

HeForShe Summit 2021

27 May 2021

The HeForShe Summit is the leading platform of the United Nations for policy, corporate and academic leaders who are working for a more diverse, inclusive and gender equal world.

Over the last five years, a unique group of 35 world leaders across government, business and academia made over 90 commitments to address some of today's most pressing gender issues.

Known as HeForShe Champions, part of UN Women's HeForShe initiative, they are Presidents, Prime Ministers, CEOs and academic leaders.

Convening as part of the global ChangeNOW online event, these HeForShe Champions shared their journey and their Proven Solutions: innovative and concrete ways to eliminate global gender issues.

In the context of COVID-19 where gender inequalities have been exacerbated through a disproportional negative impact on millions of women and girls, HeForShe Champions convened at the virtual HeForShe Summit to release their tried and tested methods that aim to accelerate positive progress.

HeForShe proven solutions: Key highlights

- Engaging Tomorrow's Leaders: To address the gender gap in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) US-based Stony Brook University's Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program offers a recruitment, retention, and partnership plan. WISE has expanded the number of women in its incoming cohort by 25%
- Ending Gender-Based Violence: HeForShe Champion Vodafone became the first company to offer 10 days' paid leave to domestic-abuse victims across all their territories. Their Bright Sky app also provides critical support services to around 100 000 survivors of abuse.
- Pursuing Economic Justice: With a persistent global gender pay gap of around 23%, Head of State Champion Iceland developed a groundbreaking new Equal Pay Certification that requires companies of 25 employees or more to undergo an audit ensuring equal pay for equal work.

Gender Equality Data: Key highlights

Since 2014, HeForShe Champions from the private sector and academia have shared annual data on the representation of women. Below are key insights and trends over the last 6 years.

- Over half of the corporate partners now have at least 40% of their Board made up of women.
- 62% of corporate partners have increased the representation of women in their overall company compared to men, ranging from 24% in 2014 to 57% in 2020.
- The percentage of women in senior leadership positions has increased in 90% of the university partners, ranging from 11% in 2014 to 58% in 2020.

In a collaboration between HeForShe, YPO and the Financial Times, the Summit also saw the release of a unique Global Chief Executive Gender Equality Survey fielded to uncover groundbreaking insights about the journey women and men take to the corner office. Conducted earlier this year with 2079 YPO member chief executives responding from 106 countries, the Survey provides needed research

on what gender specific roadblocks leaders face in their path toward becoming a chief executive and gleaned actionable insights on how to remove them for future generations of leaders.

The HeForShe Summit continues to build momentum towards the landmark Generation Equality Forum taking place from 30th June- 2nd July: a global inflection point for gender equality. The Forum will see the launch of 6 Action Coalitions; multi-stakeholder partnerships that aim to make gender equality a reality for our generation. In the framework of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions, the new HeForShe Alliance, kicking off in 2021, will convene a fresh slate of heads of state, global CEOs and third sector leaders to engage men and boys as allies for gender equality across the 6 Action Coalitions.

“After today, with our partners providing almost 40 solutions, no one can say they do not know where to start. No one can be a bystander” said Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women.

Martine Gayon

United Nations Representative, New York

