

DIALOGUES in DIVERSITY

A Webinar Series on the EDI Implications of COVID-19

Dialogues in Diversity is a series of conversations among leading academics, EDI practitioners and social justice advocates whose work reflects the realities of COVID-19 and the challenges we now face. It will provide an interactive and engaging space to support the critical analysis necessary to successfully address the social, economic and cultural inequities,



Holding Up Half the Sky: Women, Girls and Gender Considerations of a COVID-19 Response

The webinar explores the ways in which considerations of gender must be included in an adequate response to COVID-19.



July 09, 2020 @ 2pm – 4pm

REGISTER 



Mercy L. Gichuki

Program Manager
The Salvation Army
Honeychurch Family Life
Resource Centre



Farrah S. Khan

Gender Justice, Leadership
and Inclusion Speaker
Policy Advisor and
Educator



Alicia Mondesire

International Development
Consultant



Paulette Senior

CEO and President
Canadian Women's
Foundation



Eva Simone

Trans Advocate and
Performer

Moderated by Suzanne Charles Watson

Program Manager for EDI, The Research Institute, The Hospital for Sick Children

Holding Up Half the Sky:

Women, Girls & Gender Considerations of a COVID-19 Response

Since its start, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted existing socio-economic as well as gender disparities. These disparities place women and girls, who are - according to the UN *on the frontlines of COVID-19 and bearing the brunt of this human crisis* - in comparatively less advantageous positions and this reduces their ability to successfully navigate the pandemic.

The third webinar of the series will explore the ways in which considerations of gender must be included in an adequate and appropriate response to COVID-19, and will focus disparities in managing care (of children and elders) and participation in the Care Economy affects women's ability to respond the virus;

1. existing pay gaps exacerbate economic hardships for women and female headed households during the pandemic, and contribute to heightened anxiety and compromised mental health;
2. women are overrepresented as frontline workers, making them more vulnerable to infection;
3. social restrictions have increased the incidence of domestic violence and intimate partner violence;
4. access to sexual and reproductive health services has been affected by social distancing measures;
5. female constructs of leadership may provide a best-practice model of the management of the pandemic.

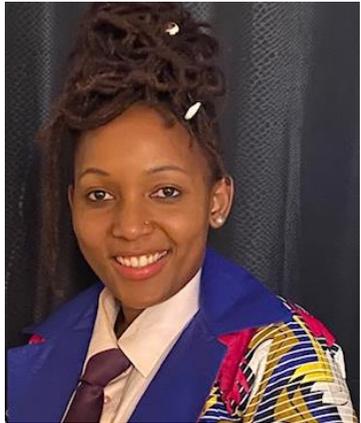
At the end of this webinar, attendees will be able to:

1. identify the impact that the COVID-19 has had on women and girls in particular;
2. understand how the use of a gender lens, and considerations of other intersectionalities, is imperative in creating an appropriate and adequate response to the challenges of COVID-19.
3. appreciate how environments, which support female leadership and - more broadly - models of leadership that emphasize equity, diversity, inclusion and accommodation are essential to a sustainable response to the COVID-19 pandemic



Holding Up Half the Sky:

Women, Girls & Gender Considerations of a COVID-19 Response



Mercy Lillian Gichuki: is currently a PhD Candidate at McMaster University and a Program Manager at Family Life resource Centre, a Violence against Women (VAW) crisis shelter for women and children.

Gichuki embodies an intersectional health framework in both her community work and proposed research areas. Her pedagogy, which includes the significance of factors of race, gender, and violence and its connection with chronic health, is based on her over 20 years of experience working in public health, locally and globally. In 2018 in her work as an ally she was gifted a Sash by the Metis Nation of Ontario.

Gichuki holds a MPH University of Waterloo, a BA Hons in Political Science & Women and Gender Studies University of Toronto and a BA in Social Communication Catholic University of Eastern Africa.



Farrah Safia Khan has spent two decades raising awareness about the intersections of gender-based violence and equity through education, policy, art creation and advocacy.

She is the founder of Possibility Seeds, member of the Government of Canada's Federal Strategy Against Gender-based Violence Advisory Council, board member of Girl Guides of Canada and the Manager of Consent Comes First at Ryerson University. Farrah is also co-founder of innovative community projects including Use The Right Words: Media Reporting on Sexual Violence and co-director of Courage to Act, the first national project of its kind to address and prevent gender-based violence on post-secondary campuses in Canada.

She regularly contributes to national media with her expertise in addressing gender-based violence and is the recipient of the numerous awards including the Toronto Community Foundation's Vital People Award. In 2018 Farrah was appointed to the Gender Equality Advisory Council for the G7 Summit. At the Summit, Farrah addressed an audience of world leaders insisting that any discussion about a thriving, sustainable and peaceful world is not possible without taking concrete action on gender equity.



Alicia Mondesire is a global Gender Equality Consultant and Trainer with work experience in more than 30 countries, leading gender and change programs with governments, private sector and civil society organizations. A Partner in the firm GRAMONDE Inc., her assignments include Consultant to the current United Nations/European Union global Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls; and pioneering institutional capacity-building with development organizations to close opportunity gaps associated with gender.

Before her consulting career, she was the Regional Director of CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas) in Ontario, and subsequently CUSO's Eastern Caribbean Director. She is the current Chair of Governance and Policy Committee of the Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women in Toronto, addressing the reduction of domestic abuse; and past Vice-Chair of Foundation for International Training. A researcher and writer on gender, poverty and economic empowerment, she holds an M.Sc. in International Management from the University of Liverpool. Alicia is a Mentor for the Girls on Boards – Girls 20 program of the Department of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada; and an activist for human rights and human dignity.

Paulette Senior has devoted her life and career to breaking down systemic barriers and building up diverse women and girls. Her personal experience immigrating to Canada from Jamaica as a young girl ignited her interest in social justice and helped make her the dynamic, grounded leader she is today.



Paulette's career began in social services in some of Toronto's most underserved neighbourhoods. She witnessed the need for systemic change and learned the power of putting the voices of women and equity-seeking communities first. She became known for her excellence in shelter, employment, and housing service provision, as well as for her intersectional approach to advocacy. She has earned numerous awards and has become one of the most respected women leaders in Canada.

In 2016, Paulette joined the Canadian Women's Foundation as President and CEO after a decade serving as CEO of YWCA Canada. She is a sought-after thought-leader on numerous issues including gender equity and gender-based violence; women's poverty and the wage gap; girls' empowerment; and leadership. Her focus at the Foundation is to bolster an inclusive national movement for all women, girls, and communities across Canada.

Over the course of her career, she has won several awards including: the African Canadian Achievement Award, the AfroGlobal Leadership Award, the Black Women Civic Engagement Award, the Black Business and Professional Association's Harry Jerome Trailblazer Award, and the MicroSkills Margot Franssen Leadership Award. Paulette graduated from York University with a double honours BA in psychology and urban studies



Trans Advocate, Peer Educator, Community Organizer and performing artiste are few of the hats which **Eva Simone** wears. More specifically, as a Black, immigrant, Transgender-woman, Eva's advocacy while not exclusive to, primarily stems from her own intersections and lived-experiences. In her own words, "... Advocacy feels more authentic having lived-experiences. My very existence as a result of my intersections and lived experiences is political, therefore I AM political..."



MORE INFO



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