

Speakers' BIOS

Moderator



Anne Fennel
Chair

Mothers At Home Matter (MAHM), UK - <https://www.mothersathomematter.com>

Anne has led the UK based group Mothers at Home Matter since 2018. She is a mother of 6 boys and is passionate that the role of 'care' at home is valued and the work seen as equal to that of paid work outside the home. She campaigns for a fair family taxation system that recognizes the dependent nature of the family thereby allowing families more choice as to how they raise their children.

Speakers



Antra Bhatt, PhD
Statistics Specialist, Research and Data Section

UN Women - <https://www.unwomen.org/en>

 @AntraBhatt

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/antrabhatt/>

Antra Bhatt is a Statistics Specialist in the Research and Data Section of UN Women. Before joining UN Women in 2017, Antra worked as an Assistant Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, India and as a researcher at the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy and the University of Chicago Urban Poverty Lab in Chicago, USA. She has published several pieces on gender inequality in peer-reviewed academic journals, UN Reports, books, and Op-Eds/blog series. She holds an MS in Public Policy and PhD in Economics.



Nazma Akter
Founder and Executive Director

Awaj Foundation, Bangladesh - <http://awajfoundation.org/>

(Video message)

Nazma Akter, an Ashoka Fellow 2019, has worked in the textile industry from the age of 11. She is involved in numerous unions, federations and committees for the improvement of workers' rights, especially women and the harmonious development of the Bangladeshi Garment and leather industry. She is the Founder, General Secretary and Executive Director of Awaj Foundation, which has provided services to more than 740,000 workers. She is also the President of Sommilito Garments Sramik Federation, which at present represents 70 garment sector trade unions.



Eliska Kodysova
CEO

Aperio, Czech Republic - <https://www.aperio.cz/en>

Eliska studied psychology (MA, 1999) and social psychology (Ph.D., 2014) at Charles University, Prague. Since 2005 she's been active in the non-profit sector. Both her research and non-profit activities have focused on parenting and its critical stages, which could become either growth opportunities or traps, without adequate support.

She served as a chair and vice-chair of the Czech Women's Lobby, advocating, e.g., for a woman-centred approach in maternity care, a better availability and quality of childcare for children under 3, and an efficient support for divorced and single parents. She has served as a member of several government committees. She's an alumna of the Democracy Institute Leadership Academy at the Central European University in Budapest. Since 2016, she has been a director of Aperio, a leading NGO supporting parents.



Mahjouba Edbouche
Founder & president

AHDANNE, Morocco - <https://www.ahddane.org/>

(Video message)

Mahjouba Edbouche was born in Agadir, Morocco. Her parents married her off at the young age of 16. When she was 24, her husband died leaving her a widow with 2 young children and pregnant with a 3rd. She had to raise, educate and support her children alone. She was fortunate to find a good job that led to many years with an organization called Terre des Hommes.

In 2012 she founded the Ahddane association, of which she remains President to date.

This association helps single women and women who, like Majhouba, have had to fight against social injustices to educate their children alone. Ahddane supports single mothers with legal and emotional advice,

and organizes day care centers to accommodate young children. They also offer accommodation for young pregnant women who cannot return home.



Lydia Anyango

Founder and Executive Director

Passion To Share Foundation -

<https://www.passiontosharefoundation.org/>

Kokomelon Daycare/Nursery School -

<https://www.facebook.com/CocomelonDaycares/>

Lydia was brought to **Warm Hearts Children’s Home**, an orphanage that supports needy students in Kibera slums – Nairobi, at the age of 14. Before that, she lived in extreme poverty and suffered abuse from stepmothers and an alcoholic and violent father. The orphanage found a sponsor to pay for her education and she finished high school with success in 2010. She then graduated from Tangaza College in 2014 where she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Social Communication with honors. In 2017, she decided to launch **Passion to Share Foundation** with a mentorship program for girls born or living with HIV whom she had met in rural Kenya and in Nairobi slums. In 2020, she established a skills center with vocational training in Kibera slums to support teenage girls and young mothers. In 2021, she started **Kokomelon**, a daycare for the babies of the young mothers following the skills program. Now **Kokomelon** welcomes children from the age of 4 months to 5 years old. In 2022, Passion to Share developed its own brand called **Miyo’s Creation** to give young mothers a marketing platform to promote their own products. Recently, Lydia established **Genowa** (Hope in Luo language), a table-banking program to allow young mothers to save and take interest-free loans for business startup or development. Lydia is very passionate about helping young women lacking means and networking to be able to become financially independent.



Adriana Abraham

Founder and Director

Ceprodih, Uruguay - <https://ceprodih.org/>

(Video message)

Adriana holds a Bachelor in Social Work and is an Ashoka Fellow. She has been Founder and Director of Ceprodih since 1998.



Yolanda Arias González

Director of Human Resource

Fundacion Isadora Duncan, Spain - <https://isadoraduncan.es/>

Researcher, [Observatorio Estatal de Familias Monoparentales](https://observatoriofamiliasmonoparentales.es/) (State Observatory of Single-Parent Families).

Yolanda Arias González graduated in Economics from the University of Oviedo, Spain. She has always been an activist for the rights of women, animals and all the causes she considers just. Although her academic training is in economics, she has developed her professional career in the social field. It is the reason why she joined Fundacion Isadora Duncan where she can

combine both facets: economics (financial education programs) and social (improving the lives of the people served by the foundation, their families and women in general).



Jean-Philippe Byamungu
Director, HAD / En Avant les Enfants

En Avant les Enfants, DRC - <https://www.enavantlesenfants.com/>

(Video message)

Jean Philippe Byamungu Tchagazi was born in the village of Muhanga in 1981, on the outskirts of Goma, the capital of the province of North Kivu, in the east of the DRC.

His father died when he was very young, leaving Jean-Philippe in the care of his maternal family who brought him up. It is thanks to his mother that he was able to go to school and get an education.

Sensitive to the suffering of children and mothers, Jean-Philippe decided to work for the most vulnerable in his society.

He is the co-founder and coordinator of the successful agro-ecological farm HAD-VSK (a project supported by En Avant les Enfants). The school was founded to train, restore dignity and empower young girls who have become mothers through rape, and have, as a consequence, been abandoned by their community.



Johanna Schima,
Head of EU Delegation

Make Mothers Matter – <http://www.makemothersmatter.org/>

Johanna is the Vice-president and Head of the European Delegation for Make Mothers Matter. She joined in October 2014. Her main areas of work are advocating for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting gender equality, economic empowerment of mothers and work life balance in the EU. Johanna studied law and philosophy in Colombia and in the US and holds an LL.M degree from Harvard Law School. Married and mother of two children, she is a native Spanish speaker, and speaks English, French and German.