



REYKJAVÍK GLOBAL FORUM WOMEN LEADERS

REYKJAVÍK GLOBAL FORUM 2026

Draft Programme - subject to change

(all times in Reykjavík local time)

SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 15th

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|----------------------|---|
| 08.00 - 10.30 | POWER OF WELLNESS: SKY LAGOON
Separate registration required - registration opens September
Badge Pick up available for registered participants |
| 09.00 - 15.00 | BADGE PICKUP & INFORMATION DESK OPEN
Venue: Harpa |
| TBC | VISIT TO ALTHING - THE OLDEST PARLIAMENT IN THE WORLD
Venue: Harpa
Separate registration required - registration opens September |
| 10.00 - 14.00 | ACTION LAB: GENERATION TO GENERATION - LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE
Venue: Harpa
Separate registration required- registration opens September |
| 12.00 - 14.00 | LEADERS SOLUTIONS:
MASTERCLASSES, WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES
Venue: Harpa
Separate registration required- registration opens September |
| 14.00 - 16.00 | PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR CHANGE - ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS
Venue: Bjortuloft, Harpa
<i>By Invitation only</i> |
| 14.15 - 15.45 | SESSION ON WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP & PEACE
Venue: Höfði Peace Centre
<i>By Invitation only</i> |
| 16.00 - 17.00 | CONNECTING FEATURED CONVERSATIONISTS
Venue: Parliament Hotel
<i>By Invitation only</i>
Badge pick up available |
| 17.00 - 18.00 | WELCOME TO REYKJAVIK: RECEPTION WITH MAYOR OF REYKJAVIK
Venue: Parliament Hotel
Powered by Reykjavik City |



REYKJAVÍK GLOBAL FORUM WOMEN LEADERS

Badge pick up available

18.30 - 20.30

POWERTABLE: LEADERS DINNER

Venue: Parliament Hotel

Separate registration & payment required- registration opens September

MONDAY - NOVEMBER 16th

08.00 - 08.45

RISE & PREPARE TO SHINE

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa

Coffee, croissants & conversations

Badge pick up available

08:45 - 08:55

WELCOME REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR & MoC

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

08:55 - 09.20

VELKOMIN TIL ÍSLANDS! 'POWER, TOGETHER FOR COMMUNITY'

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

Introductory remarks and conversation from our Icelandic Co-Hosts, The Government and Parliament of Iceland

09.20 - 09.45

POWER IN TRANSITION: WHO SHAPES THE FUTURE NOW?

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

Global power is shifting across governments, markets, institutions and regions. At the same time, conflict, climate pressures, technological disruption and declining trust are changing what authority means and how it is exercised. This session explores how women leaders are shaping decisions at a moment of geopolitical and economic transition. Who holds influence, whose voices remain outside the room, and how do visible and invisible power structures affect global outcomes? Leaders will examine how authority can be used to build cooperation, advance equality, and respond to emerging challenges. What kind of leadership will shape the next era and who will define it?

09.45 - 09.50

VIDEO STATEMENT

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

09.50 - 10.05

FIRESIDE CHAT: THE UNEXPLAINED FACTOR OF LEADERSHIP

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

10.10 - 10.15

COLLISION BY DESIGN

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

10.15 - 10.40

FROM COMMITMENT TO CHANGE: WHY ELECTED WOMEN LEADERS MATTER

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

Politics is where equality becomes real, written into law, budgets, and lasting institutions. Around the world, women in elected office are proving what strong, trusted leadership looks like. They are leading through conflict, polarization, and uncertainty, and delivering results. Their experience holds the blueprint for building resilient governments and restoring public trust. This session moves beyond good intentions to the systems that make equality permanent: policy, governance, succession, and law. What does it take to embed equality into institutions built to last? How do leaders turn representation into real, structural change? And how do we get more women into the rooms where these decisions are made? The answer starts with a simple, energizing truth: representation works. Politics matters and the world needs more women to run for office.

