

## Speakers' Bios

### Moderator



**Simon Ticehurst**, Movements and Advocacy Lead, [Wellbeing Economy Alliance](#) (Moderator)

Simon is the Advocacy and Movements Lead for the Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll). Before joining WEAll, Simon was Oxfam International's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean (2015-2022). He has worked with Oxfam in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia managing leading campaigns, programs and humanitarian response. Simon studied Development Studies at East Anglia University in the UK, and has a Masters and PhD in Latin American Studies at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

### Panelists



**Celine Charveriat**, Founder and Director, [Pro\(to\)topia](#) / [Forum for caring societies](#)

Celine Charveriat has 30 years of experience in the field of sustainability and systemic change. After starting her career at the Peterson Institute and the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington D.C., Celine Charveriat worked for 15 years at Oxfam International, notably as the organisation's advocacy and campaign director. She then went on to become the executive director of the Institute of European Environmental Policy (IEEP). Two years ago, Celine Charveriat created [Pro\(to\)topia](#), a not-for-profit think and do network, dedicated to imagineering green caring futures. She is also an adjunct professor at Sciences Po Paris (Paris School of International Affairs), the chair of the Board of [Climate Catalyst](#), and a member of the advisory boards of the [Climate and Care initiative](#) and the [Climate Justice Impact Fund for Africa \(CJIFA\)](#).



**Ayşe Göç Yalçinkaya, Expert of International Affairs and Projects, [Marmara Municipalities Union](#) (Türkiye)**

Ayşe Göç Yalçinkaya works as an Expert of International Affairs and Projects at Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU).

Within MMU, she contributes to the institution's thematic centers on Sustainability and Climate Change, as well as Migration and Social Policies, and has been appointed as a gender focal point. She holds a BA in Economics from Marmara University and an MA in Regional and Environmental Economics from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. She is currently a PhD candidate in Economics at Kadir

Has University. She has worked as a researcher in both national and international research projects on climate change, gender equality, and income distribution.



**Gemma Parera Álvarez, Technical advisor, Social Sustainability, Life Cycle and Community Area, [Barcelona Provincial Council](#)**

Sociologist at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Master in Social Public Policies at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Postgraduate in International Development Agents, at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. Technical advisor in the Social Sustainability, Life Cycle and Community Area of Diputació de Barcelona (Barcelona Provincial Council) regarding care and community policies, social planning and inclusion programs. She has also worked as researcher in the Jaume Bofill Foundation and in the Educational Department in the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She has written different articles in the areas of

migration, care and social sustainability.



**Victoria Chavez Barriga, Senior Urban95 Expert, [Van Leer Foundation](#)**

Victoria is the Urban95 Officer in the Foundation's Knowledge for Policy team. She is responsible for providing advice and technical assistance to partners implementing projects at scale in [Urban95](#) cities, with a particular focus on sustainable mobility, public space, neighbourhood planning, air quality, climate change, social justice and monitoring and evaluation, through an early-years lens. She holds an MSc in socio-spatial planning from the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, and a

Bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Cuenca, Ecuador.

Before joining the Foundation, she co-founded [Huasipichanga](#), an organization focused on urban development with participatory and co-creation methodologies, where she developed concepts and

strategies aligned to the principles of sustainability and child-friendliness for cities in Latin America, Europe and Africa.

Constantly driven by the idea that better cities are possible through citizen engagement and participatory planning, Victoria finds it important to be involved in current social discussions seeking citizen-centric approaches that focus on engagement and collaboration, where research and technology are the enablers in reaching governmental, economic and societal goals. For the last five years, Victoria has been based in the Netherlands, experiencing the culturally diverse city of Utrecht. Lately her time is also filled with reading AI books, sketching new places and watching dystopian movies.



**Rachel Castleberg**, LMSW, Project Coordinator, [Mother centres International Network for Empowerment \(MINE\)](#)

Rachel Castleberg is an American Licensed Master Social Worker living in Stuttgart, Germany, where she works in international social work and community organizing. As a project coordinator for the Mother Center International Network for Empowerment (MINE), she connects grassroots women and activists across borders and oceans so they can learn and collaborate together to bring about their vision of a better future, one neighborhood at a time.



**Dr. Saravanan Thangarajan**, Founder, CliMent | Public Health Systems & Global Health Delivery Consultant | Mittal Associate, Harvard University

Dr. Saravanan Thangarajan is a public health systems leader whose work examines how climate stress reshapes maternal mental health, unpaid care, and family resilience. He previously led statewide public health operations in Tamil Nadu, India, across emergency response, maternal-child tracking, disaster preparedness, EMS workforce training, and tele-mental health systems serving 77 million residents. He now leads CliMent, a climate-linked maternal mental health initiative, and is an Associate at Harvard University's Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute. His work spans South Asia, Southeast Asia, and global policy settings, including climate-health curriculum work with medical universities in Vietnam, and climate-health funding review and technical processes with Wellcome, UK, and the World Health Organization. His core message for Caring Cities is direct: cities cannot be resilient if the mothers and caregivers absorbing their daily shocks remain invisible. Care is not private sacrifice; it is public infrastructure.

## Closing remarks



**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. Specialises 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.

## Welcome & Closing



**Shahnaz Pakravan**, Communications Manager, [Make Mothers Matter](#)

Shahnaz is a well-known figure in British and Middle Eastern media through her work with the BBC and ITN including, Arab World Direct, Tomorrow's World and Channel Four News. Her news presentations have included high profile interviews with international leaders in government and business. Shahnaz also produced and presented her own weekly women's programme Everywoman for Al Jazeera International. With women's issues at its core, the show covered a range of topics including social impact, entrepreneurship, religion, gender equality, education and the arts. This was a first-of-its-kind programming which paved the way for many other 'pro-women' channels. Shahnaz founded her own media

company SP productions which undertakes filmmaking, MCing, events management and overall communications consultancy. A mother of two grown up girls, Shahnaz works alongside MMM teams at the EU, UN, and UNESCO, building visibility and exposure for the NGO. She says of her work at MMM: "I come from a family of strong women. My own mother was a campaigning woman who believed that the education of every girl in every society was not just a necessity but critical for all our futures. Working at MMM is the continuation of that dream."

## 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](http://www.makemothersmatter.org)