



REYKJAVIK GLOBAL 2026

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO ATTAIN AND RETAIN POSITIONS OF POWER, INFLUENCE, AND LEADERSHIP ACROSS ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY.

Reykjavík Global is a community of more than 12,000 leaders from almost every country in the world and every sector of society, public and private, united by one focus: women in leadership.

12,000+

global leaders in the
community

EVERY SECTOR

politics, business, civil society,
academia, the arts and media

PUBLIC & PRIVATE

from almost every country in
the world

HOW WE WORK

KNOWLEDGE CONVERSATION ACTION

We turn knowledge into impact. We bring global leaders together and turn ideas into actionable plans for real change.

The community meets throughout the year at events around the world and, every November, at our flagship gathering in Reykjavík, co-hosted with the Government and Parliament of Iceland, a nation recognised for its leadership on equality. Members are not attendees but Conversationists: invited leaders who listen, share and help move the world toward equality.

KNOWLEDGE

Research & data through our Data Collaborative and the Reykjavík Index for Leadership. Using data for progress, showing us what is real and where we can move the needle.

CONVERSATION

A unique and honest exchange between leaders who would not otherwise share a room, at the Forum and at global & regional gatherings from Davos to New York.

ACTION

Initiatives, action items and partnerships that carry commitments made in our community. These are brought back into parliaments, boardrooms and communities for positive impact.



OUR COMMUNITY

MEMBERS
12,600+
LEADERS

26
EVENTS
HOSTED
IN 2025

ESTABLISHED
2018

14,321
PARTICIPANTS IN
OUR RESEARCH

GLOBAL REACH
190
COUNTRIES

2133
ATTENDED
OUR EVENTS
IN 2025

SECTORS
A balanced mix of public and private leaders, including some of the world's most visionary thinkers and change-makers from politics, business, civil society, academia, the arts, and media.

PREVIOUS SPEAKERS INCLUDE



ASHLEY JUDD
ACTOR, ACTIVIST,
SOCIAL JUSTICE HUMANITARIAN



MARIA RESSA
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE
CEO, RAPPLER



MELANNE VERVEER, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, GEORGETOWN INSTITUTE
FOR WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY



YOKO KAMIKAWA
MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF JAPAN
(2020-2021)



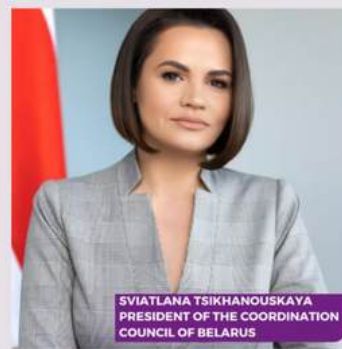
PEDRO SANCHEZ
PRIME MINISTER OF
SPAIN



HELEN CLARK
PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND
(1999-2008)



MARTIN CHUNGONG
SECRETARY GENERAL,
IPU



SVIATLANA TSIKHANOUSKAYA
PRESIDENT OF THE COORDINATION
COUNCIL OF BELARUS



S. MONA SHINA
GLOBAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EQUALITY NOW



GARY BARKER
CEO & PRESIDENT
EQUIMUNDO



MARIE-LOUISE COLEIRO PRECA
PRESIDENT OF MALTA
(2014-2019)



DENNIS MUKWEGE
CONGOLESE GYNECOLOGIST, FOUNDER
OF PANZI HOSPITAL IN BUKAVU



MARY ROBINSON
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND
(1990-1997)



JACINDA ARDERN
PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND
(2017-2023)



HILLARY CLINTON
UNITED STATES
SECRETARY OF STATE (2009-2013)



KATRÍN JAKOBSDÓTTIR
PRIME MINISTER OF ICELAND
(2017-2024)



ADELA RAZ
DIRECTOR OF AFGHANISTAN
POLICY LAB AT PRINCETON



PAT MITCHELL
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR,
TEDWOMEN



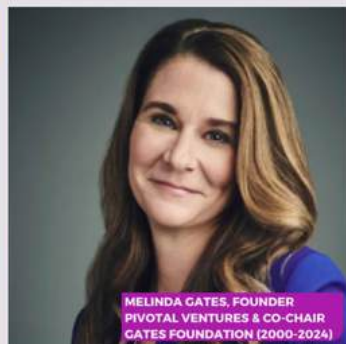
TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
WHO



MICHELLE MILFORD MORSE
VICE PRESIDENT UN FOUNDATION
GIRLS & WOMEN STRATEGY



DALIA GRYBAUSKAITĖ
PRESIDENT OF LITHUANIA
(2009-2019)



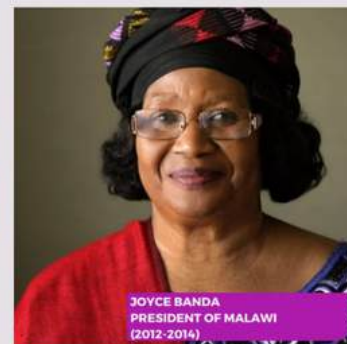
MELINDA GATES, FOUNDER
PIVOTAL VENTURES & CO-CHAIR
GATES FOUNDATION (2000-2024)



JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO
PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
2004-2014, PM OF PORTUGAL 2002-2004



VIÐDÍS FINNBOGADÓTTIR
PRESIDENT OF ICELAND
(1980-1996)



JOYCE BANDA
PRESIDENT OF MALAWI
(2012-2014)



ÞÓRIS KOLBRÚN R. GYLFADÓTTIR
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ICELAND



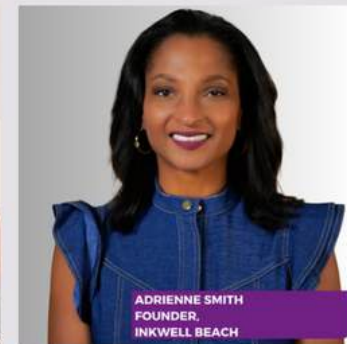
SOPHIE GRÉGOIRE TRUDEAU
AUTHOR &
MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE



ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO
SINGER-SONGWRITER, ACTRESS,
ACTIVIST



SANDRA PEPERA
CHIEF STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE
OFFICER, ODI



ADRIENNE SMITH
FOUNDER,
INKWELL BEACH



HAFSAT ABIOLA-COSTELLO
PRESIDENT, WOMEN IN AFRICA
(WIA)



KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA
CHAIR AND MANAGING DIRECTOR,
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND.



PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NCCUKA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNW
(2013-2021)



PAULA ANN COX
PREMIER OF BERMUDA
(2010-2021)



JANET MBUGUA
MEDIA PERSONALITY, FOUNDER
& CEO, INUA DADA FOUNDATION



KOLINDA GRABAR-KITAROVIC
PRESIDENT OF CROATIA
2015-2020



SAADIA ZAHIDI
MANAGING DIRECTOR
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM



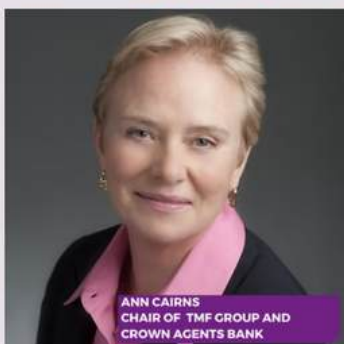
TATSUSHI SUNAMI
PRESIDENT, SASAKAWA PEASE
FOUNDATION



ANNE-BIRGITTE ALBRECHTSEN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
PLAN INTERNATIONAL



ELIZA REID
FIRST LADY OF ICELAND
(2016-2024)



ANN CAIRNS
CHAIR OF TMF GROUP AND
CROWN AGENTS BANK



OBIAGELI "OBI" EZEKWESILI
SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISER, AEDPI,
WORLD BANK VICE-PRESIDENT,
AFRICA REGION (2007-2012).



