



# IMPROVING WOMEN AND GIRLS' HEALTH THROUGH ADDRESSING THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AWARENESS NETWORK (IHAN)

United Nations CSW 2024 Virtual Parallel Event

**New York**

Saturday 16 March 2024 6.30-8.30 pm

**Sydney**

Sunday 17 March 2024 9.30 to 11.30 am

## EVENT PROGRAM

### WELCOME

Professor Gabrielle Casper BSc(Hons) MBBS FRANZCOG President, IHAN. Head of Clinical Discipline Obstetrics and Gynaecology, The National School of Medicine, Sydney, UNDA

Dr Sorosh Roshan M.D. MPH Founder and Past President IHAN

Professor Lynne Madden BSc (Med)Hons1, MBBS, MPH, MSc, FFPH (UK), FAFPHM, FPHAA, MAICD Professor of Population and Planetary Health, National School of Medicine, UNDA

A/Prof Meagan Brennan FRACGP PhD Medical Educator, National School of Medicine, UNDA

Professor Elaine Congress MSSW, MA, DSW, LCSW Associate Dean and Professor Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, New York. Co-chair Fordham Institute for Women and Girls

A/Professor Sandra Turner Ph.D., LCSW Assoc. Professor Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, New York. Chair of the Fordham Institute for Women and Girls

## BACKGROUND

**International Health Awareness Network**

**The Commission on the Status of Women**

**Progress on improving women and girls' health through addressing the social determinants of health in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states**

**Improving maternal health in Nigeria**

**Obstetrics and Gynaecology during wartime in Ukraine**

**Planting Seeds of Sustainable Development in Dominican Republic to Improve Health and Education for Women and Children**

Dr Vijaya Melnick Ph.D. FIMSA, Prof. Emerita of Biological Sciences, Co-President IHAN

Professor Elaine Congress MSSW, MA, DSW, LCSW Associate Dean and Professor Fordham University

Ms. Erica Carroll-Ogunka, UN Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small island developing states.

Prof Rosemary Ogu, MBBS, MSc (RH), FWACS, FMCOG. Secretary of the World Health Organisation/Federal Ministry of Health Maternal-Newborn-Child-Health Implementation Research Team for the reduction of Maternal & Perinatal Mortality in Nigeria.

Ass Prof. Anastasia Serbrenuk, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Shupyk National Health Care, Ukraine.

Ms Maria Mensen BA Masters of Journalism. President and Founder Mensen Academy Foundation and Board Member, IHAN.

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**Women's health in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps in Maiduguri, North East Nigeria**

Dr Zainab Yero Musa, MBBS, FMCoph, MHPM. Senior Consultant Ophthalmologist and President, Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN), Borno State

**UNICEF and adolescent girls' health**

Ms Viv Harvey-Wong. BInSt BASS (Hons) GCert IPSI. International program manager, UNICEF Australia

**Questions for the panel**

Leila Farshchian, MA BCBA

## 2. MONITORING AND MEASURING WOMEN'S HEALTH- MAJOR TRENDS IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

**Global Burden of disease for women – trends in the health of women**

Lauren Clark, Chantelle Burl, Morgan Hind

**Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and achieving the goals for women around the world**

Xanthe Cerutti, Zoe Reizes, Tessa Houston

**The social determinants of health and their role in trends in global maternal health**

Emma May, Sydney Jantos, Lucy Mathias

**Taylor Swift's impact on women's empowerment, rights and health**

Dr Orchideh Alexander MD Resident physician Dep. Obs and Gyne, Abington - Jefferson Health near Philadelphia, PA

## 3. THE HEALTH CHALLENGES OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**Trends in the health challenges of refugee and migrant women and children**

Aubrey Wood, Thana Adeniyi, Elizabeth Richardson

**Immigration: Obstacles and Solutions Towards a More Inclusive and Cohesive Society**

Ms Liliana Espinosa Otero, Fordham MSW Candidate, Ms Lhazom Tsering Fordham MSW Candidate, Ms Frankie Heppell - Fordham MSW Candidate

**How the unique biopsychosocial needs of perinatal migrants are shaping the priorities of the Office of Women's Health**

Ms Rachel Gentile, Fordham MSW Candidate

**Menstruation is not a choice but removing the barrier to product access is**

Ms Bernice Gospard, Fordham MSW Candidate

## 4. CLIMATE CHANGE AS A DETERMINANT OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

**Air pollution, climate change and the effects on health, in particular the health of children and women**

Ariane Khoo, Swazi Sharma, Timothy Hunt



### **Climate and young girls' health**

Ms Isabella Tan Year 2 BCom Student UNSW, Ms Charlotte Tan Year 1 B Psych(hons) Student UNSW, Ms Indigo Kite Year 2 B.Genetics Student ANU

