



- 26-30 April
- Melbourne Convention Centre
- Over 6,100 attendees
- 198 countries

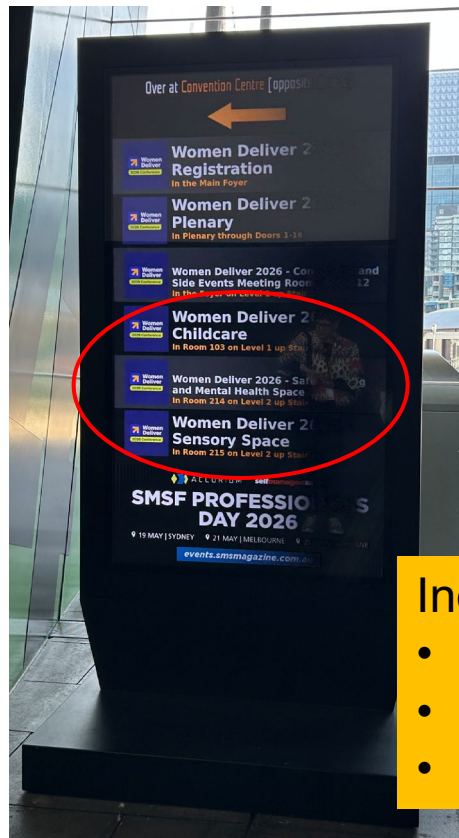
**Change
calls us here**

Sandra Burns (former D23 Governor) and Carole Theobald

 **Women
Deliver**
2026 Conference



Exhibition Hall

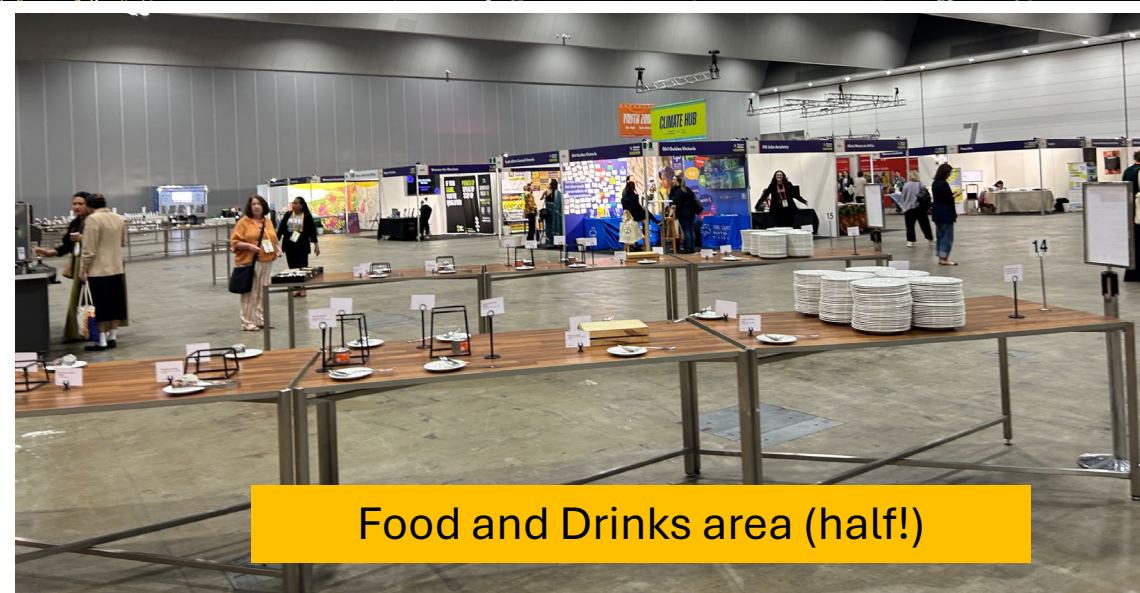


Inclusive+++

- Travellers Assist
- LGBTQI+
- Child Care, mental health space, sensory space

The Hubs

- Resourcing Hub
- Mind and Body Hub
- Declaration Hub
- Gathering Hub
- Climate Hub
- Arts Hub
- Youth Zone



Plenary Hall can seat over 5,000



Zontians at the Women Deliver Opening Ceremony
L-R: Lyn Foley, Sandra Burns, Carole Theobald, Bridget Mather, Sharyl Scott

Dozens of smaller rooms...



Justin Trudeau was speaking in this session!