CHRISTY TANNER
CEO & PRESIDENT
NYPR



DR ANINO EMUWA
FOUNDER,
100 WOMEN@DAVOS



DEVIKA BULCHANDANI
GLOBAL CEO
OGILVY



AMY WEAVER
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER, SALESFORCE



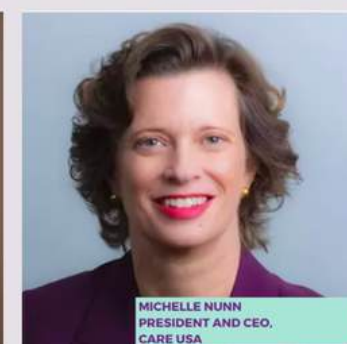
MICHELLE BACHELET
UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS,
PRESIDENT OF CHILE (2014-2018)



AMINA J. MOHAMMED
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE UN



AYA CHEBBI
FOUNDER OF
NALA FEMINIST COLLECTIVE



MICHELLE NUNN
PRESIDENT AND CEO,
CARE USA



SIMA SAMI BAHOUS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
UN WOMEN



MARI KIVINIEMI
PM FINLAND (2010-2011),
DSG, OECD



DIANE WANG
FOUNDER & CHAIRPERSON,
DHGATE.COM



MICHELLE HARRISON
FOUNDER & CHAIRPERSON,
VERIAN GROUP



ANA KREACIC
COO
OLIVER WYMAN FORUM



JACKIE CHIMHANZI
CEO, AFRICAN LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE (AFLI)



ULRIK VESTERGAARD KNUDSEN
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE OECD



