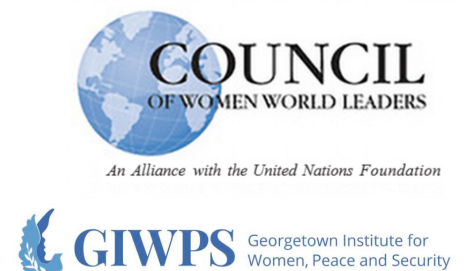




# HÖFÐI HOUSE REPORT 2020





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# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Twenty years have passed since the UN Security Council adopted its landmark resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. While meaningful milestones have been achieved for women's leadership and participation at all levels of peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes, overall improvement remains stagnant and inequalities have worsened due to the onslaught of COVID-19.

The 2020 Power Together: Reykjavík Summit first convened in November of 2018 to provide a platform for esteemed women leaders to exchange knowledge and ideas, creating collective action steps that can be implemented to advance the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda. This high-level discussion is held annually in tandem with the Reykjavík Global Forum - Women Leaders.



# HÖFÐI HOUSE: CONTINUING A LEGACY

The choice of Höfði House as the venue for the Power Together: Reykjavík Summit, held since its inception in 2018, is one of great significance. No stranger to high-level discussions, Höfði House embodies the power of conversation and the opportunities bringing people together presents.

Höfði House will forever hold a place in history as the location of the 1986 Reykjavík Summit talks held between the leaders of the two hegemonic powers and Cold War adversaries, the U.S. and the Soviet Union. At a defining moment, the talks between President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev at Höfði House represented a major breakthrough in the relationship between the two nations. Through dialogue and the building of relationships, a space was created that allowed for the most pressing geopolitical questions of the time to be addressed. The 1986 Reykjavík Summit is credited with paving the way for the signing of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Missile Treaty the following year, an important step towards ending the Cold War.

An equally important reason for the choice of Höfði House as the venue for the Power Together: Reykjavík Summit is its location. It is fitting that a meeting of such exceptional women leaders be held in the capital of Iceland, a global leader in equality between women and men.<sup>1</sup>

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1 Global Gender Gap Report 2020, World Economic Forum



## FOREWORD

More than twenty years have now passed since the landmark 1325 Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security.<sup>2</sup> Today, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to weaken global peace and security, while exacerbating inequalities among the world's most vulnerable populations. This has led to a shadow pandemic of gender-based violence, extended education gaps, and proven the harm climate change brings to the sustainability and well-being of society.

Despite the proven track records of female leaders and women within the peace and security architectures, women still struggle to have their voices heard. How do we elevate more women so that gap can be closed? And how do we increase the visibility of those women already at the forefront?

The 2020 Power Together: Reykjavík Summit convened an extraordinary group of women leaders for a cutting edge conversation on these topics. This distinguished roundtable discussion represents the continued commitment of Women Political Leaders, the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, and the Council of Women World Leaders to foster inclusive conversations on Women, Peace and Security and recognise the contributions women have already made.

For too long, women have been excluded from global conversations on peace and security. The Power Together: Reykjavík Summit provides an opportunity to remedy this, not by creating “a seat at the table” but rather by launching a space where the vital voices of women are centre stage. It is high time women claim the spaces once reserved exclusively for men and continue to assume a leading role in shaping global dialogue, policy, and collaboration on peace and security.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Silvana Koch-Mehrin'.

**Silvana Koch-Mehrin**  
President and Founder, Women political  
Leaders (WPL)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Melanne Verweer'.

**Melanne Verweer**  
Executive Director, Georgetown Institute for  
Women, Peace and Security

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2 UNSC RES 1325

# SESSION TOPICS & GUIDING QUESTIONS

Global crises pose a major threat to peace and security. Today's most volatile enemies are the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. Multilateralism is a key approach leaders must engage to successfully mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and climate change, among other global crises. Global frameworks for equality between women and men, including UN Security Council 1325, were born from our multilateral system and in the spirit of collective commitment and action. Accelerating progress and closing implementation gaps will require this same cooperation. Multilateral actors must recommit to the frameworks they created and then deliver on their commitments.

## I. Strengthening Multilateralism

- What actions must we take to enable more strategic and effective multilateralism? Both for the policymaking processes and implementation of adopted policies.
  - Put differently: If you were leading institutions either at the international or regional level, what changes/reforms could be undertaken?
- In your answers you may consider: do we have the ability to implement these reforms? What needs to be in place? What is the role of middle powers? Are there new alliances or constellations of actors that can supplement/improve our current structures?

## II. Making Multilateralism Work for Gender Equality between women and men and Women's Empowerment

Today's multilateral system is under fire. Straining against rising authoritarianism and nationalism, it is failing to respond when crises are most urgent and often with the most dire consequences for women and girls. At the same time, COVID-19 has also presented an opportunity to rethink how we can strengthen global cooperation to meet the scale of the crises at hand, and to rebuild a more sustainable and equitable world for all.

- How will multilaterals deliver an equitable recovery from the pandemic?
- How can multilaterals accelerate implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda? How to ensure adequate resourcing? Is there a way for regional organizations to more effectively act on the UN mandate?
- Recognizing the critical role of women peacebuilders on the ground (engaged in track 2 and 3 processes), how to connect them with official processes? How to adequately support and resource grassroots women's organizations?
- How to mobilize political will and how to deal with pushback?

