



Make Young Mothers Count
19 October 2023 - 9h30-10h45 EST
Speakers' biographies

Moderator & Facilitators

Farah Arabe
Founder
itotheN Consulting



Farah Arabe is a passionate advocate for the transformative potential of early childhood environments for sustainable and inclusive global development. With almost 15 years of international experience in economic policy, strategy consulting, and global development programs, she has successfully led multidisciplinary and cross-cultural social impact initiatives in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors globally. After five years of full-time parenting, in 2019, she founded itotheN, a New York-based, international development consulting firm that focuses exclusively on the early formation of the human mind and heart as a catalyst for global change. She works with families, schools, the private sector, governments, and civil society around the world to promote positive childhood experiences and relationships that foster long-term resilience, well-being, better mental and physical health, academic

achievement, economic productivity and equity, more responsible citizenship, human connection, and, overall, more prosperous societies.

She also co-leads the Harvard Kennedy School Women's Network and serves on the advisory board of the Global Mental Health Action Network.

As a Hispanic founder, board member and mother of two, Farah is a frequent and bilingual speaker and writer on topics related to infant, child and parental mental health, early relationships for global development, parenting in the future of work, the care economy and multicultural identities.

Jacqueline Leduc
Main Representative to the United Nations in New York
Make Mothers Matter



Jacqueline Leduc is an urban planner, specialized in housing and social development, with ten years' experience in the suburbs of Paris. She received a Master of Urban Planning (MUP) degree from the Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris and a Bachelor of Political Science (BS) from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). She has also recently successfully graduated from the Hunter College's Urban Policy and Leadership program.

Committed to social causes, she fights to improve people's living conditions. She is currently working with ATD Quart Monde New York, doing Community Outreach.

She also has been volunteering with several associations, including Make Mothers Matter (MMM), doing advocacy work at the UN in New York.

Jacqueline grew up in Mexico City and lived in Paris for 16 years. Double citizenship has afforded her extensive exposure to social realities in different countries. Fluent in three languages (Spanish, French, and English), she can interact with people from all walks of life.

Sarah Krimi
Network Coordinator
Make Mothers Matter



Sarah Krimi was born in Agadir, Morocco and came to France as an 18 years-old for her studies. After a bachelor's degree in law, she moved to Brussels for her Master's in diplomacy and Global Governance. Passionate about women and girls' rights and gender equality, she did her internship at the European delegation of Make Mothers Matter (MMM), an international organisation advocating for the rights of mothers at several international levels. After her 6-month internship she joined MMM as a network coordinator, liaising with MMM's grass roots members across the world.

Speakers

Mahjouba Edbouche
Founder & president
AHDANNE, Morocco - <https://www.ahddane.org>



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.

Jean-Philippe Byamungu

Director

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



Jean Philippe Byamungu Tchagazi was born in 1981 in the village of Muhanga, 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.

Marie Tozer

Communication Officer

La Maison de Tom Pouce, France - <https://lamaisondetompouce.com/>



Marie Tozer is in charge of communications and sponsorship for La Maison de Tom Pouce. She is the spokesperson for the association's 25 employees and all the mothers it cares for. Since 1987, the association's project has been driven by an unwavering desire to help all pregnant women in difficulty or in danger, as a result of pregnancy. This mission has never changed, and the association runs a social establishment approved by the Child Welfare Office. Every year, they take in an average of 70 pregnant women or women who have just given birth, and 35 newborn babies. Precariousness, violence, migratory wanderings and emotional fragility do not prevent women from loving their babies and rebuilding their lives. La Maison de Tom Pouce helps them to achieve that goal.

Lydia Anyango

Founder and Executive Director

Passion to Share Foundation, Kenya - <https://www.passiontosharefoundation.org/>

Kokomelon Daycare/Nursery School, Kenya - <https://www.facebook.com/CocomelonDaycares/>

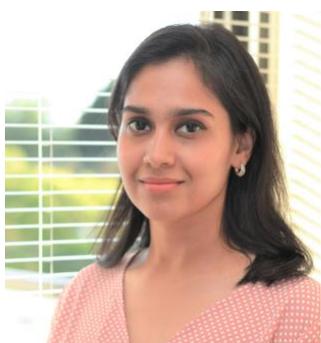


Lydia was brought to Warm Hearts Children's Home, an orphanage that supports needy students in Kibera slums – Nairobi, at the age of 14. Before that, she lived in extreme poverty and suffered abuse from stepmothers and an alcoholic and violent father. The orphanage found a sponsor to pay for her education 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 Miyó'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.

Yusra Qadir
Vice President

Mothers Matter Centre Canada - <https://www.mothersmattercentre.ca/>



Yusra is Vice President of Programs and Advocacy at the Mothers Matter Centre. Mothers Matter Centre is the home of the HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) program. HIPPY supports vulnerable and isolated refugee and immigrant women and their preschool children by building the mother's confidence and capacity and improving school readiness in children. Yusra has experience of working with civil society organizations, the United Nations, and public institutions to drive long-term development efforts. Mainstreaming vulnerable groups in governance processes, working on meaningful social inclusion, and evidence-based advocacy are her primary interests.

Amanda Tlotlisang Mokoena
Founding Executive Director

Glow Movement, South Africa - <https://www.glowmovementnpo.org>



Amanda Mokoena is the founding executive director at Glow Movement NPO, a movement she created in 2018. This organisation was created to empower and support young mothers in South Africa through unique programming and workshops. Amanda is a qualified teacher, licenced antenatal and postnatal host and maternal health activist. Born in April 4, 1989 mother of two beautiful daughters age 10 and 18 months. She's been a community organiser since 2008.