CHRISTINA LOWRY
CEO
GIRL RISING



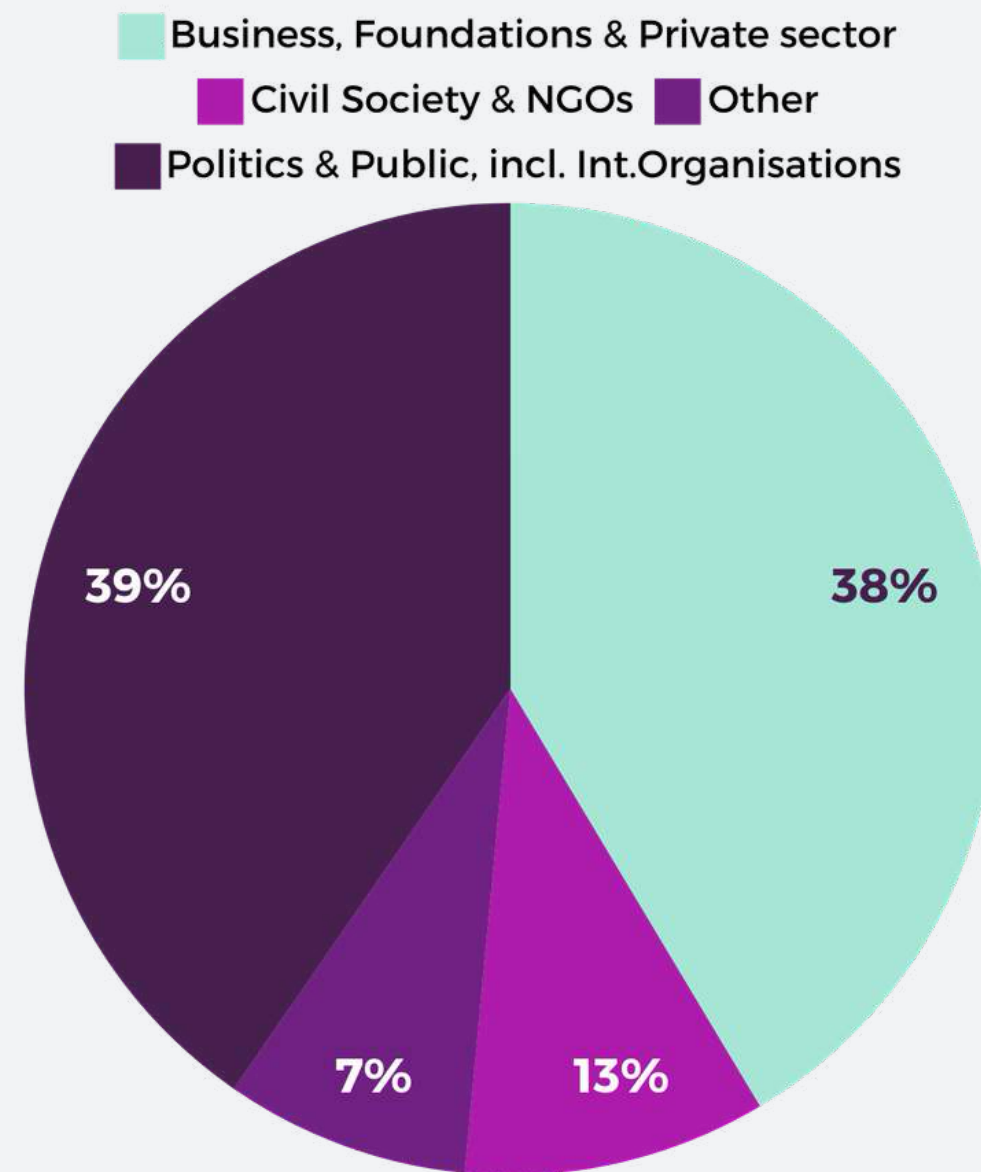
JANE GERAGHTY
CHIEF CLIENT OFFICER
WPP



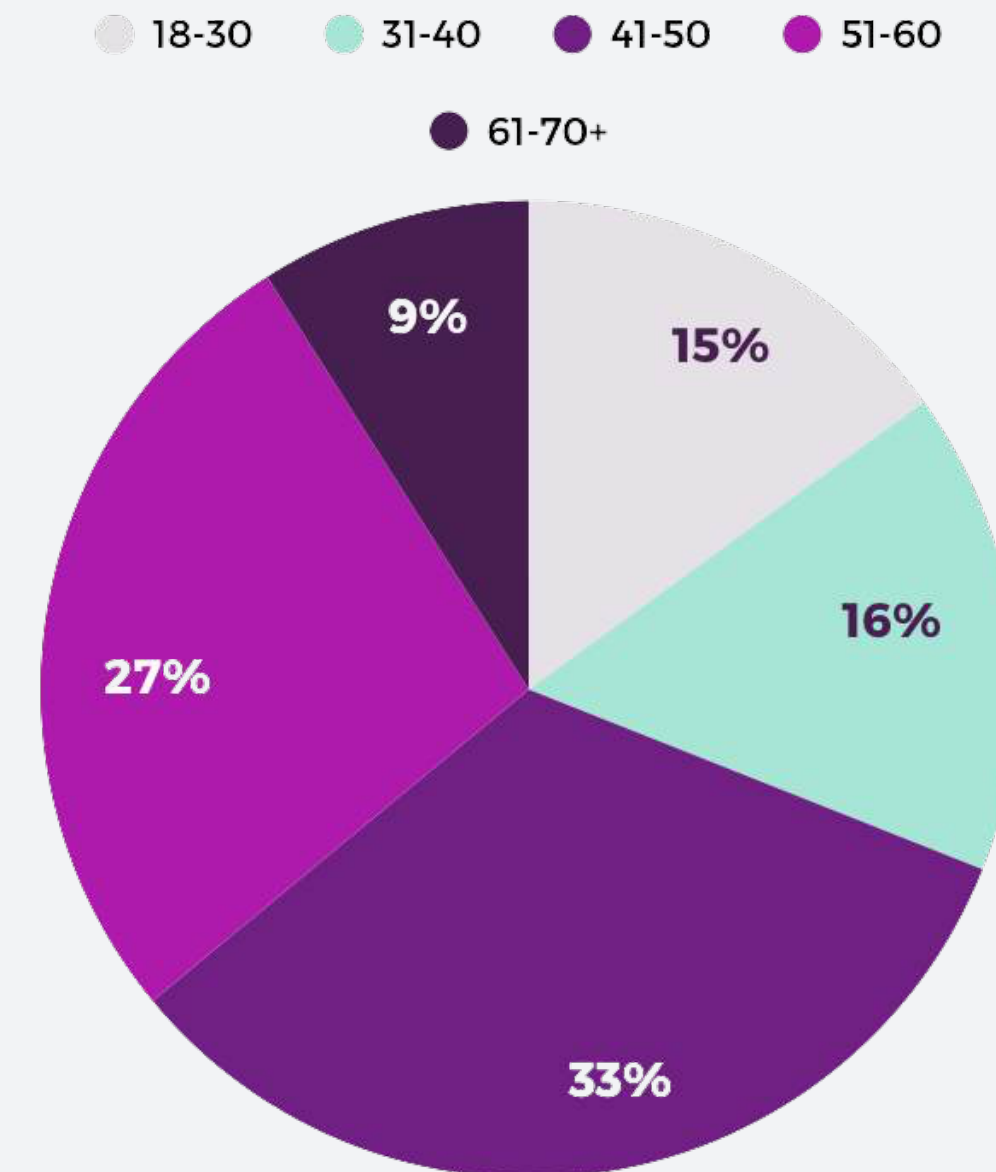
BOCOFO KENEWENDO
CLIMATE CHAMPIONS' SPECIAL
ADVISOR, AFRICA DIRECTOR

COMMUNITY BREAKDOWN

The community convenes several times a year at various global events, virtual conversations and at the annual flagship event, the Reykjavík Global Forum in Iceland.



Community by Sector



Community by Age



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

“We were impressed by the depth of commitment and leadership in the room. Sincere thanks for such an inspiring and well-curated gathering.”

“Delivering an exceptional Forum, one that fostered meaningful dialogue and powerful momentum.

The Reykjavík Global Forum continues to be a vital platform for driving collective action, and I am inspired by the clarity and urgency of the Reykjavík Action Items.”

“This was an extraordinary event. The program dealt with real issues facing women world wide. We were able to have honest conversations and to discuss solutions to the problems. The invited women attendees were also extraordinary. They were all top of their fields and fascinating to talk to. Perhaps because we were all from varied backgrounds the conversational exchanges were enlightening.”

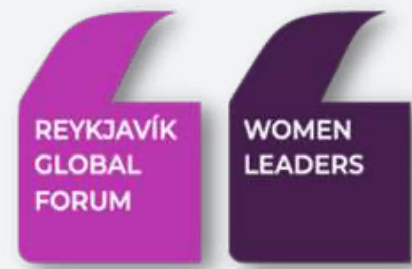
96%
of attendees were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the Forum in 2025

“Each year, the Forum sets a new benchmark, and this year’s gathering was truly transformational. The depth of conversations, the calibre of leaders present, and the intentionality behind every session created an atmosphere of learning, connection, and action.”

“The entire event unfolded through such intentional storytelling, with each session building on the next and layering perspective, data, lived experience, and collective memory. The unveiling of the new Index was especially powerful, and the film screening at the end of Day 1 left the room feeling hopeful, grounded, and reminded of what’s possible. You curated a space where women could connect, reflect, and recognise themselves in the stories around them. It felt both necessary and rare. It was a privilege to be there.”

“I must say, it stands out as one of the best conferences I have attended”





REYKJAVÍK GLOBAL FORUM OUR ANNUAL FLAGSHIP EVENT

Launched in 2018 under the theme “Power, Together!”, the Reykjavík Global Forum – Women Leaders brings together influential women and their allies from across the world. They share ideas, spark solutions, and drive progress toward equality & increased women’s representation in leadership.

The Forum offers a front-row seat to proven strategies, bold innovations, and global collaboration, featuring some of the world’s most visionary thinkers and change-makers from politics, business, civil society, academia, the arts, and media.

We are proud to work alongside some of the world’s most influential voices, visionary thinkers, and impactful change-makers. Each year, the invite-only Forum welcomes 500 global leaders, from over 80 countries, offering an unparalleled platform to exchange ideas and explore practical solution and proven strategies that promote parity across sectors.

The annual Forum serves as the flagship event of the Reykjavík Global community and has been co-hosted for the past 8 years by the Government and Parliament of Iceland - a nation recognised for its global leadership in equality.