## **5. NEW CHALLENGES AND NEW SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

### **Climate change, natural hazards and disasters and violence Against Women and Girls.**

Ashley McMurray, Jessica Ledger, Anthony Bejjan

### **Addressing the health impacts of violence against woman in Australia and internationally through addressing the social determinants of health.**

Nameer van Oosterom, Madeline Lee, Brandon Ziegenfuss

### **Violence against women: educating future doctors at UNDA.**

Bjorn Margon, Eva Devantier

### **Investing in the health of women and girls - Global and National strategies**

Aiman Ijaz, Amlan Chowdhury, Shabnam Mohamad Shafiq

### **A Prayer for the Girl Child**

Ms Maya Mensen 15yo Honors student Liceo Cientifico, Dr. Miguel Canela Lazaro, Dominican Republic, Professor Suzanne Stutman Professor Emeritus of English, Penn State University.

## **6. QUESTIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Questions**

Ms Tina Tarighian B.Computer Science MA

### **Highlights from the session NGO's and the future**

Professor Lynne Madden, A/Prof Meagan Brennan  
Professor Gabrielle Casper UNDA



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES: WELCOME



### **Professor Gabrielle Casper** **BSc(Hons) MBBS FRANZCOG**

Professor Gabrielle Casper is President of International Health Awareness Network, Head of Clinical Discipline Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Sydney Campus, The National School of Medicine, The University of Notre Dame Australia (UNDA) and Past Chairman of the NSW State Committee of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG). She is Past President of Medical Women's International Association (MWIA). She has undertaken projects with the World Health Organisation and United Nations and cares for her patients with compassion and understanding while lobbying to improve women's health in Australia and overseas



### **Dr Sorosh Roshan** **MD**

Dr. Sorosh Roshan is the founder and Past President of the International Health Awareness Network. She is a former Adjunct Associate Professor at New York University, Vice President of the International Council of Women, and President of the National Council of Women U.S.A. Dr. Roshan was also the Director of the Lehman College Foundation. Dr. Roshan is one of the most salient voices on women's health and empowerment advocacy worldwide. IHAN's mission is to educate, empower and provide healthcare to socioeconomically underserved women and children. IHAN has advisory council members in Jordan, Kenya, India, Switzerland, Turkey, Dominican Republic USA, Australia, Bangladesh, South Africa, England.



### **Professor Diana Lynne Madden** **BSc(Med)Hons1, MBBS, MPH, MSc, FFPH (UK), FAFPHM, FPAA, MAICD**

Professor Madden is Professor of Population and Planetary Health at the National School of Medicine, The University of Notre Dame Australia. She was Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching for the medical program 2012-2020. Lynne is Head of the Public and Population Health Domain. Along with A/Professor Brennan and Dr Tai she is implementing courses in Sustainable Quality Improvement (SusQI), first developed by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (UK) to strengthen the environmental sustainability of healthcare. Lynne was President of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine and a member of the Board of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, 2016-2018.



### **A/Prof Meagan Brennan** **BMed, FRACGP, FASBP, PhD**

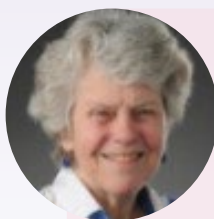
Meagan is a Medical Educator at The University of Notre Dame Australia and Breast Physician at Westmead Hospital in Sydney. She has an interest in the impact of climate change on health. She is supporting efforts to prepare future doctors to manage the effects of climate change on the health of their patients. Meagan has clinical expertise in caring for women at high genetic risk of breast cancer and women recovering from breast cancer. She has a special interest in enhancing the patient experience in health care.

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**Professor Elaine Congress**  
**MSSW, MA, DSW, LCSW**

Dr. Elaine Congress is Associate Dean and Professor at Fordham University, New York City. She is the co-chair of the Fordham Institute for Women and Girls. At the United Nations, she represents three NGOs, Fordham University, the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), and the Institute of Multicultural Counselling and Education Services (IMCES). She is the author of many articles and books on social work ethics and values, multicultural practice, health, and immigrants including the recent Behavioral Science in the Global Arena: Addressing Timely Issues at the United Nations and Beyond (2020). The next two in press books in this UN book series will focus on health.



**A/Prof Sandra Turner**  
**Ph.D., LCSW**

A/Professor Sandra G. Turner is an Associate Professor and past Academic Associate Dean of Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. She is co-chair of the Institute for Women and Girls at Fordham University. Her research interests are in the areas of feminism, empowerment, sexual abuse, and substance abuse. She is the Co-President of Affilia: Feminist Inquiry in Social Work. She has published over 30 articles and book chapters on these topics.

