

Mothers Matter Center's National Event

Women's Insight
Project

November 14, 2023

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM PT



Community-led Solutions: Building Capacity and Bridging Sustainable Development Goal Gaps

Featuring UN's SDG experts, women's rights activists and policy advocates to share experiences and raise awareness about challenges of vulnerable communities and ways to bridge local gaps to advance Canada's progress towards the SDGs.



[Register here.](#)

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AGENDA

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Welcome	Amy Robichaud , CEO, Mothers Matter Centre
9:15 AM – 9:30 AM	Indigenous Welcome	Elder Rose Guerin , Musqueam First Nation
9:30 AM – 9:50 AM	Opening Remarks and Overview of Canada's 2030 Agenda	The Honourable Jenna Sudds , Minister of Families, Children and Social Development of Canada
9:50 AM – 10:00 AM	Women's Insight Project Showcase: Women advancing SDGs by bridging local gaps	Video
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Keynote: Working for a Better Community and a Better World	Nora Fyles , Former Head of the Secretariat, United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Keynote: Take the Leap	Pashtana Durrani , Founder, LEARN Afghan
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Keynote: Care is at the Heart of an Economy that Works for Women	Lauren Ravon , Executive Director, OXFAM Canada
11:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Reflections and key takeaways	Alana Livesey , Senior Adviser, Gender Equality and Inclusion, Plan International Canada
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Fireside chat: Supporting grassroot-led community action to accelerate Canada's progress towards the SDGs	Moderator: Thi Dao , Director of Partnerships Future of Good Panelists: Yusra Qadir , Vice President - Programs and Advocacy, Mothers Matter Centre Julia Anderson , Chief Executive Officer for the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health Angie Mapara-Osachoff , Director of Canadian Programs, Equitas
12:45 PM – 1:00 PM	Closing remarks	Yusra Qadir , Vice President - Programs & Advocacy, Mothers Matter Centre Thi Dao , Director of Partnerships Future of Good

SPEAKER



Jenna Sudds

Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

From 2018 to 2021, Minister Sudds served on the Ottawa City Council. During this time, she chaired the City's Community and Protective Services Committee and held the role of Deputy Mayor starting in 2020. Before entering politics, Minister Sudds was the Executive Director of the CIO Strategy Council, a national technology forum, and the President and Executive Director of the Kanata North Business Association. She also worked as a senior economist for the Government of Canada for over 10 years, focusing her expertise on the taxation of multi-national corporations and tax avoidance. Minister Sudds has been an active member of her community for many years, volunteering with the Kanata Food Cupboard and Ottawa Network for Education. She has received a Special Recognition Award from the Kanata Food Cupboard for her leadership and service to those in need in the community. She received a 40 under 40 Award from the Ottawa Business Journal and the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce in 2015, and was named one of Development Counsellors International's Top 40 under 40 working in economic development in 2017.

SPEAKER



Nora Fyles

former Director of the UN Girls' Education Initiative

Nora Fyles has worked in the field of education for over 35 years, focusing on girls' education, gender equality, education management, capacity development and partnership building. From 2012 to 2021, Ms. Fyles was the Director of the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and guided the multi-stakeholder partnership to become a global leader and premium platform for advancing girls' education and gender equality. Before joining UNGEI, Ms. Fyles headed the Education Policy team for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) (2006-2012), representing Canada on key education coordination platforms such as the Global Partnership for Education, and leading the development of education policies and strategies. She also served as Senior Education Specialist for CIDA's Asia Branch (2003-2006) providing expert advice and support to CIDA's education program in Asia; and Senior Gender Advisor for Status of Women Canada (2002-2003). Prior to her time at CIDA, Ms. Fyles worked for a number of multilateral organizations, NGOs, educational institutions and government ministries in Central America, Asia and Africa with a focus on education and gender issues. Ms. Fyles is currently a gender and education consultant based in Ottawa, Canada.