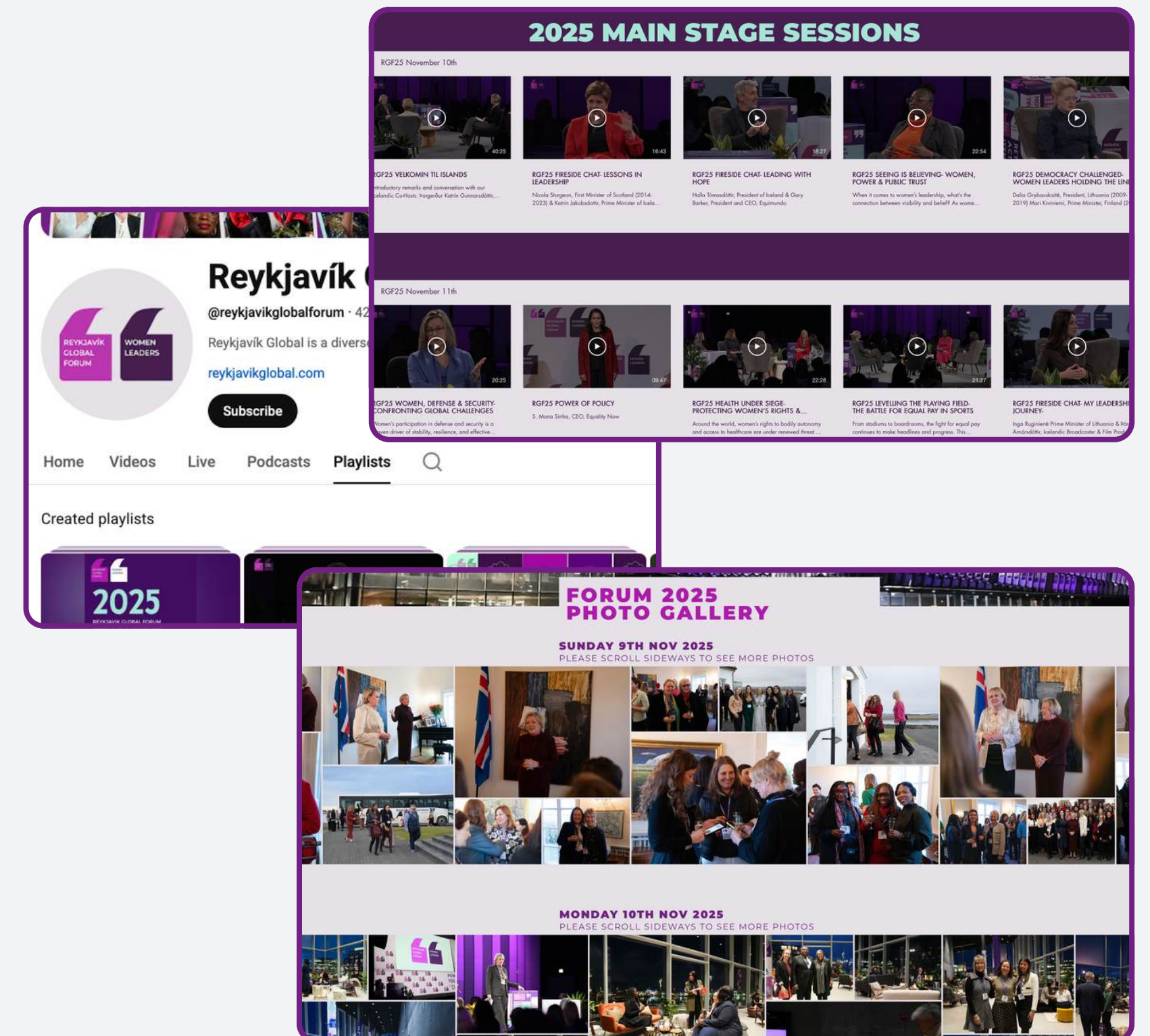
Co-Hosts:



Parliament of Iceland



Government of Iceland



The full programme, photographs, main stage session videos available on: reykjavikglobal.com



REYKJAVÍK GLOBAL FORUM 2026

FORUM 2026

The 9th Annual Reykjavík Global Forum will take place in Iceland on November 15–17, 2026, under the theme **Power, Together for Community**.

This year's Forum is set to be the most solution-driven yet, bringing together 500 invited leaders for a dynamic and diverse programme focused on women in leadership.

The agenda will feature masterclasses, panel discussions, fireside chats, workshops, roundtable sessions and curated dinners designed to foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration. Content will be shaped around the Reykjavík Global initiatives and the Forum's core programme tracks.

ANNOUNCING

THE 2026 FORUM CO-CHAIRS

Six leaders who will guide the conversations in Reykjavík this November and carry the Forum's theme, Power, Together for Community, across every track & initiative.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Three days, one theme, and a programme built for impact rather than speeches. Every format is designed to get action-driven leaders sharing ideas, sparking solutions, and driving progress toward equality and increased women's representation in leadership.

22 SESSIONS

PANEL DISCUSSIONS & FIRESIDE CHATS

The key sessions on the main stage at Harpa, streamed live: leaders across sectors and generations in candid conversation.

5 SESSIONS

LEADERS SOLUTIONS

Partner-led interactive sessions: masterclasses, workshops and roundtables built around a practical challenge and what has actually worked.

9 SESSIONS

LEADERSTALKS

Partner-led impact sessions held under the Chatham House Rule, where leaders speak freely and leave with commitments.

10 EVENTS

CURATED DINNERS & OTHER NETWORKING

Power Tables, a wellness session at Sky Lagoon, the welcome reception hosted with the Mayor of Reykjavík and the farewell gathering hosted with the President of Iceland.

9 MOMENTS

POWER OF MOMENTS

Inspirational, powerful and personal stories on the main stage.

4 SESSIONS

SPECIALIST SESSIONS

The Gen2Gen Action Lab programme, Parliamentarians for Change, our annual Power, Together Awards and a special session on Women, Peace and Security.

PROGRAMME TRACKS 2026

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP THEMES

At any given time the Community is focused on six programme tracks. Each has a roadmap of 18–24 months and runs through everything we do: research, global events and the Forum. Our current programme tracks are:

ECONOMIC GROWTH

In today's world, economies face new and complex challenges that directly affect economic growth, including employment levels, productivity and GDP. Addressing these challenges requires making full use of available human capital so that economies benefit from higher productivity, more sustainable growth, and stronger long-term economic outcomes.

INCLUSIVE INNOVATION

A call to design and deploy new solutions that reflect diverse voices and create shared benefits. This theme celebrates innovation and AI that is accessible, ethical, gender balanced and responsive to real-world needs, ensuring that progress serves society as a whole.

RESEARCH & HEALTH

A commitment to evidence-based understanding and improved well-being. This theme highlights the vital role of research in shaping effective health policies, advancing medical innovation, and strengthening systems that support women and communities worldwide.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Discussing how responsibility, respect, and accountability are learned and practised, the focus is on men and boys as partners in creating fair and inclusive societies. The theme reflects on positive leadership, role models, and everyday actions that drive change. Together, we emphasise that equality is a shared duty, not a solitary effort.

POLICY & LAW

Focused on the frameworks that shape rights, governance, and long-term societal stability. This theme acknowledges the crucial role of policy and legislation in enabling change, protecting freedoms, and creating environments where women's leadership can thrive.

SUSTAINABLE STABILITY

This theme highlights how enduring progress depends on the full participation and leadership of women, creating the foundations for resilient and inclusive societies. It underscores that when women shape decisions on climate, governance, peace & security, they help secure not only long-term stability but also a more peaceful and balanced future.



TRACK ACTIVATION ROADMAP

CUSTOM CURATED FOR EACH TRACK





GLOBAL EVENTS

The Reykjavik Global Community convenes throughout the year both at regional and global events such as Davos, UNGA, CSW & Cannes Lion. These range from round table discussions & breakfast meetings to larger receptions & panels discussions.

The community is notified through the RGF quarterly newsletter and further details can always be found on the website reykjavikglobal.com

REYKJAVIK
GLOBAL
FORUM

WOMEN
LEADERS

ALL IN
GLOBAL LEADERS *for* ENDING
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

UNGA81 IN NYC

THE SILENCE HAS BEEN BROKEN:
WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

HANNA BIRNA
KRISTJANSDÓTTIR
Co-Founder & Chair
Reykjavik Global Forum,
Senior Advisor,
UN Women

TARAMA BURKE,
ALL IN CO-CHAIR,
FOUNDER,
'ME TOO.' MOVEMENT;
CHIEF VISION OFFICER,
'ME TOO.' INTERNATIONAL

KATRÍN JAKOBSDÓTTIR,
PRIME MINISTER
ICELAND
(2017-2024)

MICHELLE HARRISON,
GLOBAL PRESIDENT,
VERIAN GROUP

GRETA RAO GUPTA,
CO-FOUNDER,
THE ARCH COLLABORATIVE,
ALL IN LEADER

UNGA81 IN NYC

IT CAN BE DONE!

