GLOBAL CONVENING AND FESTIVAL



JUSTICE FOR GIRLS

Ending FGM/C and Child Marriage in a Generation

Naivasha, Kenya
September 2-4, 2026
Enashipai Resort & Spa

Digital Program Guide

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JUSTICE FOR GIRLS

Ending FGM/C and Child Marriage

WELCOME TO THE JUSTICE FOR GIRLS CONVENING & FESTIVAL

What is the Justice for Girls Convening?

The **Justice for Girls: Ending FGM/C and Child Marriage in a Generation Global Convening & Festival** will shine a spotlight on urgent violations of girls' rights and child protection failures, amplify effective and evidence-based strategies, and strengthen connections and collective power among frontline activists. By fostering shared analysis, mutual support, and coordinated action, the Convening & Festival will help galvanise global momentum to confront backlash and accelerate progress toward ending these injustices.

Target participants include frontline movement leaders, survivors and activists; funders and partners advancing innovative and sustainable financing approaches; and political leaders and policymakers committed to protecting girls' rights and advancing legal and policy reform to end FGM/C and child marriage.

A central outcome of the gathering will be the **Justice for Girls Movement Action Plan**, bringing together priorities, commitments, and opportunities for continued collaboration and accountability beyond the convening.

CONVENING PARTNERS

Presented and organized in partnership with:

AFRICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATES

END FGM CANADA NETWORK

COVAW Coalition on Violence Against Women

End FGM EUROPEAN NETWORK

END FGM/C NETWORK AFRICA

END FGC SINGAPORE

Equality Now
A just world for all women and girls

GIRLS NOT BRIDES

GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR ACTION TO END FGM/C

IFRAH FOUNDATION

ORCHID PROJECT
WORKING TOGETHER TO END FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING

sahiyo
United Against Female Genital Cutting

arrow

THE GIRL GENERATION

There Is No Limit foundation

END FGM/C U.S. NETWORK

WAVE NGERS

WALLACE GLOBAL FUND
For a sustainable future

WOMEN IN LIBERATION & LEADERSHIP

AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, September 1 | Arrival Day

Time	Session/Activity	Location
2:00–4:00 PM	Group transportation from Nairobi to Naivasha for those staying at Enashipai	---
4:00–5:00 PM	Arrival Tea & Snacks Check-in, informal networking, exhibition setup, and creative installations	Arrival Area
5:00-6:00 PM	Early Registration	Arrival Area
7:00–10:00 PM	Dinner for those staying at Enashipai	Enashipai For guests staying at the hotel

Wednesday, September 2 | Convening Day One

Time	Session/Activity	Location
All Day	NGO Exhibition & Creative Corner	Entumo Lawns
8:00–9:30 AM	Arrival, Registration & Welcome	Registration Area *(Outside main convening in the corridor)*
9:30–10:50 AM	Igniting the Movement: Young Feminist Opening Plenary	Onguan
10:50–11:20 AM	Official Opening & Welcome to the Justice for Girls Summit	Onguan
11:20–11:30 AM	Convening & Festival Logistics Briefing	Onguan
11:30–11:40 AM	Introduction to Creative Connection	Onguan
11:40–11:50 AM	Commemorating Our Gathering: Attendee Group Photo	Outside Entumo 2nd entrance
11:50 AM–12:10 PM	Coffee & Tea Break	Entumo Lawns
12:10–12:40 PM	Rooted in Justice: Shaping Our Core Values & Grounding Principles	Onguan
12:40–1:40 PM	Navigating the Landscape: Current Realities of FGM/C & Child Marriage	Onguan

Time	Session/Activity	Location
1:40–2:40 PM	Lunch	Entumo Restaurant (All)
2:40–2:50 PM	Wellness Break: Yoga & Flow	Onguan
2:50–3:50 PM	Fueling Our Future: Funding, Movement Power & Accountability – A High-Level Plenary	Onguan
3:50–4:05 PM	Coffee Break	Entumo Lawns
4:05–5:00 PM	Fueling Our Future: Funding, Movement Power & Accountability – Discussion Breakouts	Onguan
5:00–6:00 PM	Wellness & Decompression Hour	Wellbeing Room
7:00–10:00 PM	Dinner for those staying at Enashipai	Enashipai For guests staying at the hotel

Thursday, September 3 | Convening Day Two

Time	Session/Activity	Location
All Day	NGO Exhibition & Creative Corner	Entumo Lawns
9:30–10:10 AM	Art & Soul: Opening Performance	Onguan
10:10–10:50 AM	Setting Our Intention: Aligning Our Focus for the Day Ahead	Onguan
10:50–11:00 AM	Unveiling the Creative Corner	Entumo Lawns
11:30–11:40 AM	Coffee Break	---
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	**Morning Deep Dives: Exploring Key Themes**	
Concurrent Session Option #1	Radical Honesty: Moving Through Discomfort	Nabo
Concurrent Session Option #2	The Power of Intersectionality: Building Inclusive Movements	Hare
Concurrent Session Option #3:	Defending Hard-Won Gains: Navigating Anti-Rights Backlash, Legal Challenges & Movement Protection & Allyship Part 1	VIP Back Room
Concurrent Session Option #4:	Beyond Silos: Integrating FGM/C and Child Marriage Into Broader Gender Justice, SRHR, Child Protection and Education Agendas	Onguan

Time	Session/Activity	Location
1:00–2:00 PM	Lunch	Entumo Restaurant (All)
2:00–3:30 PM	**Afternoon Action Tracks: Deeper Dives**	
Concurrent Session Option #1	Wellbeing, Safety & Sustainable Activism	Wellbeing Room
Concurrent Session Option #2	Defending Hard-Won Gains: Navigating Anti-Rights Backlash, Legal Challenges & Movement Protection & Allyship Part 2	VIP Back Room
Concurrent Session Option #3:	Sexuality, Bodily Autonomy & Reframing	Nabo
Concurrent Session Option #4:	Creative Expression & Movement Building	Hare
Concurrent Session Option #5:	Funding FGM/C and Justice for Girls: Movements, Money and Momentum	Onguan
3:30–4:10 PM	Unstoppable: Our Movement-led Collective Vision forEnding FGM/C	Onguan
4:10-4:20 PM	Departure Logistics Briefing	Onguan
4:45–5:45 PM	Wellness & Decompression Hour	Wellbeing Room
7:00–8:00 PM	Dinner for those staying at Enashipai	Enashipai For guests staying at the hotel
8:00-10:00 PM	Night of Unity: Closing Festivities & Cultural Gala	The Wave Club

Friday, September 4 | Closing & Departure

Time	Session/Activity	Location
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Sustaining the Momentum: Closing Reflections	Onguan
12:00–1:00 PM	Lunch	Entumo Restaurant (All)
2:00 PM onwards	Departure from Enashipai	Arrival Area

SESSION GUIDE

Igniting the Movement: Young Feminist Opening Plenary

Date: Wednesday, September 2
Time: 10:00–10:30 AM
Room: Ongwan

An energetic, youth-led opening dedicated to co-creating global impact. This session brings together young activists and attendees to build connections and strengthen partnerships between civil society, donors, and emerging youth movements, all in the spirit of collective action.

The opening will incorporate creative and participatory elements including spoken word, film, the Youth Manifesto, and opportunities for young feminists to share their collective vision for the movement.

SPEAKERS

- Dahabo Guracha Damballa
- Fathima Nabeela Iqbal
- Faiza Salleh
- Safiya Riyaz
- Mercy Chelangat Yego
- Hafswa Mohamed Ali
- Rosilla Lenanyokie
- Staicy Chesok
- Munira Farah
- Sarafina Loriakwe



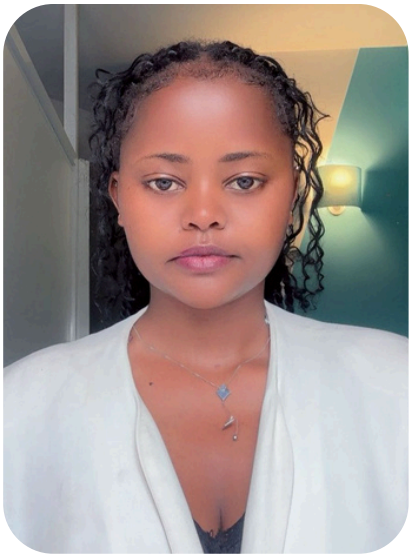
Dahabo Guracha Damballa

Founder and Director, The Trio-Hub Women CBO

Dahabo Guracha Damballa is a Research Associate, community development practitioner, gender and climate advocate, and spoken-word artist from northern Kenya. She currently works with the Center for Research and Development in Drylands (CRDD), contributing to research, community engagement and programmes.

With over seven years of experience in community, development and advocacy, Dahabo is passionate about advancing the rights, dignity and leadership of women and girls. She has been involved in survivor-centered advocacy and leadership through her experience with The Girl Generation (TGG), contributing to efforts that strengthen survivor voices and collective action towards ending female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and other harmful practices.(support programs at SLI kenya).

She is the founder of Trio Women Foundation and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Development Studies. Her work is rooted in community-led development, indigenous knowledge and the belief that meaningful change begins when communities and those most affected are empowered to lead.



Rosilla Lenanyokie

Youth Advocate Co-Chair YAP, Girls not Brides Kenya

Rosilla Lenanyokie is a youth advocate, co-chair, youth advisory panel GNB Kenya. Rosilla Lenanyokie is a passionate youth advocate for girls rights from samburu county, Kenya. She currently serves as the co-chair of the Youth Advisory Panel under Girls not Brides where she works to amplify young people's voices in the movement to end child marriage and harmful practices. She is also a student at USIU-Africa studying international relations.



Fathima Nabeela Iqbal

Founder, Co-Director, Sisterhood Initiative

Nabeela Iqbal is an activist in women's and minority rights in Sri Lanka where engagements were recognised by Amnesty International and the UN Youth Envoy as a young human rights defender in the face of the pandemic. She founded Sisterhood Initiative in 2020, to mobilize young Muslim women in community decision making and work to protect and advocate for their rights against discriminatory laws. She is the National Coordinator for Sri Lanka with the Asia Network to End FGMC with ARROW. Nabeela is involved in treaty body reporting as part of the 2025 NGO delegation at Sri Lanka's 9th review under CEDAW in Geneva and is a Kofi Annan Changemaker. She was one of three recipients from across the Asia-Pacific region to the highly competitive William P Fuller Fellowship in Peacebuilding by The Asia Foundation for 2025 and a Fellow with Musawah's Islam and gender equality and justice (I-nGEJ) Fellowship programme.