## BACKGROUND



**Dr Vijaya Melnick**  
**Ph.D. FIMSA**

Dr Vijaya Melnick is Professor Emerita of Biological Sciences and the former Director of the Center for Applied Research and Urban Policy, University of the District of Columbia. She served as Associate Director, International Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Immunology, Georgetown University Medical Center. She is Co-President of the International Health Awareness Network. She served as Principal Investigator on research projects on the health of women & children, and on international biomedical and bioethics programs. She has authored research and policy papers and books. She is listed in Who's Who publications and is the recipient of the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.



**Ms Erica Carroll-Ogunka**  
**BA MSc**

Ms. Carroll-Ogunka, is an Economic Affairs Officer in the UN Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. She covers macro-economic issues and LDC graduation issues within the team and acts as the civil society focal point for the office. Until recently she served as the gender focal point in the office. Prior to joining OHRLLS, Ms. Carroll-Ogunka was the IMF senior liaison officer to the UN, a policy advisor with the UK Permanent Mission to the UN, and a policy analyst with a UK-based international development NGO. Ms. Carroll-Ogunka holds an MSc. in Globalisation and Development from SOAS, UK, a B.A. in Dance from Scripps College, USA, and was inspired to pursue a career in international development by the work of Dr. Paul Farmer and Partners in Health. She lives in NY with her partner and their daughter.



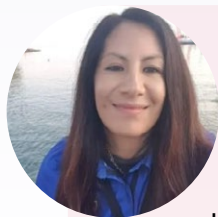
**Prof Rosemary Ogu**  
**MBBS, MSc (RH), FWACS, FMCOG**

Prof Rosemary Ogu Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Port Harcourt, Nigeria and is a Maternal Health Advocate with interest in Sexual/Reproductive Health & Gestational Diabetes. She is the Secretary of the World Health Organisation/Federal Ministry of Health Maternal-Newborn-Child-Health Implementation Research Team for the reduction of Maternal & Perinatal Mortality in Nigeria. She is the principal investigator of the UPTH World Health Organisation Safe Childbirth Checklist Collaboration. As a dedicated Medical Woman & President of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria; she collaborates with relevant Government Agencies and Non-Government Organisations to advocate and offer sensitization, awareness, screening, preventive and care services for Women's Health.



**Ass Prof Anastasia Serbrenuk**  
**Obstetrician and Gynaecologist**

Anastasia graduated from Bukovynian State Medical University in the Ukraine. She specialised in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Medicine NMAPE named after P.L. Shupika. Anastasia currently works as an obstetrician-gynecologist at the Kyiv City Center for Reproductive and Perinatal Medicine. Recently she was an invited speaker at The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) international meeting on teaching obstetrics and gynecology to medical students in wartime in Ukraine. In 2024 became an associate Professor on the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Medicine NMAPE named after P.L. Shupika.



**Ms Maria Mensen**  
**BA Masters of Journalism**

Maria is President and Founder Mensen Academy Foundation, an NGO dedicated to provide high quality education to communities on the North Coast of Dominican Republic, specially in the towns of Gaspar Hernandez and Rio San Juan. She has a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Multilingual Journalism Lehman College of the City University of New York and Master's degree Journalism, Columbia University. She was Adjunct Lecturer Lehman College, New York. Teaching multilingual journalism courses both in a traditional classroom and on-line and Adjunct Professor UAPA (Universidad Abierta Para Adultos). Maria is a current Board Member, International Health Awareness Network (IHAN).



**Dr Zainab Yero Musa**  
**MBBS, FMCoph, MHPM**

Dr Zainab Yero Musa is a senior consultant Ophthalmologist and Residency Training Coordinator, department of Ophthalmology, University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital. She is the president of the Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN), Borno State, Nigeria. She has undertaken a project sponsored by Global Fund for Women (GFW) in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps in Maiduguri focusing on women and girls especially survivors of Gender Based Violence. She cares for her patients with compassion and likes doing eye care advocacy and also advocating for women and girls rights.



**Ms Viv Harvey-Wong**  
**BInSt BASS (Hons) GCert IPSI**

Viv is an International Programs Manager and gender specialist at UNICEF Australia. She leads the gender strategy for international programs, which involves supporting partner country offices on technical assistance. Viv has strong knowledge of participatory development practice, gender, transitional justice mechanisms and practices, conflict resolution, negotiation and diplomacy and climate justice. She work on adolescent education and child protection programming in the Asia Pacific, and has experience in working on diversity, equity and inclusion. She was a speaker at the 'Women Deliver' conference in Rwanda in 2023 on working on addressing child marriage in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Previously she has worked on global research in the Women, Peace and Security agenda.



**Ms Leila Farshchian**  
**MA BCBA**

Leila Farshchian is a Board-Certified Behaviour Analyst with extensive experience with autism and special needs interventions. In 2007, she established award winning ABA programs in schools. She founded ABA Toolbox in 2019, an international practice management software system for providers that service individuals with disabilities. In 2020, she founded the Global School House Project, a nonprofit with the mission to build schools in impoverished regions. Leila received her Master and Board Certification from Columbia University, Teachers College. Her Memberships include Learners' Compass LLC, Global School house, The International Association for Behaviour Analysis, Autism NJ, Autism Speaks, the NJ Association for Behaviour Analysis, and International Health Awareness Network.