10.40 - 10.55

FIRESIDE CHAT: THE BUSINESS CASE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

10.55 - 11.15

ENERGY BOOSTING BREAK

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa

11.15 - 12.45

LEADERS TALKS

Venue: Esja 1, Esja 2, Esja 3, Harpa

Separate registration required- registration opens September

Parallel impact sessions, hosted by partners

12.30 - 14.00

COUNCIL of WOMEN WORLD LEADERS ANNUAL SUMMIT

By Invitation only

12.45 - 13.30

GLOBAL COMMUNITY LUNCH

Venue: Flói, Harpa

13.30 - 13.55

THE REYKJAVÍK INDEX FOR LEADERSHIP 2026: FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

Since 2018, the Reykjavík Index for Leadership has become one of the world's leading measures of public attitudes toward women and men in leadership. It gives a unique snapshot of changing attitudes across countries and generations, tracking public perceptions of women and men as leaders, revealing both progress and persistent bias across societies. This session will feature the official presentation of the 2026 Index, and a special focus on gender-based violence. What do the trends shown in the data mean for politics, business, and society? How is it possible to identify powerful opportunities to shift norms, break down barriers, and build inclusive leadership for the future, and make The Reykjavík Index a measure of history rather than a measure of inequality?

13.55 - 14.20

THE GENDER SNAPSHOT: WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

This year marks the final four years of the SDG era, the data is unambiguous: the world is off track. The UN Women's 2025 Gender Snapshot report warns that if current trends continue, over 350 million women and girls could still live in extreme poverty by 2030, and not a single indicator under SDG 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, will have been fully achieved. This session examines what the latest global evidence tells us about the state of gender equality, from poverty and health to political representation and economic participation. More importantly, it asks what governments, businesses and international institutions must do differently if the world is to accelerate progress before the 2030 deadline.

14.20 - 14.25

POWER OF FACTS

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

14.30 - 14.55

CLOSING THE GENDER HEALTH GAP: INVESTMENT, INNOVATION & SOLUTIONS

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

Despite major advances in medicine, women continue to experience poorer health outcomes, delayed diagnoses, and significant gaps in research, funding and access to care. Closing the gender health gap requires more than better healthcare. It demands stronger leadership, sustained investment and smarter policy. This session explores how governments, researchers, businesses and philanthropies can work together to accelerate innovation, improve data collection and expand access to quality care. The discussion will highlight successful initiatives from around the world and examine how investing in women's health delivers benefits not only for women, but for families, economies and societies. How can today's leaders ensure that women's health becomes a strategic investment rather than a neglected cost, and most importantly, what actions can they take to create lasting change?

14.55 - 15.00

POWER OF HUMANITY

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

15.05 - 15.30

DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE: ONLINE VIOLENCE, DISINFORMATION, EXTREMISM & THE COST TO WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

Digital technologies are transforming democratic participation and public debate, but they are also creating new avenues for abuse, harassment, and violent extremism. Women leaders, journalists, and public figures are disproportionately targeted by coordinated online attacks, disinformation, and gender-based violence that seek to silence their voices and drive them out of public life. This session explores how technology-enabled harms are

undermining democratic participation, weakening public trust, and threatening inclusive leadership. Bringing together policymakers, technology leaders and civil society, the conversation will examine how democratic societies can better protect freedom of expression, strengthen accountability and ensure that women can participate safely and equally in public life.

15.30 - 15.55

ENERGY BOOSTING BREAK

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa

15.55 - 16.00

POWER OF EXITING

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

16.00 - 16.25

NOT A ZERO-SUM GAME: WHY DO MEN FEEL LIKE THEY ARE LOSING?

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

Shared responsibility means men engaging as active partners in building more equal societies. Yet progress toward gender equality is increasingly accompanied by resistance and perceptions of loss among some men. This session explores why these views are emerging and what social, economic and cultural forces are shaping them. How can leaders acknowledge genuine concerns without reinforcing harmful narratives or creating new divisions? Drawing on research, lived experience and practical examples, the conversation will examine how to build trust, foster constructive dialogue and engage men and boys as partners in change. Ultimately, the panel asks how we can move beyond a zero-sum mindset and demonstrate that more equal societies create greater opportunity, stronger relationships and better outcomes for everyone.

16.25 - 16.50

CAPITAL, CONFIDENCE & CONTROL: WOMEN SHAPING GLOBAL THE ECONOMY

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

Economic power shapes prosperity, resilience and long-term growth. Yet women remain underrepresented among investors, founders, business owners and financial decision-makers, limiting both opportunity and economic performance. This conversation explores how expanding women's access to capital, investment and ownership can unlock innovation, strengthen markets and create more inclusive economies. Leaders from finance, business and government will discuss the policies, partnerships and investment strategies that are proving most effective around the world. How do we close persistent capital gaps, increase women's economic influence and ensure that the global economy benefits from the full potential of its talent?

