

Gender Equality: the power of story- telling to build relationships and collaboration

**ACIC SYMPOSIUM
ST. JOHN'S, NL
OCT. 3 & 4, 2019
ACICSYMPOSIUM.ORG**



ACIC  **CACI**
ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Welcome from ACIC

Welcome to the 2019 Annual Symposium. The theme and title for this year is **Gender Equality: *The Power of Storytelling to Build Relationships and Collaboration.***

In this symposium, we will discuss what it means to bring a feminist approach to cooperation, and the importance of developing authentic relationships and supporting collaboration to affect change. We will discuss the importance of including all voices, and the power of individual stories.

ACIC has begun the process of finding innovative ways to build connections: by finding spaces for collaboration with local women's movements and organizations; by developing what it looks like to focus on youth voices (particularly girls) in advocacy and policy work; and in particular, by giving attention to the perspectives of women of colour, Indigenous women, members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, and others who have not been traditionally included in decision-making processes. The act of connecting people from diverse paths by sharing stories can be a powerful mechanism. More importantly, however, is the sustainability and the respectful maintenance of these relationships. What are the success stories we can share that illuminate the relations that are everlasting?

We're excited to answer these questions with you!



Symposium Agenda

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

- 6:00 PM Registration
- 6:30 PM Welcome & Opening Remarks, auction open
- 6:45 PM Keynote address by Lissy Chacko
- 7:30 PM Dinner, silent auction continues
- 8:00PM Presentation of Shirley Case Leadership Award, music
- 9:00 PM Auction ends
- 10:00PM Music finishes

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

- 8:00 AM Registration continues
- 8:30 AM Opening Remarks and round of introduction
- 9:00 AM Panel #1: The Power of Storytelling
- 10:15 AM Break
- 10:30 AM Concurrent Workshops:
 - Workshop 1: Evelyn Jones - Refugee Women and Girls, and Canadian Sponsorship
 - Workshop 2: Heather Jarvis - Understanding Sex Work and Sex Workers' Needs
- 12:15 PM Lunch (meet the youth delegates)
- 1:15 PM Concurrent Workshops:
 - Workshop 3: Liam Swiss - Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy – Panel Discussion Workshop
 - Workshop 4: Jillian Kilfoil - Dismantling Rape Culture - Better Supporting Survivors of Gender-Based and Sexualized violence



2:45 PM Break
3:00 PM Panel #2: Successful Relationships & Collaboration
4:30PM ICN presentation
4:45 PM Closing Remarks
5:00 PM Bon voyage!

6:30 PM *Optional* **In Her Name** vigil for missing and murdered women & girls of Newfoundland and Labrador

Thursday Evening Gala Entertainment



A native of St. John's, NL, violinist **Dominic Greene** completed a Master of Music degree in violin performance at the University of Toronto. Dominic is currently the assistant concertmaster and personnel manager of the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, and serves as a string coach for the Newfoundland Symphony Youth Orchestra, of which he is the former assistant concertmaster.

He also enjoys a dynamic teaching career, maintaining a busy private violin studio, and is an instructor with the Suzuki Talent Education Program of St. John's. In addition to orchestral performance and teaching, Dominic enjoys freelancing around the city of St. John's and surrounding areas.



Keynote Address

ACIC is proud to be partnering with our member Chalice Canada to welcome **Lissy Chacko** to the Symposium through the Southern Speakers Fund. Lissy was born in Kerala, India. She graduated in Social Studies, has a diploma course in Social Work, as well as a Master's Degree in Criminal Law. She has vast experience working with different groups of people over the years; practicing family law in the courts and under the State Women's Commission in Kerala, serving as a member on the Juvenile Justice Board for 4 years, and joining the religious life with the Good Shepherd Sisters Bangalore in 1990.



Lissy's past work reflects the theme of gender equality for this year's symposium. She has organized and implemented campaigns of women/girl empowerment programs and participated in the protection of women in Kerala through creation and implementation of policies. Lissy also believes in the theory of change and she is convinced that change is possible through collaboration and building relationships between peoples in the grass root level and institutions that create policies to address gender issues. Lissy hopes through this process, people will be able to live peacefully.

