



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

ASPEN FORUM ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Next Generation of Conversations, Leaders, and Solutions

Women are shifting the power dynamic and offering up solutions to the world's most pressing problems. As a result, changes in policy, action, culture, and behaviors are emerging in every sector of society and in every country of the world. New energy and multi-sector efforts sparked by the compelling resonance and rapid spread of the #MeToo movement are bringing new partners to the table and calling for new practices and strategies for accountability, restorative justice and respectful collaboration. Now is the time to have a critical discussion on women's rights, equality, and the power dynamics of gender.

There is a hunger for strong voices of exceptional women leaders to guide us and to push for solutions that address decades-long practices of discrimination and oppression. We cannot activate around what we cannot see. Yet, there are pockets of new practices and solutions we need to share and spread broadly.

Building on the history to significantly accelerate and advance economic justice, political participation, civic engagement, and leadership for women and girls, the Aspen Forum on Women and Girls is the evolution of a body of work by Ascend at the Aspen Institute and the Aspen Global Innovators Group.

The Aspen Forum on Women and Girls lifts up promising ideas and leaders and builds on the strength of families to help women and girls in the US and around the world move toward opportunity. The Forum is a dynamic thought leadership effort that taps perspectives across sectors, generations, race, and ethnicity; and curates conversations that confront the most pressing and opportune issues of our time.

Ascend has worked closely with women's foundations, community innovators, and policy leaders around the country that are tapping bold leadership and partnerships to create educational and career pathways for girls and women in their communities. Ascend served as a lead partner to the *Shriver Report, A Women's Nation: Pushing Back from the Brink* and in May 2014 launched a Women's Economic Security Roundtable.

The Aspen Global Innovators Group has a long history of work on women's rights and empowerment, including its Global Leaders Council for Reproductive Health, the Ministerial Leadership Initiative, the Aspen New Voices Fellowship for emerging developing world leaders, and the Artisan Alliance, which supports the growth of women-owned artisan businesses.

Our Values

- ❖ We believe that the full health and productivity of nations is realized when women and girls have full equality

- ❖ We believe that investing in women and girls produces exponential results for families, communities, and nations
- ❖ We believe in the core values of dignity, equality, humanity, and inclusion
- ❖ We understand the nuanced nature of this work and will take an intersectional approach that honors geography, race, class, and gender

The goal of the Aspen Forum on Women and Girls is to create a space for the next generation of conversations, leaders, and solutions that unlock the full potential of women and girls in the U.S. and across the globe. We curate conversations that explore new ground around global/domestic exchange in learning, intentionally across sector, across generations, across race, and confront the most pressing and opportune issues of our time. The Forum leverages the convening power of the Aspen Institute for a series of conversations and programs with diverse, creative, and provocative social justice leaders to advance women’s economic justice, political participation, civic engagement, and leadership. We enter these conversations with a sense of both urgency and possibility.

Since its launch in 2016, the Aspen Forum on Women and Girls has brought together leaders across generations and from a range of sectors from business, nonprofit and philanthropic fields to share strategies for economic justice in the world, to identify opportunities to elevate women’s voices and advance women led solutions and to share best practices across sectors on stopping sexual harassment.

With the support of the Doris Duke Foundation, the Aspen Forum on Women and Girls will be launching the Aspen Forum on Women and Girls Leadership Series this year to bring forward exceptional women leaders and powerful new solutions. The Leadership Series will consist of four action-oriented events per year that will bring together women journalists, policymakers, activists, and others who will inspire and lead audience members to solutions in their own spheres of influences.

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues.

Ascend at the Aspen Institute is the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move children, women, and families to educational success, economic security, and health and well-being. We take a two-generation approach to our work – focusing on children and their parents together – and we bring a gender and racial equity lens to our analysis. In all our work, we draw on the expertise and experience of families.

Aspen Global Innovators Group widens access to health and prosperity for people living at the world’s margins. Our network of innovators brings overlooked challenges into plain sight, then creates programs, policies and partnerships to address them. Breakthrough programs include New Voices Fellowship, AMP Health, the Artisan Alliance and Spotlight Health, a premier creative forum on health at Aspen Ideas Festival.

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