STORIES OF REAL RESULTS
FOR GENDER EQUALITY:
THE NORDIC CASE

08:00-10:00 AM | SEPT 23RD, 2026 - SCANDINAVIA HOUSE

HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Nordic Council
of Ministers

equimundo

Key TAKE AWAYS

ACTIONABLE SOLUTIONS FOR GENDER INCLUSION:
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

There was a real sense of urgency in the room last week as we welcomed senior leaders to a roundtable on Actionable Solutions for Gender Inclusion. Hosted by the Reykjavik Global Forum and the Reykjavik Global Forum, Gender Inclusion executives with stronger financial performance and expertise in many strategic areas and conversations.

Increasing women's labor force participation also can provide much-needed stimulus to the global economy at a time of slowing demographics. Yet progress has stalled in recent years in the face of a fast growing problem, a sense that the issue isn't a top priority in a world of economic and political uncertainty.

HANNA BIRNA
KRISTJANSDÓTTIR
Co-Founder & Chair
Reykjavik Global Forum

ANA KRESACIC
Chief & Executive Officer
Silver Spring

"PROGRESS HAS STALLED ON GENDER EQUITY, BUT WE DO SEE HOPES, SIGNS, INCLUSION. A TOP PRIORITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SEE THEMSELVES REFLECTED IN LEADERSHIP AND ALSO FOR BUSINESS LEADERS."

EVEN WITH THE RECENT INCREASE IN FORMAL PROGRAMS ON DIVERSITY, IN OUR RECENT CEO SURVEY, 80% SAID: "CHIEF EXECUTIVE SAID THEY WANTED TO REDUCE WORKFORCE DIVERSITY."

urgency

Key TAKEAWAYS

THEMES *and* TAKEAWAYS

WE CANNOT MEET THE MANY CHALLENGES OUR WORLD FACES TODAY WITHOUT REDEFINING ALL TALENT.

Leaders have to acknowledge the extent of support for gender equity and that new initiatives, efforts, and wider awareness to support the movement. Progress has stalled in the past four years in the global gender equity index, which measures public and private sector gender equity. The index is a composite of 100 indicators across 160 countries. The index is a composite of 100 indicators across 160 countries. The index is a composite of 100 indicators across 160 countries.

START BY REFRAMING THE NARRATIVE TO UNDERSCORE THAT GENDER EQUITY BENEFITS EVERYONE, NOT JUST WOMEN.

Starting with the narrative of women's issues, there have been several initiatives to improve the situation, contributing to gender equity. One of the most important is the concept of "gender equity" as a goal, rather than "gender equality" as a goal. The concept of "gender equity" is a goal, rather than "gender equality" as a goal. The concept of "gender equity" is a goal, rather than "gender equality" as a goal.

BE PROACTIVE IN MAKING MEN AND BOYS PART OF THE SOLUTION, NOT THE PROBLEM.

There are many ways to make progress on gender equity. One of the most important is to make progress on gender equity. One of the most important is to make progress on gender equity. One of the most important is to make progress on gender equity.

IT'S CRUCIAL TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE WOMEN'S LEGAL RIGHTS & PROTECTIONS AND PROVIDE SUPPORT MEASURES LIKE ACCESSIBLE DAY CARE AND PARENTAL LEAVE.

There are many ways to make progress on gender equity. One of the most important is to make progress on gender equity. One of the most important is to make progress on gender equity. One of the most important is to make progress on gender equity.

BUSINESS TODAY IS A CRUCIAL ALLY BUT STILL HAS WORK TO DO TO CULTIVATE MORE WOMEN LEADERS.

There are many ways to make progress on gender equity. One of the most important is to make progress on gender equity. One of the most important is to make progress on gender equity. One of the most important is to make progress on gender equity.

JOSE CAMHI PORTALLUPPI
Director of Communications & Advocacy
Equimundo

JENNIFER BARKER
Chief Executive Officer
Equimundo

"IF YOU HAVE A YOUNG MAN IN YOUR LIFE YOU KNOW THEY ARE NATURALLY CARING. WE NEED TO THINK LESS ABOUT HOW WE TEACH YOUNG MEN TO BE CARING & MORE ABOUT HOW WE DON'T BRAKE THEM."

"REAL CHANGE HAPPENS WHEN COMPANIES TREAT GENDER INCLUSION AS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS. MEASURING PROGRESS, MENTORING HIGH-POTENTIAL WOMEN AND GIVING THEM LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES CREATE PATHWAYS FOR LASTING IMPACT."

change

Michelle Harrison
Chief CEO
Verian

S. MONA SINHA
Global Executive Director
Equimundo

"WE HAVE THIS VERY EXTENSIVE POLARISATION - WE NEED TO FIND SOLUTIONS ON HOW WE MEET IN THE MIDDLE"

"INEQUAL LAWS WERE MADE BY HUMANS, SO HUMANS CAN ALSO UNMAKE THEM"

Final THOUGHTS

We want to thank everyone who participated in a very active discussion and provided practical ideas for renewing the drive for gender equality. Our voices are stronger together, and we need to recruit new allies to our cause.

Reykjavik
Global
Forum

OliverWyman
Forum

CONVENINGS

Key TAKE AWAYS

LEADERSHIP REWIRED:
WOMEN SHAPING SYSTEMS FOR IMPACT

In a world under pressure, where progress on gender equality is backsliding and both institutions and financing are under strain, rethinking leadership is not optional. It is overdue.

HANNA BIRNA
KRISTJANSDÓTTIR
Co-Founder & Chair
Reykjavik Global Forum

AMY HEPBURN
CEO
Investor Leadership Network

"GENDER EQUALITY CAN AND SHOULD BE SEEN AS ONE OF THE KEYS TO SOLVE THE MOST PRESSING MATTERS OF TODAY. NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT IS THE RIGHT & JUST THING TO DO - BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT CAN PROVIDE FOR GAIN & GROWTH FOR INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND SOCIETIES"

"GENDER EQUALITY HAS SLIPPED DOWN THE AGENDA. YET IT HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT IT."

future

Key TAKEAWAYS

Leadership Rewired: Women Shaping Systems for Impact.
September 22, 2025 - UNGA 80 Side Event

This high-level UNGA side event brought together bold, cross-sector leaders to ask: What if the systems we are trying to fix are missing the very people best equipped to lead them forward?

Women's leadership is not only about representation. It is about results: smarter policies, stronger economies, and more responsive systems. This session surfaced practical insights and bold ideas for building smarter, more inclusive systems that work better for all.

Leadership Rewired was a call to action and a look at what is possible when women have the power to shape how decisions are made, how money moves, and how women's time and work are valued.

At the event, the speakers reframed women's leadership as a strategy for institutional strength, economic competitiveness, and inclusive growth. They strengthened shared learning and message alignment across the women's leadership networks ahead of the Reykjavik Global Forum and highlighted compelling evidence and on-the-ground insights that show what works and what is needed now.

change

BLESSING OYELE ADEGBAYAN
Founder & CEO
Caring Africa

AMY HEPBURN
CEO
Investor Leadership Network

"OUR SOCIETIES DON'T SEE CARE AS INFRASTRUCTURE, YET CARE IS AS ESSENTIAL AS ROADS AND POWER."