Panel Discussion 1

The Power of Storytelling — 9:00-10:30am, Friday, Oct. 4th

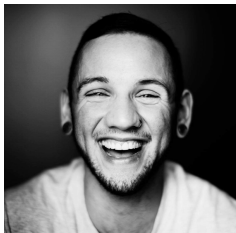
The act of connecting people from diverse paths by sharing stories is a powerful mechanism. In this panel discussion, we wish to bring together a cohort of speakers to share stories about the personal, the political, the polemical, or the public aspects of working to create transformational change towards gender equality. Bearing this in mind, we ask our panelists to share:

- stories about affecting transformational change through a feminist understanding-
- stories of personal struggle, success, overcoming, passion; grappling with structures of established power-
- stories of working within a hierarchy and striving to change it
- stories that undo and see beyond assumptions of the gender binary

Panelists



Kaberi Sarma-Debnath, RSW, is the Executive Director of the Multicultural Women's Organization of Newfoundland and Labrador (MWONL). She has over 25 years of experience in program planning and delivery in the field of women's economic and social equality, violence prevention, newcomer's social integration both in Canada and internationally.



Dane Woodland is an activist who first grew into his feminism when he began a gender transition from female to male. Noting the contrast in his lived experience as a result of male privilege, Dane delivered a talk at TEDxYouth@StJohns in 2016 entitled: "One Lifetime, Two Perspectives: How Male Privilege Made Me a Feminist".



Dr. Carol Lynne D'Arcangelis is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Gender Studies at Memorial University. She received her PhD from the University of Toronto in 2015. Since 2005, she has been a white settler ally member of No More Silence, a Toronto-based network dedicated to raising awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people across what is now called Canada.



Heather Jarvis is a queer woman, activist, survivor, and feminist who was born in South Africa and immigrated to Canada as a child. Heather has over a decade of volunteer and work experience with many grassroots social justice projects involving survivors of sexual violence, 2SLGBTQI people, harm reduction, prisoner justice, and the sex workers' rights movement.

Concurrent Workshops

Friday, October 4, 10:30am

Workshop 1: Refugee Women and Girls, and Canadian Sponsorship

The United Nations refers 'women and girls at risk' for resettlement to countries such as Canada. However, less than 5% of the 22.5 million refugees globally find resettlement. Our workshop, 'Refugee Women and Girls, and Canadian Sponsorship', will examine the issues and impacts of forced migration on women and girls. Participants will learn about refugee issues globally, as well as hear first-hand stories from a woman who arrived in Newfoundland as a refugee. Through partnership and collaboration, the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program has resettled more than 300,000 refugees to Canada. We will share an overview of the sponsorship process, demonstrating how a global issue of forced migration finds a local response through community action.

Evelyn Jones is the Atlantic Trainer with the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP), based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Evelyn has worked in refugee protection, advocacy, and sponsorship for the past 20 years. Her overseas experience includes a position with the Women's Secretariat, CRIPDES (Committee for Displaced and Returned People of El Salvador), and as an international accompanier in Colombia with Peace Brigades International. Evelyn has a degree in International Development Studies, with a Major in Women's Studies.



Workshop 2: Understanding Sex Work and Sex Workers' Needs

This workshop addresses the gaps in awareness, knowledge and skills for feminists, scholars and community members on sex work and sex workers' basic human rights. The workshop examines a history of sex worker stigma including myths and misconceptions, understanding discrimination and violence against sex workers, cautions around mainstream anti-human trafficking efforts that are harming sex workers, and laws around the sex trade. In this workshop SHOP unpacks individual and societal beliefs historically and currently, moving beyond simplistic and inaccurate gender binaries and dichotomies, towards understanding how policy and practice impact sex workers' access to services, and their place in the feminist movement.