“Women must also have a determinative voice in terms of the allocation of financial resources. That is the engine that helps us to achieve some of the necessary things we must achieve.”

**Paula Cox**  
Premier of Bermuda 2010-2012

### III. Multilateralism and the Climate Crisis

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of today's society. There is a growing recognition of the nexus between women, climate, and conflict. The Security Council has recognized engagement on climate as an imperative under UNSCR 1325. With a vast and complex pool of stakeholders, solutions to combat climate change must embody multilateralism in order to successfully mitigate the effects of climate change. .

- What more should multilateral actors be doing to effectively address the climate crisis? Ahead of Glasgow 2021, what should be the calls to action? What more must be done to ensure that multilaterals are equipped and willing to take the necessary steps to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis?
  - i.e. additional financial commitments/mobilization of resources? to whom/where, from who, how to be coordinated?
- What does COVID-19 teach us that we can apply to the climate crisis in terms of multilateral action?
- How do we ensure the implementation of the gender directives adopted by recent COPs?



# CONFERENCE NARRATIVE

## Reforming and Scaling-Up Multilateral Support for Equity

**The 2020 Power Together: Reykjavík Summit** was set to be celebrated alongside the 20th anniversary of the adoption of UN resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security. The tone of this celebration turned to crisis management and calls for unity as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to spread.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded the gaps in progress for women and girls around the world. It is distressing that the UN Security Council had a difficult time passing a collective resolution on the pandemic, due to the polarization that is taking place in many of our countries and international organizations.

The multilateral system is clearly indispensable, but it faces significant challenges. This discussion served as a powerful means to bring together women leaders in charge of peace and security, in order to put women at the core of Women, Peace, and Security advancements and chart the future of multilateralism. The **Power Together: Reykjavík Summit** forged collective leadership and the exchange of knowledge and ideas to better understand how to contribute to re-engage multilateralism as a global society.

“ We should look at the importance of women in science, philosophy, economic issues, financial issues, and social research. There are already women there, but they are invisible. These networks can help support them to become visible. ”

**Michèle Pierre-Louis**  
Prime minister of Haiti 2008-2009

# 2020 POWER TOGETHER: REYKJAVÍK SUMMIT OUTCOME DECLARATION

In 1986, then US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev met for a historic summit at the Höfði House in Reykjavík, Iceland which would lead to the end of the Cold War. Now, over 30 years later, it has become the site\* of the annual POWER TOGETHER: Reykjavík Summit – a distinguished roundtable discussion among women leaders seeking to advance progress on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda.

Held in tandem with the annual Reykjavík Global Forum - Women Leaders – and marking the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 – esteemed participants of the 2020 POWER TOGETHER: Reykjavík Summit outlined key action steps necessary for reforming and scaling-up international cooperation in order to enable significant progress on the Women, Peace and Security agenda. These actions are particularly critical in light of global crises, from COVID-19 to climate change, that demand cooperative and gender-sensitive responses.

We call on all leaders to:

- Harness the opportunities of the COVID-19 moment to build a more equitable, sustainable, and robust multilateral system that effectively responds to the needs of women and girls.
- Strengthen coordination among global, regional, and national networks, based on meaningful interaction with civil society, the private sector, cities, local authorities, and other key stakeholders. Advance a “glocal” approach – thinking globally while planning tailored solutions at the regional and local levels.
- Coordinate multilateral efforts to counter backlash to equality between women and men and promote democratic values.
- Acknowledge women's leadership and advance their meaningful participation in all

aspects of peace and security. Specific measures include enacting temporary quotas to advance parity in peace processes, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding, strengthening networks of women leaders, and making visible women's valuable contributions in peace processes, particularly at the informal and grassroots levels.

- Provide dedicated gender-sensitive funding and support to invest in a more sustainable and equitable future.
- Build a cross-sectoral, multilevel, and collective effort to fight climate change, involving scientific-based, gender-sensitive approaches. Harness the collaboration between local actors, such as cities, private sector businesses, and international bodies to share examples of best practice and coordinate innovative bottom-up solutions.
- Engage and empower the next generation as leaders and changemakers.

\*In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 POWER TOGETHER: Reykjavík Summit was held in a virtual format.

“ COVID-19 has been a wake up call that the concept of security has to be understood much more broadly than what has been done traditionally. COVID-19 is a different kind of enemy, and this is preparing us for climate change, the reversal of biodiversity, and different kinds of threats to the security of our society. ”

**Tarja Halonen**

President of Finland 2000-2012

# CONCLUSION

The 2020 Höfði House conversation emphasised the need for renewing the commitment to advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda at a point in time when there is a high risk for progress not only to be halted but to be lost.

Women leaders, although far too few in number, have risen to the challenges of the global pandemic, shown exemplary skill in managing the crisis, and in many cases achieved the best results. As the participants emphasized, the lessons learned from Covid-19 must be employed as the world grapples with another global problem that is looming large, Climate Change.

Urging the adoption of “glocal” thinking and a reinvigorated multilateralism that responds to the needs of women and girls around the world, the participants stressed not only the need to continue to fight for greater inclusion but also the importance of increasing the visibility of women already at the helm. This however can only be achieved when the Women, Peace and Security agenda gets the full recognition of its worth and secures meaningful investment.