"WITH THE ROLLBACK OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS SINCE COVID...WE ARE NOWHERE NEAR WHERE WE WANT TO BE."

"WE ARE DENYING MEN AN OPPORTUNITY. WE ARE DENYING THEM THEIR HUMANITY WHEN WE ACT LIKE THEY ARE INCAPABLE OF CARE."

Final THOUGHTS

We want to thank everyone who participated in this impactful discussion on the sidelines of UNGA80. We and look forward to continuing this vital conversation at the upcoming Reykjavik Global Forum in November!

Reykjavik
Global
Forum

Gates Foundation



VIRTUAL EVENTS

Our virtual events give the entire Reykjavík Global Community a chance to participate: to share best practices for addressing timely issues impacting women's leadership. These range from workshops deep-diving into specific topics with a target audience to large scale webinars, panels discussions and more

The community is notified through the RGF quarterly newsletter and further details can always be found on the website reykjavikglobal.com

REYKJAVÍK GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS

INTRODUCING
VIRTUAL EVENTS
BY REYKJAVÍK GLOBAL

LEADERSHIP IN CHALLENGING TIMES:
Best Practices and Collaborative Strategies for Women Leaders

featuring:
Katrín Jakobsdóttir,
Prime Minister of Iceland 2017-2024

Adela Raz,
Director of Afghanistan Policy Lab at Princeton

Abosede George-Ogan,
Founder & Executive Director,
Women in Leadership Advancement Network

moderated by:
Adrianne C. Smith, Founder, Inkwell Beach

WEDNESDAY APRIL 30TH '25
09-10 AM, ET

Introduction by: **Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir**,
Co-Founder & Chair Reykjavík Global

35 min panel discussion + 20 min facilitated questions

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: **theDifference.**

DEMOCRACY, RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS:
How Public-Private Partnerships and Women Leaders Can Advance Our Shared Goals in Challenging Times.
This conversation will build on the themes of the annual Reykjavík Global Forum, allowing members to build in-depth, year-round connections around interactive discussions on the most important international issues.

Registration & Information
reykjavikglobal.com/calendar

POWER, TOGETHER.

**A world where women lead equally, influence
meaningfully, and shape the future across
every sector of society.**

INITIATIVES: OVERVIEW 2026

REYKJAVÍK GLOBAL INITIATIVES

SIX INITIATIVES, ONE SHARED POWER.

The work that continues year-round: measuring perceptions, connecting generations and continents, and turning commitments into action.



REYKJAVÍK INDEX FOR LEADERSHIP

Since 2018, the global measure of how people perceive women and men as leaders.



GENERATION TO GENERATION

Established and emerging women leaders learning from each other as equals.



CONNECTING CONTINENTS

Building bridges between women leaders across regions and hemispheres.



ACTION ITEMS

Concrete commitments that carry the Forum's conversations into policy and practice.



POWER, TOGETHER AWARDS

Recognising leaders and allies whose work moves equality forward.



PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR CHANGE

Elected women working across parties and parliaments on shared priorities.

THE REYKJAVÍK INDEX FOR LEADERSHIP

ANY SCORE OF LESS THAN 100
IS AN INDICATION OF PREJUDICE
IN SOCIETY.

MEASURING SOCIETAL PERCEPTIONS ACROSS THE G7 NATIONS SINCE 2018, OUR INDEX IS THE LEADING GLOBAL MEASURE, PROVIDING ROBUST DATA, INSIGHTS ON KEY TRENDS AND THE DISSONANCE BETWEEN GENDERS AND GENERATIONS, TO INFORM STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING IN PUBLIC POLICY.

— WHAT IT IS

THE FIRST MEASURE OF ITS KIND

Developed in partnership with Verian, The Reykjavík Index for Leadership is the measure of how women and men are perceived in terms of their suitability for leadership. Launched in 2018, the Index measures perceptions of women and men as leaders across 23 economic sectors.

The latest data released covers the G7 group of countries together with Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Kenya and Nigeria.



A score of 100 would mean that women and men were viewed by society as equally suitable for leadership. Any score of less than 100 is an indication of prejudice in society. In the 2025-2026 Index, the G7 average stands at 68.

68

G7 AVERAGE

Held steady with last year, after three consecutive years of decline from a high of 73.

86

ICELAND LEADS

The highest score of any country measured, down one point this year.

56

KENYA RISING

Up from 52 last year, with Nigeria also rising from 57 to 59.

23

SECTORS MEASURED

From politics and defence to engineering, healthcare, and childcare.

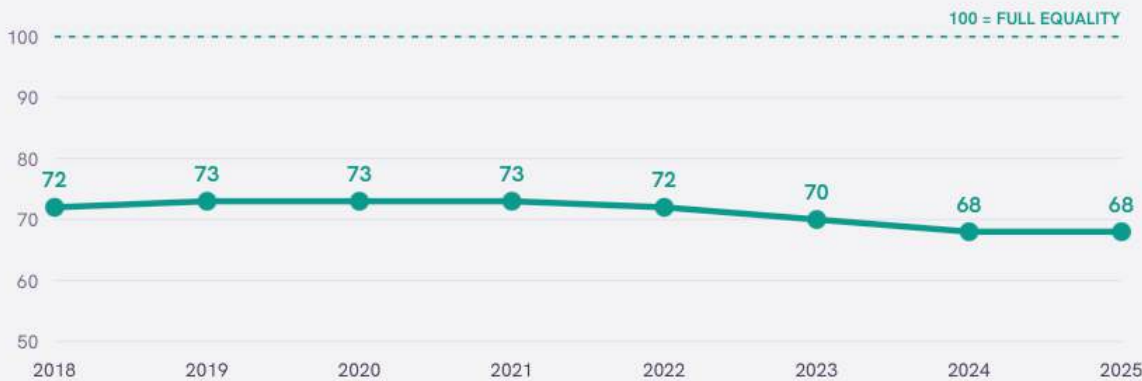
— THE INDEX 2025-2026

THE LATEST FINDINGS

Across the G7 countries, public perceptions of equality for women and men in leadership held steady with last year's score of 68, after falling in three consecutive years from a high of 73 between 2019 and 2021. However, countries within the G7 are experiencing different trajectories.

While Iceland continues to lead the way, the score dropped by one point this year to 86. In other parts of the world, Index scores have increased in Kenya and Nigeria compared with last year, rising from 52 to 56 for Kenya and from 57 to 59 for Nigeria.

THE G7 AVERAGE OVER TIME



GENERATION TO GENERATION

INITIATIVES

NEITHER LEADER IS THE EXPERT.
BOTH ARE EXPECTED TO LEARN
AS MUCH AS THE OTHER.

A YEAR-LONG RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE PAIRING ESTABLISHED AND EMERGING WOMEN LEADERS, WHERE EXPERIENCE AND FRESH THINKING FLOW BOTH WAYS. BUILT ON THE SPIRIT OF POWER, TOGETHER.

— THE IDEA

EXPERIENCE FLOWING BOTH WAYS

Generation to Generation brings established and emerging women leaders into a shared space of learning, reflection and empowerment. Rather than experience flowing in one direction, from senior to younger, the initiative champions a **reciprocal approach**, recognising that each generation carries distinct strengths and that both have something essential to teach.

