

Shaping the Future: Addressing Gender-Based Violence, the SDGs, and Canada's Path Forward

November 27, 2024
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PT



[Register here](#)

Join our webinar to explore the critical connection between sustainable development and GBV prevention and the role of gender equality in shaping Canada's future. Bringing together GBV prevention activists, SDG experts, and policy advocates, we will learn about existing GBV prevention strategies, promising practices, and ongoing challenges in the field.

Katrin Kohl,

Co-Chair,
UNESCO Chair in Reorienting
Education towards Sustainability,
York University

Candies Kotchapaw

Founder/Executive Director,
Developing Young Leaders of
Tomorrow, Today (DYLOTT)

Suman Roy,

Founder/Executive Director,
Scarborough Food Security Initiative

Katelynne Herchak,

Head of Decolonial Policy,
Strategy & Kinship,
VIDEA



Agenda

All times are in PST.

10:00 AM - 10:05 AM	Welcome	Amy Robichaud, CEO, Mothers Matter Canada
10:05 AM - 10:10 AM	Indigenous Welcome	TBD
10:10 AM - 10:20 AM	Opening Remarks	TBD
10:20 AM - 11:20 AM	<p>Panel 1: Canada and Agenda 2030: An Inside Story</p> 	<p>Katrin Kohl, Co-Chair, UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Education towards Sustainability, Faculty of Education, York University</p> <p>Suman Roy, Founder/Executive Director, Scarborough Food Security Initiative</p> <p>Katelynne Herchak, Head of Decolonial Policy, Strategy & Kinship, VIDEA</p> <p>Candies Kotchapaw, Founder/Executive Director, Developing Young Leaders of Tomorrow, Today (DYLOTT)</p>
11:20 AM - 11:30 AM	Transition	
11:30 AM - 12:30 AM	<p>Panel 2: Gender-Based Violence: Ramping Up Progress</p> 	<p>Gary Barker, President and CEO, Equimundo</p> <p>Anuradha Dugal, Executive Director, Shelters Canada</p> <p>Yusra Qadir, Mothers Matter Canada</p>
12:30 PM - 12:45 AM	Closing	Mothers Matter Canada

Speakers



Katelynne Herchak

Head of Decolonial Policy,
Strategy & Kinship,
VIDEA

PANEL 1

Katelynne Herchak (she/her), Kate is of mixed ancestry, she is Inuk from Kuujuaq QC with ties to Rankin Inlet NU and Irish. Kate is VIDEA's Head of Decolonial Policy, Strategy & Kinship. Kate's background is in Indigenous Family Support Work and Justice Studies from Royal Roads University where she was awarded the Lt. Governor's Medal for Inclusion, Democracy & Reconciliation. Kate graduated with her Masters of Geography at the University of Victoria in 2023. Now, she is attending McGill University in the Faculty of Law completing their BCL/JD program. In her spare time she is the Co-Host & Creator of the podcast Spilling Labrador Tea Under Cedar Trees, Kate is passionate about decolonizing education and integrating Indigenous knowledge systems and perspectives into spaces to create meaningful relationships and change.



Katrin Kohl

Co-Chair,
UNESCO Chair in Reorienting
Education towards Sustainability,
Faculty of Education,
York University

PANEL 1

Katrin Kohl is the Co-Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Education towards Sustainability at York University in Toronto, Canada. She is also the Focal Point for Sustainable Development Goal SDG 4 (Quality Education) of the Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development Global Cluster led by the International Association of Universities. Currently, Katrin is also completing a Ph.D. Education at the International Islamic University Malaysia. As a lawyer (Germany) and having completed an Executive MBA in General Management, she served in prior positions as Executive Coordinator of the UNESCO Chair at York University, Managing Director of the German Commission for UNESCO, and as Strategic Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor at the University of Düsseldorf, Germany.



Candies Kotchapaw

Founder/Executive Director,
Developing Young Leaders of
Tomorrow, Today (DYLOTT)

PANEL 1

Candies Kotchapaw is a Jamaican-born Canadian social entrepreneur and change-maker who champions Black youth engagement and leadership in the niche field of international multilateral diplomacy. Using seventeen years of front-line social work and lived experience of navigating precarious work as a catalyst, in 2015, Candies shifted her career focus from direct practice to public policy advocacy. Using her Master of Social Work research paper as an anchor, Candies berthed the nonprofit organization called Developing Young Leaders of Tomorrow, Today (DYLOTT) and is the founding executive director since 2019. Candies launched the Black Diplomats Academy in 2021 as the public policy advocacy arm of DYLOTT. She is a national and internationally decorated Black diplomacy ambassador. She is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee Award, CILAR Inspiring Innovators Award, Women of Influence Global Award, Paget Warner Founders Award, Most Influential People of African Descent and 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women's Award among others.

