



Unlocking the Power of Care: Skills, Equity, and Social Transformation

64th Commission on Social Development
Online Side-Event – February 5th 2026

Speakers' Bios

Moderator

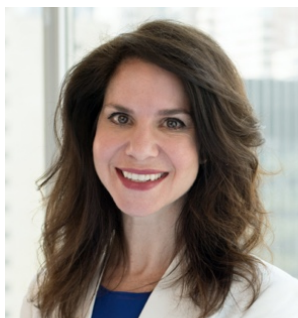


Amber Parkes, Care Economy Policy Specialist, [UN Women](#)

[!\[\]\(17413706fd4997a1a4bdf85c6864eee1_img.jpg\) <https://www.linkedin.com/in/amber-parkes-a9b4a238>](#)

Amber Parkes is a Gender Equality Policy Specialist with more than 15 years of international experience advancing women's rights, feminist economic justice, and transformative care systems. Her career spans global, regional, and country-level roles across Europe, East Africa, the Middle East, and South-East Asia. As the Care Economy Policy Specialist at UN Women, Amber's work spans research, policy development and strategic partnerships that support governments and institutions to implement practical, evidence-based reforms. She has led and developed sector-leading global policy guidance on the care economy, including the first-ever UN system-wide policy on transforming care systems, guidance on addressing care in times of conflict and crisis, and a care policy scorecard. Amber holds multiple degrees from the University of Sydney and training in macroeconomics at the University of Oxford.

Panelists



Lisa S. Kaplowitz, Associate Professor of Professional Practice in Finance & Economics; and Co-founder and Executive Director, [Rutgers Center for Women in Business \(CWIB\)](#), Rutgers Business School

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Lisa (Stern) Kaplowitz is the co-founder and executive director of the Center for Women in Business (CWIB) at Rutgers University and a restless champion for gender equality. Her advocacy began as a scholar-athlete at Brown University, when she was part of the landmark Title IX case that added more

varsity athletic opportunities for women. Her work has been featured in USA Today, LA times, Harvard Business Review, Forbes, Fast Company, CFO Magazine, the Conversation and Bloomberg.com and she has appeared on ESPN and Bloomberg TV.

Lisa is also a finance professor at Rutgers Business School, where she leverages her 20+ years of experience as an investment banker and CFO, challenging her students to move beyond the calculations and ask, “what does this mean?” and “how are we going to use this information to grow the business?”

She earned a B.A. from Brown University and an MBA from Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management. She was captain of the Brown Women’s Gymnastics team and in 2018, inducted in the Brown Athletics Hall of Fame. She also founded Brown Athletics W.O.M.E.N. (Women’s Opportunity, Mentorship & Empowerment Network) in 2018.

Lisa resides in New Jersey, is obsessed with her Peloton app (@Prof_Kap), and enjoys traveling, skiing and anything active. She continues to champion gender equity at work and in the home, alongside her husband and sons, where you can see them in action in her TEDx, [Advancing Women by Redistributing the Housework. One Son at a Time.](#)



Agustina Palmieri, Founder & CEO, [Mom's in Co.](#), Spain, an MMM member organization

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Agustina Palmieri is Founder & CEO of Mom's in Co. (Spain), a B2B initiative helping organisations retain and develop professional mothers by translating caregiving-related skills into workplace recognition and practical career pathways. With nearly 20 years of experience in HR and inclusion across multiple continents, she partners with companies and business schools to build more sustainable talent models and leadership practices.



Cassandra Menga, EU Project Management, [MAV](#) Project Coordinator

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Cassandra Menga is a Communication Specialist and EU Project Manager with a strong focus on digitalisation and women’s empowerment. As a certified Google Partner, storyteller and speaker, she has extensive experience working on digital communication projects with both profit and non-profit organisations, at national and international level, supporting brands, institutions and social initiatives in strengthening their digital presence and engagement.

Deeply passionate about gender equality, social inclusion and innovation, in 2023 she launched MAV, an Erasmus+ Small-scale project founded by Erasmus+, which she coordinated within an international partnership, achieving significant and measurable impact. Alongside her project management work, Cassandra is an experienced trainer on social media, communication and marketing, artificial intelligence and storytelling. She delivers training within European projects and teaches a university course at Link Campus University in Rome.