Off site venues



ActionAid Australia event at local bar

Flora Vano (flower in hair) leads ActionAid's Women I Tok Tok Tugeta Network (disaster response)



Carole, Flora , Sandra



Claire Hooper – ActionAid Ambassador



Coffee shop catch up with ActionAid Australia

Sophie Hardefeldt, Bridget, Maeva Freeman, Carole



Carole, Michelle Higelin (CEO ActionAid Australia), Sandra

First Nations Pre-Conference



First Nations Pre-Conference



Decolonizing Futures: First Nations Indigenous Women Advancing Treaty and Global Solidarity

🕒 05:30 AM - 04:00 PM (26 Apr)

📍 Meeting Room 212 & 213

Pre-Conference

★ Remove from My Agenda >

📄 Description >

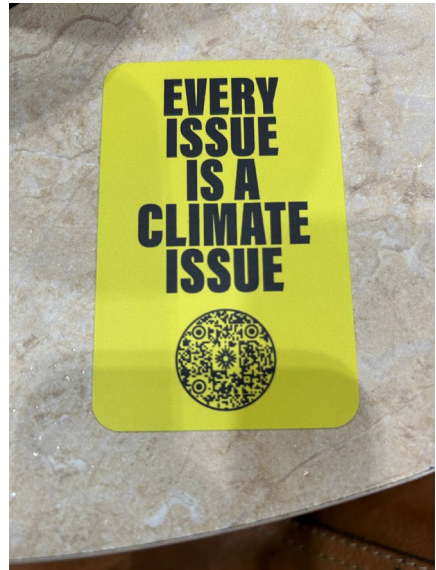
🗣️ Join Translation >

Through ceremony, keynote reflections, intergenerational dialogue, and action mapping, participants will collectively develop the First Nations Indigenous Women's Statement.



Climate Justice Pre-Conference

Ronda Carnegie – Project Dandelion



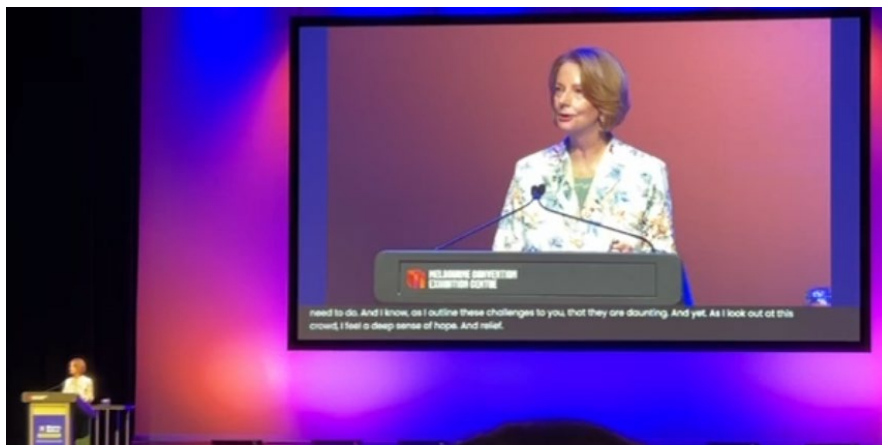
Opening Ceremony



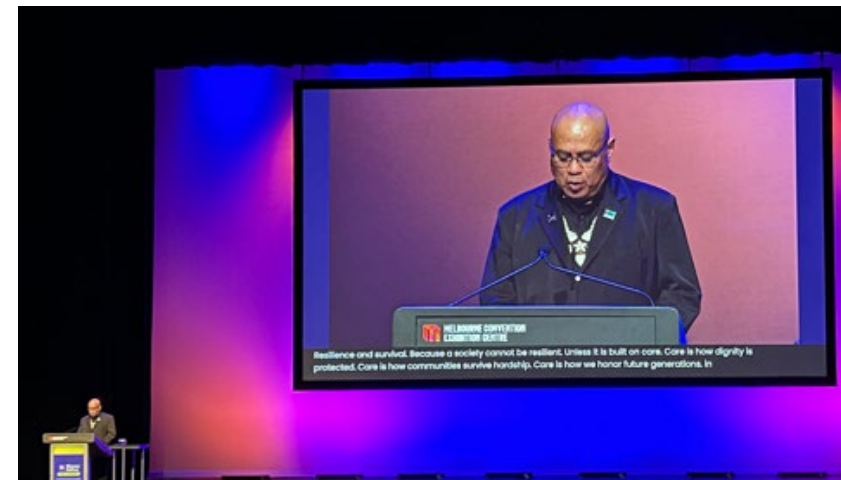
Sam Mostyn, Governor General and Patron of Zonta Australia



Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the UN



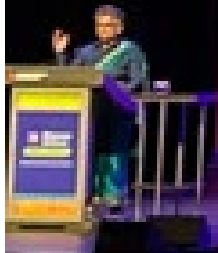
Julia Gillard, Former PM of Australia



Feleti Teo, Prime Minister of Tuvalu



Immense pleasure to call on someone WHO is supremely positioned to answer that question. Please join me in welcoming the President and CEO of Women Deliver, Doctor Maliha Khan, we did



Dr. Maliha Khan
President and CEO of
Women Deliver

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Panel discussions... (This was brilliant!!!)



UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights. Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and former administrator of UNDP. Justin Trudeau former prime

Panel discussions...



The moderators throughout were high-profile television journalists from around the world



Launch of Women's Climate Collective (FeCC)



Feminist Climate Collective



act:onaid

Kavita Naidu
Feminist Climate Activist &
International Human Rights
Lawyer Fiji/Australia



IWDA
INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



1MILLION
women



Advocacy areas:

1. Gender transformative climate finance
2. 10 year National Gender and Climate Roadmap
3. Rapidly transition away from fossil fuels

Note Kate Thwaites in blue jacket (Think Tank speaker!)

Panel discussions... (Gary Barker from Equimundo)



men. Globally, young men are moving backwards compared to their father's generation on these issues of they're ready to tear down democracy. they're ready to tear down women's rights



Frontline and Architecture

What Climate Has Already Taken and Gender Gaps in the Climate System



Flora
Vano



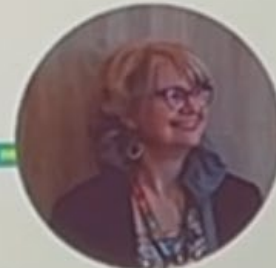
Tishiko
King



Noelene
Nabulivou



Emilia Letizia
Becerra Mera



Fleur Newmann

etizia Bashira, team advisor. Girl up. Fleur Newman, Gender focal point from the UNF
ActionAid Vanuatu. All right, we're going to get straight into it. Tish.



Part 1

Protection, Power, and Accountability



Noor Azizah



The Hon.
Chernor Bah



Dr. June Oscar



Susanne
Legena

International Australia. Plan operates across many different conflict contexts globally, including where women LED organisations.



Part 2

Law, Agency, and What Justice Requires



Laila Alodaat



The Rt. Hon.
Jacinda
Ardern



Zohra Mousavi



Tamam
Abdusalama

community that has largely chosen to accept the regime that's made her existence illegal. Welcome, Zora. Thank you, Zara. and to mom abdul salama was born and raised in Jabalia refugee camp today she





Artist:
Simona Abdallah



And then she will play, both carry equal weight, And I'll make my way over to the stage here, but I'm really looking forward to this. Friends please welcome, Simona Abdallah.

Our Declarations



Mina Barling
IPPF



Vivian Achayo
Girl Up



Laxman
Men Engage



Merette Khalil
ICM



H. E. Ernesto
Céspedes Oropeza
Ambassador of
Mexico to Australia



Noelene
Nabulivou
DIVA for Equality



Prue Tamatekapua
Maori Women's
Development Inc.
Aotearoa

South London accent. To have a shared vision for global equality. We need commitment. What does that commitment sound like? Commitment makers, please make your way to the stage. Mina Barling.



In the corridors....



Sandra, Carole and
Minister Katy Gallagher



Carole and Sandra with Leila,
Janet and Wendy from
Women's Climate Congress



Natalie Isaacs
(CEO 1 Million Women)

In the corridors....



Mishy Singano from WEDO/WGC
(Think Tank speaker!)



Fleur Newman, Head of UNFCCC Gender
Unit (Belem Gender Action Plan)

'Accidentally' gate-crashed a media conference with Maliha Khan and Julia Gillard



Side Events

What is EMILY's List Australia

- Established 1996
- Raised over \$7M
- Supported 800
- Elected 385
- 52% of Labor members in the Australia Government are women
- 61% of the Federal Ministers are Women
- When Women Support Women, Women Win



Side Events ... Sally Higgins Youth Ambassador for COP31



Zonta Catch up...