# ADDENDUM

## Recommendations to come out of The 2020 Power, Together: Reykjavík Summit.

**1) Strengthen coordination among global, regional, and national networks, based on meaningful interaction with civil society, the private sector, cities, local authorities, and other key stakeholders.**

**Adopt a “glocal” approach: think globally, but plan individualised solutions at the local level.** While global institutions must be used to solve global problems, local actors, including cities and government localities, often act better to coordinate citizen-focused responses on issues. National authorities should involve local-level actors to show examples of best practice and provide bottom-up solutions to cross-cutting issues.

**Strengthen ties between a constellation of actors, including the private sector, to support national recovery efforts and bolster the multilateral system.** For example, harnessing the collaboration between cities, businesses, and international bodies on global issues, such as climate change and education, can create innovative solutions to transnational challenges.

**Align member states in ways that support multilateral efforts, while taking into account the different – and often divided – opinions of their people and societies.** The UN system is only as strong as its member states allow it to be. Bolstering the health of nations, in terms of democratic robustness, is important for a strong multilateral system.

**Increase the representation of civil society at the negotiating table.** Grassroots organisations in the informal sector and those who understand the true needs of society must be represented at all levels of decision-making.

“ We can mix local level, private sector, and national level authorities to provide solutions for issues that will have a strong impact on the world of the future... We need to think in a ‘glocal’ world. ”

**Rosalía Arteaga Serrano**  
President of Ecuador (1997)

**2) Acknowledge women's leadership and advance their meaningful participation in all areas of governance, peacebuilding, the economy, and forums to address global threats, such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Reform the peace table and integrate parity issues in all aspects of peace and security, stemming from the top levels.** Strengthen the implementation of UNSCR 1325 by using our significant base of data, research, and experience to show that peace processes where women are involved lead to stronger, longer lasting peace.

**Leverage the recent focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion on a global level to ensure women have a seat at the table.** Applying principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion can leverage connections across regional organizations and through institutional structures – such as Women in Public Life and the Council of Women Leaders – and put women's issues on the agenda.

**Enact temporary special measures and quotas,** which can be applied to advance women's participation in peace processes, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding.

**Make visible women's informal, Track II and Track III work at the grassroots level.** Secretary-General Gutierrez has made a commitment to integrating gender parity in all areas concerning security systems. We must highlight the link between women's meaningful participation in peacekeeping, peace processes, and better protection of women in conflict situations.

**Ensure the Women, Peace and Security agenda recognizes the women and feminist organizations who are on the forefront of fighting violence, armed trafficking, and conflict triggered by non state actors.** Gangs and nonstate actors are precipitating wars, but they are not formally viewed as wars in the classical definition and under UNSCR 1325. Women waging against these actors must be recognized in their struggle for justice and equality.

**Strengthen networks of women and women leaders, including elevating women in all fields, beyond just politics.** Women are making strides in areas of philosophy, science, the economy, and academia, but their work often remains in the shadows. We need to support and bring their work to the fore.

### **3) Provide dedicated gender-sensitive funding and support to invest in a more sustainable and equitable future.**

Strengthen political will and financial wherewithal, including gender-informed resource allocation, gender-assessed budgeting, and needs-based gender budgeting.

**Advance women's participation in governance from the bottom-up by providing training and financing for women's local governance.** Making greater strides in financing women's participation at the local level will infuse new ideas – including on issues of climate change, environmental issues, garbage collection, and agriculture – in government at the highest levels.

**Ensure the Green Fund can adequately finance women's organizations working in climate mitigation and adaptation** and provide resources to address the vulnerability of the agricultural sector and coastal regions.

**Increase financing for women, peace and security by increasing ODA benefits to women's organisations.** In accordance with the Secretary-General's recommendations, increase ODA benefits to women's organizations from its current level of 0.2 percent to 15 percent minimum.

**“ It's not enough to come to the table. We have to be educated when we get to the table. ”**

**Melanne Verveer**

Executive Director, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues

#### **4) Coordinate multilateral efforts to counter backlash to gender equality and democratic values.**

**Echo the Secretary-General's call for more emphasis on protection in peace and security fields.** Specifically, we must highlight the protection of women human rights defenders and peacebuilders facing backlash to their meaningful involvement, and establish clear links between peace and security and human rights violations.

**Provide international attention and oversight to spotlight human rights violators.** At the top level, sanctions, social media campaigns, and other multilateral support can help maintain international pressure and spotlight the efforts of women-led human rights defenders on the ground, such as in Belarus.

**Ensure regional powers provide dedicated financial support to confronting anti-democratic regimes at the top and bottom levels.** For example, addressing the anti-democratic situations in Belarus, Poland, and Ukraine require political, material, and financial support from regional nations.



**5) Build a cross-sectoral, multilevel, and collective effort to fight climate change, involving scientific-based, gender-sensitive approaches.**

Harness the critical role of women in all aspects of climate change and sustainability work and make the evidence-based case for women's meaningful participation in climate issues. Women play critical roles in areas of agriculture, renewable energy, composting, and reconfiguring garbage, among other climate issues, and must be involved in every step of the decision-making process.

Apply a gender lens to the issue of climate change at all levels, including at the citizen, civil society, state and ministerial, and international levels.