Regina Cabal, Latin America ambassador for [Lifeed](#); founder **Momlancers**, Mexico

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/regina-cabal-urquiza/>

Regina Cabal is the Founder of **Momlancers** and Latin **America** Ambassador for **Lifeed**. Through Momlancers—a social-impact platform that supports professional mothers’ return to the workforce and helps companies build more inclusive, human-centered workplaces—she works to elevate the skills developed through caregiving and promote work-life integration. Before founding Momlancers, Regina built a career in innovation and strategic consulting across global industries



Sonia Malaspina, Chief People Officer and Corporate Affairs Director at **Global Logistic Systems (GLS)** Italy; President, **Winning Women Foundation**.

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/soniamalaspina/>

Sonia Malaspina holds a degree in Languages from Università Cattolica in Milan. For 25 years, she worked in Human Resources leadership roles across various multinational companies (Lucent Technologies, Kellogg, and Danone). In 2023, she became Director of Institutional Relations, Communications, and Sustainability for Danone Italy and Greece. She has served on the Board of Directors of Danone and of the Fondazione Istituto Danone, and is an alumna of the 10th cohort of In The Boardroom. In 2011, she designed and implemented the Parental Policy in Italy to support working parents. The policy became global within Danone in 2017, extending to 100,000 employees. She presented the Danone case at the Italian Ministry for Family and Equal Opportunities, at UN Women, at the International Labour Office in Geneva during the Centenary of Maternity Protection in the workplace, and at the Council of Europe in 2022. In 2020, she launched the Caregiver Policy at Danone to support employees caring for vulnerable individuals. Sonia is a passionate advocate for gender equality and a strong supporter of diversity and inclusion as drivers of both economic and social value. She was a speaker at the 2021 TED Talk in Legnano with the speech *How to Implement Gender Equality in Companies*. She is currently developing a parental policy in GLS Italy.

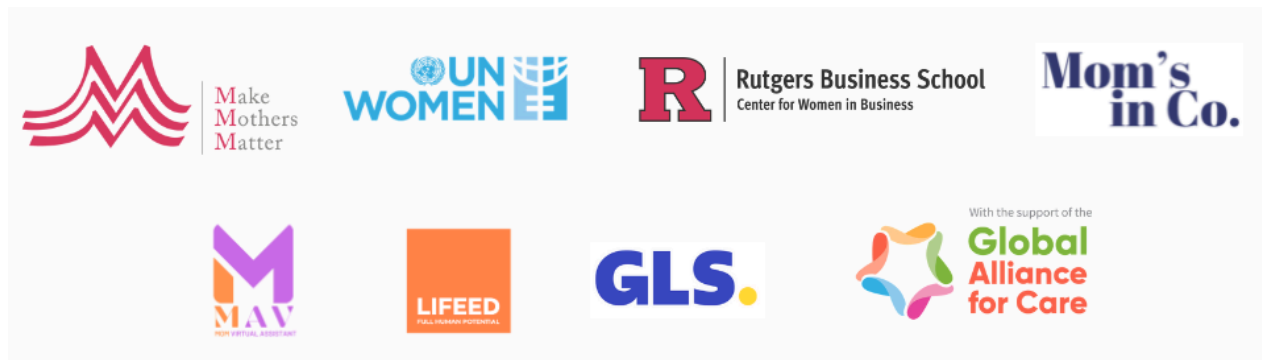
Closing

Ana B. Moreno, Technical Secretary, [Global Alliance for Care](#)



Social anthropologist and journalist with over 30 years of experience in public policy, international, and local sustainable development projects. Specializes in defining and implementing collaboration platforms and multi-stakeholder alliances, participating in intergovernmental processes, and designing advocacy and outreach strategies for sustainable development and resource mobilization.

Notable roles include serving as Coordinator for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum (2012-2018), as well as Director of the UN-Habitat Office for Brunei-Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Additionally, has held key positions with the Barcelona City Council, Spain's Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance.



About Make Mother Matter - MMM

Since 1947, MMM has been at the forefront of advocating for mothers' rights and recognition worldwide, raising awareness amongst policy makers and the general public on the contributions of mothers towards social, cultural and economic development. MMM has no political or religious affiliations. Working with local partners, MMM advocates on influential global platforms including the European Union, the United Nations (General Consultative Status), and UNESCO, ensuring that the lived realities of mothers are voiced and acknowledged.

More information on www.makemothersmatter.org