Paddy Creevey (ZC Peel), Sue Lees (ZC Melbourne on Yarra who popped in one evening to meet us) and me.

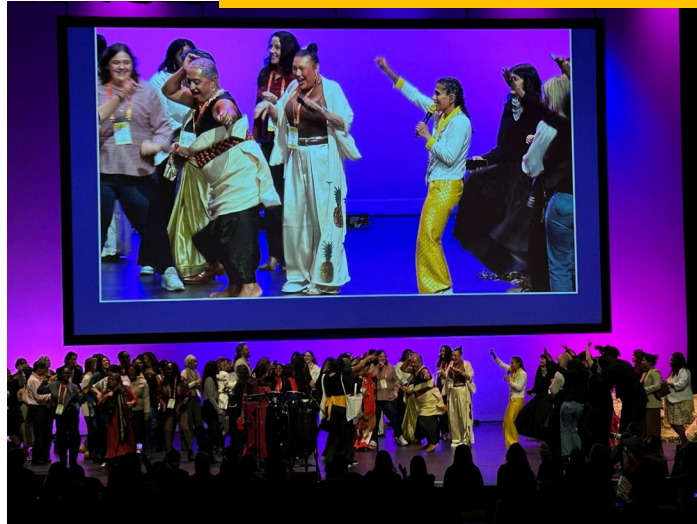


Zontians eet together.

Closing Ceremony



Let's Party!



A world where States respect, protect, and fulfill human rights; where feminist movements and civil society have the resources, space, and legitimacy to hold States accountable; and where the wider gender equality ecosystem aligns its resources and influence behind that work.

SISTERS

KNOWLEDGE

MELBOURNE DECLARATION for *gender equality*

ACCOUNTABILITY,
RESOURCES, SPACE, AND LEGITIMACY
OF
GENDER EQUALITY

The systems that have shaped the gender equality ecosystem are crumbling. Activists have not always worked for the majority of address on rights, women and gender-diverse people.

The Melbourne Declaration for Gender Equality

Rebalancing the Ecosystem for Accountability, Rights, and a Future of Gender Equality

A world where States respect, protect, and fulfill human rights; where feminist movements and civil society have the resources, space, and legitimacy to hold States accountable; and where the wider gender equality ecosystem aligns its resources and influence behind that work.

We — the undersigned from across the gender equality ecosystem¹ — commit to centering States' human rights² obligations to all people and the planet in our work. This unquestionably includes the provision of essential services and respect for the rights to bodily autonomy, freedom from violence and discrimination, open democracies, and all other fundamental human rights enshrined in international law, agreements, and norms, as well as their expansion.

We recognize that a vibrant, progressive local and national civil society is essential for holding States accountable to their human rights obligations and for serving as a vital channel through which people can organize, advocate, and demand change. We also recognize the obligation of the State to be responsive and accountable to these movements. We commit to grounding our work in support of this relationship between the State and the people, to holding States to account, and to helping create the conditions for social justice to thrive. This starts with centering and resourcing the priorities, knowledge, language, and political aims of those most affected by injustice and intersecting inequalities — including all girls, women, and gender-diverse people.

Why this declaration now

We make this declaration at a moment when the wider field of actors and institutions shaping gender equality outcomes is in crisis. Governments and political actors are actively rolling back, ignoring, and

¹ The gender equality ecosystem refers to the wider field of actors, institutions, movements, and policy spaces that shape gender equality outcomes, including feminist movements, women's rights organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities, grassroots and locally led groups, governments, multilateral institutions, development agencies, philanthropy, international financial institutions, NGOs, researchers, advocates, service providers, policy actors, and allies. These actors do not all occupy the same position within systems of power, but together their decisions, resources, and influence shape what becomes possible.

² Human rights are the universal, inalienable, indivisible, and interdependent rights and freedoms to which all people are entitled. These include civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights — including the right to freedom from discrimination, coercion, and violence, and the right to health, education, bodily autonomy, safety, security, livelihood, and civic participation. States are obligated to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights without discrimination and with equality.

undermining human rights — including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), bodily autonomy, democratic rights, and civic space. At the same time, girls and women are being criminalized on the basis of poverty, social status, or survival behaviors, amid climate collapse, biodiversity loss, war, genocide, and fascist geopolitics. Multilateral systems are under attack, and anti-rights actors are using them to advance their agenda. Rising authoritarianism, fundamentalism, and fascism aim to weaken progressive civil society and accountability mechanisms. The global economic system imposes debt burdens and austerity, which can limit some States' ability to invest in public services, development, and the fulfillment of rights, even when there is political will. States increasingly pour resources into war and militarism rather than investing in people's rights and needs. This moment demands that we come together with a long-term strategy for transformation.