Faiza Salleh

Western Coordinator, End FGM Canada

Faiza Salleh, BSc, is a Canadian international development professional specializing in strategic communications, resource mobilization, partnerships and youth engagement. She has worked across Canada and Africa, supporting civil society organizations, government ministries, international NGOs and grassroots organizations to communicate their impact, strengthen programme visibility and build sustainable communications systems.

Faiza's experience spans gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, climate resilience, livelihoods and community-led development. She also serves as the Western Network Coordinator with End FGM Canada Network, where she supports youth engagement and community-led efforts to end female genital mutilation and cutting. Across her work, Faiza is committed to creating meaningful spaces for young women and girls to share their experiences, shape decisions and influence the programmes and policies that affect their lives.



Staicy Chesok

Project Management and Gender Justice Advocate YAP, Girls not Brides Kenya

Staicy Chesok is a Kenyan youth leader, Project Management professional, and passionate advocate for girls' rights, gender equality, and youth-led change. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Project Management from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT).

Staicy serves as a Girls Not Brides Kenya Youth Advisory Panel Member. She served as UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel Representative for West Pokot County and she has also served as a Reproductive Health Network Kenya Youth Advocate, championing sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and meaningful youth participation.

Her work focuses on advancing justice for girls by addressing FGM/C, child marriage, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence, and barriers to girls' education and wellbeing. Through school and community-based initiatives, she has engaged and empowered thousands of girls, young people, women, and men across communities.

Staicy is a strong believer in survivor-centred approaches, community action, and meaningful youth leadership. She is committed to ensuring that girls are not only protected from harmful practices but are also heard, empowered, and given the opportunity to shape decisions affecting their lives and futures.



Munira Farah

Youth Advocate

Munira Farah is a 17-year-old girls' rights activist from Garissa. She leads awareness efforts against female genital mutilation and early childhood marriage, engaging schools and community groups through clubs and grassroots movements. Her work focuses on empowering girls to know their rights and to speak up for their protection and education.



Sarafina Loriakwe

Youth Advocate

Sarafina Loriakwe is a survivor advocate, mentor, and research consultant working across the Samburu and Nairobi communities, and affiliated with the survivor led movement.

Her work sits at the intersection of advocacy, community engagement, and research, with a strong focus on ending FGM, child marriage, and gender based violence while advancing girls' education, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and women's empowerment.

Today, Sarafina uses her lived experience as both a tool for connection and a bridge for change. She facilitates mentorship sessions for young girls, creates safe spaces for discussions on sexual and reproductive health, and leads community dialogues addressing youth empowerment and stigma particularly around issues such as teenage motherhood. She also contributes to storytelling and awareness campaigns, using narrative and lived experience to challenge silence and inspire understanding within communities.

Sarafina envisions a future where girls and women are fully informed, supported, and free from stigma, where conversations around reproductive health and lived experiences are open and respectful, and where every girl knows her voice and story matter.

Official Opening & Welcome to the Justice for Girls Summit

Date: Wednesday, September 2
Time: 10:30–11:30 AM
Room: Ongwan

The official opening welcomes participants to the Justice for Girls Global Convening & Festival and establishes a shared foundation for the days ahead.

The session will introduce the convening's aims and objectives, provide a Note of Care and grounding around safeguarding and wellbeing, and invite participants to consider the central questions guiding the gathering: What will it take to end FGM/C and child marriage within our lifetime? What does success look like five years from now? How can institutions better support survivor-led and community-led movements?

SPEAKERS

- Qamar Yussuf
- Mumina Jirmo
- Mariya Taher
- Fridah Wawira Nyaga
- Scott Fitzmorris
- Pilot Khaemba



Qamar Kassim Yussuf

Executive Director, Northern Counties Community Empowerment (NOCCEM)

Qamar Kassim Yussuf is a fearless advocate in the fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and gender-based violence in Kenya's northern and pastoralist communities. As Founder and CEO of the Northern Counties Community Empowerment Organization (NOCCEM), she leads bold, community-driven campaigns that protect girls' rights, challenge harmful cultural practices, and empower survivors to reclaim their voices and their futures.

Raised in a region where silence around FGM was once the norm, Qamar transformed her lived experience into a lifelong purpose, becoming a respected grassroots mobilizer, educator, and trusted advocate for change. Her work spans communities across Garissa, Wajir, Tana River, and Mandera, where she builds vital bridges between cultural elders, women, youth, and policymakers to drive sustainable, lasting transformation.

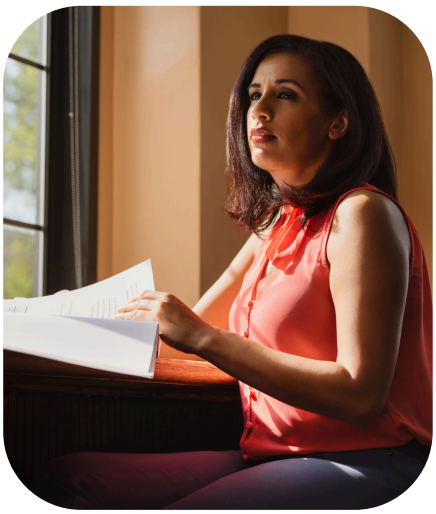


Mumina Jirmo

Coordinator, Women Rising Initiative

Mumina Jirmo is a women's rights, survivor leadership, and community advocate from Kenya. She is the Chairperson of the Survivors of Female Genital Mutilation Kenya Network and a Program Coordinator at Women Rising Initiative, where she works on programs promoting women's empowerment, survivor wellbeing, prevention of FGM, peacebuilding, and community resilience.

Mumina is a trained Training of Trainers (TOT) in Survivor Leadership and Emotional Wellbeing, with experience facilitating sessions on self-confidence, self-esteem, communication, leadership, self-care, trauma awareness, and emotional wellbeing. She is also currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Counselling and Psychology, strengthening her knowledge and skills in psychosocial support and mental health.



Mariya Taher

Co-Founder & Executive Director, Sahiyo

Mariya Taher is an award-winning social activist with over fifteen years of experience dedicated to ending gender-based violence through direct service, policy development, research, and program creation. In 2015, Mariya co-founded Sahiyo, a transnational organization committed to empowering Asian and other communities to end FGM/C. She has been a driving force in elevating FGM/C as a critical issue in the United States through policy advocacy, movement-building, and survivor centered programming.

In 2023, she received the L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth Award recognizing her as one of ten leading female nonprofit leaders in the United States. Her writing has appeared through NPR's Code Switch, HuffPost, The Fair Observer, Brown Girl Magazine, and other outlets. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Lesley University and a Master's in Social Work from San Francisco State University.



Scott Fitzmorris

Co-Chair, Wallace Global Fund

Scott Fitzmorris is co-chair of Wallace Global Fund. As a philanthropist and impact investor, Scott is committed to supporting frontline-led solutions for economic and environmental justice, including in the area of agroecology. Scott is currently the owner and operator of two integrated businesses in North Lake Tahoe, CA founded to promote community wellness through physical and mental health. He is an accomplished freestyle mogul ski competitor, outdoor photographer, and trail runner, as well as a lifelong recreational birder and ecology enthusiast. Scott's bachelor's degree from Hampshire College focused on the subject of peak performance relative to ski competition, and he continues to be interested in the underlying psychology and physiology of motivation.



Fridah Wawira Nyaga

Outgoing Executive Director, COVAW / Incoming Executive Director, Freely in Hope Africa

Ms. Fridah is a Gender, Equity, Safeguarding and Social Inclusion specialist with over ten years of experience in development work. She has worked on projects focused on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence, including FGM, economic empowerment of marginalized groups, sexual and reproductive health and rights, safeguarding and child protection, HIV/AIDS, and climate justice.

She is currently the outgoing Executive Director of COVAW and incoming Executive Director of Freely in Hope Africa, a survivor-led organization working to end sexual violence. Previously, she worked with Plan International Kenya, Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya, and Watoto Watch Network. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Nairobi and is pursuing a Master of Arts in Human Rights from the same university.



Pilot Khaemba

Assistant Director Children Services, Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children's Services

Pilot Khaemba is an Assistant Director for Children Services (ADCS) in the State Department of Children Services (SDCS), with 19 years of solid field experience, working in communities that subscribe strongly to harmful cultural practices in Kipkelion and Narok.

In 19 years of field service, Pilot has prioritized the establishment and coordination of strong Children Court Users Committees (CCUCs) in Kericho, Narok and Nakuru counties to enhance access to justice and support for survivors and witnesses within the judicial system; establishment of County Children Assemblies with ward-level representation in Narok and Nakuru; and offered technical support to the development of County Gender Policy in Narok county.

Introduction to Creative Connection

Date: Wednesday, September 2
Time: 11:30–11:40 AM
Room: Ongwan

An introduction to the Creative Corner and the arts installations woven throughout the convening. Participants will be invited to experience art, films, writing, participatory activities, and an interactive poetry display as part of the gathering.

Rooted in Justice: Shaping Our Core Values & Grounding Principles

Date: Wednesday, September 2
Time: 12:10–12:40 PM
Room: Ongwan

This values-centered session invites participants to revisit and reshape the shared grounding principles guiding the movement.

Participants will examine the current landscape through values including anti-racism, anti-homophobia, bodily autonomy, and resistance to anti-rights framing. The conversation will also consider the accountability of funders and institutions to movement principles and how these values should be incorporated into the collective Movement Action Plan.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

- Warda Warsame
- Marianne Nguena Kana



Warda Warsame

National Network Coordinator,The End FGM Canada Network

Warda Warsame is a Toronto-based gender justice practitioner, researcher, and educator with more than a decade of experience in community development and settlement services. Her work focuses on ending female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), strengthening community-led responses to gender-based violence, and addressing the systemic barriers affecting marginalized communities. She holds a Master's in Humanities and is currently pursuing doctoral studies, with research interests spanning gender, racialization, social stratification, and Somali oral traditions.



Marianne Nguena Kana

Director, End FGM European Network

Marianne Nguena Kana is the Director of the End FGM European Network, a European umbrella organization of 45 members working to ensure sustainable European action to end FGM.

She has over twelve years of experience in gender equality, youth leadership, and the elimination of gender-based violence, with a focus on FGM. She joined End FGM EU after serving as Coordinator of Coordinated Strategies against FGM and the Community of Practice on FGM at GAMS Belgium.

She has a background in Public Law, Gender Studies, and Political and Social Sciences, with a specialization in Population and Development Sciences.

Navigating the Landscape: Current Realities of FGM/C & Child Marriage

Date: Wednesday, September 2
Time: 12:40–1:40 PM
Room: Ongwan

Where does the global movement to end FGM/C and child marriage stand today?

This session examines progress, successes, persistent challenges, and critical gaps across regions. Participants will explore regional nuances, identify lessons from different movement contexts, and consider how these realities should inform strategies for collective action.

The conversation will reaffirm FGM/C and child marriage as forms of violence and human rights violations while establishing a foundation for the strategic conversations that follow throughout the convening.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

- Sivananthi Thanenthiran, Asia Network to End FGM
- Jacqueline C. Samuels, End FGM Network Africa
- Warda Warsame, End FGM Canada Network
- Marianne Nguena Kana, End FGM European Network
- Isis Elgibali, WADI
- Isatou Jeng, U.S. End FGM/C Network
- Hayat Traspas Ismail
- Ayo Bello



Sivananthi Thanenthiran

Executive Director, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women

Ms. Sivananthi Thanenthiran is the Executive Director of the Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), a regional feminist partnership organization working across Asia and the Pacific, and the Global South.

She writes and advocates extensively on sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially on the achievement of the ICPD Programme of Action in the region. She has led the organisation's work on the interlinkages and intersections of SRHR with critical development issues such as climate change, food security, and migration. She has also helped bring intersectionality and the justice framework to the work of ARROW in the region, in the era of deepening inequalities, to ensure the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights for the most marginalized.



Isatou Jeng

Training and Technical Assistance Manager, U.S. End FGM/C Network

Isatou Jeng has over fifteen years of experience advocating against FGM/C and gender-based violence. She serves as the Training and Technical Assistance Manager at the U.S. End FGM/C Network.

Before immigrating to the United States, she co-founded The Girls' Agenda, one of The Gambia's leading organizations committed to ending FGM/C and child marriage. She also served as an Advocacy and Campaign Officer for the Network Against Gender-Based Violence in The Gambia.

A survivor of FGM/C herself, Isatou uses her story to raise awareness and advocate for a holistic and human rights-centered approach to ending the practice.



Isis Elgibali

Project Manager, WADI

Isis Elgibali is a Project Manager at WADI, based in Germany and Iraqi Kurdistan. For more than ten years, she has worked to support survivors of FGM while collaborating with communities and activists and advocating at national and international levels for collective abandonment of the practice across Northern Iraq.

As an Egyptian-Belgian advocate, she works to integrate FGM within broader gender-based violence frameworks and advance women's rights, education, and economic empowerment across cultures and languages. She also advocates internationally for greater recognition of FGM as a serious issue in the Middle East and for meaningful action toward its eradication.

Jacqueline C. Samuels

Executive Secretary & Co-Host, Covenant Foundation for Girls (COFGIRLS); ENDFGM/C Network Africa

Jacqueline C. Samuels is the Founder and Executive Secretary of the Covenant Foundation for Girls (COFGIRLS), a Liberian nonprofit based in Ganta City, Nimba County, and a Co-Founder and Co-Host of the ENDFGM/C Network Africa. Her advocacy is rooted in personal loss: as a child, she lost two close friends to complications from female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), an experience that, together with her own experience of the practice, set the course of her life's work. She is committed to ending FGM/C "with her" generation so that no other girl carries that pain forward.

In 2022, Samuels became a founding member of the ENDFGM/C Network Africa and now coordinates the Network's leadership and continental strategy alongside other Secretariat members. She also serves as Policy and Legal Advisor to the National Coalition against Harmful Practices (NACAHP) and as a GBV/SEA/SH safeguarding consultant on World Bank-financed projects in Liberia.

Hayat Traspas Ismail

Hayat Traspas Ismail is a social entrepreneur, communications lead, and human rights advocate working to advance the rights and protection of girls and women. She is the co-founder and Communications Lead of Save a Girl Save a Generation, an international NGO founded alongside her mother, Asha Ismail, working to end female genital mutilation (FGM), child and forced marriage, and other forms of gender-based violence.

Hayat has been a Board member of the End FGM European Network since April 2020 and served as Co-President from September 2021 to June 2023. Through her work with Save a Girl Save a Generation and the End FGM European Network, she has contributed to strengthening survivor-led and community-based approaches to preventing FGM and addressing its links with other harmful practices, including child and forced marriage.

She has also been actively involved in the CHAIN project since 2022, an EU-funded initiative coordinated by Terre des Femmes, which brought together work on FGM and early and forced marriage prevention across Europe. Hayat is a co-author of the guide How to Talk About Female Genital Mutilation and regularly contributes to public discussions, panels and media conversations on FGM, girls' rights and gender-based violence.

Fueling Our Future: Funding, Movement Power & Accountability

DISCUSSION BREAKOUTS

Date: Wednesday, September 2
Time: 2:50–3:50 PM
Room: Ongwan

This session will bring together global activists, donor partners, and government representatives to explore how we can align resources with the real-world priorities of those on the frontlines. We will critically examine governance, transparency, and decision-making structures while exploring innovative financing models, cross-sector partnerships, and feminist funding strategies that dismantle extractive practices. Together, we will deconstruct what accountability truly entails—shifting the conversation from "funding" to "movement power" and ensuring resources sustain the momentum required to end FGM/C and child marriage within a generation.

MODERATOR

- Valerie Nasieku Loloju

SESSION ORGANIZERS

- Evalin Kananu Karijo
- Wisal Ahmed
- Mrs. Ipato Surum
- Hodan Abdisalan
- Mariyann G. Jabang
- Leandra Becerra



Valerie Nasieku Loloju

Social Impact Podcast Host, Sister 2 Sister Podcast

Valerie Loloju is a social impact podcast host, public health professional, and youth development practitioner who is strategic about using conversations, storytelling, and community engagement to advance meaningful social change. With over four years of experience across public health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, youth advocacy, research, and community programming, she works at the intersection of health, youth empowerment, and social justice.

Beyond the microphone, Valerie has supported the design and implementation of youth-centred programmes, capacity-building initiatives, advocacy efforts, and community engagement interventions. Her work is driven by a commitment to ensuring that young people particularly those from underserved communities are not only represented in conversations that affect them, but are actively shaping solutions.



Mrs. Ipato Surum

Chairperson, Anti-FGM Board

Mrs. Ipato Surum is the Chairperson of the Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Board, a position she assumed in July 2023 following her appointment by H.E. President William Ruto. A survivor of FGM who grew up in Narok County, one of the regions historically affected by the practice, she brings lived experience and a deep understanding of the social and cultural dynamics that sustain FGM.

As Chairperson of the Anti-FGM Board, Mrs Surum provides strategic leadership in advancing national efforts to end FGM through policy implementation, advocacy and community engagement. She is a strong advocate for survivor-led approaches and increased investment in prevention, protection and support services. She remains committed to advancing the rights, dignity and bodily autonomy of every girl and woman in Kenya.



Evalin Kananu Karijo

Head of International Policy & Advocacy, Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage

Evalin Kananu Karijo is the Head of International Policy & Advocacy at Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage where she oversees international influencing strategies and collective action to end child marriage, collaborating with stakeholders, funders, and governments. She is an award-winning leader, and has built her career leading strategies and programmes for the well-being of adolescent girls, youth and women in the global south.

Evalin previously served in senior roles at Population Council's GIRL Center and at Amref Health Africa at the nexus of global health, policy advocacy, and gender equality. As a thought leader she has served as global co-chair of the coalition for adolescent girls and was a member of the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism Advisory Group for UHC2030 as the global south alternate representative on the Steering Committee.



Wisal Ahmed

FGM Advisor, UNFPA HQ & Global Coordinator for UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM elimination, UNFPA HQ

Dr. Wisal Ahmed is FGM advisor at UNFPA HQ and Global Coordinator for the UNFPA/UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation. Dr. Wisal has a MPH in Epidemiology and a PHD in Implementation Science from the University of Washington and a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from the University of Nairobi, as well as over 20 years of work experience focused on women's health and system's strengthening. Her primary area of focus for the last decade has been on research, evidence based programming and development of tools and guidance for the elimination female genital mutilation and its medicalization.



Hodan A.Salan Mohamoud

Head of GBV-FGM Section, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs & Family [MoLSAF]

Hodan Abdisalan Mahamud is Head of GBV-FGM section at Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family (MoLSAF) in Somaliland. She works on GBV and FGM prevention, policy, coordination and women's empowerment.

She is a member of the Joint Technical Committee between MoLSAF and Somaliland Parliament for the review of the Anti-FGM Bill within the contribution to its technical review, stakeholder engagement, and legislative advancement. Hodan holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and is committed to advancing the rights, protection, and meaningful participation of women and girls through evidence-based policy and community-focused approaches.

Fueling Our Future: Funding, Movement Power & Accountability

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY

Date: Wednesday, September 2
Time: 4:05–5:00 PM
Room: Ongwan

Following the high-level plenary, participants will transition from dialogue to action through facilitated small-group conversations focused on movement power, funding, accountability, and collaboration.

Participants will draw on their own expertise and experiences to identify practical priorities, opportunities, and commitments. Insights from these conversations will feed directly into the development of the Justice for Girls Movement Action Plan and the convening's collective commitments.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

- Kirigo Njenga
- Nuzhat Zaman



Kirigo Njenga

Senior Advocacy Officer, Orchid Project

Kirigo Njenga is the Senior Advocacy Officer at Orchid Project, supporting global advocacy, capacity building, technical support, and research. Kirigo is a human rights lawyer, researcher and policy and advocacy professional with over 10 years' experience in litigation, policy development and capacity building in the areas of gender, women, girls and children's rights. She is passionate about human rights, gender equality and ending violence against women and girls.



Nuzhat Zaman, MPH, CPH

Training & Technical Assistance Coordinator, Sahiyo

Nuzhat Zaman, MPH, CPH, is a public health professional, researcher, and gender justice advocate whose work centers on gender-based violence, health equity, and the rights and wellbeing of women and girls. She works across public health training and technical assistance, research, and movement-building initiatives in the United States and globally.

Through her work with Sahiyo, Nuzhat supports programming and advocacy addressing female genital cutting, with a focus on survivor-centered approaches, prevention, capacity building, and intersections with other forms of gender-based violence. Her work has included developing trainings for health care, child welfare, and gender-based violence professionals; conducting mixed-methods research and needs assessments; coordinating survivor storytelling initiatives; and supporting international convenings. Previously, Nuzhat has worked with the CDC Foundation, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, South Asian SOAR, and Raksha. Her work is grounded in intersectional approaches to gender justice that recognize how culture, migration, race, gender, and systems of power shape the experiences of women and girls.

WELLNESS / DECOMPRESSION HOUR PROGRAMMING

SESSION ORGANIZERS

- Dena Igusti
- Godson Salman

Date	Wellness Room	Main Room	Therapy Room
Wed, Sept. 2 (5:30-6:30 PM)	**Mariya** - Yoga session (45 min.) Additional Activities Available: • Bracelet Making • Coloring	**Film Screening** **UNMUTED** Without Exception Films (60 min. total) Declarations of Existence Installation	1-on-1 sessions
Thu, Sept. 3 (4:45-5:45 PM)	**Renee -** Qigong and LouHan Patting (15 min.) Additional Activities Available: • Bracelet Making • Coloring	**Short Film Screening** **MTETEZI DAUGHTERS OF TOMORROW** AWRA (25 min.) Declarations of Existence Installatio	1-on-1 sessions

Wellness Room Activities:

Yoga Session:

Mariya's Power Vinyasa class is designed to be accessible and welcoming to everyone, whether you have never done yoga before or are an experienced practitioner. In her classes, the body moves in sync with the breath, creating fluid and smooth movements often described as "flow" yoga. Mariya prioritizes your personal practice, emphasizing that you know your body best—she offers modifications throughout the session and encourages you to skip any poses that don't serve you. Come dressed in comfortable clothing, prepared to relax, and ready to get a little sweat on!

Qigong and LouHan Patting:

Renee Bergstrom will be leading a Qigong session. Qigong is a form of Chinese yoga involving body movement, slow deep breathing and focused mind to build life energy (Qi). LouHan Patting is a self-massage technique that uses light slaps on the skin to wake up tissues, boost blood flow, and clear blocked energy.

Bracelet Making:

Assorted beads and strings will be available for participants to make their own bracelets as they decompress in the Wellness Room.

Coloring:

Markers and coloring books will be available in the Wellness Room.

Main Room

UNMUTED - Without Exception Films:

1 in 3 women globally will experience gender based violence.

A Clinton Global Initiative selection and a Realscreen MIPTV Pick, UNMUTED follows eight women from across the globe through their journeys of reclaiming their agency and rebuilding their lives against seemingly insurmountable odds. With interviews led by Constance Wu (Crazy Rich Asians), Marie Avgeropoulos (The 100), and Torrey DeVitto (Chicago Med), audiences will learn about the complex socio-cultural factors that lead to people becoming victims of gender based violence, including Child Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, and Acid Attacks – along with the non-traditional solutions that individuals and non-government organizations (NGOs) are using to protect women and girls.

Episode 1: Child Brides
Host: Marie Avgeropoulos
Child Brides follows the stories of girls impacted by child marriage and the global movement fighting to end it through education, legal reform, and grassroots advocacy.

Episode 2: Cutting Season
Host: Constance Wu
Cutting Season sheds light on the global fight to end female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) through powerful survivor stories, cultural insight, and community-led solutions.

MTETEZI DAUGHTERS OF TOMORROW - AWRA

This groundbreaking film shines a light on the realities of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and the systemic barriers to education while amplifying stories of courage, resilience, and transformation from women and girls at the frontlines.

More than a documentary, Mtetezi is a movement. It honors the voices of survivors, activists, and families who dare to challenge harmful practices and imagine a different tomorrow. At its heart, the film calls us all to act, reminding the world that every girl deserves a life of dignity, safety, and opportunity.

Therapy Room

1-on-1 therapy sessions are available for participants throughout the convening. Sessions will be led by Dr. Leyla Hussein and Dr. Sharlotte Kigezo. Mumina Jirmo and Qamar Yussuf will be present throughout the convening as Wellbeing and Safeguarding support.

Declarations of Existence Installation

An immersive live poetry installation where participants can write poems, messages, hopes, and dreams centered around declarations of existence: I claim my right to thrive and control my own life and body, I want that for others, and this is how I think we could make that happen. Declarations will be projected in the Main Conference Room, allowing participants to be “encapsulated” in communal messages.



Godson Salman

Communications Lead, African Women's Rights Advocates (AWRA)

Godson Salman is a communications and visual storytelling professional and the Communications Lead at African Women's Rights Advocates (AWRA). His work sits at the intersection of strategic communications, advocacy, gender justice, and storytelling, with a strong focus on amplifying the voices and experiences of women, girls, survivors, and grassroots movements.

With a background in media, photography, videography, and digital communications, Godson has worked across civil society, media, and community-based organizations, developing communication strategies, leading campaigns, producing documentaries, and documenting advocacy initiatives across Kenya and Africa.

Godson is passionate about using the power of visual and strategic communication to challenge harmful narratives, elevate underrepresented voices, and turn stories into meaningful action.

ART & SOUL: OPENING PERFORMANCE

Time: 10:00 AM–10:10 AM
Room: Ongwan

SESSION ORGANIZERS

- Dena Igusti

Setting Our Intention: Aligning Our Focus for the Day Ahead

Date: Thursday, September 3
Time: 10:10 AM–10:50 AM
Room: Onguan

SPEAKERS

- Qamar Kassim Yussuf
- Mumina Jirmo
- Mariya Taher
- Anush Aghalbayan
- Mercy Chelangat Yego



Anush Aghalbayan

CEO, Orchid Project

Anush Aghabalyan is the Chief Executive Officer of Orchid Project, where she previously served as Head of Advocacy and Policy. With more than 20 years of experience advancing women's and girls' rights, Anush has led global advocacy initiatives that have shaped policy, strengthened cross-sector partnerships and mobilised collective action.

Prior to joining Orchid Project, Anush was Director of Global Campaigns at United for Global Mental Health. She also spent seven years at the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) as Head of Advocacy and External Relations, where she led global campaigns and high-level engagement on girls' rights. Earlier in her career, she held roles across the United Nations system, focusing on gender equality, gender-based violence and labour migration.



Mercy Chelangat Yego

Deputy Executive Secretary, Global Youth Consortium against Harmful Practices

Mercy Chelangat Yego is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a gender, human rights and public health law practitioner whose work sits at the intersection of law, gender equality, health rights, and the prevention of harmful practices affecting women and girls.

She serves as Deputy Executive Secretary of the Global Youth Consortium Against Harmful Practices (GYC), having previously served as its Regional Representative for East and Southern Africa. In that role she championed meaningful youth participation in regional decision-making and contributed to the advocacy that saw the EAC Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation Bill, 2025 tabled before the East African Legislative Assembly. She is also a Partner at Kirui PJ & Associate Advocates , where her work covers litigation, legal advisory, regulatory and compliance , access to medical products and health sovereignty.

THURSDAY MORNING DEEP DIVES

Time: 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Room: Breakout Rooms

These concurrent sessions provide smaller, interactive spaces for participants to explore specific movement priorities, share expertise, and collaboratively examine difficult questions facing efforts to end FGM/C and child marriage.

Radical Honesty: Moving Through Discomfort

Time: 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Room: Nabo

Meaningful progress requires institutions within the FGM/C and CEFMU movements to examine not only the systems they seek to change, but also their own structures, relationships, and practices.

This interactive session creates space for activists, survivors, practitioners, and institutional actors to critically reflect on how power operates through funding, decision-making, survivor engagement, authorship, representation, safeguarding, and responses to harm.

Participants will examine the institutional conditions that allow exclusion, tokenism, racism, extractive partnerships, and harmful narratives to persist and consider what accountability, repair, and redistribution of power could look like in practice.

SESSION ORGANIZER

- Saza Faradilla

SPEAKERS

- Josephine Kamara
- Kakenya Ntaiya
- Sophie Manneh



Saza Faradilla

Co-founder, End FGC Singapore

Saza Faradilla (she/they) is a co-founder of End Female Genital Cutting Singapore, which envisions a world where the practice of FGC is obsolete. She raises awareness on social media and on-the-ground, and participates in local and international lobbying at the United Nations to bring attention to the fact that FGC is a pressing concern in Asia. Equally important, she calls for a culturally-contextual and intersectional feminist approach when dealing with sexual and gender based violence across diverse Asian communities. Saza is currently completing a Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation in Mahidol University and Universities Gadjahmada in Southeast Asia.



Kakenya Ntaiya, PhD

Founder and CEO, Kakenya's Dream

Kakenya's Dream CEO and President, Dr. Kakenya Ntaiya, is a world-renowned educator and advocate for girls' health and human rights. She has dedicated her life to creating lasting change in rural communities in Kenya and across Africa.

After escaping child marriage and surviving female genital mutilation (FGM) as a young teenager, Dr. Ntaiya became the first woman from her indigenous Maasai village in Kenya to attend university in the United States. In 2009, while studying for her PhD in education at the University of Pittsburgh, she founded Kakenya's Dream. Today, under Dr. Ntaiya's visionary leadership, Kakenya's Dream has evolved into a global team scaling a replicable model for girls' empowerment, gender equality, and social norms change across rural Africa.

Dr. Ntaiya was featured in Bill Gates' Heroes in the Field series in 2022 and Melinda French Gates' first book, The Moment of Lift. She has been named a Top Ten CNN Hero, a National Geographic Emerging Explorer, and one of Newsweek's "150 Women Who Shake the World".



Josephine Kamara

Director of Advocacy, We Are Purposeful

Josephine Kamara is a Sierra Leonean feminist organiser and girls' rights policy advocate. She currently serves as the Director of Advocacy at We Are Purposeful. She has played a central role in some of Purposeful's most significant advocacy victories, including the campaign to overturn Sierra Leone's discriminatory ban on pregnant girls attending school. She helped mobilise public and political support contributing to the ban's eventual reversal and the development of Sierra Leone's Radical Inclusion in School Policy.

She is also a leading voice in Sierra Leone's anti-FGM movement and has written and advocated extensively on FGM, education, and girls' and women's bodily autonomy. Josephine is a Together for Girls Global Hero and a Mandela Washington Fellow. She holds an MA in Power, Participation and Social Change from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex.



Sophie Manneh

Founder & Executive Director, Safe Space 4 Girls

Sophie Manneh is a feminist leader, gender-based violence, advocate, and anti-FGM campaigner working at the intersection of mental health, protection, and social justice in The Gambia. As Founder and Executive Director of Safe Space 4 Girls (SS4Girls), a woman-led organization established in 2021, she leads survivor-centered programs addressing the root causes and long-term impacts of GBV.

Over the past years, she has facilitated community dialogues, awareness campaigns, and advocacy to uphold The Gambia's national ban on FGM. As Program Officer at the National Youth Parliament – The Gambia, she contributed to the 2024 youth position paper defending the ban at the National Assembly and led SGBV trainings for young people. A nurse by training with a BA in English, Sophie draws on early experience in The Gambia's only psychiatric hospital, where gaps in care for survivors shaped her commitment to community-based psychosocial support.

The Power of Intersectionality: Building Inclusive Movements

Time: 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Room: Nabo

This session asks who has been excluded from traditional conversations about FGM/C and child marriage and what it takes to build movements that respond to people's overlapping realities.

The discussion will center experiences including LGBTQI+ and intersex communities, people with disabilities, displaced and conflict-affected communities, and people navigating intersections of FGM/C, child marriage, racism, poverty, gender inequality, and marginalization.

Participants will identify practical approaches to inclusive movement-building through accessible and non-stigmatizing language, meaningful representation, cross-sector collaboration, and responsive program design.

SPEAKERS

- Aarefa Johari
- Fatima Pir Tillah Allian
- Dena Igusti
- Rosilla Lenanyoike
- Awa Ga



Aarefa Johari

Co-Founder, Sahiyo

Aarefa Johari is an award-winning journalist and feminist activist from Mumbai, India. She is a co-founder of Sahiyo, a transnational organization working to end FGM/C, particularly in Asian communities.

In India, she has been at the forefront of the movement to end FGM/C in the Bohra community and was instrumental in uncovering the prevalence of the practice in parts of Kerala. As a journalist, she has spent 16 years reporting on gender, labor rights, social justice, communities, and culture.



Dena Igusti

Founder, Arusu Collective | Indonesian American FGM/C Survivor, Activist & Artist

Dena Igusti is a queer Indonesian Muslim playwright, poet, and FGM/C activist. They are the author of ECDYSIS: CACOPHONY OF SKINS and CUT WOMAN and the founder of Arusu Collective.

Their work has been produced and performed at venues and platforms including the Brooklyn Museum, Apollo Theater, Women Deliver, Teen Vogue Summit, The Public, and others. Their writing and artistic practice use creative expression to explore identity, survival, bodily autonomy, and social justice.

Dena's honors include the inaugural NYFA Ryan Hudak Playwright Award, a New York City Council Citation, the Asian American Arts Alliance Grant, NYFA Women's Fund support, and numerous artist fellowships and residencies.



Fatima Pir Tillah Allian

Nisa Ul Haqq fi Bangsamoro

Fatima is a Gender, Peace and Development Worker who has worked with communities throughout the Bangsamoro Homeland in the Philippines on sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence. She has also been deeply engaged in the Bangsamoro peace process, working to ensure women and communities meaningfully participate and that their voices inform government and peace-process policies. She was among the first members of the Insider Mediators in the Philippines and advocated for passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

Her current work focuses particularly on women and underserved communities and encompasses peacebuilding, transitional justice, SGBV, research on female circumcision, gender in Islam, and climate justice.



Awa Gai

Legal Officer, Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa

Awa Gai is a human rights lawyer from The Gambia working as a Legal Officer at the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa. She works at the intersection of law, human rights, and gender justice.

Awa founded The Gambia's first and largest women's awards platform, celebrating women and inspiring girls. In 2025, she also served as a Waging Justice for Women Fellow under the Clooney Foundation for Justice initiative.

Defending Hard-Won Gains: Navigating Anti-Rights Backlash, Legal Challenges & Movement Protection & Allyship – Part I

Time: 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Room: VIP Backroom

Across global contexts, movements advancing the rights of women and girls are confronting increasingly coordinated backlash designed to undermine legal protections, weaken advocacy gains, distort public narratives, and exhaust frontline activists.

This session examines legal, political, and narrative challenges across different contexts, including repeal efforts and legal challenges in The Gambia, India, Latin America, Africa, and the United States.

Participants will exchange lessons on legal advocacy, public communications, coalition-building, responding to misinformation, protecting movement gains, and building solidarity across contexts.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

- Fatou Baldeh
- MamLisa Camara
- Nuzhat Zaman

SPEAKERS

- Mariyann Jabang
- Masooma Ranalvi
- Leandra Becerra
- Lina Marcela Tobon Yagari
- Absa Samba



Dr. Fatou Baldeh, MBE

Founder & CEO, Women In Liberation and Leadership (WILL)

Fatou Baldeh, MBE, is a Gambian gender-justice specialist whose work spans more than a decade of advocacy, research, and policy leadership focused on advancing the rights and dignity of women and girls. Her career bridges survivor-centred protection, evidence-based advocacy, and movement-building across grassroots communities and global platforms.

She has led transformative initiatives aimed at eliminating harmful practices such as FGM and child marriage, strengthening coordinated responses to gender-based violence, and shaping national and international policy conversations. Fatou's work is grounded in a deep understanding of gender justice and the structural inequalities that affect women and girls, allowing her to influence change that is both community-rooted and globally recognised.

Her leadership and impact have earned her distinguished honours, including the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) and the International Women of Courage Award, reflecting her credibility, influence, and unwavering commitment to protecting and uplifting women and girls. Fatou's professional and academic journey continues to position her as a leading voice in gender equality, survivor advocacy, and sustainable social change.



MamLisa Camara

West Africa Coordinator, African Women's Right's Advocates

MamLisa Camara is a leading grassroots campaigner with extensive experience in community development, as well as women and children's rights programs. Her activism is supported by the Soroptimist International, a worldwide volunteer service organization for women who work for peace, and to improve the lives of women and girls. She is also the National Coordinator for Safe Hands for Girls in Gambia.



Lina Marcela Tobón Yagarí

Director, Comunidad de Juristas Akubadaura

Lina is the Director and founder of the Akubadaura Jurists Community. She belongs to the Embera Chamí indigenous people and holds a master's degree in Government and Public Policy. She has a strong background in research, project development, and public policies with a gender, ethnic, and differential approach. Her work focuses on defending the rights of indigenous peoples, with a special emphasis on women's rights for a life free from violence, sexual and reproductive health, and ethnic-territorial rights.



Mariyann G. Jabang

Director, Directorate of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, The Gambia

Mariyann Garmi Jabang currently serves as the Director of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Welfare of The Gambia. She is a Gender and Development Specialist with over a decade of Civil Service professional experience in gender equality, women's empowerment, social protection, gender-responsive governance, and development programming. In her current role, she provides strategic leadership in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment policies and programmes in The Gambia. Her work spans women's economic empowerment, prevention and response to gender-based violence, women's leadership and political participation, gender-responsive policy and budgeting, social protection, and the implementation of national, regional and international commitments on gender equality.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree with double majors in Women and Gender Studies and Political Science from the University of Toronto, Canada and a Master's Degree in Gender and Development from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, United Kingdom. She attended several short term training courses in Leadership and Management, Peace and Conflict Resolution and is an awardee of the United States Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young Africans Leaders, a Chevening UK Scholar recipient and an Ontario Scholar Awardee.



Masooma Ranalvi

Founder, WeSpeakOut

Masooma Ranalvi is a British Cheveining Scholar, an Aspen New Voices Fellow and a Moth storyteller. She has worked on conflict resolution, communal harmony and gender empowerment in India.

She is the founder of WeSpeakOut, a Bohra muslim women's Collective to build awareness on FGM in India and promote legal advocacy on the subject. She is on the board of Asia Network against FGM and she has been the Vice President of the Board of South Asia Forum for Freddom of Religious Beliefs.

She has consistently worked with the Ministry of Women and Child Development India, UNFPA officials in India, and several NGO's and prominent individuals to support the campaign against FGM. She has worked with Lawyers Collective to bring out the report titled: A Guide to Elimination Of FGM in India and more recently WeSpeakOut has published one of the first and most groundbreaking research study on FGM in India.



Leandra Vimary Becerra Copete

Legal and Advocacy Advisor, Latin America and the Caribbean, Equality Now

Leandra Becerra is a Colombian lawyer specializing in Criminal and Criminological Sciences, with nearly eight years of experience in human rights, gender justice, and peacebuilding.

Originally from Quibdó, Chocó, and a proud Black Afro-Colombian woman, she has worked on education, litigation, and advocacy for women affected by incarceration, violence, and conflict. Her expertise includes research on femicide, sexual violence, and restorative justice, as well as direct support for victims and reintegration programs. Leandra approaches her work with an intersectional, ethnic-racial, and decolonial perspective and has collaborated with both civil society and state institutions. She leads campaigns on FGM and sexual violence.



Absa Samba

Co-founder and Lead, WA Coalition to End FGM/C

Absa Samba is a policy, women's rights, advocacy and grassroots movement expert. She co-founded and leads the Washington Coalition to End FGM/C whose work led to a law banning FGC in Washington State in 2023. With over 15 years of experience, she advocates for girls' education, gender equity and the elimination of harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital cutting through policy. She has received multiple honors, including the University of Washington Evans School Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Global Citizen, and "Walk the Talk" awards. Absa is a 2023-2024 Equality Now and Oped Project project fellow and her work has been featured on Ms. Magazine, Newsweek, NPR and CBC.

Absa holds dual master's degrees in Public Administration and Social Work from the University of Washington, where she works as a Global Engagement Manager for the International Program In Public Health Leadership, working with public health policy leaders across Africa.

Beyond Silos: Resourcing and Protecting Integrated Action on FGM/C and Child Marriage Into Broader Gender Justice, SRHR, Child Protection and Education Agendas

Time: 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Room: Ongwan

FGM/C and child marriage cannot be addressed effectively through isolated programming, and the organizations working across these agendas cannot sustain that work without support.

This session explores how governments, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, education systems, SRHR programs, and child protection actors can better integrate prevention and response efforts.

Participants will examine models of cross-sector collaboration, opportunities to embed FGM/C and child marriage within broader gender justice and adolescent girls' rights agendas, and how funders and allied sectors can better protect and resource frontline advocates facing legal threats, public attacks, isolation, and burnout.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

- Safiya Riyaz
- Anush Aghabalyan

SPEAKERS

- Line Baago-Rasmussen
- Bakhan Jamal Ali
- Catherine Mootian
- Jema Davis
- Latifah Wangui Njoki



Safiya Riyaz

Programme Officer, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women

Safiya Riyaz is a development professional from Sri Lanka working in the field of Gender Equality and Women's Health and Rights. She is focused on developing culturally relevant services and programs, particularly in the context of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). She is a Commonwealth Scholar and holds a Master's degree in Global Health from Edinburgh, a Post-Graduate Diploma in Gender and Women's Studies from Colombo and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. She draws on her academic and professional experience to explore the intersections of gender and global health for improved intervention development and expanded access to care for underserved communities, particularly in Global South countries.

She currently serves as a Programme Officer at the Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW) and coordinates the Asia Network to End FGM/C, mobilising actors to advance collective action.



Line Baago-Rasmussen

Child Protection Specialist - FGM, UNICEF

Line has over 14 years' experience with technical expertise in harmful practices and violence against children. Currently, she works at the UNICEF Centre of Excellence in Nairobi as a Child Protection Specialist focusing on FGM. Previously, she held dual roles as Global Coordinator leading Safe to Learn and Social and Behaviour Change in Education Specialist in UNICEF Education NYHQ. Prior to joining UNICEF NYHQ Line worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (Danida) where she served as Chief Adviser on Education and Gender leading Denmark's portfolio on global education. Before this, Line worked in Child Protection in UNICEF MENA Regional Office and in UNICEF Zimbabwe Country Office. She holds a master's degree in Sociology from the University of Copenhagen and a master's degree in Human Rights and Democratisation from the European Inter-University Centre, Venice and the University of Deusto, Bilbao.



Catherine Mootian

Executive Director, AfyAfrika

Catherine brings over 13 years diverse experience and expertise in Strategic Leadership, Programme Management, Capacity Development and Advocacy, which has been acquired through her work across various development programme including Gender Equality, Women Economic Empowerment, Gender Based Violence and Child Protection sectors. As an FGM/C Survivor and native of Narok County, she Understand first-hand the impact of harmful practices in communities and conversant with FGM/C landscape in Kenya and its dynamics. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management and a Certificate in Advanced Business Administration from Ndejje University in Kampala, Uganda. Currently, she serves as the Founder and Executive Director of AFYAFRIKA a community based organization based in Narok County and geared towards ending FGM/C, Child Marriage and GBV. She is also the current National Convener for FGM Survivors Network Kenya, County Convener Girls Not Bride Central Rift Region.



Jema Davis

Senior Programme Manager (SRH), FIGO

Jema Davis has over a decade of experience in programme management in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). In her current role with the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) she manages FIGO's global portfolio of SRHR projects, supporting ObGyn societies with advocacy on topics including abortion, family planning and FGM across a range of countries in Africa and Asia. Prior to joining FIGO in 2019, she has worked with organisations including MSI Reproductive Choices and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). She was a trustee on the Board of Abortion Support Network between 2016 and 2022, including two years as Co-Chair of the Board.



Bakhan Jamal Ali

Director, Awareness and Development Organization for Women and Children in Iraq (ADWI)

Bakhan Jamal Ali is the Director and Co-Founder of the Awareness and Development for Women and Children in Iraq (ADWI), based in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. She has over a decade of experience in civil society, with a particular focus on women's and children's rights, community development, advocacy, and project management.

For nearly 10 years, Bakhan has worked on campaigns aimed at eliminating female genital mutilation (FGM), working closely with women and communities in rural areas of Iraqi Kurdistan. She manages local teams that engage directly with communities and FGM survivors, helping develop projects that respond to their needs and lived experiences.



Latifah Wangui Njoki

YAP Member, Girls not Brides Kenya

Latifah Wangui Njoki is a Kenyan youth advocate, community development practitioner, and social impact leader passionate about advancing the rights, wellbeing, and meaningful participation of girls and young people. She currently serves on the Girls Not Brides Youth Advisory Panel, contributing to global efforts to end child marriage and ensure that the voices, experiences, and leadership of young people inform advocacy, policy, and programming.

Latifah is also the Co-Founder and Director of Imarisha Future for Girls CBO, a youth-led organization advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), teenage pregnancy prevention, mental health, and climate action at community level. Previously, Latifah served as a Lead Girl Advocate and Girls and Young Women (GYW) Representative with SHE LEADS, where she advocated for meaningful Girls and young women participation and strengthened the representation of girls and young women in decision-making spaces.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON ACTION TRACKS

Time: 2:00–3:30 PM

Room: Breakout Rooms

Wellbeing, Safety & Sustainable Activism

Time: 2:00–3:30 PM

Room: Wellbeing Room

Working to end FGM/C, child marriage and other forms of violence against women and girls can carry significant emotional, psychological and physical demands. Activists and advocates are often exposed to difficult stories, sustained pressure, emotional labour and responsibility for others, while their own wellbeing can become secondary.

This session creates a dedicated space to explore how we sustain ourselves, each other and our movements for the long term. Combining practical wellbeing approaches with conversations about collective care and organisational responsibility, the session will explore wellbeing through three interconnected dimensions:

ME • US • SYSTEM

ME — Caring for ourselves
Exploring practical approaches to emotional regulation, rest, movement, creativity, connection and everyday practices that help us remain grounded and well.

US — Caring for each other
Considering collective care, healthy boundaries, supportive relationships and how we create trauma-informed movement spaces where people feel safe, valued and supported.

SYSTEM — Creating cultures of care
Moving beyond the idea that wellbeing is solely an individual's responsibility and examining the duty of care held by organisations, leaders and funders.

SPEAKERS

- Dr. A. Renee Bergstrom
- Qamar Kassim Yussuf
- Mumina Jirmo



Dr. A. Renee Bergstrom

Educator | Sahiyo Advisory Board

Dr. A. Renee Bergstrom is an FGM/C survivor advocate, educator, writer, and artist based in Minnesota, USA. She is retired from her career as a patient education specialist and holistic stress management instructor at the Mayo Clinic and continues to share her FGM/C story with medical students.

Her wellbeing practices include Qigong, LouHan Patting, yoga, art, weaving, and community connection. She was a 2024 Public Voices Fellow on Advancing the Rights of Women and Girls with Equality Now and the OpEd Project.

Her work brings together advocacy, education, creativity, community, and holistic approaches to wellbeing.

Defending Hard-Won Gains: Navigating Anti-Rights Backlash, Legal Challenges & Movement Protection & Allyship – Part II

Time: 2:00–3:30 PM

Room: VIP Backroom

Building from the morning conversation, Part II creates an interactive space for participants to move from analysis toward practical strategies for movement protection, solidarity, and collective action.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

- Fatou Baldeh
- Nuzhat Zaman
- MamLisa Camara

Sexuality, Bodily Autonomy & Reframing

Time: 2:00–3:30 PM

Room: Nabo

This interactive session examines how FGM/C and child marriage shape conversations around sexuality, bodily autonomy, pleasure, health, and personal agency while intentionally moving beyond narratives centered only on trauma and harm.

Bringing together SRHR, public health, and feminist movement-building perspectives, participants will explore how cultural norms, health systems, advocacy narratives, and institutional practices can reinforce silence or stigma around sexuality and bodily autonomy.

The session will consider how advocates and institutions can affirm survivors' rights to sexual and reproductive health, pleasure, agency, dignity, and holistic wellbeing while developing culturally responsive approaches to discussing sexuality and bodily autonomy safely within communities.

MODERATOR

- Esmael Omar, UHAI EASHRI

SPEAKERS

- Dr. Rita Arogo, World Health Organization Kenya
- Dr. Kakenya Ntaiya
- Wambui Kimani
- Saza Faradilla



Esmael Omar

Director of Partnerships and Communications, UHAI EASHRI

Esmael Omar is a feminist leader, strategist, and human rights advocate with over 15 years of experience advancing gender justice and movement strengthening across Africa. He currently serves as Director of Partnerships and Communications at UHAI EASHRI, Africa's pioneering indigenous activist fund for sexual and gender minorities and sex workers, where he leads regional strategy, governance, and resource mobilisation. His work has mobilised over USD 15 million in long-term funding and shaped UHAI's 2026–2040 Strategic Framework, embedding future thinking, feminist leadership, and organisational resilience.

His leadership is rooted in earlier work at Amref Health Africa, where as Head of Policy and Advocacy for the Africa-Led Movement to End FGM, he developed the movement's Global Communications, Advocacy, and Movement Building strategy and strengthened policy reforms across Kenya, Somaliland, Ethiopia, and Senegal. Before that, as Country Lead (Kenya) for The Girl Generation, he helped catalyse a continent-wide youth movement, convened the first Pan-African Youth Summit to End FGM, and supported survivor-led, community-centred organising across 10 African countries.

A former fellow of the U.S. Department of State and the Jeanne Sauvé Foundation, Esmael brings sharp political acuity and a feminist ethic grounded in dignity, courage, and collective power — turning resources into lasting social change.



Dr. Rita Arogo

SRMH Technical Lead & Obstetrician/Gynaecologist, World Health Organization Kenya

Dr. Rita Arogo is an Obstetrician-Gynaecologist and Technical Lead for Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health at the World Health Organization Kenya Country Office. With over a decade of experience at the intersection of clinical medicine and public health policy, she has shaped national strategy on maternal and newborn health, gender- based violence response, and reproductive rights across Kenya's health system.

A leading voice in the movement to end FGM/C, Dr. Arogo has driven WHO's efforts to protect girls and women through policy reform, health system strengthening, and community-level action. She advises the Ministry of Health and convenes UN and government partners to advance Kenya's agenda for women's and girls' health and rights.



Wambui Kimani

Founder & Executive Director, Zamara Foundation

Wambui Kimani is a Pan-African feminist thought leader, psychologist, movement builder, and writer whose work explores power, justice, and liberation through the lives and experiences of African women and girls. She is the founder of the Zamara Foundation, where she works to strengthen feminist leadership, advance sexual and reproductive justice, and build movements capable of transforming the systems that sustain inequality.

Drawing on her background in psychology, Wambui brings a healing-centered approach to feminist leadership, recognizing that justice is as much about restoring dignity and agency as it is about changing institutions. Her work bridges activism, policy, storytelling, and leadership, creating spaces where reflection becomes action and communities organize for lasting change.

Creative Expression & Movement Building

Time: 2:00–3:30 PM

Room: Haro

How can art, storytelling, performance, and creative spaces transform advocacy?

This session explores how immersive exhibitions, art, storytelling, podcasts, performance, and festival elements can strengthen anti-FGM/C and child marriage movements. Participants will examine creative expression as a tool for challenging harmful norms, opening difficult conversations, building solidarity, creating collective joy, and moving beyond narratives focused solely on trauma. The session will invite participants to consider practical ways to integrate creative arts into grassroots mobilization, community dialogue, and advocacy campaigns.

SPEAKERS

- Zubee Ali, Co-Founder, End FGC Singapore
- Patricia Mars, Changing Narratives Podcast



Zubee Ali

Community Manager (Volunteer), End FGC Singapore

Zubee Ali is a social innovator, educator and women rights activist exploring the intersection of human potential and social equity. For more than two decades, she has worked alongside underserved communities, believing that every single person deserves the right to self autonomy and expression and social justice.

Funding FGM/C and Justice for Girls: Movements, Money and Momentum

Time: 2:00–3:30 PM

Room: Ongwan

This donor-engagement track facilitates a critical conversation about resourcing frontline movements.

Participants will exchange lessons on funding models that are working, identify barriers facing survivor-led and grassroots initiatives, and consider how philanthropy can become more responsive, transparent, equitable, and sustainable.

The session will explore approaches including trust-based philanthropy, flexible and rapid-response grants, equitable reporting and compliance requirements, and new approaches to sharing risk and power between donors and movements.

SESSION ORGANIZER

- Susan Gibbs

SPEAKERS

- Meg Smith
- Suhani Bhushan
- Wulan Zschocke



Susan Gibbs

Senior Advisor, Wallace Global Fund

Susan Gibbs leads Wallace Global Fund's work on women's rights and FGM. She has worked in philanthropy for 30 years, including previous posts with the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Summit Charitable Foundation, as well as consultancies with a range of private foundations and philanthropic advisory firms. Earlier in her career, she worked on international health, gender, and human rights with nonprofit organizations in India, Pakistan, Egypt, and Switzerland. She serves on the steering committee of the US End FGM/C Network and is deeply inspired and energized by the growing global movement to end FGM.



Meg Smith

Deputy Executive Director, Women Win

Meg Smith is the Deputy Executive Director of Women Win, having worked in a variety of roles since joining the organisation in 2012. Most recently, Meg was the Director of Ignita, leading Women Win's fiscal hosting strategy and overseeing a growing portfolio of hosted initiatives. She is delighted to have been involved recently in the set up of the FGM Global Action Fund.

Meg is a passionate gender justice advocate and strategic leader committed to expanding feminist funding initiatives. She has 20 years experience working in diverse contexts to deliver innovative solutions advancing feminist philanthropy, gender justice, girls' rights and community development. Meg has a Masters of International Health, a background in International Development and significant global work experience across Asia, Africa, Latin America and Australia. Meg is originally from Australia, lived in Asia for 6 years, and is now based in the Netherlands with her family.



Suhani Bhushan

Senior Programmes Manager, Women Win

Suhani has worked as a Senior Programmes Manager at Women Win since 2021. Working across different teams in the organisation, she is now the grantmaking lead of the Ignita arm at Women Win. Suhani holds a Master's of Arts in Global Governance from the Basillie School of International Affairs at the University of Waterloo. Originally from Canada, Suhani now lives in The Hague, the Netherlands. Suhani has worked extensively on the SDGs and has a distinct focus on inclusion and belonging. She is a strong advocate for deliberate inclusion and believes that equalizing power dynamics should be at the core of all programming.



Wulan Zschocke

Capital Programs Associate, Echoing Green

Wulan is a New York-based nonprofit worker, academic and artist dedicated to the socioeconomic sovereignty of underrepresented peoples. They are currently a member of the Capital Team at Echoing Green Foundation, which offers funding and development for leaders of early-stage social impact organizations.

As a German-Indonesian, they were raised with the active presence of questions surrounding ideas of accountability and reparations after mass human injustices. They have a Bachelor of Social Work from Bridgewater State University (Massachusetts), and a Master in Conflict Studies & Human Rights from Utrecht University (Netherlands), which they pursued in conjunction with a Human Rights Research Fellowship at the University of Jember (Indonesia). Their professional trajectory includes social work and financial welfare, adult education, and copyediting for human rights journals.

Unstoppable: Our Movement-Led Collective Vision for Ending FGM/C

Date: Thursday, September 3

Time: 3:30–4:00 PM

Room: Ongwan

During this session, we will celebrate the collaborative process that has brought us together, reflecting on the consultations, diverse voices, and shared research that have shaped our path forward. Together, we will witness the reveal of our shared Movement Vision and formally adopt the direction and priorities we have refined throughout the convening. Attendees will have the opportunity to share solidarity actions with their roles and areas of influence (from policy, advocacy, funding, research, partnerships, survivor support, and movement building). This session serves not as an end, but as a beginning: we will invite all participants to sign the vision, symbolizing our commitment to collectively nurturing and building this future together.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

- Anush Aghabalyan
- Kirigo Njenga
- With support from Mariya Taher and Nuzhat Zaman

SPEAKERS

- Nejma Sayeh



Nejma Sayeh

Policy and Advocacy Officer, End FGM European Network

Nejma Sayeh is a Policy and Advocacy Officer at the End FGM European Network. She is in charge of liaising with decision-makers and other stakeholders to advocate for the implementation of European and international commitments to end FGM. Nejma has expertise in advocating for sexual and reproductive health and rights and specialises in feminist intersectional and decolonial approaches to international law. A young feminist activist herself, she is a strong advocate for meaningful engagement of all young people in their diversity ensuring that every voice is heard and valued in the pursuit of a more inclusive and equitable future.

NIGHT OF UNITY:
CLOSING FESTIVITIES & CULTURAL GALA

Date: Thursday, September 3
Time: 8:00–10:00 PM
Location: The Wave Club

A celebration of the diversity, creativity, and global solidarity of the movement to end FGM/C and child marriage.

The evening will bring participants together through music, cultural exchange, performances, creativity, celebration, and collective gratitude.

Come ready to celebrate the cultures, communities, relationships, and movements represented throughout the Justice for Girls Convening.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

- Dena Igusti
- Godson Salman

MC/HOST

- Jacob Okumu

CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

- Absa Samba
- Saza Faradilla
- Rev. Valerie Lolomari MBE (spoken Word)
- Aisha Roba (music)
- Adama Diallo (spoken word)
- Hafswa Mohamed Ali (music)
- Cheikh Diaw (group music)
- Fatou Mandiang Diatta (Sister Fa)



Jacob Okumu

Independent Consultant

Jacob Okumu is a community organizing, advocacy, and programme management specialist with over 10 years of experience in advancing people-centric and survivor-led campaigns across Africa.

Jacob has led and coordinated campaigns and projects with organizations including Amnesty International, UNICEF Tanzania, Be the Change Kenya, Tatua Kenya, Change.org, and the Options' Girl Generation – Africa Led Movement to end FGM where he has been supporting multi-stakeholders including grassroots communities, youth movements, and civil society actors to strengthen accelerate and scale their impact. He has designed and delivered high-impact trainings, convenings and coaching engagements on servant leadership, volunteer engagement, advocacy strategy, and digital and grassroots organizing for diverse organizations, networks and movements across Africa and beyond as a consultant.



Rev. Valerie Lolomari MBE

CEO/ Founder, Women of Grace UK

Rev. Valerie Lolomari MBE, CF is a survivor leader, resilience coach, mental health practitioner, and internationally recognised advocate against FGM/C and gender-based violence. She is the Founder and CEO of Women of Grace UK, supporting women and girls to reclaim their voices, rebuild their lives, and thrive. She sits on the crown persecution service on violence against women and girls East of England scrutiny panel. She is a United Nations peace Ambassador. She is an author.



Aisha Roba

Executive Director, Every Girl's Dream

Aisha is a Kenyan human rights advocate, communications professional, and the Founder and Executive Director of Every Girl's Dream, a grassroots organization advancing the rights, protection, and empowerment of women and girls, reaching more than 20,000 people across Isiolo County. Working closely with survivors, women and girls, youth, parents, elders, religious leaders, government institutions, and CSOs, Aisha is a passionate advocate for ending FGM, preventing child marriage and gender-based violence, promoting girls' education, advancing mental health, and empowering young people through community-led solutions.

She is affiliated with the Isiolo Survivors Network, Frontline End FGM, and the sister-to-Sister Initiative, and is a member of the Brave Survivors Council.



Adama Diallo

Coordinator, Kolda Young Women Leaders Clubs

Adama Diallo is a 22-year-old Senegalese activist from the commune of Dabo, in the Kolda region of southern Senegal. She is the Regional Coordinator of the Kolda Young Women Leaders Clubs, a network of 108 clubs committed to promoting girls' rights, leadership, and empowerment. She is also a peer educator at the Kolda Adolescent Counseling Center and a member of the field team for the NGO FODDE.

As a UNICEF Youth Ambassador in Senegal, Adama has represented young girls from her region in several international and regional forums, including the United Nations Education Transformation Summit in New York, the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C., the Women of the World Festival in the United Kingdom, and girls' forums in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya.

Hafswa Mohamed Ali

Youth Advisory Panel, Girls Not Bride Kenya

Hafswa Mohamed is a Kenyan youth advocate, creative artist, performer, and storyteller from Mombasa, passionate about using creativity and culture to amplify young people's voices and promote a more just and inclusive world for girls and young women.

She is actively involved in youth-led initiatives and creative spaces that create opportunities for young people to express themselves, develop their talents, and advocate for their rights. Through performance, storytelling, and community engagement, Hafswa explores themes of identity, resilience, culture, empowerment, and social justice.

As a performer from the Swahili Coast, she is passionate about celebrating the richness of Swahili culture while creating spaces where diverse voices and traditions can be seen, heard, and valued.



Cheikh Diaw

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, CHILDREN AND PEACE

Cheikh Diaw is a human rights defender committed to promoting dignity, equality, and social justice. He has dedicated his career to protecting children, adolescent girls, and women, contributing to the design, implementation, and monitoring of programs serving vulnerable populations.

A specialist in monitoring and evaluation and results-based management, Cheikh uses data, evidence, and innovation to improve interventions, strengthen accountability, and inform strategic decisions. He believes effective policies must be guided by evidence and shaped by the meaningful participation of communities, women, youth, and children.



Fatou Mandiang Diatta (Sister Fa)

Director, Eusobul

Fatou Mandiang Diatta, better known as Sister Fa, was born in Dakar in 1982. She is a social worker by profession, as well as an artist and child protection activist. For several years, she has been committed to a campaign aimed at eradicating all forms of gender-based violence, specifically FGM, and at reforming harmful traditions whilst promoting and preserving positive ones.

She has extensive experience as a trainer on FGM, sexual and reproductive health for young people, positive parenting and gender transformation. In 2018, she founded her own organisation, 'Eusobul', in Senegal, which works to promote respect for human rights and the dignity of women.

As an artist who has travelled to 35 countries worldwide, she has collaborated with various international organisations such as the United Nations, UNFPA and Tostan; and, in her capacity as an ambassador, she has worked with the Orchid Project, World Vision and the EU Network to End FGM.

Sustaining the Momentum: Closing Reflections

Date: Friday, September 4

Time: 10:00–11:30 AM

Location: Ongwan

This closing session facilitates a collective check-in/check-out and silent reflection to process the convening's insights. It features reflections from government representatives and funders, provides space for participants to reflect on key learnings and solidarity actions, and transitions into a group share-out that recaps commitments gathered throughout the convening.

SESSION ORGANIZER

- Nuzhat Zaman
- Mariya Taher
- Warda Warsame
- Dena Igusti

SPEAKERS

- Qammar Yussuf Ali
- Mariya Taher
- Mrs. Ipato Surum
- Hon Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing
- Fatuma Hakar
- Susan Gibbs
- Faiza Salleh
- Warda Warsame
- A. Renee Bergstrom
- Alice Ngari
- Erica Peiser Fitzmorris



Fatuma Hakar

Executive Director, Girlkind Kenya

Fatuma Hakar is a Kenyan community leader, philanthropist, and women's rights advocate dedicated to empowering girls and women, particularly in marginalised communities. As the Founder of Girlkind Kenya, she has championed education, vocational skills, women's economic empowerment, and initiatives to end FGM and child marriage. Through her grassroots work, Fatuma continues to support vulnerable girls and women, create opportunities, and inspire communities to build a more equal and empowered future.



Hon Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing

African Union Special Rapporteur on Child Marriage and Other Harmful Practices/Country rapporteur for Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Mali, The Gambia, DRC, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Hon Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing is a Member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child since January 2019. She hails from Cameroon. As Member of the Committee, she is the African Union Special Rapporteur on Child Marriage and Other Harmful practices. She is also the Country rapporteur for Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Mali, The Gambia, DRC.

Hon. Kembo is a Legal and Judicial Officer by profession. She has served in the Public Service in Cameroon in various senior capacities. She leads the activities of the Committee as it relates to child marriage and harmful practices in State Party reports, Communications, advocacy missions and other activities. She is also a Temporary Adviser to the Gender and Human Rights Advisory Panel to the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP). She is Member of the Board of Directors of the International Bureau for Children Rights (IBCR).



Erica Peiser Fitzmorris

Board Member, Wallace Global Fund

Born in Northern California, Erica Peiser Fitzmorris is a graduate of Eugene Lang College, the New School for Liberal Arts in New York where she nurtured a passion for literature, sociology and sustainability. She also studied public international law at University van Amsterdam, as well as studied voice at the Mannes School of Music and the New School for Jazz. After pursuing a career in supply chain technology and sustainable packaging, she now resides in beautiful Lake Tahoe, where she is managing co-owner of a mission driven community and event space. She is the co- chair of the Immersion Foundation, a philanthropic fund focused on agroecology and corporate capture. She recognizes that she lives on the ancestral lands of the Washoe and supports the Washoe Warrior Society's Land Back campaign to build a people's house.

NGO EXHIBITION

CONNECT. DISCOVER. COLLABORATE.

Location: Entumo Lawns
Dates: September 2-3
Hours: 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

Between sessions, panels, and programming, stop by our NGO Exhibition in Entumo Lawns. Learn more about the nonprofits, organizations, collectives, and arts and media initiatives dedicated to ending FGM/C and CEFMU. The exhibition will run throughout the convening.

EXHIBITORS

African Women's Rights Advocates - a holistic, intersectional, and Indigenous African-led movement that advances the rights, dignity, and leadership of African women and girls across the continent and the diaspora.

Amazonian initiative Movement (AIM) - To promote and protect the rights of women and girls through mobilization of communities, influencing policy and legal reforms, education, and survivor-led advocacy, working collaboratively to eliminate FGM and other gender based violence and uphold the human dignity of every woman and girl in Sierra Leone.

Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW) - a regional non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing the rights of women, girls, and young people in all their diversities across Asia and the Pacific.

End FGC Singapore - a community effort led by a diverse group of people who advocate for the end of female genital cutting in Singapore.

End FGM Canada Network - The End FGM Canada Network is a non-partisan group of survivors, individuals and organizations working to end female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and support survivors both in Canada and abroad.

End FGM European Network an umbrella network of 45 European organisations based in 17 European countries operating to sustain European action to ending female genital mutilation by connecting grassroots communities with non-government organisations.

Girls Not Brides – A global network of more than 1,400 civil society organizations committed to ending child, early, and forced marriage and ensuring that girls can fulfill their potential.

Global Comfort - to promote the physical and mental health of girls and women affected by female genital mutilation (FGM) and other harmful traditional practices, through support, education, and advocacy.

Initiative for Girl's Rights and Health Development- IGRHD - promoting reproductive rights education affecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and women

RURAL EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME - To Achieve, Support and Sustain an Empowered Generation through Capacity Building, Advocacy and Lobbying for the Protection of Human Rights.

Sahiyo - a non-governmental organization founded in 2015, to advocate for girls' and women's rights and oppose the practice of female genital mutilation in Asian communities, with a focus on the Dawoodi Bohra community in India.

Samburu Girls Foundation – A Kenyan organization working to rescue and support girls affected by child marriage and FGM/C, while providing education, protection, and opportunities for girls to build independent futures.

There Is No Limit Foundation – A 501(c)(3) international nonprofit organization committed to advancing dignity, security, and justice through advocacy, maternal health, and economic empowerment.

U.S. End FGM/C Network – The U.S. End FGM/C Network is a collaborative group of survivors, civil society organizations, foundations, activists, policymakers, researchers, healthcare providers, and others committed to promoting the abandonment of FGM/C in the United States and around the world.

Without Exception Films - Without Exception Films is a women-led independent production company based in Los Angeles, CA.

CREATIVE CORNER

Throughout the convening, participants are invited to visit and engage with the **Creative Corner,** a curated and immersive space centering art, storytelling, and creative expression as tools for healing, narrative change, solidarity, and movement-building.

Creative programming will include installations and opportunities to experience visual art, writing, films, storytelling, and participatory activities.

Featured Experiences

Dear Future Me
Postcards from girls around the world to their future adult selves, sharing their dreams and hopes for the future.

Declarations of Existence
An interactive poetry installation displayed in the Main Conference Hall.

Film & Media
Film trailers and screenings highlighting creative work connected to the themes of the convening.

Without Exception Films Interviews
Ongoing conversations with survivor leaders and frontline advocates documenting reflections on the movement to end FGM/C and CEFMU.

WELLNESS & CARE

Movement work requires spaces for rest, grounding, care, and connection.

Throughout the Justice for Girls Convening, participants will have access to wellness and decompression programming designed to support collective wellbeing.

Offerings will include:

- Therapist check-ins
- Quiet and silence spaces
- Coloring and creative reflection
- Grounding activities
- Yoga
- Qigong and LouHan Patting
- Film screenings
- Opportunities for individual reflection and rest

Participation in wellness programming is always optional.

WELLBEING & SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Dr. Leyla Hussein OBE

Psychotherapist | Human Rights Advocate | Author / Founder, The Dahlia Project / Director, Magool Consultancy

Dr Leyla Hussein is a psychotherapist, human rights advocate and author, internationally recognised for her work on FGM, gender-based violence, trauma, survivor leadership and the wellbeing of activists and movements.

A survivor of FGM, Leyla has spent more than two decades advocating for the rights, safety, dignity and bodily autonomy of women and girls. She is the founder of The Dahlia Project, one of the UK's first specialist therapeutic services for FGM survivors, creating spaces where survivors can access culturally sensitive, trauma-informed support and healing.

As Director of Magool Consultancy, Leyla works with organisations, movements and leaders globally to embed trauma-informed practice, safeguarding, wellbeing and Do No Harm approaches into programmes, advocacy and organisational cultures. Leyla is also an author and prominent public voice on FGM, survivor leadership and gender justice. Her advocacy and storytelling have reached global audiences, including through her BAFTA-nominated work.



Ainebyoona Sharlotte Kigezo

Wellbeing Support Team, Legal Arc/Wellness Support

Sharlotte is a practicing psychologist with 9+ years of experience in feminist collective care, trauma-informed therapy, and somatic grounding. She is here to offer confidential 1-on-1 support, nervous system resets, and a safe space to debrief throughout the convening. Feel free to approach her anytime in the wellness room or between sessions.

LOGISTICS TEAM



Michelle Taylor

Development Director, Sahiyo

Michelle Taylor brings over 15 years of experience in nonprofit development, fundraising, finance, and event management, with a career spanning youth development, health, education, and women's empowerment. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (California State University), where she studied finance and international business, and a Master of Science in International Affairs (Marquette University).

Her commitment to community-led change was shaped in part by her experience as a Small Enterprise Development Peace Corps Volunteer in Sénégal, West Africa, where she worked alongside local communities to support economic opportunity and development. At Sahiyo, Michelle leads development and supports the organization's finance, operations, and strategic growth. She brings a practical, collaborative approach to building partnerships, mobilizing resources, and creating spaces that connect people around shared goals. Michelle is a member of the organizing team for Justice for Girls 2026.



Alice Ngari

Movement Building Strategist- FGM/C, GBV & SRHR | Convenor & Psychotherapist (Global Convening Strategy & Logistics Coordinator, Justice for Girls)

Alice Ngari is a women's rights movement strategist with over 20 years of experience across Africa, providing strategic leadership to programmes, partnerships, civil society networks and movements advancing the rights, safety, dignity and wellbeing of women and girls. Highly experienced in strategic planning, movement building, organisational strengthening, partnership development, advocacy, advancing survivor leadership and multi-stakeholder engagement. She is recognized for her ability to build consensus among diverse stakeholders, strengthen institutional collaboration, and inspire joint ownership of complex initiatives. With a passion for social justice and a strong belief in locally led change, Alice stands as a committed advocate and strategic convenor, dedicated to nurturing and strengthening social movements that drive transformational change for gender equality and community well-being.



WITH GRATITUDE

The Justice for Girls Convening is the result of the collective vision, care, time, and labor of many people and organizations working across movements, regions, and communities.

We extend our deep gratitude to everyone who contributed to shaping this convening, from developing the vision and agenda to organizing sessions, coordinating logistics, engaging speakers and participants, and helping create a space grounded in movement-building, solidarity, learning, and collective action.

CORE ORGANIZING GROUP

- Anush Aghalbayan
- Ifrah Ahmed
- Fatou Baldeh
- Renee Bergstrom
- Kate Bourne
- Phaedra Boulanger
- Mamlisa Camara
- Kristel Mendoza Castillo
- Staicy Chesok
- Ellen Dorsey
- Saza Faradilla
- Susan Gibbs
- Sema Gornall
- Naimah Hassan
- Dr. Leyla Hussein
- Dena Igusti
- Nabeela Iqbal
- Aarefa Johari
- Keegan Kagwe
- Marianne Nguena Kana
- Wanjiru Koinange
- Millicent Kwambai
- Caitlin LeMay
- Patricia Mars
- Hafswa Mohamed
- Jean-Paul Murunga
- Alice Ngari
- Kirigo Njenga
- Kira Omans
- Giselle Portenier
- Faith Mwangi-Powell
- Safiya Riyaz
- Natalie Roberts
- Faiza Salleh
- Godson Salman
- Jacqueline Samuels
- Noleen Sang-Opondo
- Nejma Sayeh
- Megan Seaver
- Emily Shrair
- Divya Srinivasan
- Mariya Taher
- Michelle Taylor
- Sheena Vasani
- Wanjiru Wahome
- Warda Warsame
- Mercy Yego
- Nuzhat Zaman

We are also deeply grateful to the many session organizers, facilitators, moderators, speakers, youth leaders, note-takers, volunteers, partners, and behind-the-scenes contributors whose work made this gathering possible.

This convening reflects a truly collective effort. Thank you for bringing your knowledge, creativity, care, and commitment to building a stronger movement for girls' rights and ending FGM/C and child marriage.

TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING A MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE FOR GIRLS.

Justice for Girls: Ending FGM/C and Child Marriage in a Generation

Naivasha, Kenya | September 2–4, 2026

Your paragraph text