



# REYKJAVÍK GLOBAL FORUM – WOMEN LEADERS 2024

## POWER, TOGETHER FOR ACTION -PROGRAMME

(all times in Reykjavík local time)

### SUNDAY – 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

**12:00 – 16:00**

#### **BADGE COLLECTION**

Venue: Harpa Conference Hall, Forum Info Desk, ground floor

**13:00 - 14:00**

#### **VISIT ALTHINGI PARLIAMENT**

Venue: The Parliament of Iceland, Austurvöllur Square, 101 Reykjavik.  
Limited capacity: registration required!

**14:30 - 17:30**

#### **WELCOME RECEPTION AT THE PRESIDENT OF ICELAND'S RESIDENCE**

Access only via bus from Harpa, limited capacity: registration required!

**17:00 - 18:30**

#### **NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR**

Venue: The Rooftop Bar, Reykjavik Edition Hotel

**18:30 - 20:30**

#### **OUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEYS NETWORKING DINNER**

Venue: Tides Restaurant, Reykjavik Edition Hotel.  
Limited capacity: registration & dinner payment required!

### MONDAY – 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

**08:00 – 09:00**

#### **RISE & PREPARE TO SHINE**

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Coffee, croissants & conversations / Badge collection

**09:00 – 09:10**

#### **VELKOMIN TIL ÍSLANDS! POWER, TOGETHER FOR ACTION!**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**09:10 – 09:30**

#### **FIRESIDE CHAT:**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

- Halla Tómasdóttir, President of Iceland
- Mary Robinson, President of Ireland (1990-1997)

**09:30 – 09:55**

#### **GLOBAL STATE OF DEMOCRACY: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Democracy was on the ballot in 2024 worldwide. In many elections, an anti-rights playbook targeting women and others has been continuously adapted, funded, and deployed in campaigns for everything from school boards to heads of state. What did we learn during the past year, and how do we transform lessons into action?

- Conversation starter (video): Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations
- US Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, US House of Representatives (D-Pennsylvania)
- Martin Chungong, Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Paula Cox, Premier of Bermuda (2010-2012)
- Moderator: Laura Zelenko, Senior Executive Editor, Bloomberg



10:00 – 10:25

### **THE REYKJAVÍK INDEX FOR LEADERSHIP 2024: THE BIG PICTURE**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

The Reykjavík Index for Leadership has measured popular perceptions on the suitability of women and men for leadership positions annually since 2018. In 2024, the Index explored the G7 plus India, Nigeria and Kenya. The Reykjavík Index for Leadership 2024 will be presented, followed by a discussion on how it relates to other global gender equality research results.

- Conversation starter: Michelle Harrison, Global CEO, Verian
- Ann Warner, Interim President & CEO, International Center for Research on Women
- Yamini Atmavilas, Director, Dasra
- Michelle Harrison, Global CEO, Verian
- Moderator: Michelle Milford Morse, Vice President for Girls and Women Strategy, UN Foundation

10:25 – 10:45

### **REDEFINING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN LAW: BEYOND STEREOTYPES & ECHO CHAMBERS**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

The icons of women leaders in law are changing – breaking away from a “type” to a diversity of examples in which women lawyers and judges can inspire change. How can we further redefine the meaning of leadership in law and justice? What are the challenges faced by women entering leadership and decision-making spaces, and how can media, culture, workplaces and communities reshape the narratives?

- Chuma Bubu, Waging Justice for Women Fellow, Clooney Foundation for Justice
- Sabrina Mahtani, Founder, Women Beyond Walls
- US Rep. Teresa Leger-Fernandez, US House of Representatives (D-New Mexico)
- Dr J. Jarpa Dawuni, Ph.D., Institute for African Women in Law

10:45 – 11:15

### **ENERGY BOOSTING BREAK**

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

11:15 – 12:45

### **LEADERS TALKS (3 parallel sessions)**

Registration required - Parallel impact sessions, hosted by partners

#### LeadersTalk hosted by Co-Impact & partners

Venue: Esja 3, Harpa 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

#### **Leadership Reimagined: Strategic Interventions for Women in Law**

This interactive session will explore strategies for advancing women's leadership in law and justice at global, national, and regional levels. Participants will share their approaches toward a common goal, fostering an exchange of ideas, insights, and challenges. We will be joined by the Institute for Women in Law (IAWL), Clooney Foundation for Justice, Equal Campaign, and FEMNET. They will provide insights on data-driven methods to address the invisibility of women in law, advocacy agenda setting within international institutions, the importance of grassroots leadership, and the role of networks and coalitions in driving advocacy. The session will conclude with a Q&A and an interactive space for participants to reflect and discuss key takeaways.