⇒ RECIPROCAL BY DESIGN

Not a traditional one-way mentoring programme. Both leaders are expected to learn as much as the other: the 50/50 rule.

✦ EACH GENERATION'S STRENGTHS

Strategic perspective meets new approaches to global challenges. The exchange is built to honour both, equally and respectfully.

👤 PARTNERS, NOT TEACHER AND STUDENT

Seasoned leaders carry deep institutional insight. Emerging leaders bring contemporary awareness and fresh thinking. Neither is the expert.

💡 POWER, TOGETHER

Shared wisdom across generations is essential to building stronger, more inclusive forms of leadership across sectors and regions.

— HOW IT WORKS

A YEAR, SHAPED BY EACH PAIR



01 PAIRED FROM A GLOBAL POOL

Successful applicants are matched with one other leader chosen from applicants around the world, a partnership for the full year.



02 EIGHT GUIDED CONVERSATIONS

Pairs meet eight times across the 12 months for guided conversation and mutual reflection, roughly every six weeks, around 60 minutes each.



03 VIRTUAL SEMINARS

Several virtual seminars across the year bring the whole cohort together, opening the exchange beyond your pair.



04 VIRTUAL OR IN PERSON

Sessions happen however suits the pair, online or face to face, depending on individual circumstances. Sessions are held in English unless the pair agrees otherwise.



05 THEMES & FRAMEWORK PROVIDED

Each session comes with thematic prompts and a supporting framework, so conversations stay meaningful without ever feeling scripted.



06 THE ACTION LAB

A dedicated Action Lab programme at the Reykjavík Global Forum, featuring a series of interactive sessions, masterclasses, and workshops.

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR CHANGE

INITIATIVES

MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS
BETWEEN MPS,
AND A SHARED COMMITMENT TO
CHANGE.

CO HOSTED ANNUALLY WITH ALTHINGI, THE PARLIAMENT OF ICELAND, THIS ROUNDTABLE BRINGS TOGETHER MPS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP.

— WHAT IT IS

A ROUNDTABLE BUILT FOR CHANGE

Under the theme "Parliamentarians for Change," elected representatives gather each November for a closed roundtable discussion held during the Reykjavík Global Forum.

The conversation focuses on how to ensure women attain and retain power, and on the best practices that drive greater progress, drawn directly from the legislative experience of the parliamentarians in the room.

Each year, a new theme is selected for the session, tackling the most relevant issues relating to gender equality in parliament.

Every parliament in the world is invited to send a delegation to take part.

— HOW IT WORKS

A GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE, HOSTED IN ICELAND



When

EVERY NOVEMBER

Held annually alongside the Reykjavík Global Forum, in Reykjavík, Iceland.



Co Host

ALTHINGI

Co hosted annually with Althingi, the Parliament of Iceland.



Who takes part

MPS WORLDWIDE

Every parliament in the world is invited to send a delegation to participate.



In partnership

IPU

Held in partnership with the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU).

POWER, TOGETHER AWARDS

INITIATIVES

THE POWER TO ADVANCE
SOCIETY, TO CHANGE AND MOVE
THINGS IN A POSITIVE WAY,
COMES FROM USING OUR POWER,
TOGETHER.

HONOURS OUTSTANDING INITIATIVES WHERE PEOPLE JOIN FORCES TO EFFECT GREAT CHANGE.

— WHAT IT IS

CELEBRATING POWER, TOGETHER

The **POWER, TOGETHER Awards** honour outstanding initiatives where people join forces and use their power to advance society together and achieve great change.

Together, women and their allies can make the changes necessary. Together, women can create societies of better diversity. Together, women can make sure the future holds as many opportunities for girls and women as for boys and men.

— RECOGNITION

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS INCLUDE



CONNECTING CONTINENTS

INITIATIVES

EVERY REGION. EVERY
GENERATION.
ONE CONNECTED COMMUNITY.

A GLOBAL MOVEMENT TO CONNECT WOMEN LEADERS AND THEIR ALLIES ACROSS EVERY CONTINENT:
TURNING DISTANCE INTO SHARED POWER, AND CONNECTION INTO COLLECTIVE ACTION.

— WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO

INITIATIVE GOALS



CONNECT ACROSS CONTINENTS

Strengthen global connectivity among women leaders in the Reykjavík Global community — across continents and regions, with a special focus on the Global South.



COLLABORATE ACROSS REGIONS

Foster cross-regional collaboration by creating opportunities for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and joint initiatives.



BUILD A LASTING ECOSYSTEM

Sustain an ecosystem of leaders, partners, and organisations committed to long-term collaboration.



GROW WITH INTENTION

Expand the community of leaders deliberately, ensuring diversity and inclusion are present in everything we build.



AMPLIFY WOMEN'S INFLUENCE

Elevate women's leadership and influence in addressing the global challenges that affect us all.



OPEN PATHWAYS FORWARD

Create pathways for mentorship, innovation, and collective action across generations and geographies.

DIGITAL LEADERSHIP PLATFORM

A shared digital home where members find one another, exchange resources, and keep the conversation alive between convenings.

REGIONAL CHAPTERS & ENGAGEMENT HUBS

Locally rooted chapters that bring the network closer to leaders in every region, with dedicated focus on the Global South.

GLOBAL CONVENINGS & EVENTS

Flagship gatherings and regional meetings that move ideas into action and turn connection into collaboration.

A GROWING LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Deliberate expansion of the community — welcoming new leaders, partners, and organisations across sectors and geographies.

STORYTELLING & VISIBILITY

Amplifying the voices, achievements, and influence of women leaders so their impact travels further.

THE REYKJAVÍK ACTION ITEMS

WE PLEDGE TO USE OUR POWER,
INFLUENCE, AND PRIVILEGE
TO DRIVE THAT CHANGE.

THE WORLD ALREADY HAS A BLUEPRINT FOR EQUALITY: FOUR PROVEN STEPS, DRAWN FROM THE POLICIES THAT MADE ICELAND THE MOST GENDER-EQUAL COUNTRY ON EARTH.

— WHAT THEY ARE

A BLUEPRINT, NOT AN ASPIRATION

The Reykjavík Action Items are four evidence-based commitments that capture what it actually takes to build a more equal society. Launched in November 2023 at our sixth annual Forum, they distil decades of progress into four priorities any leader can champion, in business, in government, and in everyday policy-making.

They are not aspirations in the abstract. Each one is grounded in a policy model that has been tested, measured, and proven to work, the product of a journey Iceland has been on since 1975.

A MULTI-DECADE JOURNEY



— THE FOUR COMMITMENTS

THE FOUR REYKJAVÍK ACTION ITEMS



**Item 01
EQUAL PAY**

Equal pay for work of equal value, enforced through accountability, not goodwill alone. Iceland made history in 2018 as the first country to require employers to prove they pay women and men equally. We call on leaders to adopt equal-pay practices and certification in their own workplaces, and to advocate for them in law.



**Item 02
EQUAL REPRESENTATION**

Equal representation in the rooms where decisions get made: parliaments, boardrooms, and leadership at every level. Iceland reached the top of global equality rankings as women's share of leadership moved toward parity. We ask leaders to open real pathways to power and to set measurable representation goals.



