



Make  
Mothers  
Matter

**In this together:  
Share the Care, Transform Tomorrow**

**Webinar Side-Event to the HLPF 2022  
11 July 2021**



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

## Speakers' Bios

### Moderator



**Nikki van der Gaag - Independent gender consultant  
Senior Fellow, Equipundo (formerly Instituto Promundo)**

@Nikkivandergaag

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Nikki van der Gaag is an independent gender consultant, and a Senior Fellow at Equipundo (formerly Instituto Promundo), and until January 2019 was Director of Gender Justice and Women's Rights at Oxfam GB. She is on the Board of Make Mothers Matter and a member of the Steering Committee of MenEngage Europe. She has written extensively on gender, feminism and the inclusion of men and boys in gender equality, and has a particular interest in unpaid care. Books and reports include *Feminism and Men* (Zed Books 2014), the *No-nonsense guide to Feminism* (New Internationalist 2017), authoring six *State of the World's Girls* reports, including one on boys, and co-authoring four *State of the World's Fathers* reports.

**Rwanda Men's Resource Center (RWAMREC) - <http://www.rwamrec.org/>**



**Ilaria Buscaglia - Program Manager**

With a PhD in anthropology and gender from the University of Siena (Italy), Ilaria is very passionate about the application of academic and feminist theories and concepts to the work of practitioners in the field of gender and SRHR. She started her career in academia, and she worked for different universities, both in Italy and Rwanda, as a lecturer and researcher in cultural anthropology and gender studies. In 2016, Ilaria moved to more applied research: as an independent consultant, she provided technical support to different non-governmental organisations in Rwanda. She conducted several formative and evaluative research to inform their strategies and interventions, with the aim to promote evidence based sustainable and transformative programming approaches. Currently, she works as Program manager at the Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC), a local NGO engaging men and boys in gender transformative programming to promote gender equality.

**ACEV – [www.acev.org](http://www.acev.org)**



**Suna Hanöz-Penney - Director of Strategy, International Programs and Partnerships**

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Suna works as the Director of Strategy, International Programs and Partnerships at ACEV - Mother Child Education Foundation in Istanbul, Turkey. Her work involves building collaborative partnerships, while she manages the transfer and implementation of ACEV's

educational programs to local organizations in numerous countries including Cambodia, Tanzania, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Brazil. She designs and supervises the early intervention programs for children and families implemented at both the national and international fields. Suna is a Fulbright Scholar, received her dual M.A. degrees in Early Childhood Education from Teachers College, Columbia University and holds a B.A. in Early Childhood Education and Psychological Guidance & Counselling from Boğaziçi University, Istanbul. She is presently pursuing a Mid-Career Master in Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School.

## Mexico



### **Lorena Villavicencio - Mother of Rodrigo, Former Federal Deputy in México City**

 @SLVillavicencio

Lorena is a leader committed to the causes she supports: democracy and citizen participation, justice, equal rights for men and women, children's human rights, and cultural and sustainable development are some of her key concerns. She is committed and inclusive, respecting the diversity of opinions and promoting the growth of others. During her term in office as a Federal Deputy, she participated in and excelled in a large number of initiatives, especially those in favour of human rights, justice, children's and women's rights, labour rights for domestic workers, the wage gap and care work. During her administration, she accompanied indirect victims of femicide and direct victims of gender violence, proposing laws on these issues. Other relevant proposals she was involved in included the Single Vital Income as a measure to fight against the economic emergency caused by the pandemic. She has held positions of popular representation and legislative activities for more than 20 years. She is distinguished as a researcher and legal advisor in the Congress. One of her passions is writing with many of her collaborative journalistic works featured in various print and electronic media.

## Danone France



### **Françoise Cardoso - Director Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, Breastfeeding Support**

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Françoise Cardoso is a mother of 4 kids from 3 to 14 years old and she has an experience of more than 10 years breastfeeding. As an academic background, she holds a first degree in life sciences as well as a Bachelor in computational linguistics and a MASTER in communication and new technologies. She started working in digital (machine translation, text mining, natural language search engines) for 10 years and then worked within Danone during 15 years, involved in knowledge management, competitive intelligence, digital, health and well-being as well as parenthood. She contributed to the global parental policy and its worldwide deployment and the breastfeeding support close to employees.

“During the last past 15 years I have had the chance to work with strong convictions on my 3 passions: innovation with purpose and impact, intra/entrepreneurship to create disruptive solutions and social engagement. I have one objective in mind: make a difference, challenge the status-quo and contribute to make the world better with my humble contribution. My dream is to be able to see the changes in the society that my actions contribute to.

I am very proud to have recently initiated a project with UNITAR to create educational tools and engagement platform on breastfeeding support. This makes me believe that we can impact positively the practices in a sustainable way. Early in 2022, I also had the chance to join a social innovation incubator, the Business for Inclusive Growth with the project "Family Friendly Company Certification" to help organizations support their employees, focusing on the parental journey.”

## Make Mothers Matter – [www.makemothersmatter.org](http://www.makemothersmatter.org)

### Videos from from our Grassroots Members



#### **En Avant Les Enfants (EALE) - [www.enavantlesenfants.com](http://www.enavantlesenfants.com) - Democratic Republic of Congo**

Promotes sustainable development projects for the benefit of children and mothers in Goma, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo



#### **Aide à la Jeunesse Africaine Défavorisée (AJAD) - [www.ongajad.org](http://www.ongajad.org) - Ivory Coast**

Improves the status of teenage mothers and their fatherless children, as well as orphans



#### **Mouvement Otitsara - [otitsara1995.franceserv.com](http://otitsara1995.franceserv.com) - Madagascar**

Accompanies women in their personal development as wife, mother, educator, professional, and citizen



#### **Anne-Claire de Liedekerke – President Make Mothers Matter (MMM)**

 @acdelied

Anne-Claire holds a Masters' Degree in Art History from UC Louvain Belgium, and has been active in the cultural world throughout years of expatriation with her family in the United States and Canada. Anne-Claire joined MMM in 2008, heading the Delegation at the European Union, leading two major EU- funded research programs: Family Platform and Dorian, and a major Survey about the wellbeing of mothers in the EU.

Make Mothers Matter (MMM) is an international NGO that for the past seventy years has been placing mothers - the first educators of their children - at the heart of its mission, advocating for and supporting them as change makers for a better world. Anne-Claire firmly believes in recognizing motherhood as a determinant factor in the cultural and educational richness and progress of modern society. As President, Anne-Claire leads teams of representatives at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna; at the UNESCO in Paris; and at the European Union in Brussels. MMM federates and gives a voice to mothers globally in the four main areas of health, education, the economy and peace. Since 2015, through its advocacy work and an expanding network of grassroots organizations working in the field with and for mothers, some thirty advocacy actions taken in the UN, European Union and UNESCO have influenced laws and measures directly benefitting mothers and families in their everyday life, and through them, the whole of society.