SPEAKER



Pashtana Durrani

Executive Director of Learn Afghanistan

Pashtana Durrani is an Afghan feminist, activist, and educator. At the age of 21, she became the head of her family following her father's passing. By then she had already founded LEARN Afghanistan, the country's first-ever digital school network. Forced into exile by the Taliban takeover in 2021 she is currently a visiting fellow at Wellesley Centers for Women while continuing to provide education for hundreds of girls in Afghanistan despite the current ban on them attending school.

Known for her bluntness and courage, Durrani is a regular commentator on TV and radio and has been the subject of articles and profiles including [PBS](#), [BBC](#), [Elle](#) (in French), [Der Spiegel](#) (in German) and [Wellesley College](#).

During her time at Wellesley, Durrani is continuing her research on female education and maternal and newborn health.

SPEAKER



Lauren Ravon

CEO of Oxfam Canada

Lauren has been with Oxfam Canada since 2011, holding a number of roles – including director of Policy and Campaigns – and working tirelessly to put women's rights at the heart of the global Oxfam confederation. Before joining Oxfam, Lauren worked at the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (Rights & Democracy) where she was program manager for the Americas and oversaw the Centre's office and human rights programming in Haiti. She has also worked on programs to tackle gender-based violence and promote sexual and reproductive rights with Planned Parenthood Global and the International Rescue Committee. Lauren has conducted extensive policy research and campaigned on issues of food justice, women's economic equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights and the role of women's movements. She holds master's degrees in international affairs and development studies from Columbia University and the Paris Institute of Political Studies.

SPEAKER



Yusra Qadir

Vice President, Programs and Advocacy

Yusra has a Master's degree in Sociology from Pakistan and is an Erasmus Mundus scholar for her MS degree in Human Rights Practice from Europe. She has 12 years of experience of designing and managing projects aimed at empowering vulnerable and marginalized groups, resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation and report writing. Her expertise include programme design and management, contract management, resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation, communications and reporting. She has also significantly contributed to work with conflict affected communities especially with women, young people and children. Prior to her engagement with Mother Matter Centre, Yusra was working with United Nations Development Programme for mainstreaming vulnerable women and young people to minimize discrimination and catalyze development for areas severely affected by conflict and prone to violent extremism.

SPEAKER



Alana Livesey

Senior Advisor, Gender Equality & Inclusion at Plan International Canada

Alana Livesey is a Senior Gender Equality & Inclusion Advisor with Plan International Canada. She is an advisor and expert on gender equality, gender transformative programming, urban development, child and youth participatory approaches, and international development, with 17 years of experience working at various UN and international development organisations, including Plan International, UN Women, UNICEF, UNESCO, Save the Children, and Amref Health Africa. She has an MSc in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

SPEAKER



Julia Anderson

CEO of Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health

Julia is the Chief Executive Officer for the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH). She has over 15 years of senior and executive level experience in international development, not-for-profits, civil society, human rights and gender equality. Julia works closely with multiple stakeholders on international development policy-related issues, from Canadian and global decision-makers to young leaders. In 2019, Julia spearheaded the shaping of a renewed collective vision by Canada's global health sector that resulted in a \$14-billion, 10-year investment by the Government of Canada. As CanWaCH CEO, she continues to champion bold, innovative - and even disruptive - approaches to advancing the health and rights of women and girls around the world. Julia holds a Master of Arts degree in Canadian and Indigenous Studies from Trent University and an Executive Certificate in Conflict Management from University of Windsor Law School.

SPEAKER



Angie Osachoff

Director of Canadian Programs - Equitas-International Centre for Human Rights Education

Influenced by her family's history in Uganda and India, Angie has been active in human rights, humanitarian issues and informal education for the past 30 years. She has written and delivered workshops on human rights, diversity, international humanitarian law and many other subjects related to human rights.

Currently, Angie Osachoff (nee Mapara) is the Director of Canadian programs at Equitas; the International Centre for Human Rights Education and an instructor in Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Certificate for Restorative Justice. She is also vice-chair of the Indian Summer Arts Society, an advisory group member at SFU's Centre for Restorative Justice, and a member of the Child Rights Academic Network. She graduated from Queen's University with two degrees; a major in political studies and an honours medal in development studies and political studies.

Her areas of passion are children's rights, the integration of human rights-based approaches and the authentic engagement of children and youth.