Heather Jarvis is a queer woman, activist, survivor, and feminist who was born in South Africa and immigrated to Canada as a child. For over a decade Heather has been honoured to volunteer and work with a variety of grassroots social justice projects involving survivors of sexual violence, 2SLGBTQI people, harm reduction, prisoner justice, and the sex workers' rights movement. In 2011 Heather co-founded SlutWalk Toronto, a small rally that began in Toronto and then spread around the world. Since then, she has done a TEDx talk, been interviewed by media around the world, presented at the international Women Deliver 2019 conference, and become a public speaker, advocate and educator. Heather has a deep commitment to compassion and accountability, harm reduction and transformative justice from the ground up.



Concurrent Workshops

Friday, October 4, 1:15pm

Workshop 3: Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy – Panel Discussion Workshop

This workshop will take the form of a panel discussion on Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP).

Panellists will share perspectives based on their experience as young feminists working as researchers, practitioners, and policy makers. The panel will share their views on the strengths and weaknesses of the FIAP, its implementation since 2017, and its potential future following the 2019 election.

*Moderator: **Liam Swiss** is Associate Professor of Sociology at Memorial University in St. John's, Canada and is the President of the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development (CASID). His research examines the role of foreign aid in international norm diffusion, violence against aid workers, the politics of Canadian aid policy, and the causes and effects of women's political representation in the Global South.*

Workshop panelists:

***Sam Morton** is a queer feminist with nearly 10 years experience researching and working in international development. She is currently completing her graduate work in the Department of Sociology at MUN, researching development workers in Lao PDR, and the impacts of their understandings and practices of gender and gender equality. Sam has experience working with not-for profits in Southeast Asia and Canada.*



Heather Dicks has worked in project design and management in the field of international development for over 10 years. She has lived and worked in numerous countries through her work for the Canadian government, the United Nations, and various international NGOs. Heather holds a Master's Degree in Globalization and International Development from the University of Ottawa, a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Carleton University, and is currently completing her PhD in Sociology at MUN.

Judyannet Muchiri has experience working with non-profits in Kenya and other African countries, specifically those working with, and for, youth in areas of community building, mentorship, leadership, digital skills and capacity building. Judyannet's doctoral research focuses on youth and participatory development; she is currently researching the influence of safe spaces on young women's civic participation in Kenya.

Workshop 4: Dismantling Rape Culture - Better Supporting Survivors of Gender Based and Sexualized violence

This workshop will look specifically at gender based and sexualized violence. Its impacts and how it gets normalized in all parts of society. Gender norms, trauma, the legal system, movements such as #metoo, #timesup and survivor led movements more broadly will be explored.

Jillian Kilfoil is Executive Director of Women's Network PEI (WNPEI). WNPEI is a feminist organization with a provincial mandate and a 35-year history of supporting Island women. Jillian has an undergraduate degree in political science and women's studies and a certificate in Adult Education from St. FX.

She is a facilitator, feminist, and community advocate. Jillian has previously worked with Katimavik, Girls Action Foundation and Apathy is Boring. Jillian has an expertise in experiential learning programs, youth civic engagement, and gender issues. Jillian is passionate about creating equity in society and spends a lot of time thinking about the intersections of power and privilege and how we can unlearn behaviours and ways of thinking that lead to exclusion, stigma and violence. Jillian is currently a member of PEI's Regional Economic Advisory Council, is part of Status of Women Canada's Gender Equality Network and recently represented PEI as part of the Canadian NGO delegation at the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

Panel Discussion 2

Successful Relationships & Collaboration — 3:00-4:30pm, Oct. 4th

In this panel discussion, we ask: What are the success stories we can share that illuminate the best practices in prior or ongoing relationships and collaborations? Solidifying relationships is fundamental to the growth and wellbeing of all humankind, no matter the substance in which we work.

Bearing in mind these kinds of relationships, for this panel, we wonder:

- How have you been able to establish and maintain effective partnerships and collaborations to advance gender equality in your field?
- What are the challenges, the successes, the highlights, the pitfalls?
- Where are some of the places, even if unexpected, you have found successful relationships?

Panelists



Deanne Howlett is a registered social worker and the Program Manager at YWCA St. John's. Deanne specializes in project management, program development, and building rewarding collaborations with community stakeholders. Part of the national YWCA movement, Deanne serves as co-chair of the Young Women's Leadership and Engagement Committee with YWCA Canada.