## MONITORING AND MEASURING WOMEN'S HEALTH- MAJOR TRENDS IN WOMEN'S HEALTH



**Ms Lauren Clark**  
**BMedSci**

Lauren is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame Sydney, Australia. She previously completed a Bachelor of Medical Science at the University of Sydney and worked as an oncology ward clerk. Lauren is a fervent advocate for the health and wellbeing of women and children worldwide. She has been actively involved with homeless shelters, kitchens and women's domestic violence initiatives. Through her studies, experiences and discussions with her mother, a dedicated volunteer within domestic violence and women's health, she comprehends the unique challenges faced by women and children and hopes for a more equitable future.



**Ms Chantelle Burl**  
**Bed (Hons); MEdLead**

Chantelle is a third-year medical student from the University of Notre Dame- Sydney, Australia. She has previously completed a Bachelor of Education at the University of Queensland and a Master of Educational Leadership at Australian Catholic University. Chantelle worked for 7 years in the field of primary education. During that time, she worked across regional and low socio-economic areas and advocated for improved services and support for those in her community. She is passionate about empowering the next generation to develop compassion for others and consider solutions to global issues.





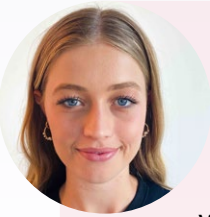
**Ms Morgan Hind**  
**BSci**

Morgan is a third-year medical student from the University of Notre Dame, Sydney, Australia. Having completed her Bachelor of Science majoring in neuroscience, she has an interest in the psychological and physical impact of trauma. She is passionate about providing trauma-informed care in the medical setting and supporting women and girls who have experienced abuse. Through her volunteer experience with The Eve Project, a program supporting women who have left situations of domestic violence, she has aimed to better understand how the medical profession can provide more wholistic and multi-disciplinary care for this population.



**Ms Xanthe Cerutti**  
**Bachelor of Health Science, Graduate Diploma of Public Health**

Xanthe is currently a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame in Sydney, Australia, engaged in her clinical years at Hawksbury Clinical School. She completed a Bachelor of Health Science with a major in Public Health at the University of Queensland. She is currently pursuing a MPH majoring in Indigenous Health whilst studying Medicine. Xanthe ardently advocates for addressing health inequalities, a commitment evident in both her academic pursuits and voluntary contributions, some conducted abroad. Notably, she has dedicated her efforts to a paediatric ward in Vanuatu and, more recently, participated in an outreach program in Southern Uganda.



**Ms Zoe Reizes**  
**Bachelor of physiotherapy (Hons)**

Zoe is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame - Sydney, Australia. She has completed a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at the University of Sydney with Honours researching fatigue outcomes in chronic respiratory diseases. She has worked as a physiotherapist for four years in NSW health hospitals in Sydney and rural NSW. She has particular interest in paediatrics and women's health. Zoe has a keen interest in preventative health and reducing health inequity particularly in the areas of women's health and paediatrics. Recently she has completed volunteer work in rural Uganda and was exposed to the implications of inadequate healthcare and reduced health literacy.



**Ms Tessa Houston**  
**BMedSci**

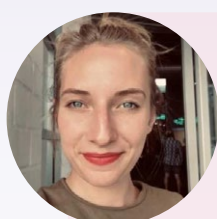
Tessa is a third-year medical student at UNDS. She completed a Bachelor of Medical Science majoring in neuroscience. Tessa is passionate about women's health and health advocacy. She assisted in research with OBGYN Dr Talat Uppal on patient based online portals and health outcomes. Tessa is an avid surf lifesaving community member and has volunteer patrolled for 10 years. Tessa is interested in global health inequalities and empowering disadvantaged women and children. She recently travelled to Uganda in 2023 to volunteer providing healthcare to rural towns.





**Ms Emma May**  
**BPhty**

Emma is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame - Sydney, Australia. She has previously completed a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at the Australian Catholic University and has worked as a physiotherapist for five years. Emma is a passionate advocate for improving the health literacy of women and young adults, to facilitate their ability to make informed decisions for themselves and their children, to improve health outcomes. She strives to achieve this through her work as a Physiotherapist in the public health system, but hopes her studies of medicine will provide a greater platform to facilitate change.



