



MEDIA RELEASE

Female Entrepreneurship on Stage at the WSA Global Congress

Gender Equality | Female Entrepreneurship | The Glass Ceiling. Female Empowerment through Social Entrepreneurship worldwide presented at the WSA Global Congress 2021 – March 22-24

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Celebrating female entrepreneurship on stage and featuring how ICT can be a driver for the UN SDGs, the for the first time fully virtual [WSA Global Congress](#) brings over 50% female entrepreneurs on stage.

With women making up only 24% of the STEM workforce, it is more than ever important that girls and women are encouraged to participate. The UN has aptly themed this year's [International Women's Day](#) as "*Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world.*" To achieve gender parity, the support and representation of female leadership in business and STEM fields is crucial.

Despite an evident funding gap between male and female entrepreneurs, "start-ups founded and co-founded by women are significantly better financial investments. For every US dollar of funding, these start-ups generated 78 US cents, while male-founded start-ups generated just 31 US cents." the [Boston Consulting Group](#) found.

One of the WSA Global Congress focus point in the 3 days program is "**Hack the Gender Gap**". **Diana Rusu**, from the Strategic Partnerships Division with UN Women and **Fatima Askira**, Founder of the Borno Women Development Initiative will speak about women empowerment worldwide.

"Nigeria has long been a patriarchal society, one in which the gender gap is far from being closed. The steady shrinking of women's places at decision-making tables, their progressive exclusion from political spaces, and the ongoing lack of governance structures have created a fertile ground for violent extremism – which can be stemmed through education and women's grassroots mobilization," **states Fatima Askira at the UN Woman Global digital consultation 2020.**

Female entrepreneurship shows the power of parity and mobilization towards equality worldwide. **Engy Ghozlan** (Co-Founder Harrassmap, Egypt) and **Tanzila Khan** (Founder Girlythings, Pakistan) among others will share their insights in a panel discussion on the gender gap on March Wednesday, March 24th, 15:30 - 16:45 CET.



Furthermore, 22 of the 45 awarded digital projects of WSA 2020 are led by female entrepreneurs. Four of the Winners 2020 feature projects to provide girls and women platforms to voice their opinions and create a positive change in our world. [Her Impact](#), [Future Heroes](#), [Natal Cares](#), and [Diversio](#) will pitch live at the WSA Global Congress, from March 22-24, 2021.

About the WSA

With its worldwide, multi-stakeholder community of social entrepreneurs and digital innovation enthusiast, WSA focusses on international knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the contribution to the UN SDGs. Founded in 2003 as part of the UN World Summit on Information Society, WSA awards yearly 45 outstanding best practice local digital content with a high societal value. WSA spans its community in over 185 countries, a network unique in its passion and reach, holding close cooperation with UN agencies, academia and the private sector alike.

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