**Item 03
EQUAL PARENTAL LEAVE**

Parental leave built to be shared equally, so caregiving is no longer a career penalty carried mainly by women. Iceland reserves non-transferable, paid months for each parent, and more than nine in ten fathers take them, normalising shared care at home and equality at work. We promote equal, well-paid, "use-it-or-lose-it" leave for all parents.



**Item 04
ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

Safety is the foundation everything else is built on. No society can call itself equal while women and girls face violence, and ending it takes prevention, protection, accountability, and cultural change together. We commit to advocating for stronger protections, real support for survivors, and a culture that refuses to tolerate gender-based violence.

The Dare We campaign

DARE WE POWER TOGETHER FOR EQUALITY?

Dare We was born from the 50th anniversary of Kvennafrídagurinn, the Women's Day Off of 1975, when 90% of Icelandic women put down their tools and the nation stopped. That day ignited a global movement for equality and set Iceland on the path to becoming the world's benchmark, closing more than 90% of its gender gap.

Fifty years on, the campaign continues on new fronts, because progress isn't only measured in numbers. It's built on solidarity, courage, and the belief that equality uplifts everyone. Together, we keep pushing forward, driven by the same spirit that sparked a revolution.

The story of Dare We

DARE WE

DARE WE TODAY

Weekly thought columns

Leaders from the community take up the dare every week on LinkedIn.

From Vision to Blueprint

Turning the lessons of Iceland's fifty years into a blueprint others can follow.

Add your voice

Create your own Dare We message and share it with the world.





MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR & CO-FOUNDER

"Last year, we witnessed the remarkable power that emerges when compassion inspires action. Across every corner of our community, we saw leaders, partners, and friends come together with unwavering determination — not only to navigate challenges, but to transform them into opportunities for progress.

What unfolded was more than resilience; it was innovation, solidarity, and a shared belief that meaningful change is always within reach. Our achievements this year reflect the extraordinary potential of a community that chooses hope, acts with purpose, and understands that lasting impact is created when we lift one another up.

As we look ahead, we do so with renewed confidence in what is possible when we stand united — committed to more equal leadership, to each other, and to shaping a future where every voice can lead."

Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir
Co-Founder & Chair, Reykjavík Global

GLOBAL ADVISORY BOARD



Adela Raz

Director of Afghanistan
Policy Lab at Princeton



Katrin Jakobsdóttir

Prime Minister of
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Practice Europe,...



Michelle Harrison

Global President
Verian Group



Sandra Pepera

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Governance Officer, ODI
Global, UK



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Climate at Children's
Investment Fund...



S. Mona Sinha

CEO
Equality Now



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Author, Public Speaker,
Former First Lady of
Iceland



Laura Liswood

Secretary General,
Council of Women
World Leaders



**Michelle Milford
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Vice President, Girls and
Women Strategy at
United Nations...



Silvana Koch-Mehrin

Founder and President,
Women Political
Leaders



Elise Hufano

Designer and Partner,
theDifference



**Gabriela Cuaves
Barrón**

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the Inter-Parliamentary
Union



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Inter-Parliamentary
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Jane Geraghty

Chief Client Officer
WPP



Ana Kreacic

COO
Oliver Wyman Forum



Christina Lowery

CEO,
Girl Rising



Ebony Young

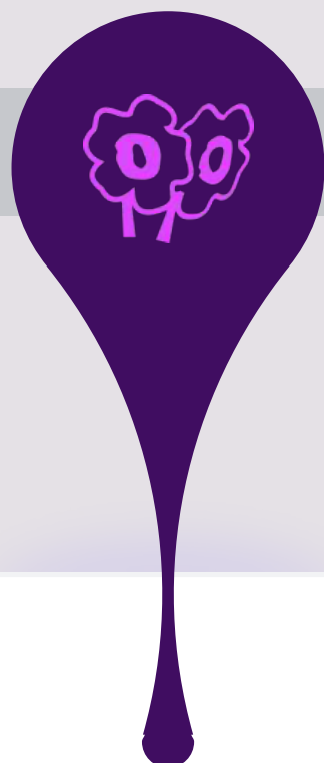
Deputy Borough
President
Queens



Nejla W. Liias

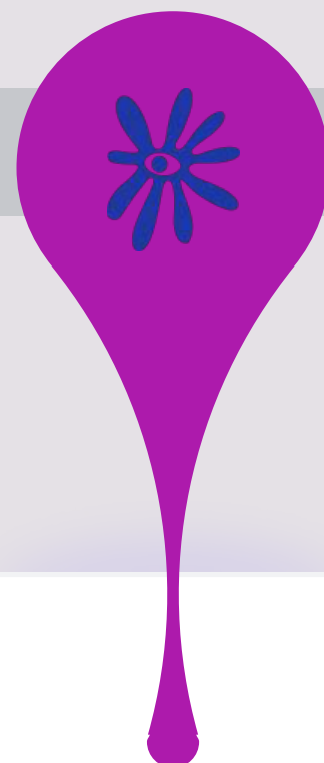
Founder and CEO,
Kinaura Partners

BE PART OF THE IMPACT



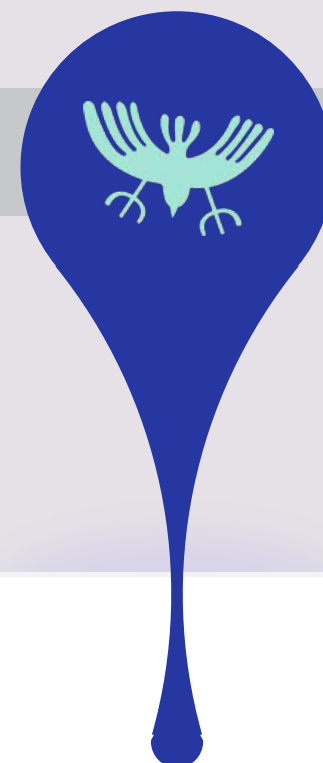
ORGANISATION PARTNERSHIP

We design custom, multi-touch activations with our global partners through events, initiatives, and co-curated programs.



CO-HOST AN EVENT WITH US

Partner with us to host an event on the Global Calendar, in our Virtual Events series, or a side event at the annual Forum.



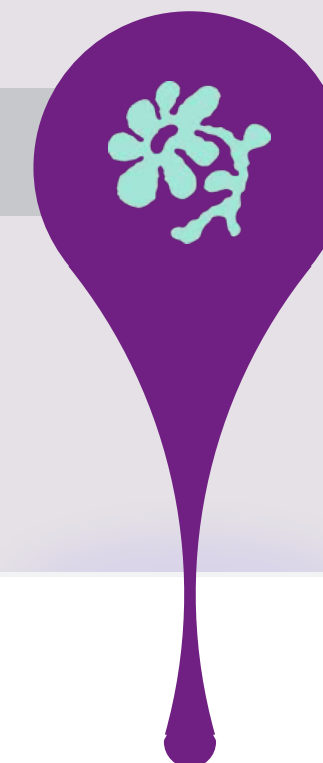
JOIN A PROGRAMME TRACK

We have six Women in Leadership tracks, each offering opportunities for experts and partners to make an impact.



DONATE OR SPONSOR

Contribute as a donor or sponsor, connect with our community, and participate in our events.



SUPPORT AN INITIATIVE

Engage with any of our six key initiatives, with opportunities spanning 1–5 years.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNERSHIPS

