

Gender, Families, and Climate Justice

Women's Learning Partnership

Johns Hopkins SAIS | November 5th

Introduction to the Event



In preparation for Beijing +25, Women's Learning Partnership is bringing together thought-leaders on climate justice and women's rights to discuss the role of women and youth in confronting the climate crisis. Women have suffered the greatest from natural disasters, conflict, and forced migration, and have been on the forefront of working towards sustainable solutions for a safe and peaceful world. Join us for a thought-provoking discussion and poetry reading about the nexus between the fight for climate justice and addressing political, social, and economic inequalities.

Event Program

4:00 pm **Reception**

4:30 pm **Opening Remarks**
Mahnaz Afkhami

4:35 pm **Keynote**
Mary Robinson

4:55 pm **Panel Discussion**
Moderated by Musimbi Kanyoro

Speakers
Asma Khader
Jacqueline Pitanguy
Joy Ngwakwe

5:35 pm **Audience Question & Answer**

5:50 pm **Lifelines: The Poetry of Human Rights**
Moderated by Abena Busia

6:50 pm **Concluding Remarks**



Speakers | Gender, Families, and Climate Justice



Mary Robinson | Former President of Ireland

Mary Robinson served as the first woman President of Ireland from 1990-1997 and the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997-2002. Throughout her career she has advocated for gender equality, women's participation in peace-building, and climate justice. Robinson served as UN Envoy on Climate Change from 2014-15 and UN Special Envoy on El Nino and Climate. The Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice works to secure global justice for groups vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and emphasizes the critical role women play as agents of change within their communities. Her publications include *Climate Justice: Hope Resilience*, and the *Fight for a Sustainable Future*, *Everybody Matters: My Life Giving Voice*, *Global Health and Global Aging*, and *A Voice for Human Rights*.



Mahnaz Afkhami | Founder and President Women's Learning Partnership (WLP)

Mahnaz Afkhami served as former Secretary General of the Women's Organization of Iran and was the first woman in the MENA region to serve as Minister for Women's Affairs. She was a professor of English literature at the National University of Iran, where she founded the Association of University Women. She is Executive Director of the Foundation for Iranian Studies. Afkhami participated in the establishment of the United Nation's Asia and Pacific Centre for Women and Development (APCWD) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). Her numerous publications include *Muslim Women and the Politics of Participation*, *Women and the Law in Iran*, *Faith and Freedom: Women's Human Rights in the Muslim World*, and *Victories Over Violence; Women in Exile*, and *Beyond Equality*.



Musimbi Kanyoro | Former President and Chief Executive Officer of Global Fund for Women

Musimbi Kanyoro served as President and CEO of Global Fund for Women from 2011 to 2019. She is globally recognized for her leadership of organizations and initiatives that advance women's and girls' human rights, and philanthropy for communities. Before joining Global Fund for Women as CEO, Musimbi was Director for Population and Reproductive Health at David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Musimbi serves on the UN Women Civil Society Advisory Board; the World Bank Gender Advisory Board; the Boards of CARE, Landesa, and Sheryl Sandberg's OptionB.Org; Aspen Leaders Council; the Global Citizen and CHIME FOR CHANGE Girls' and Women's Committee; and the Reference Group of FP 2020, an initiative of the Gates Foundation, UKAID, USAID, and UNFPA, managed by UN Foundation.



Asma Khader | Executive Director of Solidarity is Global-Jordan

Asma Khader is a leading human rights lawyer in Jordan and the founder and CEO for Sisterhood is Global Institute/Jordan (SIGI/J). She is the co-founder and leader of many Jordanian and Arab NGOs and a member of the Royal Commission for the Drafting of the Jordanian National Charter. Khader's national appointments include Minister of Culture (2003-2005); Minister of State and the official spokesperson for the Jordanian Government (2013); member of the Jordanian Senate (2013); Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women (2007-2014); and Commissioner at the Independent Election Commission (2014-2016).



Joy Ngwakwe | Executive Director Center for Advancement of Development Rights

Joy Ngwakwe is the Founder and Executive Director of WLP Nigeria/Center for Advancement of Development Rights (CEADER) in Nigeria. Her work as a social entrepreneur spans nearly two decades, during which she has worked with human rights and women's rights organizations as a community mobilizer, activist, researcher, and training facilitator. She has carried out several local and international research projects on women's economic and social rights status, and has written and published articles and research reports in both local and international journals.



Jacqueline Pitanguy | Founder and Director Cidadania, Estudo, Pesquisa, Informação e Ação

Jacqueline Pitanguy is a sociologist and political scientist. She is Founder and Director of WLP Brazil/Cidadania, Estudo, Pesquisa, Informação e Ação (CEPIA), an NGO based in Rio de Janeiro. At Cepia, Pitanguy coordinates research on gender issues and facilitates advocacy and educational programs related to violence against women and reproductive health. She held a cabinet position in the Brazilian government as President of the National Council for Women's Rights (1986-1989), where she designed and implemented public policies to improve women's condition in Brazil.

Poets | Lifelines: The Poetry of Human Rights



Abena Busia

Abena Busia was appointed Ghanaian Ambassador to Brazil in 2018. She is former Chair of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies and member of the Executive Board of the Center for African Studies at Rutgers University. She is also a past Board Chair of AWDF-USA, the sister organization to the African Women's Development Fund and remains on its Advisory Board. An internationally celebrated scholar and poet, being project co-director and editor of the four-volume *Women Writing Africa Series* (2002-2008), co-editor of *Theorizing Black Feminisms* (1993) and *Beyond Survival: African Literature and the Search for New Life* (1994), and the author of two collections of poems, *Testimonies of Exile* (1990) and *Traces of a Life* (2008).



Terence Patrick Winch

Terence Winch, originally from the Bronx, is the son of Irish immigrants. He is the author of eight poetry collections, the most recent of which is *The Known Universe* (Hanging Loose, 2018). A Columbia Book Award and American Book Award winner, he has also written two story collections, *Contenders* and *That Special Place*, the latter of which draws on his experiences as a founding member of the original Celtic Thunder, the acclaimed Irish band. His work is included in more than 40 anthologies, among them the *Oxford Book of American Poetry*, *Poetry 180*, and 5 editions of *Best American Poetry*. He is the recipient of an NEA Fellowship in poetry, a Fund for Poetry grant, and a Gertrude Stein Award for Innovative Writing, among other honors. Terence Winch, also a musician and song-writer, has a long recording history, which includes, most recently, his 2017 CD, *This Day Too: Music from Irish America*. Now retired, he was Head of Publications at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian for many years.



Sara Cahill Marron

Sara Cahill Marron (saracahillmarron.com) is a Virginia-born poet currently living in Washington, D.C. She is the author of *Reasons for the Long T'um* (Broadstone Books, 2018). Her work has been published in literary magazines and journals such as *Dark Matter*, *Chagrin River Review*, *Foliate Oak*, *Gravel*, *OUT/CAST*, *Gravitas*, *Atlas + Alice*, *Cordella Magazine*, and *Newtown Literary*. You can follow Sara on Instagram @saracmarron or twitter @misswind_.



Indran Amirthanayagam

Indran Amirthanayagam (www.indranmx.com) writes in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Haitian Creole. He has published sixteen poetry collections, including the just released *Coconuts on Mars* (www.paperwall.in), *En busca de posada* (Editorial Apogeo, 2019) and *Paolo 9* (Manofalsa, 2019). *The Elephants of Reckoning* (1993) won the 1994 Paterson Prize in the United States. *Uncivil War* (2013) tells the history of the Sri Lankan Civil War. *The Splintered Face: Tsunami Poems* (2008) was written in the wake of the Asian Tsunami of 2004. Other books include *Il n'est de solitude que l'île lointaine* (2017), and *Ventana Azul* (2016). He directs Poetry at the Port, a monthly spoken word series at Port Au Prince restaurant in Silver Spring. He is on the Board of Directors of DC-ALT, an association of literary translators. He writes a weekly column featuring poems for the newspaper *Haiti en Marche*. Amirthanayagam is a past recipient of fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, The US/Mexico Fund for Culture and the Macdowell Colony.