#### LeadersTalk hosted by OECD Development Centre

Venue: Esja 4, Harpa 4<sup>th</sup> floor

#### **Women and Men as Equal Partners at Home and in Society: Implementing the Reykjavik Action Items**

How can we achieve gender equality when, globally, we are far from seeing women and men as equal partners at home, with women shouldering most caregiving responsibilities? The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2023 highlights a significant gap: While 176 countries out of



178 offer maternity leave, only 122 provide paid paternity leave. Equal parental leave – one of the Reykjavik Action Items – has been shown to significantly benefit children’s and parents’ well-being. For women, it helps alleviate the burden of juggling multiple roles. For men, it fosters stronger family bonds and more balanced partnerships. However, persistent social expectations around gender roles and restrictive norms of masculinities continue to limit men’s involvement in caregiving. So how can we foster a society where women and men are seen as equal partners, at home and beyond? This session will explore strategies to shift norms, particularly among youth, and how promoting shared responsibilities can contribute to a more equitable society.

Leaderstalk hosted by GHV, PMNCH, Planned Parenthood Global and Ipas

Venue: Esja 5, Harpa 5<sup>th</sup> floor

### **Straight Talk: Confronting the Global Impact of Anti-Rights Movements**

The anti-rights movement’s detrimental impact on democracy has intensified over the last two decades, particularly since the early 2000s, as political shifts and organised campaigns have sought to reverse hard-won advancements in gender equality and women’s rights. This session invites you to connect with women leaders who are on the front lines of the fight. Together, we will share authentic conversations and powerful testimonials, uncovering strategies that have successfully navigated challenges to gender equality and democracy. Do not miss this opportunity to broaden our collective strength and forge alliances that amplify our voices in these critical times. Together we can shape a future where rights are upheld, and progress is celebrated!

12:30 – 14:00

Council of Women World Leaders Annual Summit - By Invitation only

12:45 – 13:45

### **GLOBAL COMMUNITY LUNCH – “speed-networking” opportunity**

Venue: Flóí, Harpa, ground floor

13:45 – 14:05

### **FINANCE: MONEY, POWER, AND WOMEN**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

In a world in which money and power are inextricably linked, what are the paths for women to attain and retain financial & economic power?

- Laurinda Rainey, Managing Director, JP Morgan Chase
- Omowunmi Akingbohunbe, Exec Director, WIMBIZ
- S. Mona Sinha, Global Executive Director, Equality Now
- Iðá Brá Benediktsdóttir, Deputy CEO, Arion Banki
- Moderator: Georgia Levenson Keohane, CEO, Soros Economic Development Fund

14:10 – 14:25

### **POWER OF STANDING UP TO A DICTATOR**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

María Ressa, Founder and CEO of Rappler, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021 for “efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace.” Today, she is a tireless and active advocate for recognizing the dangers to our freedoms before it is too late. Her most recent book, “How to Stand Up to a Dictator,” asks readers a question she continues to face directly, “What are you willing to sacrifice for the truth?”

- Intro: Christy Tanner, Senior Advisor, Reykjavik Global Forum
- María Ressa, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Founder & CEO Rappler

14:25 – 14:45

### **THE REYKJAVIK ACTION ITEMS: HOW TO MOVE THE NEEDLE?**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

The Reykjavik Action Items call for creating gender equality by instituting public- and private-sector policies for Equal Pay, Equal Representation, Equal Parental Leave and Ending Gender Based Violence. There are many frameworks for achieving these goals – what is working and what more is needed to make these policies ubiquitous globally?