Support and collaborate with regional countries and island nations to address joint climate vulnerabilities and build a more sustainable future. Nordic countries have a double responsibility to confront the climate crisis because the consequences of climate change will spill over to island nations. We must enhance regional cooperation in the Arctic backed by strong international, scientific-based collaboration to step up collective engagement on climate change.

Work with local governments to address food waste by redistributing food and water resources, making them available and accessible to wide swaths of people.

“The crisis gives an opportunity to show what women are capable of and their courage to take responsibility... and for strong women to go up and say they are not afraid to do the job.”

**Dalia Grybauskaite**  
President of Lithuania 2009-2019

## **6) Engage and empower the next generation as leaders and changemakers.**

**Emphasize girls' education as a central consideration for the future of the multilateral system and the role of educators in multilateral solutions.** Early interventions for education are critical to modify habits and work toward a more sustainable future, yet the aggregate impacts of COVID-19 will be significant for the exclusion of girls from school. Ensuring sustained access to education and harnessing the influence of teachers will prepare girls to address key multilateral issues, such as economic challenges, climate change, and democratic governance.

**Empower and support young generations and civil society activists working to address climate change.** Young people recognize that climate change is threatening their futures, and they have a critical role in changing climate policy at all levels – from influencing parents in the household to local and national government officials. Engaging young people on issues of environment and sustainability may also be a key pathway to politics.

**7) Harness the opportunities of the COVID-19 moment to build a more sustainable and robust multilateral system.**

Use this period of disruption to disrupt and get the gender equality agenda more forcibly heard. This should include investing in societal improvements that address the nexus of gender, health, economic, and political tensions.

Redefine our conception of traditional security challenges and outline what kind of post-COVID-19 society we want to see. COVID-19 has been a wake up call that the concept of security must be more comprehensive, including issues of climate change, biodiversity, and global pandemics.

Increase the visibility of women on the frontlines of COVID-19 and ensure their meaningful inclusion in the development of pandemic recovery efforts. Women are leading with courage, taking up responsibility and enacting change in their societies. COVID-19 provides the opportunity to lift up strong women and make visible their ability to achieve meaningful reform, including women political leaders and those who represent the social, health, and educational sectors needed to fully attack this virus.

Advance comprehensive and systematic gender-analysis in areas of conflict, climate change, and COVID-19. We must also close gender data gaps and publicize information on women's roles, participation, and the impact of conflict and crises on women.

# ATTENDEES AND WOMEN PRESIDENTS AND PRIME MINISTERS AT THE 2020 REYKJAVÍK GLOBAL FORUM<sup>3</sup>

## Ameenah Gurib Fakim

President of Mauritius 2015-2018



Ameenah Gurib-Fakim served as the first female President of Mauritius from 2015 to 2018, thus making her the third woman to serve as Head of State of the country.

In Mauritius, Gurib-Fakim taught organic chemistry at the University of Mauritius, where she also served as Dean of the Faculty of Science and Pro-Vice Chancellor. In 2009, Gurib-Fakim opened a research centre devoted to studying the medical and nutritious effects of plant life in Mauritius, where she is still Managing Director. She served as the Chairperson for the International Council for Scientific Union – Regional Office for Africa from 2011 to 2014.

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<sup>3</sup> Bios of Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL) Members are adapted from those published on the CWWL website.



## Aminata Touré

Prime Minister of Senegal 2013-2014



Dr. Touré served as the Prime Minister of Senegal from September 2013 until July 2014. She was the second female Prime Minister of Senegal.

She was Justice Minister from 2012 to 2013 where she focused on anti-corruption campaigns. Since 2014, she led several Presidential election observation missions including in Mauritius, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Kenya, where she co-led the first round of the election observation mission on behalf of the Carter Center with then-US Secretary of State, John Kerry. She was Director of the Gender and Human Rights World Department of the United Nations Population Funds in New York (from 2009 to 2012), Senior Adviser at UNFPA Headquarters in New York (from 2003 to 2009).

She is currently a special envoy of President Macky Sall for Internal and External Affairs.

## Atifete Jahjaga

President of the Republic of Kosovo 2011-2016



Atifete Jahjaga is the first female President of Kosovo and served as Head of State from 2011 to 2016.

Prior to her election as the President of Kosovo, President Jahjaga served in the Police force of Kosovo. President Jahjaga devoted significant effort to empowering women and supporting the survivors of sexual violence during the war. In this context, in 2012, she hosted the International Women's Summit "Partnership for Change — Empowering Women", attended by 200 leaders from Kosovo, the Wider Europe, North America, Africa and the Middle East. Discussions at the summit led to the adoption of the Pristina Principles which affirm the rights of women to political participation and representation, economic resources, and access to security and justice, and calls for actions to make these principles a reality. President Jahjaga mobilized public opinion in support of the socially stigmatized survivors of sexual violence, included Kosovo in global initiatives on the prevention of sexual violence as a tool of war, and helped to create and establish the necessary legal infrastructure for survivors in order to guarantee survivors their rights.

In March of 2018, she established the Jahjaga Foundation- an initiative that focuses on youth and women empowerment towards achieving social change in Kosovo.

## Chandrika Kumaratunga

President of Sri Lanka 1994-2005



Chandrika Kumaratunga was elected Executive President from 1994-2005, becoming Sri Lanka's first and only female Executive President.

