

## THE COLLECTIVE POWER OF MORE THAN 450 LEADERS TO SHAPE A MORE EQUAL SOCIETY

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*Press Release - Reykjavík, November 18, 2019* - On 18-20 November 2019, the Reykjavík Global Forum - Women Leaders will capitalise on the collective power of more than 450 leaders to look at key global challenges on the eve of the third decade of the 21st century. Participants (Conversationists) will collectively speed up the transformation of today's society into one that leaves no one behind. The Forum is annually co-hosted by Women Political Leaders (WPL), and the Government and Parliament of Iceland.

**Katrín Jakobsdóttir**, Prime Minister of Iceland, will open the discussions bringing the unique experience of the country which has made equality between women and men a norm for the last ten years. Leaders from business, academia, civil society, arts, and media from all over the world will learn how Iceland, a tiny island, outperforms many others in terms of female empowerment and participation.

"At the Reykjavik Global Forum the community at large mobilises and powers, together to advance society. By identifying together viable solutions to future challenges such as climate change, technology, peace and security, business and economics, the Forum makes a significant difference to a wide range of sectors and areas," says **Silvana Koch-Mehrin**, President & Founder of WPL. "To accelerate such a change, the Forum 2019 is launching its Community of Actions. Using their Power, Together, Conversationists will launch pledges to initiate concrete actions on behalf of their company or organisation." concludes **Silvana Koch-Mehrin**.

"Women are hit particularly hard by global inequality, yet, they are not given equal access to the decision-making fora. Even though it is widely recognised that women's inclusion, especially in leadership positions provides more diverse solutions. The Forum here in Iceland fills this void. It ensures that women leaders experience and knowledge to bridge the inequality gap does not go unnoticed." comments **Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir**, Senior Advisor, UN Women and Chair of the Board, WPL.

Perspectives and proposals on how the world should proceed on the way towards equality will be shared by Conversationists such as: **Tedros Adhanom**, Director-General at WHO; **Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen**, CEO Plan International; **Ann Cairns**, Vice Chairman at Mastercard; **Oby Ezekwesili**, Presidential Candidate (2019) of Nigeria; **Jackie Hunt**, Member of the Board of Management of Allianz SE, **Julia Gillard**, former Prime Minister of Australia (2010-2013); and **Gita Gopinath**, Chief Economic at the International Monetary Fund.

Views and analysis will also be shared by: **Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović**, President of the Republic of Croatia; **Dalia Grybauskaitė**, President of Lithuania (2009-2019); **Ameenath Gurib-Fakim**, former President of Mauritius (2015-2018); **Michele Parmelee**, Global Chief People & Purpose Officer, Deloitte; **Maria Ressa** journalist and 2018 TIME Person of the Year, and **Christy Tanner**, Executive Vice President and General Manager, CBS News Digital, **Hiltrud Werner**, Member of the Board of Management, Integrity and Legal affairs, Volkswagen AG, and **Jody Williams**, 1997 Nobel Peace Laureate.

Exceptional people who have survived fatal diseases, distress, violence and war, will share their experience on the Power of turning grief and suffering into hope, self-love and positive actions. Among them, **Sawyer Garrity** survivor of the 2018's massacre at high school in Parkland, Florida (USA), 12-year old Syrian activist **Bana al-Abed** known as Aleppo's tweeting girl, and **Mama Cax**, one of the three faces of the new Tommy Hilfinger campaign, spreading body positivity for those with disabilities.

In 20 **solutions-oriented sessions (Leaders Talks)** Conversationists will look at solutions to: 1. Make the future workplace reflect modern family's structures, to support female careers, and build effective pathways to female leadership; 2. Ride on the digital revolution to clear the road for current and future generations of female entrepreneurship while tapping into the public-private and intergenerational potential; 3. Demystify misconceptions to dismantle structured pay gap still persisting in many sectors and countries in the world; and 4. Showcase women's experience in addressing solving gender-based violence and in creating innovative models for peace-making.

At the Forum, the findings from the second **Reykjavik Index for Leadership 2019** will be announced. The 2019 index has been extended to also measure Brazil, China, India and Russia on top of the G7 nations covered in the 2018 study.

The Forum's sessions will bring to the discussion experiences, real cases and data from the public and private sectors to power together to find collective answers. This is the outcome the Reykjavík Global Forum is looking at: trigger changes to reverse decades of structural inequality between women and men in leadership positions and in society as a whole. Why? Because a more equal society means a smarter and healthier one. A society which is better equipped to rally the support of all actors across generations, sectors, countries and cultures.

The Forum will be live streamed on CBSN at <https://www.cbs.com/womenleaders>

For more information or one-to-one interviews, please contact [press@wpleaders.org](mailto:press@wpleaders.org) or Phone: +32 2 733 13 44.

### Notes to editors

#### About The Reykjavík Global Forum

The Reykjavík Global Forum, previously Women Leaders Global Forum, was launched in November 2018, in Reykjavík, Iceland. The Reykjavík Global Forum is where women leaders discuss and share ideas and solutions to further advance society. This year, the Forum gathers leaders from around the globe, including Presidents, Prime Ministers, and other public figures, as well as women leaders from business, academia, civil society, arts, media and more. Participants take part in the conversations, hence they are Conversationists. They are all playing a vital role in their respective fields sharing ideas, insights, and experiences. This year will also see the launch of the Community of Actions, which will create measurable change. The Forum is annually co-hosted by Women Political Leaders (WPL) and the Government and Parliament of Iceland, under the heading Power, Together.



### CO-HOSTS