16.55 - 17.00

POWER OF TALK

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa



REYKJAVÍK GLOBAL FORUM WOMEN LEADERS

17.00 - 17.25

GENERATION TO GENERATION: LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

This year, Reykjavík Global launched a new initiative within our community: Generation to Generation: Leadership Exchange. It offers something different, a space where established and emerging women leaders learn from each other. Not as mentors and mentees, but as equals with different advantage points on the same journey. This conversation introduces this initiative and explores leadership values, decision-making, resilience, influence, purpose, and the responsibilities of power. Fostering a dialogue that is equal, respectful, and future-oriented, the initiative aims to strengthen women's leadership by bridging generations. Our panelists will explore the value of how shared wisdom across generations is essential to building stronger, more inclusive forms of leadership.

17.25 - 17.55

POWER TOGETHER AWARDS 2026

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

17.55 - 18.00

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

18.00 - 18.45

POWER, TOGETHER NETWORKING RECEPTION

Powered by GlobalWIN

19.00 - 20.30

POWER TABLE: FUTURE OF LEADERSHIP DINNER

Venue: La Primavera, Harpa

Separate registration & payment required- registration opens September

TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 17th

08.00 - 08.45

RISE & PREPARE TO SHINE

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa

Coffee, croissants & conversations

08:45 - 08.55

SETTING THE SCENE

08.55 - 09.10

FIRESIDE CHAT: "NOT ALL MEN" BUT TOO MANY"

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

09.10 - 09.35

CONFRONTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: HOPE FOR REAL CHANGE

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

Gender-based violence remains one of the most pervasive human rights challenges of our time, affecting women and girls in every country and across every sector of society. Despite growing awareness and stronger legal

commitments, progress has been uneven and too many survivors continue to face barriers to justice, protection and support. This session explores what it will take to move beyond promises toward measurable action. The discussion will examine how prevention, education, survivor-centred services and stronger accountability can work together to create lasting change. How do we build societies where violence is prevented rather than simply responded to, and where safety, dignity and equality are fundamental for everyone?

09.40 - 09.55

FIRESIDE CHAT: LET HER FLY, WHAT IT TAKES FOR MEN TO RAISE EQUALS

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

09.55 - 10.00

POWER OF PEACE

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

10.05 - 10.30

HOPE AS STRATEGY: LEADING WHEN OPTIMISM FEELS RADICAL

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

In a world marked by conflict, polarization and growing uncertainty, hope can seem naïve or even out of touch with reality. Yet history shows that many of the world's most transformative leaders have drawn on hope not as wishful thinking, but as a deliberate strategy for change. This session explores how leaders inspire confidence, build trust and sustain momentum when the challenges seem overwhelming and progress feels slow. How do we lead with honesty about today's realities while maintaining belief in tomorrow's possibilities? The conversation will examine how hope, when grounded in courage, evidence and action, can mobilise people, strengthen resilience and create lasting change. Hope is not optimism without evidence. It is the decision to act despite uncertainty.

10.30 - 10.35

VIDEO STATEMENT

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

10.35 - 10.55

NO HEALTH WITHOUT ACCESS: VACCINES & BASIC NEEDS WORLDWIDE

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

For millions of people, especially women and children in low and middle-income countries, access to vaccines, clean water, essential medicines and basic healthcare remains the difference between life and death. While remarkable progress has been made, deep inequalities continue to limit health, opportunity and economic development. This session explores what it will take to close the gap between global commitments and realities on the ground. Leaders from government, international organizations, philanthropy and the private sector will discuss how stronger partnerships, sustainable financing, resilient health systems and local leadership can expand access and improve outcomes. How can we ensure that where a person is born no longer determines whether they receive the most basic healthcare?

10.55 - 11.15

ENERGY BOOSTING BREAK

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa

11.15 - 12.45

LEADERS TALKS

Venue: Esja 1, Esja 2, Esja 3, Harpa

Separate registration required- registration opens September

Parallel impact sessions, hosted by partners

12.45 - 13.30

GLOBAL COMMUNITY LUNCH

Venue: Flói, Ground Floor, Harpa

13.30 - 13.55

THE ANTI-RIGHTS ERA: WHO WILL LEAD WHEN EQUALITY IS UNDER ATTACK

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

The greatest threat to equality today is no longer inertia but organised opposition. Around the world, anti-rights movements are coordinating across borders to weaken democratic institutions, restrict women's rights, undermine international law, and deepen social division. This conversation explores what leadership looks like when progress is no longer guaranteed. How do we confront backlash without becoming polarized ourselves? How do we build coalitions that are resilient enough to withstand disinformation and authoritarian pressure? And what does responsible leadership require when defending human rights is no longer a consensus position, but a contested one? Because the question is no longer whether rights are under attack. It's whether today's leaders are prepared to defend them.

13.55 - 14.00

POWER OF INTUITION

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

14.00 - 14.25

CULTURE VS CODE: POWER, BIAS & GOVERNANCE IN AI

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

Artificial intelligence is transforming economies, public services and democratic institutions, yet AI is only as fair as the data, assumptions and values on which it is built. Without diverse perspectives in its design and governance, technology risks reinforcing existing inequalities and creating new forms of exclusion. This session explores how governments and businesses can ensure that AI serves the public good while protecting rights, transparency and accountability. Leaders will discuss the policies, standards and partnerships needed to govern AI responsibly, foster innovation and build public trust. How do we ensure that the future of AI is shaped not only by technological capability, but by human values?

14.30 - 14.45

FIRESIDE CHAT: REDESIGNING DIPLOMACY & MULTILATERALISM

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

14.45 - 14.50

POWER OF COURAGE

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

14.55 - 15.20

SHAPING THE NARRATIVE: CULTURE, MEDIA AND HOW STORYTELLING CAN CREATE CHANGE

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

Stories shape how we see ourselves, who we trust, and what we believe is possible. Film, television and digital media influence public attitudes long before laws or policies change, making culture one of the most powerful drivers of social progress. This conversation brings together leaders from across the entertainment industry to explore how storytelling can challenge stereotypes, expand representation and reshape perceptions of leadership. Beyond celebrating success, the panel will examine how the creative industries can build partnerships that support socially impactful content and create lasting cultural change.

15.25 - 15.30

POWER OF SCENT

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

15.30 - 15.55

ENERGY BOOSTING BREAK

Venue: Reykjavik Lounge, Harpa

15.55 - 16.20

LEADING A LIVABLE FUTURE: CLIMATE, EQUALITY & QUALITY OF LIFE

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

Climate change is reshaping economies, societies and everyday life, affecting health, security, livelihoods and opportunity across the globe. While women are often among those most affected by climate-related challenges, they are also leading some of the world's most innovative and effective responses. This session explores how women's leadership is helping to drive climate action, strengthen community resilience and improve quality of life for current and future generations. Bringing together leaders from government, business and civil society, the conversation will examine how climate policy, sustainable development and gender equality can reinforce one another to create healthier, more prosperous societies, delivering lasting benefits for everyone?

16.20 - 16.45

THE NORDIC CASE: AN EXAMPLE OF SUCCESS

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

At the same time as 500 women leaders are meeting in Reykjavík, ministers of the Nordic Council of Ministers are convening in Copenhagen; two capitals, one shared agenda. The Nordic countries are repeatedly held up as a global benchmark for gender equality, but that progress didn't happen by accident. This panel explores what actually lies behind the Nordic success: sustained political will, structural reform, and decades of consistent work. Moving beyond the myth to the mechanics, our panelists will translate the Nordic experience into concrete lessons, the reforms, coalitions, and long-term strategies that other regions can adapt to

their own political and cultural context. Participants will leave with practical examples they can carry home: what to prioritise first, how to build durable support across political lines, and how progress can be sustained well beyond any single election cycle.

16.50 - 17.15

THE NEXT FRONTIER: WHERE DOES EQUALITY GO FROM HERE?

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

We have explored the challenges shaping our world, and the leadership needed to address them. But as technology transforms society, geopolitical power shifts, populations age, and new generations redefine expectations, the next chapter of equality is already being written. What emerging challenges and opportunities will shape the decades ahead? Which issues are still missing from the global agenda, and how can today's leaders prepare for tomorrow's realities? Bringing together visionary thinkers from politics, business, academia and civil society, this closing conversation looks beyond today's debates to ask not only where equality is going, but how we ensure it continues to drive stronger democracies, healthier societies and more sustainable economic growth.

17.15 - 17.25

CLOSING REMARKS: FROM REYKJAVÍK TO REALITY

Venue: Silfurberg, Harpa

17.30 - 19.00

TURNING INSPIRATION INTO IMPLEMENTATION: FAREWELL GATHERING WITH HALLA TÓMASDÓTTIR, PRESIDENT OF ICELAND

Venue: Björtuloft, Harpa

20.00 - 22.00

PARTNER DINNER

By Invitation only