources into working with MEN is anathema; it’s consorting with the enemy. But we stand firm. We keep advocating.”**

**Peter Douglas Weller** rejects the notion that gender should just be considered a “woman thing”. As a clinical psychologist and professor at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago, he presides over the Caribbean Male Action Network or CariMAN. Active in 12 countries, it works with men to become “recovering patriarchs”. They examine their beliefs and norms, including those that cause harm, and learn to negotiate new relationships that support justice, harmony and peace.

Feride Acar

“ Reactionary, populist movements and governments in so many countries...are, once again, openly **challenging the values and ideals of civil liberties and gender equality.**

While I feel justifiably disturbed by these threats, **I am in NO way discouraged or disheartened.”**

A prominent Turkish academic with a 40-year career at Ankara's Middle East Technical University, **Feride Acar** has deployed her extensive knowledge of women's rights to influence a series of historic international agreements, including as a prominent voice in the Turkish delegation to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women. She is considered an architect of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and General Recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.





Margaret Atwood

“ We have not seen such a blatant pushback against women for a very long time. Some women are fighting for rights they’ve never had, but others are fighting the threat of removal of such rights.

**Now is not the time to take anything for granted.”**

Canadian writer **Margaret Atwood**, long an icon for women’s rights activists, gained global attention for her seminal dystopian novel, *The Handmaid’s Tale*, and its award-winning TV adaptation. Atwood’s works plunge into the themes of gender and identity, religion and myth, as well as climate change and the structures of power and inequality. She has called the current era both the best and the worst of times for women, pointing out, for example, that women can have multiple sexual partners without being burned at the stake, even as mass rape persists, and women are trafficked and enslaved.

Gender-based violence is a violation of human rights that appears in every society and community, flourishing from deeply rooted gender discrimination. Domestic abuse, rape and other sexual violations and sexual harassment are among many forms taking a terrible toll on the health, rights and dignity of people everywhere. Courageous activists are standing up to this scourge.

**AN END TO**

**VIOLENCE**





Marijana Savic

“ **The ultimate solution in combating violence is achieving equality.** A successful women’s initiative is not only a gem in this, but also a subversive activity that will bring about change.”

Having lived through Yugoslavia’s breakup in the 1990s, **Marijana Savic** knows conflict and loss firsthand. Her experience has fuelled a lifelong commitment to ending violence. In 2004, in Serbia, she founded the Association of Citizens to Combat Human Trafficking and all Forms of Gender-Based Violence, known as Atina. She established the country’s first shelter for trafficking survivors, providing comprehensive support. Through a social enterprise, the Bagel Bejgl Shop, Atina creates a safe space for survivors to learn new skills and assert their strength and economic independence.

Halima Yakoy Adam

**“ I do not want other girls or boys to fall into the same mistakes as me, and to be embroiled in extremism and violence.”**

Not many people can claim they once were a human bomb. **Halima Yakoy Adam** can. At age 15, forced by her husband to join Boko Haram in Chad, she was drugged, strapped to an explosive device and sent to a crowded market. She was rescued in time, but not before losing her legs after two other girls detonated their bombs. Restored to health, Halima learned skills as a paralegal. Today she courageously helps other women and girl survivors of violence obtain the justice they deserve.





Gary Barker

“ We will not achieve gender equality if we don't own our role in the process. **As men, this means** listening more. It means being aware of our power and privilege...and it means **turning our good intentions into meaningful, thoughtful and urgent action.**”

From the start, **Gary Barker** knew that attempts to end gender-based violence would not go far without men. So he founded Promundo in 1997 to pilot innovative models of working with men and boys. From a start in poor areas of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the organization has transformed harmful male behaviours and norms in 40 countries. More recently, since gender equality largely depends on reducing women's disproportionate role in unpaid work around the house, Barker has mobilized the global MenCare campaign to challenge men to take up their fair share.

Enkhjargal Davaasuren

**“ In a male-dominated, patriarchal society, women don’t realize how strong they can be.**

**BE STRONG,**

**but more importantly, be collectively strong.**

**Women must work together to achieve social change. The challenges are systemic, the solutions collective.”**

Across Mongolia, people used to avoid mention of the violence that erupted within their homes. For **Enkhjargal Davaasuren**, that was never acceptable. As a young lawyer, she founded the National Centre Against Violence and kickstarted a campaign to pass a new law criminalizing domestic violence. It took two decades, but in 2016, the Mongolian Parliament criminalized domestic violence for the first time.



Susanne von Bassewitz

“ We believe in **making the world a better place by empowering women,** and we find joy by working together towards gender equality in a supportive community of like-minded professionals.”

As the head of Zonta International and the Zonta International Foundation, **Susanne von Bassewitz** orchestrates a global network of 30,000 women Zonta club members. She is the architect of the Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women campaign, which has united clubs worldwide to advocate and act to stop violence against women. Zonta women are mobilizing to change laws, attitudes and behaviours.





They are the present and the future, already powerful leaders and our best hope for transformative change. UNFPA celebrates the largest generation of young people in history, in all their diversity and possibility. Many were born around or after the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, growing up in a world with both great possibilities and acute risks. They deserve every opportunity to make their own choices, and realize their potential and aspirations for their lives and their world.

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

**TRANSFORMING**

**THE WORLD**

Natasha Wang Chibesa Mwansa

**“We are not going to be beneficiaries any longer. It’s 2019. We need positions of power. We see improvements when young people decide enough is enough and make moves to influence decision-making.”**

She was the youngest and smallest person in her class, which made her an easy target for bullying. Until, at the age of 12, she decided to speak out and defend herself. She hasn’t stopped yet. Now 18 and a media and political science student at the University of Zambia, **Natasha Wang Chibesa Mwansa** is the youngest-ever recipient of the World Health Organization’s Global Health Award and the founder of the Natasha Mwansa Foundation, which seeks to amplify the voices of young people. She has electrified world leaders and the media, including at the World Health Assembly and the Women Deliver conference, through her passionate insistence that girls have untapped power and will stop at nothing until it is unleashed.

# A Young Person's

*Natasha Mwansa*

- Youth, women and health advocate.
- First-year communication and political science student at the University of Zambia.
- Pushing boundaries to change the status of adolescent health.



Alejandra Teleguario Santizo

“ Persistence is important, because we will be able to achieve what we want as women. And get involved.

That’s where  
**CHANGE** begins.”

At just 16, **Alejandra Teleguario Santizo** began speaking out against sexual violence and *acoso callejero*—or street harassment—in her community in Guatemala. She quickly became a voice on local radio programmes, informing people and educating policymakers to stop this blatant violation of human rights. Through a network of girl leaders, she also campaigns against the informal unions that many girls still enter at a very young age.





ELECTRONIC DEVICES  
NOT PERMITTED



Nikoli Edwards

**“ As a young male in a society that conveniently considers itself conservative,** it is difficult to raise issues surrounding sexual and reproductive health and rights. I am honoured to be part of a community of persons worldwide who recognize that the conversation must happen, and **it is our duty to provide**  
**A VOICE.”**

**Nikoli Edwards** has yet to reach 30, but has already become the youngest senator in Trinidad and Tobago and launched a new political party. As a youth activist and leading member of the Commonwealth Youth Council, Edwards has championed young peoples' voices in legislative agendas related to comprehensive sexuality education, health and family life education, and adolescent sexual and reproductive health. As a senator, he has helped pass legislation to end child marriage. He constantly reminds policymakers that young people are the best experts on the issues they face.



Tania Pariona Tarqui

“ The participation of **indigenous youth** is important in these spaces where the fate of our people is planned and decided.

# **The voice of the youth is important**

in addressing the issues affecting us, as well as in building alternatives to overcome them.”

**Tania Pariona Tarqui** has been an activist since the age of 10, when she joined an organization of Quechua teenagers in Peru. While still a teenager, she represented indigenous young people nationally and internationally, and at age 32, became a leading speaker against systemic injustice in the Peruvian Congress. As president of the congressional Commission of Ordinary Women and Family, she has been outspoken against femicide as well as other forms of violence against women.



Sheshkala Pandey

“ **I encourage  
[girls] to be bold**

to withstand all sorts of untoward violence against them. **We have to change the society,** so why get disturbed by obstacles on our way?”

**Sheshkala Pandey** was supposed to get married in eighth grade, as is typical in the impoverished area of Nepal where she was born. But instead, the 19-year-old is attending college. When the subject of marriage first came up in her family, she burst into tears. Then she created a business plan, borrowed money from her brother and set up a small business, making enough to manage her school tuition fees. Today, she heads a 30-member Girls' Circle that mobilizes against harmful practices such as child marriage and sexual abuse and calls for girls to stay in school.

Nadine Al Haraki

“ In our own community, we know there is a gap in **CORRECT INFORMATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE** getting the services they need. When people realize they have had the wrong information, and hear the right information and how that can impact their life, **it makes a huge CHANGE.”**

Newly married at the age of 21, **Nadine Al Haraki** was studying geography in a university in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, six years ago. But that was before her country descended into chaos and she became a refugee in Jordan. Three days after she arrived, despite wrenching personal upheaval, she signed on as a volunteer to teach and mentor youth and adolescents on reproductive health. Many of these young people are hearing about these issues for the first time. Amid rampant uncertainty, they need to know how to protect themselves and hold on to hope for a better future.

**Y-PEER JORDAN**

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Lebogang Motsumi

**“ My HIV infection helped me find  
MY PURPOSE  
IN LIFE. I realized  
that I can turn my mess  
into a message, and use  
my pain to empower  
other people.”**

When **Lebogang Motsumi** speaks to other young people about HIV and AIDS, she does so from her own experience. As an inspirational speaker, HIV activist and coach in South Africa, she hopes to inspire other young women and girls to stay in school, stay healthy and make positive choices. Honoured by the African Union as a youth hero, she also rallies people as an ambassador for Zazi, a campaign encouraging South African women and girls to “know your strength”.

Dany Stolbunov

**“ We are the first generation born with HIV who are growing up and can openly speak about it. Nothing for us, without us. We are ready to fight for our rights.”**

Born with HIV, **Dany Stolbunov**, now 20, has seen first-hand the stigma that still persists around the virus. As a young adult, he became determined to advocate for less discriminatory care. He leads the Ukrainian organization Teenergizer!, which advocates for every teenager to realize her or his rights, and co-chairs The Pact, a coalition of more than 80 youth-led organizations intent on ending AIDS by 2030.



Dr. Nikolay Lunchenkov

“Love and don’t be afraid.

**Don’t be afraid** to take an HIV test. Don’t be afraid to use a condom or ask a partner to use it. Don’t be afraid to seek help from a doctor. Don’t be afraid to seek support from others. **And love, regardless of status, sex, age or sexual orientation.”**

Every day, **Dr. Nikolay Lunchenkov** carries with him the memory of being a medical student and being forced, by law, to refuse treatment to a young HIV-positive refugee. The experience convinced him to devote his life to fighting infectious diseases and improving health systems to provide quality care to all. Lunchenkov works at the Moscow Regional Centre for HIV care and prevention in the Russian Federation. He has become a well-known “medical activist” fighting stigma against the disease, particularly among men who have sex with men. Beyond encouraging more young doctors to enter his field, he works with several non-profit organizations on HIV testing and outreach and medical care for vulnerable groups.





Victoria Kanu

**“Children are the shoulders that will carry the burden of tomorrow.** We are so full of life and our hearts moulded with purity. The skin wrapped upon our fragile bones is an armour stronger than a gladiator shield.”

To watch Vicky the Poet (aka **Victoria Kanu**) recite the Story of an African Child, or any of her more recent videos, is to be mesmerized by the preternatural poise and linguistic sophistication of this 11-year-old national icon and social media star. Her prodigious talents in poetry, theatre, dance and advocacy combine the strong oral traditions of West Africa with the archetypal power of a girl hero. Since she began working as a poet at age 6, she has appeared in almost every major forum in Sierra Leone, delivering passionate exhortations against child marriage, female genital mutilation, child labour and other social issues.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and human rights. In 1968, the international community agreed that couples and individuals have a right to plan their families. Twenty-six years later, at the International Conference on Population and Development, 179 countries agreed that only by realizing rights, universally, can we end inequalities and achieve inclusive, sustainable development. Today, everything that UNFPA does is aimed at upholding rights.



**HUMAN BEINGS,**

**HUMAN RIGHTS**



Aminata Touré

**“ We are all one race with the same aspirations.** Everywhere you go people want to live decent lives. They want to express themselves. They want to participate. They want to have health. They want their kids **to have a better future.”**

After garnering respect and the sobriquet of “Iron Lady” for her work against corruption as a justice minister in Senegal, **Aminata Touré** became her country's second female Prime Minister, from September 2013 until July 2014. Fluent in three languages and in the disciplines of economics, governance and gender, Touré worked in several West African countries before directing the Culture, Gender and Human Rights branch of UNFPA, where she was a fierce advocate for the rights of women and girls. She currently serves as the Special Envoy for Internal and External Affairs for the President of Senegal.



Michelle Bachelet

**“Human rights are a powerful medicine, which heals wounds and develops resilience.”**

She has been a doctor, a survivor of political torture, a defence minister and one of the world's most notable women politicians. Twice elected President of Chile, and the first woman to serve in that position, **Michelle Bachelet** has championed gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights, overseeing transformative changes in Chilean legislation that include scaled-up protections for survivors of domestic violence and the end of a 28-year blanket ban on abortion. In 2018, she became the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, vowing to draw on a lifetime of experiences to promote rights for all.

Pregs Govender

**“I want every child, every person in our world to have the freedom and the safety to walk wherever they want to walk, to be with whomever they want, and to fulfil their full human potential.”**

A struggle against injustice has defined the life of **Pregs Govender**, whose very name refers to someone who overcomes obstacles. She started her career as a teacher, but in apartheid-era South Africa, with her mind brimming with protest against oppression, she joined the trade union movement. When freedom finally reached her country, she became a parliamentarian who pioneered the national Women’s Budget, but resigned in protest over an arms deal. Widely admired for her deep commitment to a just and humane society, and to the rights of its most vulnerable citizens, she later became the deputy chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission.



Abia Akram

“ For women with disabilities,  
don’t underestimate yourselves.  
Feel your disability as your strength.  
**Educate yourself about  
your rights,** and if your country  
doesn’t uphold your rights,  
**fight for them.”**

**Abia Akram** grew up in Pakistan, where many people still consider disability a curse. As a child, she mainly just wanted to go to school—and with the blessing of her family, found one accessible to her wheelchair. She went on to graduate with the highest honours, and today is widely recognized as a leader of the disability rights movement in her country as well as in Asia and the Pacific and globally. Heading the National Forum of Women with Disabilities, she stresses education and training to boost self-confidence.





Stephanie Ortoleva

**“ Our movement is holding governments accountable** on legislation, policy development and implementation, and political processes that are **inclusive of women and girls with disabilities** and our organizations.”

Once told that she was too opinionated and asked too many questions, **Stephanie Ortoleva** decided that was a good enough reason to go to law school. As an international human rights lawyer, and a woman with a disability, Ortoleva asked another question: why did advocacy for the rights of women and for people with disabilities seem to be on separate tracks? She founded Women Enabled International to bring the two together. It quickly become a resource for global advocacy and a driver of collaboration among organizations of disabled women worldwide.

**#InequalityIs...**

IGNORING  
WOMEN WITH  
DISABILITIES

 FORDFOUNDATION



Ana Peláez Narváez

**“ I want to bring a disabilities perspective into the whole agenda of the CEDAW Committee, making women with disability visible in every single piece of work, not just a mention from time to time.”**

From the start of her life, being blind and losing her mother made **Ana Peláez Narváez** realize that she would not know equality without demanding it. For 20 years, she has been a persuasive advocate for women with disabilities in Europe, and served as part of the Spanish delegation involved in drafting the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In 2018, backed by the global disability rights movement, she broke new ground by becoming the first woman with disabilities to be elected to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, charged with overseeing the CEDAW convention on women’s rights.



**DEFEND  
INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES' RIGHTS!**

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz

**“ Most governments are still prioritizing large-scale development and infrastructure that bring more revenue. But the dominant economic paradigms are at odds with the rights of indigenous peoples.”**

As the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, **Victoria Tauli-Corpuz** circles the world to hear grievances and urge redress. An indigenous leader herself, from the Kankana-ey Igorot people in the Philippines, she chaired the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues when it adopted the historic UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Tauli-Corpuz has long protested measures that tear at the close bonds that many indigenous people have with the natural world. Since they are often not consulted on what happens to their land, she pushed for provisions to obtain their consent for all projects supported by the global Green Climate Fund.





Tsitsina Xavante

“ **What encourages me most** is knowing older people who support my contribution to helping uphold our rights. An elder told me recently: ‘It doesn’t matter what they say about you because **the essence of life is the wisdom of women.**’”

It was only about 70 years ago that **Tsitsina Xavante's** indigenous community, the A'uwe Uptabi, first left the rainforest and made contact with the outside world in Brazil. As a leader of the Namunkurá Xavante Association, which represents 305 different indigenous groups, Xavante has opened new space for indigenous people to realize their political rights. She has also modelled a new way of life in her community by choosing to remain a single woman without children. Concerned about issues such as early pregnancy and frequent childbearing, she has called for recognizing and also strengthening the knowledge of indigenous women and girls.



Nadežda Satarić

**“ It is very important...  
to have a socially  
responsible State that  
respects the rights of  
vulnerable individuals  
and groups.”**

Inspired by her grandmother, **Nadežda Satarić** first became a social worker and then joined a group of friends to found the Amity Association in Serbia in 1999. While it was initially dedicated to assisting internally displaced persons and refugees, it evolved into a leading proponent of social policies and institutions upholding the rights of vulnerable people, particularly children and poor older people. Satarić led consultations with elderly people to draft the 2011 Social Security Law, and is widely regarded for her insistence that social work must be part of transforming discriminatory norms.



rights  
FREE!  
from corporate  
punishment - at  
last

Marian Jacobs

“ [The] challenge is **ensuring that children’s rights** are not only **vested in the State,** **but in all of us.**”

Apartheid kept **Marian Jacobs** from becoming a nursery school teacher. Instead, she became a paediatrician, an academic, a child rights advocate, and a policy adviser who founded the Children’s Institute at the University of Cape Town. She steered its public health research to be published in ways that encouraged use by policymakers and the public. Prior to the first democratic elections in South Africa, she helped bring indigenous approaches into discussions that shaped child health policies for the new Government.



Xiomara Corpeño

“ **The story of migration is as old as time,** whether it be within country borders or beyond. People are... being kicked off their land. **They have no opportunities, so they are migrating,** and that’s a human right.”

**Xiomara Corpeño**, the daughter of Salvadorean immigrants to California, describes herself as: mother, lover, friend, sister and human rights warrior. For two decades, she has fought for racial justice and the rights of immigrants, including through mobilizing networks of immigrant voters and domestic workers. Now a Transborder Migrant Justice Fellow at the Groundswell Fund, she recently coordinated streamlined delivery of assistance from 15 grass-roots organizations to a caravan of migrants from Central America attempting to go to the United States, but stalled in Tijuana, Mexico.

Fatma Alloo

**“ TAMWA came into existence through our own histories of pain, and the realization that unless we got together and did something, nothing would change in a patriarchal system.”**

**Fatma Alloo** grew up in what she calls a visionary society, a time of transition to independence in East Africa, a moment where human dignity was at the centre of hopes for a new world. Despite being a child bride and a mother of seven children, only one of whom survived to adulthood, her activism for social justice and human rights has never waned. In the mid-1980s, she and other women journalists, tired of covering health and fashion, founded TAMWA, the Tanzania Media Women’s Association. Its radio programmes stirred the first open debates around issues such as domestic violence, sexual harassment and girls forced to leave school due to pregnancy.





Every woman and girl has the right to health and the integrity of her body. Yet many harmful practices violate these rights and cause great suffering. The International Conference on Population and Development's call to governments and communities to stop unnecessary and dangerous practices marked a turning point in prioritizing women's rights. UNFPA and civil society organizations around the world champion the right of women and girls to make choices about their bodies, and to live free from violations such as female genital mutilation and child marriage.

**THE INTEGRITY**

**OF MY BODY**

Dr. Nahid Toubia

**“NO ethical defence  
can be made for preserving  
a cultural practice that  
damages women’s health and  
interferes with their sexuality.”**

Dynamic, intellectual, humorous—Sudanese surgeon and anti-FGM activist **Dr. Nahid Toubia** co-founded RAINBO, the Research, Action and Information Network for Bodily Integrity of Women. As an associate professor at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, she has explored the cultural dimensions of female genital mutilation. Her advocacy has galvanized the international push to end the harmful practice, including in her current role as director of the Institute for Reproductive Health & Rights in Sudan.



Bogaletch Gebre

“ I was subjected to female genital mutilation when I was 12 years old, as were my sisters, and one of them died in childbirth as a result. So my question in life has become,

‘How can I [stop] that cycle of abusive life and the violence women are forced to bear?’”

**Bogaletch Gebre**, or “Boge” as she is affectionately called, is known as “the woman who began the rebellion of Ethiopian women” by speaking out against female genital mutilation and bride abduction. She co-founded and leads an organization, KMG, whose name translates to Kembatta Women Standing Together. A survivor of FGM, she managed to escape attempts at early marriage and secretly attend school, eventually becoming a Fulbright scholar and earning a doctorate in epidemiology.



Zeinabou Moussa

**“ I want to marry  
someone who  
will treat me  
properly.”**

Married off as a child to become a neighbour's second wife in rural Niger, **Zeinabou Moussa** ran away—several times. She was captured, beaten by her parents and returned to the man who claimed her. When her husband forced himself on her again, she bit him so hard he fainted. The couple divorced, and Zeinabou continued her education. She has joined a growing number of child brides fighting back against early marriage, a fundamental violation of human rights.







Laura J. Lederer

“ It’s so important to hear from survivors what they’ve been through because the harm of trafficking happens behind closed doors, in back alley brothels, out in fields, in construction areas. Places we don’t see it. **And so we need the survivors to tell us what has happened, to make the harm visible... because they know the hell of it.**”

Lawyer **Laura J. Lederer** has spent a lifetime investigating human trafficking and acting on many fronts to stop it. She has served as a high-level policy adviser in the United States, advised on training for the military, established The Protection Project to address trafficking as a human rights violation, and at Georgetown University developed the first US law school course on human trafficking. Her study, “The Health Consequences of Human Trafficking”, based on interviews with 300 survivors of sex trafficking in the United States, informed new legislation to improve the training of health-care providers. Since 2010, she has led Global Centurion, a non-governmental organization that fights human trafficking by seeking to cut demand.



Dr. Denis Mukwege

© Sven Torfinn/Panos Pictures

“ [This Nobel Peace Prize] is an inspiration because it shows that the **world is actually paying attention** to the tragedy of rape and sexual violence, and that the women and children who have suffered for too long are not being ignored.”



© Handout/Mike Lawrence/Getty Images for Gates Archive

Nadia Murad Basee Taha

“I want to be the  
**LAST GIRL**  
in the world  
with a story  
like mine.”

**Nadia Murad Basee Taha** and **Dr. Denis Mukwege** were jointly awarded the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. A Yazidi human rights activist, Murad Basee Taha survived months of sex slavery under Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) captors, going on to mobilize a global campaign to stop assaults on religious and ethnic minorities. A gynaecologist and Pentecostal pastor, Dr. Mukwege founded Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, specializing in the treatment of women raped during armed conflict.

**2018 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENTS**

Christiane Amanpour

“[Women and girls all over the world] absolutely wanted **TO HAVE CONTROL OVER THEIR BODIES,** over their own sexual satisfaction, over who were their partners, who they could choose or not choose....”

**Christiane Amanpour's** unflinching coverage of many of the world's hotspots led to her position as the chief international anchor of CNN. She has also trained an unremitting spotlight on gender discrimination and human rights abuses. On the eve of the Cairo conference, her international broadcast of footage of a girl screaming as her legs were forced apart and her genitals mutilated silenced arguments that the practice should continue under the guise of “culture”. Delegates declared it what it is: a violation of women's rights and a lifelong risk to their health.







Jocelyn DeJong

# “Affirmation of women’s rights

—to bodily integrity, security of person, to sexual relations free of coercion—

are deeply embedded in the final Programme of Action.”

An expert on health and gender issues in the Arab world, **Jocelyn DeJong** currently researches sexual and reproductive health among conflict-affected populations (especially Syrians) from her base at the American University of Beirut. In the lead-up to Cairo, supported by the Ford Foundation, she assisted advocacy groups to prepare for the conference. After the ICPD opened space for the international community and non-governmental organizations to discuss female genital mutilation, she was instrumental in setting up the first task force on the practice in Egypt.

The 50 years since the founding of UNFPA and the 25 years since the International Conference on Population and Development have seen the endorsement of reproductive rights and their increasing integration into laws and practices. Yet reproductive rights and choices remain under threat. Reproductive justice takes an active stand on not just defining rights, but claiming them in everyday life, for everyone. It links social, political, economic and reproductive rights, calling, for instance, for equal access to family planning services as well as the decent work that provides the time and resources to access those services. In short, it is about real choices for making real change.

**REPRODUCTIVE**

**JUSTICE**

**FOR ALL**

Alma Odette Chacón

“ I see the impact of our work in Guatemala, especially with indigenous women.

**The difference is that women now clearly know they have rights**

and they should be able to decide what goes on with their bodies.”

**Alma Odette Chacón's** early political activism forced her to leave Guatemala before completing her education. While living in Mexico, she began organizing around women's issues and, upon her return, began working with the newly formed Terra Viva, an organization that challenges the culture of machismo and fights for sexual and reproductive justice, particularly for indigenous women who have little political power. Decades later, she continues her work with the group to end violence against women and other assaults on their rights.



Byllye Yvonne Avery

“ Once you can get the emotional stuff straight, then you can start talking about the body. Because if I’m worrying about someone coming home and beating me, I’m hardly thinking about I haven’t had a Pap smear in five years. **Our message to women:**

**Put yourself first.”**

Writer, filmmaker, professor and MacArthur Foundation “genius” **Byllye Yvonne Avery** began her career educating emotionally disturbed children. But the sudden death of her husband at age 33 from untreated high blood pressure galvanized her to confront inequities in access to health care in African-American communities in the United States. In 1983, she founded the National Black Women’s Health Project (now the Black Women’s Health Imperative), a movement to deal with mental and physical stressors affecting the health of black women. In 1984, the project identified violence as a key health issue—long before others acknowledged its role.







Catherine Noone

“ The work [to repeal the amendment making abortion illegal] was never about one side or the other. It was about women’s health and how best to ensure **swift and safe support in sensitive and difficult cases.**”

Serving in Ireland’s upper house since 2011, solicitor **Catherine Noone** was elected in 2016 as the parliamentary body’s deputy leader and spokesperson on children and youth affairs. In that capacity, she has promoted better sex education in schools, HPV vaccinations and policies to promote healthier lifestyles. She gained prominence spearheading the historic, divisive and ultimately successful effort to end the country’s constitutional ban on abortion.

Leila Hessini

**“ Power doesn’t give up power. You have to advocate and fight for it. That’s why funding social movements matters.”**

Born in Algeria, and educated on three continents, **Leila Hessini** brings her multicultural background and feminist perspective to her work amplifying the power of broad-based movements to advance human rights, gender equality, and economic and reproductive justice. She has promoted these ideals for more than 20 years as a thought leader, grantmaker and bridge builder, in association with the Global Fund for Women.





Loretta J. Ross

**“Tell your truth  
and you’ll  
get amazing  
results.”**

Activist and academic **Loretta J. Ross** is a rape survivor who raised a child born of incest. She is also a survivor of sterilization abuse. Having spent more than 40 years launching and managing non-profit feminist organizations, she is a model of how to overcome and rise above the traumas that disproportionately affect low-income women of colour in the United States. In 1994, she helped develop the concept of reproductive justice as the complete physical, mental, spiritual, political, social and economic well-being of women and girls, based on the full achievement and protection of women’s human rights.

## UNFPA GOODWILL AMBASSADORS

# Reaching the world

Ashley Judd



**Ashley Judd**, author, humanitarian and actor, made a name for herself in Hollywood. But her talents and dedication go far beyond the screen. Increasingly her time and efforts have gone to addressing social injustices, especially those committed against women.

Catarina Furtado



**Catarina Furtado** is one of the most well-known television personalities in Portugal as well as an activist, writer, TV documentary maker and advocate. She has been especially effective in addressing women's and young people's issues, rights and sustainable development in Portugal, in Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, as well as in diaspora communities in her own country.

Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck,  
Queen Mother of Bhutan



© Office of Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan

For over two decades, **Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan** has been travelling to the furthest corners of the country, campaigning for the rights of women and young people, ensuring that access and choices belong equally to every individual.

Princess Basma Bint Talal



© ILO/Abdel Hameed Al Nasier

In Jordan, the name of **Princess Basma Bint Talal** is practically synonymous with sustainable human development, especially projects that promote the well-being of women and children.

**"The fight for rights  
and choices must  
continue until they  
are a reality for ALL."**

**- Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director**



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