Nabila Qureshi is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Medicine (Community Health) at MUN, exploring refugee youth's early resettlement experiences in St. John's and its impact on their well-being. Nabila has extensive education, volunteer, and work experience with refugee communities, promoting inclusivity, co-operation and community engagement.



Born in Bogota, Colombia, **Jose Rivera** has been a human rights advocate and full-time volunteer ever since discovering that a vast majority of his fellow countrymen are living in a wide gap between extreme poverty and lavish wealth. His work as a business consultant have provided him with an overarching perspective for problem solving.

Youth Delegates

Nabila Queshi lived in Iran and The U.A.E. before immigrating to Canada 12 years ago. After completing degrees in Commerce and Arts from Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) in 2014, Nabila went on to pursue a Diploma in Performance and Communications Media from MUN and a Certificate in Film Studies from Ryerson University in 2014. Working at Service Canada, she volunteered with the refugee community in St. John's, which encouraged her to pursue a thesis-based Masters degree in Medicine (Community Health) at MUN. As team leader of the WUSC (World University Service of Canada) chapter at MUN, her team's work oversees the implementation of the Student Refugee Program. For her volunteer work with refugees and newcomers, Nabila has been awarded the YMCA St. John's Peace Medal (2018), the YWCA St. John's Women of Distinction Award in Community and Social Development (2019), the Medical Graduate Students' Society Scholar and Community Involvement Award (2019), the City of St. John's Building Healthy Community and Social Development Award (2019), and MUN's Volunteer Incentive Program Awards in Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

Rene Augustus La Casse is a first year international student at Memorial University of Newfoundland. He is studying French language and Political Science under the International Bachelors of Arts program. La Casse has a passion for international politics, languages, and engaging in civil discourse about today's issues. He is an advocate for liberal democracy, gender equality, and contemporary progressivism. A professional traditional musician and composer, La Casse values the opportunities his music has given him to connect with people from all over the world.

Perla Hernandez is Master's student in Political Science at Memorial University. She is passionate about sustainability and climate justice, and has coordinated projects on climate, plastic pollution, social enterprise, and sustainability. With extensive experience presentation and facilitating workshops on topics including climate change and youth, ocean plastics awareness and climate change and local action both in St. John's and at the United Nations.

Brie Dukeshire is a student at Dalhousie University pursuing a Major in International Development, a Minor in Sustainability, and a Certificate in Intercultural Communications. Her research interests include developing communication strategies that will compel people to action against the climate crisis as well as studying the impacts of climate change on mass migration.

Brie is currently developing a research project to explore how different marketing strategies can influence consumers' decisions to buy meat. She is also working as the Youth Engagement Coordinator on the campaign of the Federal Green Party candidate in her riding.

Katherine Dibbon is an 18-year-old from St. John's, and is recognized by many as an active contributor to her school and community at the local, national and international level. She has been active in whatever capacity she can throughout her junior and high school years serving in a leadership role on many scholarship committees.

Katherine currently sits on a number of Advisory Committees including: UN Women's Beijing 25+ Youth Task Force, the City of St. John's Municipal Advisory Committee for Youth, Federal MP O'Regan's Youth Advisory Council, and MHA Tom Osborne's District Riding Association as the President of Youth. She recently completed a term as a member of the RCMP National Youth Advisory Committee.

Katherine's passion about advocating for issues that are important to youth led her to organize the inaugural Terry Fox Run at her school resulting in her now working with the Foundation as a mentor to other schools to initiate Terry Fox activities. Katherine also served as the Youth Ambassador with ACIC focusing on encouraging youth involvement in international cooperation. She has hosted local youth conferences on this topic and worked with PLAN Canada on the national Youth for Gender Equality (YGE) project. As part of the YGE project she facilitated local workshops, participated in the national Writers Conference in Ottawa preparing the final YGE report, and was chosen to present the report at the 2018 Y7 Summit. She is currently a national Youth Ambassador with World Vision and recently travelled with them on a Youth Leadership Trip to Ghana.

Join the conversation!

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