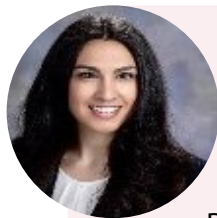
**Ms Sydney Jantos**  
**BArts, MPH**

Sydney is a third year medical student at the University of Notre Dame, Sydney. She initially completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in anthropology and development studies before going on to complete a Master of public health prior to studying medicine. She has worked for about four years collectively in public health research, working on projects to improve maternal outcomes for emergency obstetrics in Sierra Leone and improving patient handover across hospitals in Australia. Her passion lies in improving health inequity through strengths-based, participatory approaches.



**Ms Lucy Mathias**  
**BAdvSc**

Lucy is a third-year medical student at the university of Notre Dame – Sydney, Australia. She has previously completed a Bachelor of Advanced Science at Macquarie University and was studying a Bachelor of Midwifery at the University of Technology Sydney which she left to pursue a medical career. She is a passionate advocate for women's health inspired by her experiences whilst studying midwifery. Through her involvement as co-chair of the Women's and Obstetrics Health Association of Notre Dame Australia (WANDA), she helped to further educate and fundraise for women's health issues, including Endometriosis Australia and the National Breast Cancer Foundation.



**Dr Orchideh Alexander**  
**MD**

Orchid Abar was born and raised in New Jersey, USA after her parents immigrated there from Iran a few years prior. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Global Health and Environmental Studies from Washington University in St. Louis, MO in 2016. She graduated medical school from Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA in 2020. Orchid has a strong passion for women's health and advocacy. She is currently a resident physician in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Abington - Jefferson Health near Philadelphia, PA. She strives to be a strong advocate for gender equality throughout her career.

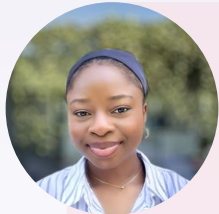


## THE HEALTH CHALLENGES OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN



### **Ms Aubrey Wood** **BMedSci(Hons)**

Aubrey is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame based in Melbourne, Australia. She has previously completed a Bachelor of Medical Science at the University of Sydney, where she received First Class Honours for her research into melanoma immunotherapy. Aubrey has been involved in considerable volunteer work in Vanuatu, helping to deliver equitable healthcare to remote communities and provide support for those experiencing sexual and family violence.



### **Ms Thana Adeniyi** **Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Honours)**

Thana Adeniyi is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame - Sydney, Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Honours) degree from Monash University. Thana passionately advocates for women's health and has worked with various organisations over the years towards this cause. Being a migrant herself, Thana actively works with an organisation in Australia that focuses on improving migrant and refugee health. She is also a long-time volunteer with a Nigerian-based foundation that empowers women and young girls who are victims of various forms of violence.



### **Ms Elizabeth Richardson** **BScience, BArts, MBiotechnology (Medical)**

Elizabeth is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame - Sydney, Australia. She has previously completed a Bachelor of Science and Arts at the University of Sydney and a Masters of Medical Biotechnology at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. She has been working and volunteering with children for over a decade at children's hospital and recently became involved in a charity that aims to reduce barriers to medical care for children through Zoom and online means. She is currently researching substance abuse in pregnancy and its effects on vulnerable children.

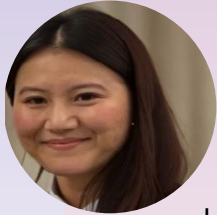


### **Ms Liliana Espinosa Otero** **MSW Student**

Liliana is a Masters in Social Work Candidate at Fordham University. Liliana is currently interning at the United Nations and is a member of the NGO on Migration as well as the NGO Committee at Fordham Institute for Women and Girls where she plays an integral role as editor of the newsletter. Liliana also works with Catholic Charities Community Services in the division of Immigration Legal Services, where she provides direct administrative and logistic support to legal staff to accomplish division responsibilities.

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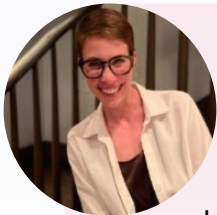
**Ms Lhazom Tsering**  
**MSW Student**

Lhazom Tsering is Masters in Social Work Candidate student at Fordham University, New York. She graduated from Hunter College with a Bachelor of Social Work and is an active committee member of the UN NGO on Migration and Phycology Coalition for the United Nations (PCUN). Lhazom currently works as a case manager, working with the homeless population with several mental health diagnoses and criminal justice involvement. She helps provide trauma-informed care and assists facilitating access for clients to community resources such as housing, educational opportunities, vocational alternatives, and medical and mental health services.



**Ms Frankie Heppell**  
**MSW Student**

Frankie Heppell is a Master's in Social Work Candidate at Fordham University, New York. Frankie is currently interning at the United Nations and is a member of the NGO on Migration as well as the Phycology Coalition for the United Nations (PCUN). She is also a member of the NGO Committee at Fordham Institute for Women and Girls recently organizing an event in conjunction with IHAN titled Closing the Digital Divide. Frankie currently works at Shelter Box, a nonprofit who facilitate providing families with life-saving shelter and essential tools and supplies that will enable them to rebuild their homes and transform their lives after disaster, as well as building awareness of global displacement.