- Dominik Weh, Partner, Oliver Wyman
- Dr. Anino Emuwa, Founder, 100 Women @ Davos
- Donna Dasko, Senator, Canada
- Stella Samúelsdóttir, Executive Director, UN Women Iceland
- Moderator: Susannah Wellford, CEO & Founder, Running Start

**14:50 – 15:10**

### **TECHNOLOGY & LEADERSHIP: NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

After a year of fast-paced developments, what does the current state of technology – from microchips to data centres to social platforms to AI – mean for women leaders? How are women faring in startup culture and the need for funding? What regulatory frameworks are most promising? How will we tackle new and emerging issues - including gender bias?

- Renée B. Lahti, Founder and CEO, Linei Kokua Advisory
- Sue Black, Professor of Computer Science, Durham University
- Rita Singh, Research Professor, Carnegie Mellon
- Dina Aboughazala, Founder, Egab
- Moderator: Maureen Kerr, Partner, Arthur D. Little

**15:10 – 15:50**

### **ENERGY BOOSTING BREAK - your chance to network & schedule bi-laterals**

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**15:50 – 16:00**

### **POWER OF AUTHENTICITY**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

- Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, Author, mental health advocate, Founder of Under Your Light Communications
- Eliza Reid, Author

**16:00 – 16:20**

### **BREAKING THE BIAS: WOMEN LEADERS REDEFINING PROGRESS & PERCEPTION**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Despite deepening trends in bias, many women leaders see progress in unexpected places—and they're ready to share what it truly takes to shift perception at every level, from global stages to personal circumstances. Together, they will explore the unique barriers women face, the strategies that are working, and why they remain hopeful about the future. This conversation will challenge conventional thinking and provide a roadmap for shifting perceptions, one barrier at a time. Let's go beyond the statistics and dive into what real change looks like—and how we know when we've arrived.

- Anuradha Das Mathur, Partner, DGA Group
- Abosede George-Ogan, Founder & Ex.Director, Women in Leadership Advancement Network
- Janet Mbugua, Founder, Inua Dada Foundation
- Moderated by: Jackie Jones, Chief of Staff & Director, Gender Equality Division, Gates Foundation

**16:25 - 16:55**

### **MEN AND BOYS: BALANCING POWER AND BUILDING ALLIANCES**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Perceptions of men and women as leaders are deeply entrenched, as the Reykjavik Index and other indicators of gender equality continually demonstrate. As we deploy the Reykjavik Action Items to create gender equality, it's critical that we also create a new definition of manhood and masculinity. What are the most effective strategies and tactics for fostering a culture of care, community, and compassion among men and boys?



- Conversation Starter: Gary Barker, CEO & President Equimondo
- Einar Þorsteinsson, Mayor of Reykjavik
- Gary Barker, CEO and President, Equimondo
- Larry Adams, CEO, xStereotype
- Moderator: Jose Campi, Director of Advocacy and Communications, Equimondo

**17:00 – 18:00**

**POWER, TOGETHER RECEPTION**

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

## **TUESDAY – 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

**08:00 – 09:00**

**RISE AND PREPARE TO SHINE**

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Coffee, croissants & conversations

**09:00 - 09:10**

**SETTING THE SCENE**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**09:10 - 09:35**

**WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

In this year of elections, citizens of countries representing 49% of the world's population are going to the polls to help decide who should lead and which direction they should go. But in far too many places, democracy is being undermined by armed conflict. And in the vast majority of those hot spots, decisions on war and peace are being made by men -- even though studies show women bear a disproportionately high weight of the consequences. This session brings together women leaders of global stature to discuss how women are increasingly partners in peace, not merely victims or recipients of aid.

- Conversation starter (video): Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir,
- Adela Raz, Director & Former Ambassador, Princeton University
- Irene Fellin, Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, NATO
- Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister Iceland (2017-2024)
- Moderated by: Rick Zednik, Advisor, Reykjavik Global Forum

**09:35 - 09:55**

**FACTS, TRUST & DEMOCRACY: NEW STRATEGIES FOR A NEW ERA**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

In the age of global asymmetric warfare and weaponized disinformation, a key component of the authoritarian playbook is attacking women leaders and other diverse people, who face disproportionate threats to their privacy and security. Online and offline, how can diverse leaders leverage their understanding of these threats to create policies, regulation and communications strategies to protect and strengthen access to power and equitable representation?