In 1993, she was elected Chief Minister of the Western Province in a landslide victory. Then, in August, 1994, she followed in the footsteps of both her parents and was elected Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Her father, Solomon Bandaranaike, was elected Prime Minister of Sri Lanka in 1956 and Chandrika's mother, Sirimavo, was the world's first female Prime Minister when she was elected into office in 1960. Chandrika served a total of three terms and 18 years as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

Chandrika temporarily retired from active politics in 2005, after serving two terms as Executive President. In 2015, Kumaratunga was appointed as the Chairperson of the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation. She continues to work, however, towards her vision of a more inclusive and democratic Sri Lanka through the CBK Foundation for Democracy and Justice (FDJ) and the South Asian Policy and Research Institute (SAPRI).

## Dalia Grybauskaitė

President of Lithuania 2009-2019



Dalia Grybauskaitė served as the first female President of Lithuania from 2009 to 2019. She served as the Chair of the CWWL from 2014 to 2019.

In 1991, Dalia Grybauskaitė was appointed Director of the European Department at the Ministry of International Economic Relations. In 1993, she served as Director of the Economic Relations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the following year she was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Lithuanian Mission to the EU. From 1996-1999, Dalia Grybauskaitė acted as Minister Plenipotentiary at the Lithuanian Embassy in the US. She then served as Vice Finance Minister (1999-2000), Vice Foreign Minister from (2000-2001), and Finance Minister (2001-2004).

In 2004, Dalia Grybauskaitė was appointed EU Commissioner Responsible for Financial Programming and Budget. In November 2005, she was elected Commissioner of the Year for her efforts to reform the EU budget.

## Erna Solberg

Prime Minister of Norway



Erna Solberg is the current Prime Minister of Norway. She was first elected in 2013 and re-elected in 2017, thus making her the second female to hold the position.

Prime Minister Solberg was a deputy member of Bergen city council in the periods 1979–1983 and 1987–1989, the last period on the executive committee. She was first elected to the Storting (Norwegian Parliament) from Hordaland in 1989 and has been re-elected five times. She was also the leader of the national Conservative Women's Association, from 1994 to 1998. From 2001 to 2005 Solberg served as the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development.

From 2016 the Prime Minister has co-chaired the UN Secretary General's Advocacy group for the Sustainable Development goals.

## Helen Clark

Prime Minister of New Zealand 1999-2008



Helen Clark was elected Prime Minister of New Zealand first in 1999 and then twice more in 2002 and 2005.

She was elected to Parliament in 1981 and later became the first woman to lead a party to electoral victory in New Zealand. From 1987 to 1990, she was a Cabinet Minister, holding at various times the portfolios of housing, conservation, labour, and health. In 1989–90, she also served as Deputy Prime Minister and in 1990 was appointed to the Privy Council, becoming the first woman in New Zealand to hold those offices. Helen Clark became the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme in April 2009 and was the first woman to lead that organisation.

In 2019, the former Prime Minister became the patron of The Helen Clark Foundation, an independent non-partisan public policy think tank with the stated mission to public research papers that contribute to a “more just, sustainable and peaceful society.” She also serves as Chair of the Board at Women Political Leaders.

## Hilda Heine

President of the Marshall Islands 2016-2020



President Hilda C. Heine served as the eighth President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands from 2016 to 2020, and is the first Marshallese woman to hold this office.

President Heine served the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands starting as a classroom teacher, school counselor, school administrator, college President before being named as Minister of Education between 1992-1995. President Heine was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from the College of the Marshall Islands. Dr. Heine is also the founder of the women's rights group, Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI).

Dr. Heine currently serves as an advisor, officer and member of multiple task forces, committees and working groups.

## Joyce Banda

President of Malawi 2012-2014



President Joyce Banda was elected Malawi's first female president and Africa's second from 2012 to 2014.

Before her presidency in 2012, she served as Minister of Gender, Child Welfare, and community services (2004-2006), Foreign Minister (2006-2009), and the first female Vice President of the Republic of Malawi (2009-2012).

On the international scene, President Banda was instrumental in the formation of the African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (AFWE), currently running in 41 countries in Africa; the Council for the Economic Empowerment of Women in Africa (CEEWA); and the American & African Business Women's Alliance (AABWA), of which she served as First President. Currently, President Banda is a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Center for Global Development.



## Julia Gillard

Prime Minister of Australia 2010-2013



Julia Gillard served as the first female Prime Minister of Australia between 2010 and 2013.

From 1998 until 2001, Gillard served on a number of committees including, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Workplace Relations. Then in 2001, she was appointed Shadow Minister for Population and Immigration, and in 2003, she took on the responsibilities of the Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs Committee. From 2003 to 2006, Ms. Gillard served as Shadow Minister for Health followed in 2006 by an appointment as Shadow Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Social Inclusion.

In 2017 she became chair of Beyond Blue, a nonprofit organization involved in mental health issues, notably depression. In 2020, Prime Minister Gillard released her book "Women and Leadership: Real Lives, Real Lessons" co-authored with Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

## Katrín Jakobsdóttir

Prime Minister of Iceland



Katrín Jakobsdóttir is the current Prime Minister of Iceland, elected November 2017 during the last election. She is Iceland's second female Head of Government. She also serves as the Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders.

