This conference is co-organised by Caritas Internationalis and the Holy See, under the patronage of UNESCO. This conference will be a means to raise awareness about the barriers women face in society due to poverty, violence and lack of access to education, to demonstrate how women’s empowerment works to break down these barriers, to propose a way forward for concrete action, and to create the necessary synergies between these organisations and other key stakeholders in order to achieve these shared goals.

27–28 October 2022
Hall 2, UNESCO
Headquarters,
125 Avenue de Suffren,
75007 Paris, France

caritas.org
day1 | the Signs of Today’s Times

10-10.30am Welcome address

1. H.E. Mr. Santiago Irazabal Mourão, Chairperson of the General Conference of UNESCO (TBC)
3. Aloysius John, Secretary General, Caritas Internationalis

10.35-11.40am Keynote speech: An institutional commitment for women’s leadership

H. Em. Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State, Holy See

Additional institutional remarks

1. Tamara Rastovac Siarnashvili, Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO (TBC)
2. Anna Maria Majlţ, Head of the Section for inclusion, rights and dialogue (representing Audrey Azoulay, Director General, UNESCO)
3. H. H. Mme Haifa al Mogrin, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO (TBC)
4. H.E. Mme Rachel Annick Ogoula Akiko, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Gabon to UNESCO
5. H.E. Mme Nancy Ovelar de Gorostiaga, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Paraguay to UNESCO

11.40am-12pm Break

12-1pm Panel 1: What does the full face of humanity look like? – Social, cultural and political perspectives on women’s leadership

Speakers:
1. Rev. Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, Secretary, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development of the Holy See
2. Caouimhe de Barra, Director, Trocaire (Caritas Ireland)
3. Véronique Devise, President, Secours Catholique-Caritas France
4. Francine Guilbert, Secours Catholique-Caritas France

Afternoon session’s moderator:
Marta Petrosillo, Communications and Public Relations Director, Caritas Internationalis

2.30-3.45pm Panel 2: Challenges for building a safe environment for women

Speakers:
1. Christina Lamb, War journalist and author: “Our Bodies, Their Battlefield: What war does to women”
2. Tabassum Yousef, Lawyer at the High Court of Sindh province, Pakistan
3. Jasvinder Sanghera, Founder, Karma Nirvana
4. Fr Vyacheslav Grynevych, Secretary General, Caritas Spes-Ukraine

3.45-4pm Break

4-5.30pm Panel 3: Conflict, poverty and peacebuilding – The impact on women and their key role in development and peacebuilding processes

Speakers:
1. Rajaa Altali, Co-founder of Center for Civil Society and Democracy in Syria (UN Special Envoy for Syria) (Video message)
2. Professor Fr Joseph Turay, Vice Chancellor, Catholic University of Makere, Sierra Leone
3. Apinv Daht, Deputy Director of Stella Maris; 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report Hero Award
4. Martha Skretteberg, Secretary General, Caritas Norway
5. Brenda Arakaza, President, Development and Peace- Caritas Canada

Afternoon session’s moderator:
Stephanie MacGillivray, Officer Promoting women’s leadership, Caritas Internationalis

5.45pm Reception

day2 | Looking to the Future

9.30am Arrivals

10-10.25am Keynote speaker:
Mariam Yahia Ibrahim
Witness and advocate for women rights

10.30-11.35am Panel 4: Creating conditions for empowerment – Enabling economic independence, health, nutrition and food security

Speakers:
1. Marthe Wandou, Founder of Action Locale pour un Développement Participatif et Autogéré
2. Dr Lilly Achayo Bostell, Medici con l’Africa Cuamm
3. Fr Tony Labiao, Director, Caritas Philippines
4. Christine Allen, Director, CAFOD
5. Karam Abi Yazbeck, Regional Coordinator, Caritas MONA

11.35-11.50am Break

11.50am-1pm Panel 5: The keys to opportunity – Equipping women to lead through education and capacity strengthening

Speakers:
1. Stefania Giannini, UNESCO Assistant Director General for Education
2. Dr Hayat Sindi, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador; Saudi medical scientist; Consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia
3. Olivia Darby, Director of Policy and Campaigns, The Wonder Foundation
4. Sr Regina Ignotia Afah, Coordinator for Human Rights and Justice, Caritas Ghana

Morning session’s moderator:
Philip Pullella, Vatican Senior Correspondent, Reuters

1-2.30pm Lunch

2.30-3.45pm Panel 6: Community and grassroots leadership – Restoring value in women’s leadership and participation in decision making from local to global levels

Speakers:
1. Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General, Social and Human Sciences, “Transforming MENTalities” project, UNESCO (TBC)
2. Adela González, World Union of Catholic Women’s Organisations (WUCWO)
3. Simon Manda, Lecturer in International Development, Leeds University (TBC)
4. Agustina Langwagen, Executive Director, Caritas Uruguay
5. Adélaïde Bertrand, General Delegate, Secours Catholique-Caritas France

3.45-4pm Break

4-5.30pm Panel 7: Closing panel – Building a future for the full face of humanity

Speakers:
1. Mons. Eric Soiguidi, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to UNESCO
2. Aloysius John, Secretary General, Caritas Internationalis

Afternoon session’s moderator:
Alessandro Gisotti, Deputy editorial director, Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See

End of conference