**Ms Rachel Gentile**  
**MSW/MPH Dual Degree Student**

Rachel's primary area of focus is the intersection of maternal health access and maternal mental health. This area is close to her heart as a mother who experienced three high risk pregnancies and saw firsthand the importance of quality maternal care and the integration of mental health screening during pregnancy. Rachel is an intern with the Office of Women's Health at NYC Health + Hospitals in New York City where she is working on participatory research around patient engagement and access to care to better inform programs that are aligned with community goals. She is also the North American Region Student Representative for the International Federation of Social Workers in consultation with the United Nations, representing over 3 million social workers globally. Rachel has assisted in the publication of commission statements for the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Social Development on behalf of IFSW.



**Ms Bernice Gaspard**  
**MSW Student**

Bernice Gaspard is a Master's in Social Work Candidate at Fordham University, New York and will graduate with a Crisis and Resilience Specialized Practice Certificate. Bernice is currently interning at the UN and is the secretary for the UN NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Bernice is also a member of the NGO Committee at Fordham Institute for Women and Girls, and a member of the National Association of Social Workers. In addition, Bernice works with New York Administration for Children Services. Bernice is currently seeking to have Period Poverty accessible to every family with child welfare involvement. She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Human Services and is trained in Diversity and Inclusion including The Power of Inclusion for LGBTQIA+, Conflict of Interest Prevention and many others. Bernice has previously counseled At Risk Youths in a school setting and will continue to counsel families in her role with child welfare.





## CLIMATE CHANGE AS A DETERMINANT OF WOMEN'S HEALTH



### **Ms Ariane Xiaoxian Khoo**

**BoA (Psych Hons)**

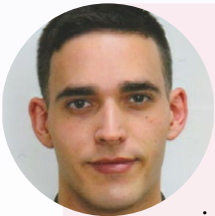
Ariane is a third year medical student at the University of Notre Dame Sydney. She has previously completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Psychology at the University of Queensland, and worked as a clinical assistant in Malaysia during the pandemic in 2021. She is passionate about promoting health equality globally and has been involved in volunteer work across developing countries in Asia (e.g., Cambodia, Philippines, India). Her focus is on improving access to education and healthcare.



### **Ms Swazi Sharma**

**BMedSci**

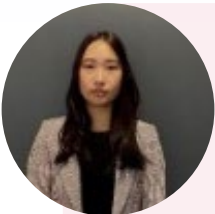
Swazi, a BMed Sci graduate and third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame, is deeply committed to empowering women and promoting gender equality. Born in a third-world country, she draws inspiration from life's challenges to ardently support women and girls. By engaging with Education and Training Out West (ETOW), Swazi actively contributed to programs benefitting disadvantaged school students and women, addressing crucial needs in the Aboriginal community. Through involvement in initiatives like the Mulgabirra program and Wellington Women's Program she helped provide vital learning support to disadvantaged Aboriginal women.



### **Mr Timothy Hunt**

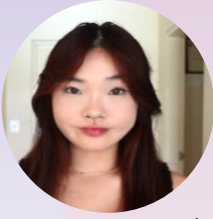
**BSci**

Timothy is a third-year medical student at The University of Notre Dame – Sydney completing his Obstetrics and Gynaecology placement. During his completion of the Bachelor of Science at The University of Melbourne, he empowered women from rural backgrounds to pursue a career in Engineering through one-on-one mentoring and advocacy at workshops. With a keen interest in reducing health inequity, he has committed himself to voluntary work with Ronald McDonald House Charities, providing safe and welcoming accommodation to women and children who require close access to suitable healthcare.



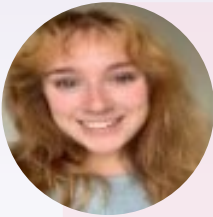
### **Ms Isabella Tan**

Isabella Tan is a 2nd year Bcom student at UNSW and Barrenjoey cadet. She has a keen interest in finance and investing. In 2022 she won the BusinessOne national consulting competition and placed runner-up in the Allegro Private Equity Competition. Her passions include studying Japanese and competing in sport events. Two events close to her heart are the Pink Triathlon and Mother's Day Classic. In 2020, Isabella was selected as a Youth Leader for the School



### **Ms Charlotte Tan**

Charlotte Tan is currently studying a Bachelor of Psychology Honours at University of New South Wales. She has interests in assisting younger school aged children from diverse underprivileged backgrounds displayed through her participation for the UTS 2030 Resilience Program. Charlotte has undertaken volunteering in many capacities for nonprofit charities including cooking for homeless shelters. She has a background in coaching younger children in netball and was a nominee for the Young Writers Showcase 2023 displaying her English Extension 2 Major Work. Charlotte has interests in advocacy for adequate healthcare, mental health and rights of younger less fortunate girls from diverse and challenging backgrounds.