What must change

We celebrate and recognize victories secured across gender equality, feminist movements, child and adolescent rights, climate justice, disability justice, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) rights, racial justice, Indigenous people's rights, and many more. But we also recognize that the wider field in which much of this work now sits has been shaped by histories of colonialism, racism, and neoliberalism. Donors, philanthropy, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and the multilateral system have helped build and sustain a model where accountability is directed more to funders than to people, where philanthropy itself is too rarely held accountable to the people it claims to serve, and where INGOs all too often substitute for the State in the delivery of essential services and the fulfillment of human rights.

In short: the systems that have shaped the gender equality ecosystem are crumbling. And they have not always worked for the majority of adolescent girls, women, and gender-diverse people. This moment offers an opportunity to completely overhaul these systems, creating people-centered, decolonized alternatives grounded in the unalienable human rights of all people. That rebuilding must center feminist movements and local civil society.

We commit to:

Orienting our work around States' obligations and public accountability

We will focus our role on creating the conditions in which States uphold their responsibilities and in which people, civil society, and social movements can demand that States respect, protect, and fulfill the rights of all people and the planet. We know this shift will take time. Too many people do not or cannot get essential services from their States now because the State discriminates against them, does not provide the services people need, or has no interest or intent to serve all people.

Creating the conditions for collective voice and social justice to thrive

We will ensure local civil society is adequately resourced, politically protected, globally connected, and locally rooted. We will ensure that the priorities, knowledge, language, and political aims of those most affected by injustice shape our work. We affirm that our work should be shaped by and accountable to social justice movements and constituencies whose demands make change

possible, and that it should work to dismantle systemic inequalities and barriers to access, challenge unjust power structures, and advocate for the human rights of all people.

Confronting unjust economic systems that deepen inequality and undermine rights

The current global economic system is built on extraction and the concentration of wealth, exacerbating inequality and environmental and ecological harm. We will challenge debt burdens, austerity policies, and the global financial rules and systems that deepen inequality, undermine States' ability to provide essential services and uphold their human rights obligations, and threaten the wellbeing of people and the planet.

Transforming institutions to center local priorities and accountability to people

We will challenge models shaped by donor expectations, priorities, indicators, deliverables, and reporting cycles. Our work will hold national and multilateral institutions accountable and center locally defined priorities, movement leadership, and accountability to people, civil society, and those most affected by injustice.

Standing united against militarism and for peace and justice

We refuse to be complicit in the normalization of war and the instrumentalization of the rights of girls, women, and gender-diverse people to justify conflict and violence. We also stand against the weaponization of militarized masculinities to recruit men and boys as instruments of war, creating conditions that deeply harm all people, including through sexual violence as a weapon of war.

Rooting our transformation in solidarity and contributing to the dismantling of systems of oppression

For too long, much of the gender equality ecosystem has operated on a model of charity that creates hierarchies in funding, agenda setting, and decision making. Solidarity, by contrast, recognizes that we are all interdependent. We root our work in solidarity across movements and borders; center the Global Majority; and contribute to dismantling all forms of discrimination, including patriarchy, sexism, ageism, misogyny, racism, capitalism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and colonialism — including as they show up in our sector, deny people their rights, and undermine justice.

The world we are building

This is a world where every person can fully enjoy their human rights, including the rights to a clean and healthy environment, bodily autonomy, and freedom from violence, discrimination, and coercion.

The leadership and rights of those most affected by injustice are centered, respected, and upheld, and they can meaningfully participate in all decisions. This must include adolescent girls, women, and gender-diverse people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including persons with disabilities, and those who are Indigenous, racialized, young, and trans.

It is a world where health, education, and other essential services are free, quality, accessible, inclusive, equitable, and appropriate, and where those most affected by injustice shape the decisions that affect their lives.

In this world, States and multilateral institutions uphold their obligations, civil society flourishes while remaining locally rooted and connected across borders in solidarity, and institutions across the gender equality landscape help build the conditions for justice, accountability, and lasting change.

Reflections

Solidarity

Felt the inclusivity

Accountability

Women are trying to operate in a system not designed for them – we must change the system

Would I go to another Women Deliver – YES, YES, YES!