She became deputy Chairperson of the Left-Green Movement in 2003 and has been the Chairwoman of the party since 2013. Jakobsdóttir has been a Member of Parliament since 2007, serving as the Minister of Education, Science and Culture and as Minister for Nordic Cooperation from 2009 to 2013.

## Kersti Kaljulaid

President of Estonia



Kersti Kaljulaid is the first female and current President of Estonia, elected into office in 2016.

From 1999 to 2002, Kersti Kaljulaid was Prime Minister Mart Laar's Economic Advisor. From 2002 to 2004, Kersti Kaljulaid was the CFO and CEO of the Iru Power Plant of state-owned energy company Eesti Energia. From 2004 to 2016 she was a Member of the European Court of Auditors.

In addition, Kersti Kaljulaid was a member of the Supervisory Board of the Estonian Genome Center from 2001 to 2004. From 2010 to 2016 she coordinated the preparation of the Annual Report and State of Assurance of the European Court of Auditors.

## Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović

President of Croatia 2015-2020



Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović was elected President of the Republic of Croatia on January 11, 2015 and served until February 19, 2020. She also served as the Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders from 2019 to 2020.

From 2001 to 2003 she served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in November 2003 she was elected to the Croatian Parliament in the 7th constituency. That same year, she was awarded the post of Minister of European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and later the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, and she was in charge until 2008.

In 2008, President Grabar-Kitarović became the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the United States. She was appointed NATO Secretary General's Assistant to Public Diplomacy in 2011 and remained in office until 2014, as the first woman in NATO's history to serve as Assistant Secretary-General and the highest ranking woman in NATO.

## Laura Chinchilla Miranda

President of Costa Rica 2010-2014



Laura Chinchilla Miranda was elected the first female President of the Republic of Costa Rica on February 7, 2010, for a constitutional term of four years.

Miranda was appointed as Minister of Public Security between 1996 and 1998, the first woman to hold that position. In 2006 she was elected Vice President of Costa Rica, assuming office as the Ministry of Justice at the same time. Finally, in 2010 she became President.

As former President, she is active on global agenda issues being part of various forums, such as the Club de Madrid, the Inter American Dialogue, and the Latin America Presidential Commission. Most recently she headed the Organization of American State's Observation Electoral Mission during the 2015 electoral process in México.

## Mari Kiviniemi

Prime minister of Finland 2010-2011



Mari Kiviniemi served as the second female Prime Minister of Finland from 2010 to 2011.

Elected for the first time at the age of 26, she was a Member of Parliament from 1995 to 2014, chairing and participating in a vast number of committees. Prior to taking office, she was Special Advisor on Economic Policy to the Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Minister for European Affairs and Minister of Public Administration and Local Government.

After serving as Prime Minister, she took up her duties as OECD Deputy Secretary-General on 25th August 2014. She is responsible for the strategic oversight of the OECD's work on Efficient and Effective Governance; Territorial Development; Trade and Agriculture, Statistics; for advancing the Better Life Initiative; as well as Entrepreneurship, SMEs', Local development and Tourism.

## Maria Das Neves

Prime minister of São Tomé and Príncipe 2002-2004



Maria das Neves was elected the first woman Prime Minister of São Tomé and Príncipe, a position which she held from 2002 to 2004. Before becoming head of government, Maria das Neves worked as a civil servant in the Ministry of Finance, in the World Bank and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

She held major government posts including Minister of Economics (1999–2001), Minister of Finance (2001-2002) and Minister of Trade, Industry, and Tourism (2002).

## Maria do Carmo Silveira

Prime minister of São Tomé and Príncipe 2005-2006



Maria do Carmo Silveira is the former Prime Minister of São Tomé and Príncipe, serving in that capacity from 2005-2006.

She was the third governor of São Tomé and Príncipe's Central Bank from 1999 to 2005. She again served in this capacity from 2011 as the sixth governor..She served as Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Finance of São Tomé and Príncipe from June 8, 2005 to April 21, 2006. Silveira is a member of the Movement for the Liberation of São Tomé and Príncipe-Social Democratic Party (MLSTP-PSD) and was a member of the party executive board.

Today Her Excellency is the Executive Secretary at Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (CPLP).



## Marie Louise Coleiro Preca

President of Malta 2014-2019



Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca served as the ninth President of the Republic of Malta and took office in April, 2014. At the age of 55 years, Her Excellency was the youngest President of the country, and the second woman to occupy the office of Head of State after 32 years.

President Coleiro Preca served as a Member of the Maltese Parliament from 1998-2014 and served on the Maltese delegation to the Council of Europe from 2008-2013.

Soon after taking office in the presidency, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca established The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, The Malta Trust Foundation, The President's Secret Garden, the Arraiolos Group, Empower, and The Emanuele Cancer Research Foundation Malta. Her Excellency serves as a Board Member of Women Political Leaders.

## Mary Robinson

President of Ireland 1990-1997



Mary Robinson was elected as Ireland's first female President from 1990 to 1997 and was a founding member of the Council of Women World Leaders. She served as the Chair of the Council from 2003-2009.

Her Excellency resigned from the office of President on 12 September 1997, to take up the appointment as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Her Excellency is currently Chair of the Institute for Human Rights and Business and Chancellor of the University of Dublin. Since 2004, she has also been Professor of Practice in International Affairs at Columbia University, where she teaches international human rights. Additionally, she serves as Chair of the International Institute for Environment and Development. Her Excellency is founder of the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice, a centre for thought leadership, education and advocacy on the struggle to secure global justice for those many victims of climate change.