### **Ms Indigo Kite**

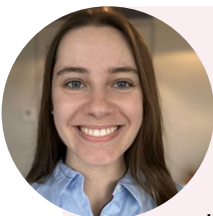
Indigo is currently in her second year of tertiary education studying Bachelor of Science at the Australian National University, where she hopes to major in human biology and minor in psychology. Indigo is aiming to pursue a career in Genetic Counselling after university, as she looks forward to providing clarity, guidance and emotional support to families impacted by genetic disorders. Passionate about the environment, she enjoys beekeeping with her mum as they provide honeybee habitats through their at-home hives, doing their part to slow the decline of Australian bee populations.

## **NEW CHALLENGES AND NEW SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**



### **Ms Ashley McMurray BMedSci (Hons)**

Ashley is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame - Sydney, Australia. She has previously completed a Bachelor of Medical Science majoring in Pathology and Medical Microbiology, and an Honours in Immunology at UNSW. Ashley is a firm believer in the value of education, exemplified through her volunteering with institutions including the Young Australian's Cancer Initiative to teach students biology and Heartland Academy Nepal to provide English-speaking classes for girls. Ashley's key interests are in early intervention programs and improving accessibility of medical care, developed through her volunteer first responder work with St John Ambulance.



### **Ms Jessica Ledger BSc-Psych, BPsychSc(Hons), MRes**

Jessica, a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame – Sydney, holds degrees in psychology from Macquarie University and Southern Cross University, including a Master of Research. Part-time, she's a coastal safety and drowning researcher for Surf Lifesaving Australia. Jessica is passionate about educating and empowering women: and in 2019 she was on the organising committee for the Network of Women Students Australia (NOWSA) Conference. Her focus extends to reducing violence against women. Currently, she is researching the impact and prevalence of violence against medical practitioners.



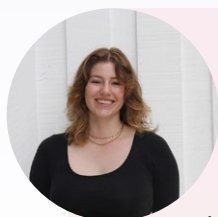
**Mr Anthony Bejjani**  
**BPharm**

Anthony is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame, Sydney, Australia. He has previously completed a Bachelor of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney, and works as a community pharmacist. Through his volunteer work with refugee women and children in Australia, and communities in Papua New Guinea; Anthony is passionate about improving the health literacy of migrant families to alleviate the inequity of access to and engagement with health care on both a local and global scale.



**Dr Nameer van Oosterom**  
**B.Pharm (Hon), Ph.D**

Nameer is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame Australia, Sydney, and holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy (hon) and Doctor of Philosophy. Although his research expertise is in pharmacology and venous thromboembolism, he is passionate about improving the quality of life of vulnerable groups. He has volunteered for a near-decade with sick children and the homeless, has conducted research on the elderly, and is currently coordinating an NHMRC-funded trial to improve care of palliative care patients. He is interested in getting involved in other vulnerable groups, including women/girls, and those of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.



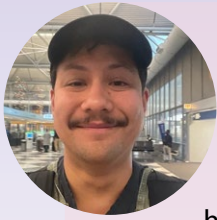
**Ms Madeline Lee**  
**BA**

Madeline is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame Sydney, Australia. She previously completed a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne, majoring in Anthropology. Madeline has a keen interest in cultural competence within healthcare at both individual health practitioner and organisational levels, volunteering with organisations such as Purple House to focus on culturally safe approaches to care.



**Mr Brandon Ziegenfuss**  
**BSc(Hons I), MPH**

Brandon is in the penultimate year of the MD program at the UNDA (Sydney). He works as an Industry and Research Fellow at the Queensland Unit for Advanced Shoulder Research and manages clinical studies for the Australian Shoulder Research Institute. As well as working in academia, Brandon worked at a medical technology start up aiming to provide accessible and engineered preoperative planning solutions to doctors performing complex orthopaedic procedures globally. He has a keen interest in technological solutions for complex public health problems and hopes to pursue his interests as a medical doctor developing such technologies for disadvantaged populations.



**Mr Bjorn Margon**  
**BApp.Sci (Paramedicine)**

Bjorn is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame, Sydney, Australia. He was previously a paramedic and a chef, working regionally. He is very interested in finding ways to make people's lives better - especially in the spheres of homelessness and disaster relief. Bjorn has received the national emergency medal for his extensive work in bushfire and flood disaster relief around Australia. Bjorn has spent extensive time assisting at women's shelters, medical clinics for the homeless and was a founding member of the northern-beaches suicide prevention committee. He's always here to assist and is a keen learner!



