



Announcing Metro NY Chapter, USNC, UN Women’s “Champions of Change”

The New York Metropolitan Chapter of the U.S. National Committee for UN Women is delighted to honor thirty “Champions of Change” for gender equality in New York, to celebrate our 30 years as a Chapter!

The **Champions of Change campaign** kicked off at the Chapter’s 30th anniversary celebration on October 18, 2017.

On May 18, 2018, we will honor our 30 Champions of Change, who make significant contributions to women’s empowerment and gender equality in their professional and personal lives. These diverse champions have made an impact on a range of issues including women’s economic and political empowerment, gender-based violence, peace and security, sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as impacting public advocacy and the media.

Join us in recognizing these Champions of Change at the Metro New York Chapter’s Awards Ceremony on **May 18th, 2018 at SVA Theatre**, 333 West 23rd Street, NYC, with a reception at 6pm, and ceremony at 7pm.

Champions by Area of Impact

Each Champion has influenced many areas and issues; we are pleased to highlight the area in which we are most grateful for their direct impact.

Champions of Change in Advocacy

Abaynesh Asrat

Humanitarian, philanthropist, founder and CEO of Nation to Nation Networking (connecting women in Africa), and board member of the USNC for Women, Metro NY Chapter.

Leila Darabi

Advocate for sexual and reproductive rights, senior VP and head of engagement for Corkery Group Unlimited, and former director of global partnerships at Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Krishanti Dharmaraj

Executive director of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership at Rutgers University; led San Francisco’s City for CEDAW Campaign, making San Francisco the first city to implement a human-rights treaty.

Nicholas Ferroni

Author, nationally recognized activist on education reform, mentor and high school teacher in Union, New Jersey, named “Upstander of the Year” by the Human Rights Campaign.

Azadeh Khalili

Advocate for social change, human rights, racial and gender equality, executive committee, NGO Commission on the Status of Women, and former executive director of NYC Commission on Gender Equity.

Michael Kimmel

Distinguished professor of sociology, author, speaker, advocate for gender equality, and founder and executive director of the Center for Men and Masculinities at Stony Brook University in New York.

Jodie Patterson

Entrepreneur and advocate for LGBTQ rights, board member of Community of Unity, and author of *The Bold World*, a memoir to be released by Random House in 2018.

Champions of Change in Economic Empowerment

Sarah Akkari

Entrepreneur, Founder and CEO of Senteurs D’Orient USA, and sponsor and contributor to women’s education and economic empowerment in Lebanon.

Asmeret Berhe-Lumax

Chair of the Phenomenal Girls Club Board, special advisor to Uniform – Made in Africa, and head of production at Saturdays NYC.

Amy Hall

Sustainable development advocate, director of Social Consciousness, and member of the Leadership Forum for Eileen Fisher, leads Vision 2020 towards human, environmental and economic sustainability.

Justyna Kedra

Entrepreneur, Founder and CEO of WE Rule, a global community of over 2,000 female entrepreneurs, mentors, and investors connecting women and diverse businesses from 30 countries.

Beverly Cooper Neufeld

President and founder of PowHer New York (bringing 100+ organizations to accelerate economic equality), and member of NYC Commission on Gender Equity and Governor's Council on Women and Girls.

Desiree Watson

Business leader and advisor helping women accelerate their businesses, advisory board member of the UN Association, chair of the USNC for UN Women Metro NY Chapter's 30th Anniversary Committee.

Champions of Change in Media

Sheila Katzman

Advocate and media trainer, chair of NYC4CEDAW, president of the International Association of Women in Radio and Television – USA, and artistic director of Ten Lanterns Transformative Theatre. Former Chief of UN Radio and Head of Publications.

Roanne Adams

Creator and publisher of *Romance Journal*, a platform for empowering women, and founder and creative director of award-winning creative studio RoAndCo.

Delphine Diallo

French and Senegalese contemporary artist and photographer who combines artistry with activism to empower women, youth, and cultural minorities.

Maria Hinojosa

Award-winning journalist, author, advocate for diversity in the media, anchor and executive producer of *Latino USA* and political podcast *In the Thick*, and creator of the Futuro Media Group.

Mickela Mallozzi

Emmy award-winning host and executive producer of *Bare Feet with Mickela Mallozzi*, a public television travel series highlighting the diversity of dance, and director of the annual Women's Travel Fest.

Thalia Mavros

Founder of *The Front*, a new media proposition showcasing female voices in documentary film and entertainment "by women, for the world."

Champions of Change in Politics, Peace & Security

Ray Acheson

Feminist activist for disarmament and demilitarization, advocate for the nuclear ban, writer, and director of the Disarmament Program of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Allison Pytlak

Advocacy in the Nobel Peace Prize-winning campaign to ban nuclear weapons, cyber warfare expert, manager at Women's International League for Peace and Freedom's Reaching Critical Will program.

Pam Campos-Palma

Peace and security, and gender justice advocate. Strategic leader bridging politics, democracy and social change and former military intelligence. Executive Director, Common Defense, and trainer, Beyond the Choir.

Shazia Z. Rafi

Advocate for women's political empowerment, president of *AirQuality/Asia*, UN Representative for All Pakistan Women's Association, and former Secretary General of Parliamentarians for Global Action.

Marianne Schnall

Award-winning journalist and author, featured blogger at *The Huffington Post*, founder of Feminist.com and WhatWillItTake.com, author of "*What Will it Take to Make a Woman President?*"

Erin Vilardi

Advocate, Founder and CEO of *VoteRunLead*, a national, non-partisan organization, training women to run for local and state office and to seek civic leadership.

Champions of Change in Ending Gender-based Violence

Jimmie Briggs

Award-winning journalist, human-rights advocate, author, speaker, activist, cofounder and former executive director of the Man Up Campaign, author of *The Ferguson Moment* to be released in 2018.

Cecilia M. Gastón

Advocate for social justice, women's health and affordable housing, executive director of Violence Intervention Program, Inc. and board member of the NY State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Dorchen A. Leidholdt

Human-rights lawyer, director of the Center for Battered Women's Legal Services at Sanctuary for Families in NYC, and cofounder of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.

Fred Sullivan

Director of Man Up Campaign to activate youth to stop violence against women and girls, collaborator with Youth Assembly at the United Nations, member NYC4CEDAW coalition.

Yinan Xia

Advocate for ending gender-based violence and human trafficking at Womankind, co-chair of the Metro NY Chapter's Young Professional Committee, and ecommerce manager at Etienne Aigner.

Thanks

We appreciate the generosity of the team that captured our Champions: photography by Delphine Diallo and JJ Jimenez, hair and makeup by Francisco Valera, styling by Shala Rothenberg, all represented by Friends & Creatives. We thank Dean Street Studios and Melatan Riden, our Executive Creative Director.

About

The Metro NY Chapter of the USNC for UN Women is the oldest and largest chapter of the US National Committee. Its purpose is to support UN Women programs that promote the social, political and economic equality of women around the world. The chapter fulfills its mission through fundraising, educational events and advocacy in the metropolitan New York area.

www.unwomen-metrony.org #championsofchange, #standup4women

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