## Melanne Verveer

Executive Director, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues



Ambassador Melanne Verveer is the Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security.

She most recently served as the first U.S. Ambassador for Global Women's Issues, a position to which she was nominated by President Obama in 2009. She coordinated foreign policy issues and activities relating to the political, economic and social advancement of women, traveling to nearly sixty countries, and helped develop the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. From 2000-2008, she was the Chair and Co-CEO of Vital Voices Global Partnership, an international NGO that she co-founded to invest in emerging women leaders. During the Clinton administration, she served as Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady. She also led the effort to establish the President's Interagency Council on Women, and was instrumental in the adoption of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

Ambassador Verveer currently serves as the Special Representative on Gender Issues for the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office.

## Michèle Pierre-Louis

Prime minister of Haiti 2008-2009



Michèle Pierre-Louis served as the Prime Minister of Haiti from 2008 to 2009, and is the second woman to hold this position.

In 1991, she became a Member of the Presidential Cabinet of Aristide and was put in charge, i. a., for the redefinition of missions of the State. In 1995, she started working as the Director Executive for the Fondation Connaissance et Liberté – FOKAL until she was appointed as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti.

Currently, she acts as the President of the Fondation Connaissance et Liberté – FOKAL and is the Director of the Reconstruction and Development Programme of the Open Society Institute in New York. She has also been working as a Professor at the Department of Educational Sciences of the University of Quisqueya since 2004.

## Michelle Bachelet

President of Chile 2006-2010, 2014-2018



Michelle Bachelet served as the President of Chile on two occasions (2006–2010 and 2014–2018). She was the first female president of Chile, as well as Chile's and Latin America's first female Defense Minister (2000–2002). She also served as Health Minister (2002–2004).

In 2011, she was named the first Director of UN Women. After finishing her second term in March 2018, she was named Chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, an alliance of more than 1000 organizations in 192 countries from the sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health communities. As Co-Chair of the High-Level Steering Group for Every Woman Every Child, Ms. Bachelet launched Every Woman Every Child Latin America and the Caribbean, the first platform for tailored, regional implementation of the EWEC Global Strategy. On September 1, 2018 Michelle Bachelet assumed her functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

## Patricia H. Deyton

Representative of CWWL Secretariat



Patricia H. Deyton is a Senior Advisor to the Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL), where she previously served as executive director. CWWL convenes women leaders in government around the world both at the level of President/ Prime Minister and at the ministerial level.

In addition to her work with CWWL, Deyton serves as a Professor of Practice of Business at Simmons University and a Senior Associate of the Center for Gender in Organizations (CGO), the internationally recognized research center addressing gender, diversity and organizational effectiveness. She previously was the Associate Dean of the School of Management having leadership and oversight responsibilities for the graduate programs at the SOM, including the MBA, MBA in Health Care, and Masters in Management programs as well as the role of Program Director for the @Simmons MBA and HCMBA degrees.

Deyton has accumulated 30 years of experience at executive levels in the nonprofit sector, including as CEO of the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay. She has provided consultancies and spoken widely in the areas of nonprofit management, gender dynamics and leaders, and has served on numerous boards of directors and public commissions.

## Paula Cox

Premier of Bermuda 2010-2012



Paula Cox is the former Premier of Bermuda and was the leader of the Bermuda Progressive Labor Party (PLP) from October 2010 until December 2012.

Cox was first elected to Parliament in 1996 as one of the youngest members of the House of Assembly. She was then appointed as Minister of Education (2001-2004), Minister of Finance (2004-2012), Attorney General (2003-2004) and the first PLP Minister of Labor, Home Affairs and Public Safety (1998-2001). In the 2014 Birthday Honours for public service in Bermuda Cox was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

## Rosalía Arteaga Serrano

President of Ecuador 1997



Rosalía Arteaga Serrano was born in Cuenca, Ecuador, on December 5, 1956. She is one of 10 democratically elected Presidents in Latin America and the youngest to take office, becoming the first woman president and vice president of Ecuador.

She was also undersecretary of Culture and Minister of Education Between 2004 and 2007, Rosalía was Secretary-General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (OTCA), an intergovernmental organization based in Brazil that seeks to preserve and develop the Amazon in a sustainable manner. The organization aims to increase the global negotiating capacity of the eight-member countries, as well as to increase regional cooperation. Arteaga played a substantial role in the actions carried out to preserve the region; she recommended policies that were worked with governments at all levels and obtained important resources for the region.

Her current work focuses on Human Rights education, women's rights, sustainability, globalization, equality, access to information, and good governance. She is currently the President of Fidal Foundation and Member of the Board of Trustees of the Library of Alexandria.

President Arteaga is a dedicated literary author with 15th books published.



## Roza Isakovna Otunbayeva

President of Kyrgyzstan 2010-2011



Roza Otunbayeva served as President of Kyrgyzstan from 2010 to 2011 becoming the first female Central Asian Head of State. Upon Kyrgyzstan gaining independence, President Otunbayeva became its first ambassador to the United States and Canada (1992-1994), and later to the United Kingdom (1997-2002). She acted as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the Peacekeeping mission for Georgia between 2002 and 2004.

On May 19, 2010, the provisional government of Kyrgyzstan set presidential elections for 2011 and named Otunbayeva as Interim President. She was officially sworn in following the June referendum which introduced a new Kyrgyz constitution. President Otunbayeva formally turned over the office of the president to Almazbek Atambayev on December 1, 2011, making her the first president in Central Asia to leave office at the end of his or her designated term.

She is the current head of “The Initiative of Roza Otunbayeva” International Foundation. Ms. Otunbayeva is also a member of the Club de Madrid

## Ruth Dreifuss

President of Switzerland 1999



In 1999, Ruth Dreifuss became the first female President of the Swiss Confederation.

Ruth Dreifuss was elected Federal Councillor (i.e. Member of the Swiss government) on 10 March 1993 by the Federal Assembly (Parliament), and was re-elected twice. From 1 April 1993 until her resignation on 31 December 2002, she was head of the Federal Department of the Interior.

After her retirement from government, she chaired the commission mandated by WHO that reported on public health, innovation and intellectual property rights, and co-chaired the High Level Panel on the same subject, which was mandated by the United Nations Secretary-General. Ruth Dreifuss currently serves as a member of the International Commission Against the Death Penalty.

## Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

Prime minister of Namibia



Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila is the fourth and current Prime Minister of Namibia. She was elected to office as the first female Prime Minister in 2015.

In Namibia, she started working as a Desk Officer in the Office of the President for a few months in 1995, before she was assigned the role of Director General at the National Planning Commission.

Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, entered the political limelight at the age of 27 when she was appointed the Director General of the National Planning Commission in 1995. In 2003 she was appointed as the Minister of Finance.

## Silvana Koch-Mehrin

Founder and President of Women Political Leaders



Silvana Koch-Mehrin is the President Founder of the Women Political Leaders (WPL), the worldwide network of female Politicians. Its mission is to increase the number and influence of women in political leadership. Silvana served as Vice-President of the European Parliament (2009-2011) and Member of the European Parliament (2004-2014).

Before her time in politics, Silvana founded and ran a public affairs consultancy in Brussels, which later merged with a larger US firm. Silvana worked as Senior Special Advisor for EY, and as a Senior Policy Advisor for GPLUS Europe.

In addition to her work for WPL, Silvana serves on the board of the Council of Women World Leaders, the network of female Presidents and Prime Ministers. She is a member of the senior network of the European Leadership Network (ELN), and a Board Director of the Social Progress Imperative, and represents the European Union since 2016 in the Executive Committee of W20, an official engagement group of the G20. In 2019 UN Women invited Silvana to join the Leaders of Generation Equality campaign, and lend her voice, impact, and power to supporting Generation Equality from the launch on September 25th, 2019 throughout 2020. In 2018 and 2019 she has been ranked as one of the 100 most influential persons in gender equality by apolitical. Silvana is a regular speaker at institutions such as the UN, OECD, World Bank and other international fora. Silvana is a Young Global Leader Alumni of the World Economic Forum.

## Tarja Halonen

President of Finland 2000-2012



Tarja Halonen served as the 11th President of Finland from 2000 to 2012. She is Finland's first female Head of State.

She was elected to Parliament in 1979 and held her seat in five consecutive elections until she assumed the office of the President of Finland. Tarja Halonen has served in three cabinets: Minister at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health from 1987 to 1990, Minister of Justice from 1990 to 1991, and Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1995 to 2000. She also served as the Minister responsible for Nordic co-operation from 1989 to 1991.

During her presidency Tarja Halonen served as the co-chair of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation, appointed by International Labour Organization ILO (2002-2004). From 2009 to 2014 she served as the Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders. In 2010, Halonen was appointed co-chair of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability. In 2017 she was appointed to membership of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory board on mediation and is currently the co-chair of the High Level Task Force for International Conference on Population and Development.

## Vaira Vike-Freiberga

President of Latvia 1999-2007



Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga was President of Latvia from 1999 to 2007.

She was appointed Special Envoy on United Nations reform in 2005 and was an official candidate for the post of UN Secretary General in 2006. In December 2007 she was appointed Vice-chair of the Reflection group on the long-term future of Europe. Since 2014, she has been the President of the Club de Madrid, a forum of over 100 democratically elected former Heads of State and Government. President Vike-Freiberga is also a member of the International Programme Board of the Prague European Summit.

President Vike-Freiberga is a member, board member and/or patron of 30 international organisations, including the World Leadership Alliance, the Board of Trustees of the Nizami Ganjavi International Centre (Co-chair), and the European Council on Foreign Relations.

## Vigdís Finnbogadóttir

President of Iceland 1980-1996



With her election as President of Iceland in 1980, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir became the first female Head of State in the world. She was subsequently re-elected three times before retiring in 1996. After her presidency, she became the founding Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders in 1997.

President Finnbogadóttir took an active role in promoting the country, acting as a cultural ambassador, and enjoyed immense popularity. From 1978-1980 she headed the Nordic Council of Ministers for Culture committee before taking the office of Presidency.

Between 1997-2001 President Finnbogadóttir was the president of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology. From 1999-2004 Vigdís acted as Chair of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology. In 2000, she was appointed United Nations Goodwill Ambassador in the Fight Against Racism and Xenophobia.. She is head of the board of trustees of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights and a member of the Club of Madrid.





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