**Ms Eva Devantier**  
**BBiomedSci, BSci (Honours)**

Eva is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame Australia. She has completed a Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences with Honours, following which she worked at QIMR Berghofer as a Research Assistant focusing on improving targeted treatments for colorectal cancer patients. Eva is a passionate advocate for survivors of family violence. She is a volunteer for the St Vincent de Paul Buddies Day program, which offers respite care for mothers that have recently fled violent family situations. As a medical student, Eva values health equity and aims to lead with such as she pursues her education and future career.



**Ms Aiman Ijaz**  
**BMedSci**

Aiman is a third year medical student at the University of Notre Dame - Sydney, Australia. She has previously completed a Bachelor of Medical Science, majoring in immunology and pathology and has worked as a pharmacy assistant for 4 years. Aiman is passionate about addressing gender inequities particularly in rural areas and developing counties like Pakistan, where she was born. Aiman has been involved in programs with Days For Girls to provide re-useable sanitary pads for girls around the world and has also volunteered with Green Lion in Ubud, Bali to educate school children about health and hygiene.



**Mr Amlan Chowdhury**  
**BMedSci**

Amlan is a MD3 student at the University of Notre Dame-Sydney. As the child of first-generation immigrant parents from a low socio-economic, non-English-speaking background, and being the first in his family to pursue higher education in medicine, Amlan is highly passionate about social justice and empowering marginalized communities. While Amlan is proud of his numerous academic accolades, he takes greater pride in his role within the wider community. He has served as a delegate for the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services Conference, where he explored the intersectionality of criminal justice reform and mental health.



**Ms Shabnam Mohamad Shafiq**  
**BClinSci**

Shabnam is a third-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame, Australia. She has previously completed a Bachelor of Clinical Science at Macquarie University. Shabnam is passionate about peace, human, and women’s rights, and has volunteered in several organisations advocating for women and children. Shabnam hopes to work in women’s health in the future, particularly in the developing world.



**Ms Maya Mensen**

Maya Mensen is an honors student at the International Schooling, a virtual program from Singapore designed for high performance athletes . She has participated in several UN Model Events throughout grade school and was one of our participants at this very conference two years ago. Maya practices triathlon and has earned the title of provincial and national champion both in her native Canada, and Dominican Republic, where she resides. Maya has competed internationally since 2019 and hopes to one day become an olympic medallist.



**Prof Suzanne Stutman**

Suzanne Stutman is Emeritus Professor of English, American Studies, and Women’s Studies at Penn State University. She is Past President of the National Council of Women of the United States. She is a Board member of IHAN and has served for over twenty years. Dr. Stutman is also the author of five scholarly texts and three books of poetry, among them All the Power Rests with You, which was launched by Heartbeat South Africa in 2005 Her poetry has been featured by UNICEF, NCW, INCW, UNIFEM and Women Organized Against Rape. Her Take Back the Night speech is published in the anthology Women in American History.

**QUESTIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS**



**Ms Tina Tarighian**  
**B.Computer Science MA**

Tina Tarighian is a software engineer and the current technology advisor to IHAN at the United Nations. She earned her Bachelor’s in Computer Science from Wellesley College in Wellesley, in 2022. Having attended a historically women’s college, Tina understands the importance of women’s voices in STEM and hopes to encourage more diversity and inclusion within her field.





## OTHER FACULTY



### **Dr Aswan Tai** **MBBS MPH BSc (Hons) PG Dip (Clinical Derm)**

Dr. Aswan Tai is a public health trainee at the University of Notre Dame in Sydney, Australia. Before joining the University, she worked at the Victorian Department of Health responding to COVID-19 pandemic. She joined South East Public Health Unit, Melbourne in 2023 as a public health registrar to manage cases, contacts, and outbreaks of notifiable communicable conditions. She also provided medical services to vulnerable and marginalised populations, including refugees and asylum seekers in detention. She is involved in various education and advocacy initiatives on local and international platforms. She aims to reduce inequalities in health outcomes among different populations.



### **Dr Madelaine Sweeney-Nash** **MBBS**

Madelaine is a junior doctor, having graduated from the University of Tasmania in 2015. She has worked across Australia in urban, rural and prison settings. She is currently a Research Focused Academic at the University of Sydney and medical student Tutor at the University of Notre Dame. She is a current Master of Public Health student, specialising in health promotion, and will pursue Public Health training. Madelaine is passionate about decolonising healthcare systems. She is committed to advocating for systemic solutions for improved health and targeting the social determinants of health to achieve social justice.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

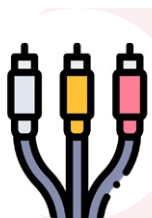


### **Ms Lara Kyriazis** **Video editor**

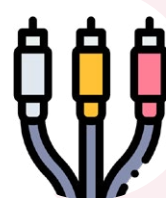


### **Ms Carol Trujillo** **Graphic designer**

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