Her specialization in the field of multilateral diplomacy has afforded her the opportunity to influence international public policy at the United Nations level. Holding consultative status with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, Candies has provided thought leadership on the development of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. Candies has represented Canada as the Inclusion and Equal Opportunities Policy Task Force lead for the G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance. In 2023 Candies facilitated the attendance of the largest delegation of Black Canadian youth to attend the second session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent at the United Nations headquarters in New York, United States. She continues to build her bilateral diplomacy repertoire as an alumna of the United States State Department's International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) and Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) programs. She is now focused on leveraging her pioneering body of work to develop a pipeline through learning exchange and internships into multilateral diplomatic careers for aspiring young world leaders of African Descent.



Suman Roy

Founder/Executive Director,
Scarborough Food Security
Initiative

PANEL 1

Suman Roy, with an extensive career in Private, Public & Not For Profit sector business operations around the City of Toronto, Nationally and Internationally is on his second term at the Toronto Board of Health. During his time at Toronto Food Policy Council he supported the launch of Toronto Youth Food Policy Council. He was also the Chair of the Board of Director at FoodShare Toronto.

Suman was also one of the key consultants who helped write the first Food Strategy for the City of Toronto. He initiated Scarborough Food Security Initiative, to spread the awareness and combat food apartheid with a vision of a Hunger Free Resilient Scarborough. He is currently scaling up through Hunger-Free Canada and Zero Hunger Project to ensure that no one goes to bed hungry. Over the last couple of years Suman has championed Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations in his work in Scarborough and now, taking the work Nationally and Globally.

Mr Roy is also the author of an International award winning best-selling book "From Pemmican To Poutine – A Journey Through Canada's Culinary History"



Anuradha Dugal,

Executive Director,
Shelters Canada

PANEL 2

Anuradha has over 25 years of experience working to support women, children, and gender-diverse people fleeing violence. Anuradha comes to WSC from nearly 17 years with the Canadian Women's Foundation, most recently as Vice President of Community Initiatives. Prior to joining the Foundation, Anuradha worked in youth violence prevention programs in Quebec and on the World March of Women, a transnational grassroots initiative launched by the Federation des femmes du Quebec.

Anuradha is very involved in social issues and is currently a Director on the Board of the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability and a member of the South Asian Women's Community Centre of Montreal. She is the former President of the Conseil des Montrealaises, appointed by the municipal council of Montreal and a former board member of the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation. She was also a member of the federal Advisory Council for the Strategy on Gender-Based Violence.

Anuradha is an immigrant who lives and works in Tiohtià:ke / Montreal, the traditional unceded territory of the Kanien'keha:ka (Mohawks), an area that has long been a place for meeting and exchange for many Nations. She is supported by her partner and three sons – all feminists and activists in their own ways.



Gary Barker

CEO & President,
Equimundo

PANEL 2

Gary Barker, PhD, is a leading global voice in engaging men and boys in advancing gender equality and positive masculinities. He is the CEO and co-founder of Equimundo (formerly Promundo-US), which has worked more than 10 years in nearly 40 countries. For 10 years, as its first Executive Director, he led the work on masculinities at Instituto Promundo in Brazil, including work on the flagship Program H initiative. Gary is co-founder of MenCare, a global campaign working in more than 50 countries to promote men's involvement as caregivers, and co-founder of MenEngage, a global alliance of more than 700 NGOs. He co-created and leads the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES), the largest-ever survey of men's attitudes and behaviors related to violence, fatherhood, and gender equality. He is a co-author of the 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021 State of the World's Fathers reports. He has advised the UN, the World Bank, numerous national governments, and key international foundations and corporations on strategies to engage men and boys in promoting gender equality. In 2017 he was named by Apolitical as one of the 20 most influential people in gender policy around the world. He is an Ashoka Fellow and received the Voices of Solidarity Award from Vital Voices for his work to engage men for gender equality. He holds a PhD in Developmental Psychology and a Research Affiliate position at the Center for Social Sciences, University of Coimbra, Portugal.



Yusra Qadir

Chief Programs and
Advocacy Officer,
Mothers Matter Canada

PANEL 2

Yusra Qadir is the Chief Programs and Advocacy Officer at the Mothers Matter Canada (MMC). She holds a Masters in Sociology and is an Erasmus Mundus Fellow for her Masters in Human Rights Practice. She has over 15 years of senior level experience of designing and implementing programs for gender equality, human rights, and socio-economic inclusion. She has worked at the frontlines supporting forcibly displaced communities especially women, young people and children in conflict affected and fragile contexts in the global south. She has mainstreamed gender equity across emergency, early relief and resettlement programming in Asia, Africa, and North America.

In her current role as the Chief Programs and Advocacy Officer at the MMC, Yusra leads a social innovation lab to advance the SDGs for vulnerable, isolated, and often low-income newcomer mothers in Canada. She champions evidence based approaches to support service delivery partners implement client centric and culturally appropriate programs. As a mother herself, she truly believes that when mothers thrive, children flourish, and communities prosper.