- Motunrayo Alaka, Executive Director, Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism
- Deborah Douglas, Director, Northwestern University
- Josie Christodoulou, Commissioner for Gender Equality, Republic of Cyprus
- Moderator: Kristina Wilfore, Director of Innovation, Reset.tech and Co-Founder, #ShePersisted



**10:00 – 10:05**

**POWER OF STORYTELLING IN WOMEN'S SPORTS**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

- Marsha Cooke, Executive Producer, ESPN Films

**10:10 – 10:30**

**THE IMPACT OF STORYTELLING IN CHANGING GENDER NORMS**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Can online and offline storytelling change narratives about gender norms? From music to video, fiction to non-fiction, the stories told by and about people who identify as women have never been more diverse, dynamic, and influential. We will explore how we can proactively shape new language, images and icons through the stories we tell and the storytellers we support and how new heroes emerge as the stories we tell now shape the stories of the future.

- Christina Lowery, CEO, Girl Rising
- Swati Sanyal Tarafdar, Solutions Journalist & Accredited Journalism Mentor
- Mandira Kalaan, Senior Director & Head of Office, India, Purpose
- Moderated by Claire Tavernier, Senior Media Advisor

**10:30 – 10:50**

**THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION: INVESTING IN WOMEN**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Research shows that diverse leadership creates value, innovation and profitability. Yet, investment in women leaders and founders remain significantly underfunded globally. What are the policies that most successfully address reducing the funding gap by breaking down barriers to accessing capital?

- Aileen McLeod, Director, Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland
- Ana Kreacic, Partner & Chief Operating Officer, Oliver Wyman Forum
- Kira Rudik, Member of Parliament, Ukraine
- Moderator: Monica Quesada, Journalist, Solutions Journalism Network

**10:55 – 11:15**

**WOMEN'S HEALTH: SECURING AND ADVANCING POLICY AND CARE**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Investments in women's health globally are in the spotlight. While advancements in quality of care have been significant, there is much more to be done. At the same time, women's access to care is threatened and now a standard part of authoritarian movements. What are the emerging best practices for securing science-based health care as a human right for women and other intersectional communities?

- Blessing Oyeleye Adesiyun, Founder & CEO, Caring Africa
- Petra Bayr, Member of Parliament, Austria and President of the European Parliamentary Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- Nejla Lias, CEO, Global Health Visions,
- Moderator: Margaret Crotty, Chair, Northwell Health

**11:15 – 11:45**

**ENERGY BOOSTING BREAK**

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**11:30 – 12:30**

**LEADERS TALKS (2 parallel sessions)**

Registration required - Parallel impact sessions, hosted by partners

Hosted by Gates Foundation

Venue: Kaldalón, Harpa Ground floor

**Power Up Your Advocacy: New Findings to Drive Women's Leadership Forward**



Explore powerful new data and stories that elevate the case for women's leadership worldwide. This session brings together the latest findings and practical tools from leading research and advocacy groups, offering you insights to strengthen your impact. Leave with ready-to-use messages and strategies to amplify your advocacy and drive meaningful change in your work.

Hosted by Running Start & Represent Women

Venue: Esja 5, Harpa 5<sup>th</sup> floor

**Actionable Solutions to Elect More Women**

Electing more women to public office is crucial to solving many of the problems that plague our world. Join us to explore what works to get more women in office. We'll discuss how changing outdated systems can open the door to more women running and winning, as well as tips on how to encourage new communities to step up to politics. Our focus will be on the practical, rather than the academic.

The session will include Q&A and an audience activity.

12:30 – 14:00

Hosted by Gates Foundation: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN ASIA

Venue: Esja 4, Harpa 4<sup>th</sup> floor

By invitation only

Hosted by Gates Foundation: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA

Venue: Esja 3, Harpa 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

By invitation only

11:45 – 12:30

**PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR ACTION - NETWORKING RECEPTION**

Venue: Flói, Harpa, ground floor

By invitation only

12:30 – 13:30

**CONVERSATIONIST LUNCH**

Venue: Flói, Harpa, ground floor

13:35 – 13:55

**WOMEN IN POWER: A FRANK ASSESSMENT OF HOW FAR WE HAVE TO GO**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

How do we celebrate hard-fought gender equality wins when so many women are struggling to attain and retain power? We will look at the state of women in power and discuss how to accelerate the pace of change.

- Ebony Young, Queens NYC Deputy Borough President
- Catherine Omanyo, Member of the National Assembly of Kenya
- Suyen Barahona, Executive Director, Colmena Fund
- Agne Bilotaite, Minister of Interior, Republic of Lithuania
- Moderated by: Maithreyi Seetharaman, Founder, Facultas Media

13:55 – 14:15

**DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION IN DECISION MAKING SPACES**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

In the context of increasing pushback on rights, the rollback of systems, legislation, policies and services protecting human and women's rights and the rise of anti-gender movements, it has never been more crucial for decision-making spaces to be as diverse and inclusive as possible, particularly of those who are often excluded from leadership, including the Global South, LGBTQI+ people, young people and those with other marginalised identities. How can we further strengthen intersectional diversity in leadership and ensure inclusive representation and participation in decision-making spaces?

- Sara Lomax, President & CEO, WURD Radio
- Neela Ghoshal, Senior Director of Law, Policy & Research, Outright International



- Diana Hwang, Founder, Asian American Women's Political Initiative
- Moderator: Todd Sears, CEO & Founder, Out Leadership

**14:20 – 14:40**

### **CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: WHAT'S NEW, WHAT'S WORKING**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

The world continues to break heat records as COP29 takes place this year in Baku, Azerbaijan. What climate solutions and policies are working well? How do we separate hype from reality in the investment sector? How can we take action to build resilience in front-line and indigenous communities that already receive the most significant impacts of climate change?

- Naghma Mulla, CEO, Edelgive Foundation
- Moderator: Ronda Carnegie, Co-Founder, Project Dandelion

**14:40 – 15:00**

### **CHARGING FORWARD: HOW THE NEXT GENERATION WILL LEAD**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Gen Z and Millennial leaders are attaining leadership roles in ever greater numbers, using next generation tactics and strategies such as social media and the creator economy. Now that they've rewritten the rules for attaining leadership, Gen Z and Millennials are redefining the rules of engagement and what it means to be a leader. How will they chart new courses for us all – and especially for gender equality?

- Janna Salokangas, Co-Founder & CEO Mia AI
- Gurpriya Singh, Associate Campaign Director, Purpose
- Iyanla Kollock, Running Start mentee
- Moderator: Maryna Smahina, Senior Editor, Rubryka

**15:00 - 15:20**

### **EXTREME WEATHER, EARTHQUAKES, AND ERUPTIONS: HOW ICELAND'S LEADERS SUPPORT COMMUNITIES AND PLAN FOR UNCERTAINTY**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Nature in Iceland is beautiful, terrifying – and unpredictable. As global leaders grapple with the impacts of natural disasters and climate change-accelerated issues, what can we learn from how Icelandic leaders manage the certainty of uncertainty surrounding extreme weather, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions that may strike anytime or anywhere? How have Icelandic Leaders supported constituents, employees, customers and other stakeholders while ensuring the safety of infrastructure?

- Björk Þórarinsdóttir, EVP of Finances and Information Technology, HS Orka
- Kristín Linda Árnadóttir, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Landsvirkjun
- Sýlvía Kristín Ólafsdóttir, Chief Operating Officer, Icelandair
- Sigríður Björk Guðjónsdóttir, National Police Commissioner Iceland
- Moderated by: Þóra Arnórsdóttir, Director of Communications, Landsvirkjun

**15:20 – 15:50**

### **ENERGY BOOSTING BREAK**

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**15:50 – 15:55**

### **POWER OF PEERS**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

- Devika Bulchandani, Global CEO, Ogilvy

**15:55 – 16:15**

### **WHAT'S NEXT: THE OPPORTUNITIES OF ACTION AHEAD**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Our Reykjavik Global community of leaders are continuously transforming our ideas and





expertise into powerful actions. As we prepare to return to our day-to-day responsibilities and roles, what are the key lessons and inspirations of our time in Iceland, and how will we turn these opportunities into reality in our communities of power and influence?

**16:20 – 16:50**

**POWER TOGETHER AWARDS**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**16:55 – 17:00**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

17:30 – 19:00

PARTNER RECEPTION - Parliament Hotel

By invitation only

**18:30 – 21:30**

**FAREWELL GATHERING SKY LAGOON**

Busses from Harpa – Leaving from Harpa main entrance 18:30 / 18:45 / 19:00  
Registration required!