

2020 - WWSF Prize Brochure presenting 10 Laureates

+ Campaign «17 Days of Activism» & Day of Rural Women 15 Oct.

Organizer: Women's World Summit Foundation WWSF - FSMF



**Prize for
Women's
Creativity in
Rural Life,
awarded since
1994 to 462
Prizewinners
around the
world**

**Empowered rural women can change
the world & help realise the UN SDG Agenda 2030**



2020
10 Laureates
receive the WWSF
Prize
(1994-2020)



www.woman.ch



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17

Days of Activism

1-17 Oct.

For the Empowerment of Rural Women Leaders and communities



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Participate in the annual 17 Days Campaign!

To Empower Rural Women Leaders & their communities

Build local/national broad alliances with grassroot groups and rural networks

Nominate candidates for the WWSF annual Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life

Meet local government representatives and advocate for legislative changes in compliance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals - 2030



Open Letter to Rural Women of the world!

Dear sisters in rural areas,

As you may know, the WWSF **1) “Prize for Women’s Creativity in Rural Life”** (created in 1994), annually awards creative and courageous rural women leaders and groups that help to advance and improve the quality of life in rural communities. To date, 462 prizes have been awarded in over 140 countries to selected candidates. In some cases, the WWSF prize enhances the status of unknown, active, creative rural women leaders and as a result some prizewinners attain national recognition and sometimes move into positions of decision-making at local/or national level. The award (US\$ 1000 per laureate) represents our solidarity contribution for their efforts and obstacles overcome and is not meant to be a project fund, although in many cases the prize money is re-invested in the laureates’ projects. To achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda by 2030, rural women are key in delivering results with courage and compassion. They need our solidarity support as they face many challenges.

WWSF expresses gratitude for all the nominations received in 2020 from which we selected the 10 finalists presented in this Prize brochure.

We also express our gratitude for the sponsors who make our empowerment programs financially possible; and for the staff, consultants and university interns who serve in our secretariat.

In partnership, solidarity and peace,

Elly Pradervand, President/CEO, in collaboration with WWSF Board of Directors: Gulzar Samji, Vice-President, Canada/ Jyoti Macwan, India / Anne Pélagie Yotchou Tzeudjom/ Cameroon.

Additional WWSF Programs for the empowerment of Rural Women include:



2) The International Day of Rural Women - 15 October (see 2020 poster on page 22), created in 1995 at the Beijing 4th World Conference on Women by WWSF and 2 other NGOs. The Day serves to empower Rural Women’s groups around the world to claim their rights. In 2007, the UN declared this Day an official UN day for all governments to address the situation of rural women in their countries. WWSF awards its annual Prize for women’s creativity in rural life on that day.



3) WWSF Annual Campaign: “17 Days of activism for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities 1-17 October” - Kit for Rural Women to Rise and Claim their Right to Sustainable Development. The time has come to leave no one behind in global development, including rural women and their communities. **The annual 17 campaign themes are presented below and an annually revised Empowerment Kit (in English) is published on our website www.woman.ch.**



17 Days
Empowerment
Rural Women
1-17
October
www.woman.ch

Women’s World Summit Foundation-Call to Action!

Rural Women Rise & Claim your Rights!



Right to Development	Right to Education	Right to Safe Water	Right to Health
Right to Housing	Clean Environment	Climate Change	Economic Development
Right to Information ICTs	Land and Inheritance	Decision-making	Security & Safety End Violence
Right to Peace	Leader’s Accountability	Empowerment Rural Women’s Day	Right to Food
			End Poverty

17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women & Communities 1-17 Oct. - Kit available at: www.woman.ch



4) Rural Women Movements Award. This additional award was created in 2017 as an occasional prize for Rural Women’s Movements (US\$ 10’000 when funds permit). A first Award in 2017 went to SEWA - India.

Empowered rural women can change the world & help realise UN Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030

A dozen of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) relate to the rural womens activities. **SDG 1 and SDG 5 are the most important Goals to be reached for their empowerment.**

✓ SDG # 1: No Poverty

Target 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere” (<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>)

Target 1.2: Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to regional definitions.

Target 1.4: Ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



✓ SDG # 5 Gender Equality

Target 5.1: “End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere” (<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>)

Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

Target 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life

Target 5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Program of Action of the Intl. Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of their review conferences

Target 5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

Target 5.b: Enhance the use of enabling technology in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

Target 5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels



The full SDG Report 2020, by António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, can be viewed at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2020.pdf>

Excerpt:

«(...) The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020 brings together the latest data to show us that, before the COVID-19 pandemic, progress remained uneven and we were not on track to meet the Goals by 2030. Some gains were visible: the share of children and youth out of school had fallen; the incidence of many communicable diseases was in decline; access to safely managed drinking water had improved; and women's representation in leadership roles was increasing. At the same time, the number of people suffering from food insecurity was on the rise, the natural environment continued to deteriorate at an alarming rate, and dramatic levels of inequality persisted in all regions. Change was still not happening at the speed or scale required. (...)»

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020



Some Facts about rural women and girls

“**Rural women provide food security** for their communities, strengthen climate resilience and economies. However, gender inequalities, such as discriminatory laws and social norms, associated with a rapid economic, technological and environmental landscape, limit their potential, leaving them far behind men and their urban counterparts.

- **Labor** - The share of women working in agriculture by region:
South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa 60% / Rest of Asia & the Pacific and North Africa 30% / Arab States 20% / Latin America and the Caribbean and East Europe 10% / Rest of Europe+North America 5%
- **Agriculture** - remains the most important employment sector for women in developing countries and rural areas, a sector that largely falls within the informal economy with little or no social protection and labor rights. Consequences are lower standards of living, poor wages and major health challenges, limited access to social services; restricted upward mobility, lack of collective voice and agency.
- **Land rights** - Less than 13% of agricultural landholders are women. Consequences: Less income security; less decision-making power in households and communities; inability to access credit to start a business or improve agricultural productivity.
- **Reproductive Health** - A rural woman is 38% less likely to give birth with a health care worker than an urban woman in low-income countries. Consequences: Increased chances of life-threatening complications, severe bleeding, infection and higher maternal mortality.
- **Water** - Population with access to safe drinking water: Rural areas 20% - Urban areas 68%
Women and girls are often responsible for fetching water in rural areas. Consequences: more unpaid domestic work; higher risk of maternal mortality; psychosocial stress.
- **Child Marriage** - A rural girl is 2x more likely to get married as a child than her urban counterpart in some African, Latin American and Caribbean countries. Consequences: Barrier to education and employment; greater risk for intimate partner violence; early pregnancy; maternal complications; vulnerability to STDs, including HIV.
- **Literacy** - More than half of all poor rural women lack basic literacy skills. Consequences: Barriers to employment and decision-making; lower income; lower-quality jobs; increased health challenges because less informed; decreased individual and social well-being.
- **ICT - Information Communications Technologies** - Most of the 3.9 billion people not connected to the Internet tend to be poorer, less educated, and rural women and girls. Consequences: Limited means of getting new skills, information and knowledge; decreased livelihoods, well-being and resilience; limited economic opportunities.

Empowering rural women and girls requires:

1. Decent work and social protection
2. Education and training
3. Sustainable energy and technology
4. Clean water and sanitation
5. Eliminating violence and harmful practices
6. Including women in decision-making and leadership
7. Increasing women's climate-resilience »

Source: UN Women - Report of the UN Secretary-General:

Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (E/CN.6/2018/3), UN ECOSOC, 2018; World Employment Social Outlook, ILO, 2017; Sustainable Development Goals Report, UN Women, 2018; Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects, Unicef, 2016.



WWSF PRIZE

for Women's
Creativity in Rural Life
www.woman.ch



10 Laureates are honored in 2020
with the Prize for Women's Creativity in rural life
(462 Prizes awarded to-date 1994-2020)

CAMEROON



BOUBA Aeisatu

When a runaway child becomes an acclaimed and respected leader

NIGERIA



DR. AHMED-AMSHI Mairo

A powerful advocate of women's rights

MEXICO



ARRIOLA SANCHEZ Jeannette Maitee

A rare creativity in enabling the most rejected to become respected

MEXICO



MARVAN Alicia

Connecting with her roots

INDIA



UIKEY Saraswati

When a poor tribal woman becomes a powerful and respected role model

INDIA



SHAH Shabnam

Inner strength and strong determination win the day

INDIA



KUJUR Nirmla

A champion for the poorest of the poor

INDIA



PAWAR Vijaya Shriram

Transforming sugarcane workers into artists of beauty

INDIA



KHAPERDE Subhadra

"What is difficult, I'll do immediately, the impossible will take a little longer"

NEPAL



RAJBHANDARI Kanti

A natural born leader

15 OCTOBER 2020



PRIZE SPONSORS



A big thank-you to all the WWSF members, sponsors and volunteers.



Our special thanks go to

Madeleine & Jacques Maire (Edition Jouvence SA) for sponsoring the prize awards.

Organization: Women's World Summit Foundation
WWSF - www.woman.ch



BOUBA Aeisatu (30) Cameroon

**WHEN A RUNAWAY CHILD BECOMES
AN ACCLAIMED AND RESPECTED
LEADER**



Bouba Aeisatu has had a both rare and challenging career. She is a member of the native Mbororo group, an indigenous pastoralist minority from the predominantly English-speaking North-West region of Cameroon. When she reached 12 years, her family wanted to withdraw her from school so as to marry a man much older than her. She resisted, escaped, and later had to face a great deal of marginalization and discrimination from her community.

Despite constant family pressures, she managed to obtain a university degree. Many young women in her community (as in most parts of the continent) are forced into early marriage with all the ensuing health, social, psychological and other trauma, not to mention great gender violence in couples. So she created the "Forum des Femmes Autochtones du Cameroun" (FFAC - link to the website: <https://ffacameroon.org/>) to help these women - the vast majority of whom stem from rural areas - to free themselves from the iron-fisted grip of patriarchal customs and also to educate

them in basic environmental issues, help the women improve their agricultural skills for food security and finally to train women to take leadership positions in the decision-making bodies in the administrative and political areas. So far over 1200 indigenous pastoralist girls have been rescued from forced marriages and now continue their education. And in the highly traditional Adamania region, over 6000 indigenous rural women have been sensitized on the importance of participating in the electoral process, and 15 of their 20 candidates were elected on local councils. A well-earned prize!

Her work contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 **Targets #2, #4, #5, #8**



DR. AHMED-AMSHI Mairo (60) Nigeria

**A POWERFUL ADVOCATE OF
WOMEN'S RIGHTS**



Dr. Ahmed-Amshi is the Commissioner for Agriculture of Yobe State in N. Nigeria. She has a PhD in plant physiology and production. She has been nominated due to her extensive contribution via various gender inclusive actions. As part of her activities, she established the Yobe State Youth and Women's Agricultural Employment Program. She has played a special role to get the central importance of Fulani woman pastoralists in the field of nutrition and health accepted. All across the Sahel region, the Fulanis enable small children to have access to the vital milk products necessary for their growth.

enabling women and youth to access soft loans. In her action she is guided by the UN SDGoals 1 to 5 and is passionate about achieving results by 2030. She is also a role model for the rural women and girls of N-E Nigeria where girl-child education is still being threatened by patriarchal attitudes inherited from the past.

Her work contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 **Target #1, #2, #3, #4 & #5**



In a male dominated culture and tradition, implemented under the directives of the Islamic religious doctrine, Dr. Mairo needed to be truly creative to enable women in rural areas to progress in terms of their rights. She has also played a key role in

Link to her Facebook profile: <https://www.facebook.com/Hon.Dr.mairoahmadamshi/>





ARRIOLA SANCHEZ Jeannette Maitee (43) Mexico

**A RARE CREATIVITY IN ENABLING
THE MOST REJECTED TO BECOME
RESPECTED**



This outstanding candidate has devoted 22 years in helping the poorest and most neglected of her country, the indigenous communities, regain a sense of their dignity and their worth. With tireless labor, lasting passion and above all love, Dr. Jeannette Arriola has played an absolutely unique role in her country. She has proved to the world that eradicating extreme poverty does not have to be costly if one manages to gain the full trust of the groups concerned, on the condition of manifesting the deepest respect (rather than the usual suspicion) for the indigenous cultural norms and practices.

Traditionally, these rural communities suffered from a historical debt, were living in conditions of high and often extreme marginalization, with great levels of poverty and an almost complete lack of opportunities. With her wise leadership, Dr. Arriola has achieved a close cooperation between public and private actors from different sectors of Mexican society. Her unique "Comprehensive Model for Sustainable Development" has enabled indigenous communities to better manage their own development based on food security strategies, provision of drinking water, environmental care initiatives, gender equality and mainstreaming, citizen and civic participation,

community empowerment and the generation of sustainable employment opportunities in the indigenous sector. Her work has finally enabled society at large to better appreciate the ancestral and spiritual knowledge of indigenous peoples of Latin America which form the basis of their unique cultural identity. Finally, at the academic level, professor Jeannette Arriola has been responsible for giving a vibrant and relevant space to the indigenous communities of Mexico. She organized six Annual National Meetings of indigenous groups at the university level. These meetings have been a watershed at the national level where actors of all kinds have had the privilege of witnessing and learning more of the unique customs and traditions of those who are after all the original inhabitants of Mexico.

Her work contributes to achieving the **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #1, #2 & #5**



Link to her LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jeannette-arriola-s%C3%A1nchez-365a90196/?originalSubdomain=mx>



MARVAN Alicia (30) Mexico

CONNECTING WITH HER ROOTS



Alicia is a leader. Her career of a socially engaged multidisciplinary artist, educator and cultural manager has taken her to academic and cultural institutions across the US, Europe, and Mexico. Yet she is equally at home in rural Michoacán, Mexico, where over years of hard work, she has built a project that connects her artistic work with her roots. The Guapamacátaro Center for Art and Ecology is a community-oriented residency program that brings together artists and scientists with the local population of Maravatío, Michoacán, to foster collaborative and creative approaches to sustainable development.

The project was born out of Alicia's deep desire to do something to help address issues of social inequality and ecological degradation in her native Mexico. She convinced her family to cede control of a crumbling family estate, or hacienda, that had once been an important agricultural producer in the region. Over the years she has painstakingly rehabilitated the property and built the trust of the local community while transforming the site into one of the most innovative ecology-focused creative residencies. Over the last 14 years she has brought close to 200 artists, scientists, community organizers, and other creative professionals to engage with the landscape and community of Maravatío.

Each year up to twenty residents representing a broad range of artistic and academic disciplines, cultures, and backgrounds participate in three-week residencies at Guapamacátaro. Each participant commits to organizing at least one program with local elementary and secondary school pupils and are asked to organize at least one presentation or workshop for the community. These projects have focused on key social ecology issues, such as water, land and craft.

One of the innovative projects that Alicia and the visiting artist, Kaitlin Bryson, worked on with the adult community was to create a series of Mycelial Bio-remediation "pillows" filled with oyster mushroom cultivations (known for their detoxifying qualities) that were placed as filters between an unregulated communal septic tank and the water stream. The community self-organized shortly after to build a better wastewater system.

Her work contributes to achieving the **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #2, #6, #11 & #13**



Link to her website: <https://aliciamarvan.com/>

This year, WWSF selected among the ten candidates, three laureates from Ekta Parishad (India), nominated by IGINP Cesci – the International Gandhian Institute of Non-violence, India. The three laureates participated in the one-year Jai Jagat march from India to Geneva starting in 2019. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the march was interrupted in Armenia and postponed to continuing in 2021 so as to terminate the march in Geneva as a wake-up call to respond to the world's deepening economic, social and environmental crises. The campaign is an urgent appeal for people to transform and achieve one planet for all people.



We are #OnTheMove to Nonviolent Transformation

One Planet All People!



«Jai Jagat is a vision of bringing people together to promote justice and ethics as a way to realize peace. This vision draws from Gandhi's use of nonviolence in the Freedom struggle in India against the oppressive colonial forces. Jai Jagat is a campaign that enacts this vision at a global level through people's engagement in multi-year events and actions. Although the Jai Jagat began in India in 2007 with a Janadesh march of 25,000 landless people, nonviolent action has since touched other locations in countering oppressive policies, laws and governments. Our World Can Be Different If We're Not Indifferent.»



UIKEY Saraswati (43)
India

WHEN A POOR TRIBAL WOMAN BECOMES A POWERFUL AND RESPECTED ROLE MODEL



The tribal populations of India are among the most despised inhabitants of the country. Saraswati comes from such a tribe, the Gond. She comes from a very poor family of laborers working the land. At 14 years old, she is already a mother, living the challenging life of a day laborer. But her contact with **Ekta Parishad**, an organization of landless farmers, transformed her existence and at 18 she starts a new life. She becomes an active militant fighting for the right of access of her people to land, water and forest rights, not without having had to overcome major prejudices where she lives. But thanks to the practice of non-violent communication and great inner stren-

gth, she overcame all obstacles and was **included in the 50 marchers of the Jai Jagat organization** which in 2019-2020 undertook to walk the 11'000 km. separating New Delhi from Geneva.

Her work contributes to achieving the **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #1, #2, #10 & #16**

Link to <https://jaijagat2020.eu/>
<https://www.ektaparishadindia.org/>



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SHAH Shabnam (33)
India

INNER STRENGTH AND STRONG DETERMINATION WIN THE DAY



Since the age of 18, Shabnam has been striving with great tenacity for the land rights of tribal people, among the most discriminated populations of India. Being a young woman who was also a member of a minority religion, she needed to and has manifested great strength, talent and determination. She joined an organization fighting for the rights of the dispossessed, **Ekta Parishad**, at the outset of her struggles for land rights (she was still in high school!). Her work for the most dispossessed of all extends to over 100 villages and she has succeeded in getting land rights for 1470 families. She is gifted with a natural ability to deliver strong speeches. Her work has been mainly for one of the most primitive and exploited tribal people of India, the Saharya tribe. Alcohol was wreaking havoc among these people and she

has managed to reduce drastically the all-pervading threat alcohol posed to these tribal populations. **In June 2019, she was selected to be one of the 50 Jai Jagat marchers for this organization's New Delhi-Geneva march on foot. Her commitment to her family and her work is such that she chose to stay single, a quasi-heroic decision in the Indian cultural context.**

Her work contributes to achieving the **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #2, #3, #10 & #16**



Link to <https://jaijagat2020.eu/> & <https://www.ektaparishadindia.org/>



KUJUR Nirmala (37)
India

A CHAMPION FOR THE POOREST OF THE POOR



Nirmala Kujur is an inspiring, self-made, independent woman activist who took part in the Jai Jagat 11'000 km peace march on foot from New Delhi to Geneva (which was interrupted due to Covid -19 in Erevan, Armenia). She has committed herself with both rigor and skill to defending the forest, water and land rights of the poorest of the poor. These three areas constitute the very basis of the survival of farmers. Take one of the three away, especially land or water, and the result will usually be fatal. Nirmala was born close to the Indian state of Chattisgarh (center East of the country) and is from the Uraon tribe, the oldest of 6 siblings in a family living off the land (farming). At the end of her high school years, she chose to work on a program of self-delivery of babies in remote areas. Very early she chose to abandon her marital home and husband owing to their confining and patriarchal

values. A person with a both cheerful and bold disposition, she emerged over the years as a true grassroots leader. Just in recent years, she helped over 400 families get legal entitlement to land and has filed an additional 1000 requests (which now await the response of the authorities), all since working with **Ekta Parishad**, a grass roots movement active with Adivasis (tribal groups considered as the original inhabitants of the country).

Their work contributes to achieving the **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #2, #6, #10 & #16**



Link to <https://jaijagat2020.eu/> & <https://www.ektaparishadindia.org/>

Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of poorest and the weakest human whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to them? Will they gain anything by it? In other words, will it lead to Swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and yourself melting away.

Quote from Gandhiji's
Talisman

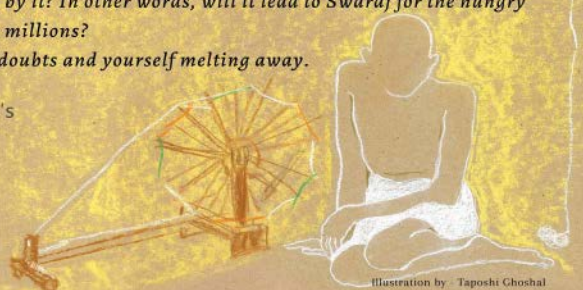


Illustration by - Taposhi Ghoshal



PAWAR Vijaya Shriram (34)
India

**TRANSFORMING SUGARCANE
WORKERS INTO ARTISTS OF
BEAUTY**



Vijaya belongs to the indigenous nomadic Banjara community of the Beed district in Maharashtra state. She walked 6 km daily to reach her school which she had to stop when she got married at age 16. However, after her marriage she decided to resume her studies in a local college, the first girl of her community to ever undertake such studies. She had a great attachment to the splendid Banjara traditional embroidery, a craft handed down from mother to daughter. However, most women in her tribe had to work as sugarcane cutters 3-4 months in the year, an extremely challenging activity in the hot sun. So Vijaya had the idea of opening up commercial outlets for the beautiful traditional tribal handicrafts and for the first time ever, the women started earning. It was the dawn of a new era for them.

Vijaya started taking part in exhibitions at the local, state and national levels. She discovered the possibility of producing their handicrafts on a really large scale with modern machines. However, such a step would ruin the local artisans and kill a unique traditional cultural and local art and put the income into

non-local hands. But at the same time, even the younger local Banjara women were turning away from this local craft due to its heavy production costs. So Vijaya went through a formal technical training in embroidery and related techniques and decided to introduce innovative contemporary designs. With a few like-minded colleagues, in the year 2000 she started a movement for the revival of traditional Banjara arts and crafts. And after nearly 20 years of struggles, the first fruits are coming forth. She is now working in close to a hundred hamlets with almost 1000 women artisans who can make much better income creating beauty than what they earn in the back-breaking work of sugar-cane cutters.

Her work contributes to achieving the **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #4, #5, #8 & #12**



Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ChT1aT47RM>



KHAPERDE Subhadra (52)
India

**“WHAT IS DIFFICULT, I’LL DO
IMMEDIATELY, THE IMPOSSIBLE
WILL TAKE A LITTLE LONGER”**



Certainly, very few women activists in India have managed to transcend in their personal lives the deep-rooted caste, class and gender inequalities that Subhadra had to face. Born in the lowest cast in the hierarchical cast structure that has dominated the subcontinent for eons, the hurdles Subhadra had to face are unfathomable, as Dalits continue to face deplorable prejudices in practically all walks of life in India. In addition to this entrenched caste-based discrimination, she had to struggle against the deep-rooted patriarchal inequity practiced within Indian society at large. Finally, coming from a marginalized family from rural areas, she had in addition to face the class-based barriers so solidly implanted at all levels of the social structure. However, thanks to her unbending determination and grit, an unshakeable, clear intention and her deep compassion for the most downtrodden, Subhadra overcame these huge challenges and also many others to become an amazingly innovative, productive and creative community leader. In her fight for the rights of the most oppressed, this social worker was even imprisoned when she dared face administrative and police corruption fighting alcohol bootlegging. Among her many achievements, one can mention:

a) Her activity with the well-known **Ekta-Parishad** rural mass movement working for the rights of tribal people over natural resources and the establishment of their land rights in western Madhya Pradesh.

b) Her fight for women's reproductive health rights which for quite a while was funded by crowdfunding. She went far beyond the State's narrow vision of simple family planning to addressing the numerous gynecological problems which haunted so many women.

c) During this period, she also spearheaded a women's movement against alcoholism and illegal bootlegging of alcohol at considerable danger to her life and for which she was illegally imprisoned with 17 other Adivasi women.

d) Other areas of activity include mobilizing Adivasis for soil and water conservation and improvement of the food women consume. This led her to oppose high chemical fertilizer and pesticide-based intensive farming and work to revive traditional sustainable agricultural practices with the use of indigenous seeds so as to empower women to become controlling partners in farming operations.

e) In addition to all these activities and others we have not even mentioned, Subhadra continues to promote the education of Adivasi girls as she believes that without this one cannot fight patriarchy.

Her work contributes to achieving the **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #2, #3, #4 & #6**



Link to her website: <https://subhadrakhaperde.in/about/>



RAJBHANDARI Kanti (52) Nepal

A NATURAL BORN LEADER



The Prizewinner is among outstanding candidates who have played a very effective leadership role at local, regional and national levels in two key areas of development: women's empowerment (in one of the countries in the world where women were traditionally the most oppressed) and sound management of the forest environment. (25% of Nepal is covered with forests, but when Kanti was a child the figure was 50%, a huge decrease in a very short time due to poor forest management).

A teacher by profession, she got involved very early on with the local women's base as a volunteer in community forest user groups (CFUG). Very early on, her remarkable abilities as a natural leader, her strength in the face of strong male opposition to her dynamic drive for gender equality, her broad and far-sighted vision caught the attention of Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resources (HIMAWANTI Nepal), a non-

governmental organization created and run by grassroots women. Kanti made the decision to forego marriage and start a family and has spent her life strategically amplifying women's voices to transform Nepalese society. At an early stage, she was ostracized and even threatened because of her fight for gender equality, but she bravely held her ground... and triumphed. She has the skills to work both at the local level with rural women leaders and local politicians and at the national level with provincial and national legislators. A natural born leader.

Her work contributes to achieving the **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #4, #5 & #15** **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Link to her Facebook profile: <https://www.facebook.com/kanti.rajbhandari>

Selected excerpts of messages from laureates (all profiles & photos are published on our website)

Laureate from Uganda, Petty Angida-Omagor «the Prize has brought me recognition in my district and in my country at large and the cash helped expand the growing of soya beans and training of single mothers in childcare. I pray that more rural women from Uganda will be awarded this kind of award.»

Laureate from Nigeria, Etheke Nne Ekeke «the Prize is pushing me into more action to improve the life of women and children. I will use the Prize money for the training of young girls & boys who have dropped out of school.»

Laureate from Armenia, Nune Sarukhanyan «I wish to thank you once again, which obliges me to even serve better the development of Armenian villages and the improvement of the quality of life of Armenian rural women and the protection of their rights.»

Laureate from USA, Hermila Trevino Saucedo «Thank you very, very much for your notice and providing me the opportunity to be among the Laureates of the WWSF Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life 2016. I am so excited and feel so honored to be selected by you...»

Laureate from Kenya, Eva Darare Gonche «I am humbled that the prize award committee has selected me for this precious award. My sincere gratitude goes to Mr. Hoko Funacha, my nominator, who knows the kind of work I was doing with women who are discriminated and looked down upon by society. I am so, so proud to be the first Gabbra woman, the first pastoralist woman of Marsabit county in Kenya, to receive this award and who still struggles to bring gender equality and a dignified life for the voiceless women and girls...»

Laureate from Canada, Peggy Carswell brought small-scale tea growers and farmers in Assam, India, together and showed them how to grow tea and vegetables organically. She says «I want to let you know that being recognized by WWSF for my work came as an unexpected surprise - and

of course, is very much appreciated. Assam has become a very important part of my life, and the friendships, working relationships, culture and environment are inextricable connected to my heart and my soul...»

Laureate from Nigeria, Aku Anagbogu - AWKA «I'm happy to inform you that following the award I became the chairman of the Traditional village council for women and children to give women more strength and determination in the eradication of archaic practices in their community...»

Laureate from Kenya, Bamako Initiative Women's Group «... this prize has given our group a new sense of direction. More than ever, the group members feel challenged to contribute in the preservation of peace in Kenya...»

Laureate from Cameroon, Mary Pekokeh «the award has made me to be more recognized in the community and also enabled me to get a job as a social worker in the department of social services...»

Laureate from Sierra-Leone, Lois Thompson «... words are not enough to express the joy and surprise when I received your letter, the badge and the prize money... May God bless you all and your families...»

Laureate from Zambia, Cecilia Makota – Zambian Women in Agriculture «As an impact of the prize I was nominated in 1999 to the highest policy making body to the agriculture sector in my country, which formulates agriculture policies for the endorsement by the Ministry of Agriculture. I am now the focal point for rural women...»

Laureate from India, Dr. Lata Kachchawah – Society to uplift Rural Economy (SURE) «...I'm deeply indebted to WWSF for awarding me with a prize for my work with rural women. The prize has encouraged me to a great extent to work vigorously with the downtrodden rural population of this backward desert area of western Rajasthan...»

Cont'd.

Continued selected excerpts of messages from laureates

Laureate from Pakistan, Rural Women Welfare Organization "...The WWSF prize money was not only an honor for the organization but an appreciation and recognition of our uneducated but qualified rural women activists who achieved the deserving status in society. We utilized the prize money for surgical operations of 10 poor and needy women who were suffering from the worst gynecological problems..."

Laureate from Philippines, Portia Navye-Rossi "... I was almost discouraged and was planning to end this 20 year old farm project demonstration due to lack of funds but your support gave me renewed energy and inspiration..."

Laureate from Jordan, Al Hadja "...The award event was best celebrated with the special meeting held under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal, Chairperson of the Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development. By nominating me the Fund has upheld the cause of rural women in Jordan and in the world and brought to the attention the status of rural women and their achievements..."

Laureate from Chile, Rosalia Jara "...The prize was a great help for me and my family, as well as my community because part of the prize money was invested to implement my first aid kit with some medicine to benefit my community. The message that I would give to other laureates is that we have to double our efforts to serve and participate in community action..."

Laureate from Nicaragua, Gladys Caceres
After receiving the prize, Gladys initiated an annual Central American Forum for women's creativity in rural life, convinced MAELA, the AgroEcological Movement of Latin America to focus on rural and indigenous women as one of their priorities..."

Laureate from India, Narmada Bai
"A voice against corruption... Narmada Bai will attribute the prize money to the Chilghat school, and says with appreciation that "with Ekta Parishad (a mass-based peoples' movement for land rights), we discovered another world, we were really ignorant... From slaves destined to live in shanty towns of Delhi and Bombay, we have become proud human beings who fight for our rights..."

Laureate from Cameroon, Fomunbod Stella Anne «Vous ne pouvez pas imaginer à quel point le soutien psychologique et moral de ces reconnaissances affecte ma vie et mon travail. Une fois de plus, merci pour cet honneur décerné par la WWSF. Je vous suis entièrement reconnaissante, d'autant plus que votre prix a maintenant un impact sur tous mes engagements..."

Laureate from India, Bukkawar Rajesh Prathiba "...Nous avons le plaisir de vous informer que le prix 2010 a été présenté par l'Honorable Consul Général de la Suisse à Bombay le 15 octobre. La chaîne de TV indienne Doordarshan s'est entretenu avec le Consul Général et la lauréate Prathiba lors d'un débat télévisé en direct le même jour..." (message du nominateur de Bukkawar Rajesh Prathiba)

Laureate from Ghana, Joyce Vida Donkor «will use the prize money in collaboration with the Youth Club for Nature Conservation to acquire bee harvesting equipment and other material to exhibit on 15 October – International Day of Rural Women to boost the women's morale and encourage them to support future initiatives.»

Laureate from Mali, Aïssata Guindo
Après avoir reçu le prix, elle est devenue membre de la Fédération des femmes rurales et a été élue trésorière de l'Union des femmes rurales Ouest africaines. Elles ont élaboré un plan d'action de trois ans.

Laureate from Zimbabwe, Virginia Mupanduki «who became an Ashoka fellow because of her outstanding work in the field of education. She is building a broad national organization consisting of over 40'000 previously illiterate women aiming at eradicating illiteracy, teaching development skills and creating a political voice for women.»

Laureate from India, M. Rani
Visited WWSF in Geneva and shared the beautiful handicraft work done by 1'300 rural women of the SHARE association of which she is president. M. Rani explained what a difference the prize made in her personal life and how grateful she is to WWSF to have given her this recognition.

Laureate from India, Vikas Mahila Multipurpose Cooperative Society "... we are very much encouraged by the recognition and appreciation of our struggle for a just society where women are given the deserved respect and opportunities..."

Laureate from Vietnam, Do Thuy Dien "...What a wonderful global project to recognize these dear workers for a better world right in their own communities..."

Laureate from Peru, Zoila Valdez Chaupi "Mientras la premiada continua trabajando para encontrar ayuda en beneficio de los damnificados ocasionado por el terremoto del 23 de junio, la FCMM le otorga el mejor premio de su vida en reconocimiento a sus desvelos semejantes. Premio que por si solo mejora su autoestima y la obliga a multiplicar sus fuerzas..."

Laureate from Italy, Martine Lintner "... my experience at the prize ceremony in Geneva was that I felt that the women at WWSF and the other laureates invited are committed to the well-being of all people and that the good is stronger than the dark in the world. WWSF is organizing World Rural Women's Day for us farm women to stop for a while and think and be happy about ourselves and realize how important we are for our society..."

Laureate from Germany, Christa Off "... Personally it was my special concern to help improve income situation and sustainability of our farms and specially to keep small family farms alive... We expect more than 1 million guests on Bavarian farms this year which is an enormous value increase for rural areas. My prize money will be for the benefit of a Bavarian Association, supporting rural families in need..."

Laureate from France, Véronique Thev "... Je vais continuer à faire vivre et valoriser le rôle des femmes en milieu rural et aider les enfants à grandir dans le souci du respect du vivant..." Son prix a été médiatisé dans plusieurs journaux et revues.



2021 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life

Deadline 30 April 2021

Dear Partners and Friends,

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) cordially invites you to submit nominations for its 27th annual **Prize for women's creativity in rural life**, honoring and awarding creative and courageous women and women's groups around the world working to improve the quality of life and empower rural communities.

Since inception of the Prize program in 1994, **462** Laureates have been honored for their courage, commitment and creativity with a cash award of US\$ 1000. All prizewinners and a brief description of their work are published on our website www.woman.ch

Given your experience, interest and perspective with regard to issues of sustainable development, human rights, economic development, the environment and climate change, peace building, ending violence and advancing the empowerment of women, we would greatly appreciate your participation and thank you in advance for sending us your candidates. Between 5 to 10 prizewinners will again be selected in 2021 and will be announced to prizewinners and the media on **1 October** and **celebrated on 15 October** – International Day of Rural Women.

Kindly note that the launch of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 – Transforming our world, empowers us to include this ambitious plan in all of our rural women programs. WWSF has therefore slightly modified its prize criteria for submitting nominations, which are presented online in order for you to follow our new guidelines. Your presentation of candidates, respecting the new guidelines, must reach our office no later than 30 April 2021 by post only. Nomination proposals, which are incomplete and not following the guidelines, will not be considered by the Prize Jury.

Please note that WWSF encourages rural women's groups and development organizations to join our annual campaign **"17 Days of Activism for the Empowerment of rural women and their communities 1-17 October – Rural Women Rise and Claim your right to development, equality and peace - Beijing+26 + SDG 6**, is one of our regular initiative, which provides 17 themes to organize for action. Join the campaign: www.woman.ch

We thank you in advance for your partnership and look forward to your candidate(s) in 2021.

Yours sincerely,
Elly Pradervand, WWSF President / CEO / UN Representative

- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Womens-World-Summit-Foundation/123455932640>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WWSFoundation>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elly-pradervand-20b57516/>
- Link to all Laureates: <https://www.woman.ch/campaign-17-days/prize-for-womens-creativity-in-rural-life/>
- Instagram handle: @womensworldsummitfoundation
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WWSFoundation>



WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, P.O.BOX 5490, 1211 Geneva 11, Switzerland
E-mail: wdpca@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch - United Nations consultative status

Thank you for your contribution. IBAN: CH1900 78800 005070 1412 - CCP: Swiss postal acct. 12-100651-8



WWSF PRIZE FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE

Awarded since 1994 by WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation,
Geneva, Switzerland

(462 awards given so far – all laureates are published on our website
www.woman.ch)



Nomination Form 2021

Guidelines available online www.woman.ch

Nomination materials should arrive no later than 30 April through the post.
E-mail nominations are no longer accepted.

CANDIDATE

Family Name: _____

First Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

Tel. _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____ Internet _____

NOMINATOR

Family Name: _____

First Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

Tel. _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____ Internet _____

Relationship to the Candidate

Description of the Candidate's work (2-3 pages)

List of supporting materials

- .. Endorsement letters
- .. Newspaper articles
- .. Publications
- .. Other (photos of the candidate and videos, etc. if available)

International Prize Jury:

Elly Pradervand (Switzerland); Gulzar Samji (Canada); Jyoti Macwan (India); Anne Pelagie Yotchout (Cameroon)

Next awards in 2021

Nomination materials should arrive no later than 30 April through the post and be addressed to:

WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490, 1211 Geneva 11, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 Fax: +41 (0) 22 738 82 48 - www.woman.ch - wdpca@wwsf.ch



WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life

Nomination Guidelines - Next prize awards in 2021

Awarded since 1994 by the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF), an international, non-profit, humanitarian NGO, serving the implementation of women's and children's rights and the UN development agenda - the Prize (US\$ 1000 per laureate) honors women and women's groups around the world exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage and commitment for the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities (462 prizes awarded so far). The Prize aims to draw international attention to laureates' contributions to sustainable development, household food security and peace, thus generating recognition and support for their projects. While rural women are vital in providing examples of sound practice in their communities, they still do not have full access to tools needed for development, such as education, credit, land and water rights and participation in decision making. By highlighting and awarding creative development models, innovations and experiences enhancing the quality of rural life, WWSF participates in addressing the eradication of rural poverty, gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment.

Eligibility

- Nominees should be women and women's groups currently active in rural life whose efforts have not yet been acknowledged by other awards. **They may not nominate themselves.**
- The nominating organization or individual must have direct experience of the nominee's work. The nominator may not nominate a family member, be a member of the nominated organization, nor can an organization nominate its senior officer (i.e. founder, president etc.). No more than three nominees may be presented by the same person/organization in the same year. The nominator commits to organize an award ceremony if the candidate is selected for the Prize and invites the media.

Nominations must include the following items:

- ① Original signed letter of nomination indicating how the nominator knows the nominee and for how long.
- ② Biographical data on the nominee (full name, age, education, place of work, background) and a detailed history of the nominee's creative project (written by the nominator) including her motivation, innovative aspects, any obstacles overcome, and the impact in the community. Nominations must specify whether the nominee has received or is currently being nominated for other awards.
- ③ At least two original and signed endorsement letters from organizations or individuals other than the nominator and, if possible, additional supporting materials such as newspaper articles or publications.
- ④ A few labeled photographs clearly showing the nominee(s) for possible publication.

Criteria

The long-term impact of the Prize depends on the integrity of the nominators and the quality of their nominations. The Prize is an award for successful accomplishments rather than a fund for future projects. The nominee's history, written by the nominator (2-3 pages) must demonstrate the creativity, courage and sometimes sacrifice in the efforts by the candidate at the grassroots level to improve life in rural communities. Descriptions should be as specific as possible.

Any of the following elements should be emphasized:

- * Exceptional courage and perseverance in improving rural life
- * Creativity in the approach
- * Preservation of and respect for the environment (if the candidate is involved with the environment)
- * Continuing impact in the community
- * Participation in the WWSF 17 Days of Activism Campaign 1-17 October with 17 themes is encouraged
- * Underline how the work of the candidate promotes the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 – Transforming our world. Link: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

Laureates are selected by an international Jury composed of WWSF Directors and Advisors; they are announced officially on 1 October and celebrated in their countries on **15 October – International Day of Rural Women**. WWSF has a commitment to award annually 5 - 10 creative rural women leaders and women's groups around the world. To read about past laureates, visit our web site www.woman.ch



WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490, 1211 Geneva 11, Switzerland
E-mail: wwsf@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch

Nomination materials must arrive no later than 30 April through the post only.



UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) / Beijing+25 (2020)

In 2020, the global community marks the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission - Sixty-fourth session, planned for 9–20 March 2020 was cancelled. We share with you below the link to the draft «**Political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women**», which «Calls upon the United Nations system to continue to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action...» <https://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2020/L.1>

UN World Conferences on Women

The United Nations has organized four world conferences on women. These took place in Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995. The last was followed by a series of five-year reviews.

1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing marked a significant turning point for the global agenda for gender equality. *The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted unanimously by 189 countries, is an agenda for women's empowerment and considered the key global policy document on gender equality. It sets strategic objectives and actions for the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality in 12 critical areas of concern:*

*Women and poverty
Education and training of women
Women and health
Violence against women
Women and armed conflict
Women and the economy
Women in power and decision-making
Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women
Human rights of women
Women and the media
Women and the environment
The girl-child*

In 1995, by the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, governments adopted a 38-paragraph declaration and the 129-page Beijing Platform for Action.

The Beijing conference built on political agreements reached at the three previous global conferences on women, and consolidated five decades of legal advances aimed at securing the equality of women with men in law and in practice.

Follow-up to Beijing+25

Due to the sudden COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the following planned 3 events and reviews have either been cancelled, postponed or rescheduled.

9-20 March 2020

UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York

April/May 2020

Global Forum kick-off in Mexico (*link Global Forum for Gender Equality - UNWomen: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25>*)

July 2020

Global convening in Paris (*link Global Forum for Gender Equality - UNWomen: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25>*)

1 October 2020

(virtual event confirmed)

High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly, New York, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Beijing+25.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

«This high-level meeting of the General Assembly will focus on the overall theme, 'Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls'.»

Source: https://sdg.iisd.org/events/unga-high-level-meeting-to-celebrate-25th-anniversary-of-beijing-womens-conference/?utm_source=PassBlue+List&utm_campaign=44419a9ff8-PB_RSS_GCTV_Aug2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4795f55662-44419a9ff8-54987205



Image: Opening of the UN Beijing Conference in 1995. (30'000 women from around the world met to ensure that the Beijing Platform for Action will transform the world and end unacceptable inequalities in most parts of the world.

Beijing+25

**Mr. President,
How long must
rural women wait
for their right to
development,
peace and equality?**



Empowered Rural Women can change the world and help realise the SDG Agenda 2030. Celebrate Intl. Day of Rural Women 15 October. WWSF calls on world leaders to give credit where it's due.



“Women must lead the change. If women do not lead, we will continue to be beggars in the corridors of power.”

Gertrude I. Mongella, President of the Pan-African Parliament (Chair of the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women).

UN Women

«Gender equality: Women's rights in review 25 years after Beijing»

Marking the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as the first time that progress on the implementation of the Platform is reviewed in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this report takes an integrated approach to reporting on progress, gaps, and challenges related to the advancement of gender equality and women's rights. It uses striking data to examine six themes that link the Platform's critical areas of concern and the Sustainable Development Goals:

- Inclusive development, shared prosperity, and decent work
- Poverty eradication, social protection, and social services
- Freedom from violence, stigma, and stereotypes
- Participation, accountability, and gender-responsive institutions
- Peaceful and inclusive societies
- Environmental conservation, climate action, and resilience-building.

To ensure that progress is accelerated and achieved across all these themes, the report calls for four catalysts for change:

1. Support women's movements and leadership,
2. Harness technology for gender equality,
3. Ensure no one is left behind, and
4. Match commitments with resources.

It highlights that what's needed now is a concerted drive to scale up, expand, and deepen policies and programmes that can accelerate the implementation of the entire Platform for Action for this generation and the next.»

View online/download: <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/gender-equality-womens-rights-in-review-en.pdf?la=en&vs=934>



Women's Rights



Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

The CEDAW Convention defines the right of women to be free from discrimination and sets the core principles to protect this right. It establishes an agenda for national action to end discrimination and provides the basis for achieving equality between men and women through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life as well as education, health and employment. CEDAW is the only Human Rights treaty that affirms the reproductive rights of women. The Convention has been ratified by 189 States, making it one of the most ratified treaties. States parties to the Convention must submit periodic reports on Women's status in their respective countries.

«The States Parties to the present Convention,

Noting that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women,
Noting that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including distinction based on sex,

Noting that the States Parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights have the obligation to ensure the equal rights of men and women to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights,

Considering the international conventions concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights of men and women,

Noting also the resolutions, declarations and recommendations adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights of men and women,

Concerned, however, that despite these various instruments extensive discrimination against women continues to exist,

Recalling that discrimination against women violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries, hampers the growth of the prosperity of society and the family and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity,

Concerned that in situations of poverty women have the least

access to food, health, education, training and opportunities for employment and other needs,

Convinced that the establishment of the new international economic order based on equity and justice will contribute significantly towards the promotion of equality between men and women,

Emphasizing that the eradication of apartheid, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and domination and interference in the internal affairs of States is essential to the full enjoyment of the rights of men and women,

Affirming that the strengthening of international peace and security, the relaxation of international tension, mutual co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, general and complete disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control, the affirmation of the principles of justice, equality and mutual benefit in relations among countries and the realization of the right of peoples under alien and colonial domination and foreign occupation to self-determination and independence, as well as respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, will promote social progress and development and as a consequence will contribute to the attainment of full equality between men and women,

Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields,

Bearing in mind the great contribution of women to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, so far not fully recognized, the social significance of maternity and the role of both parents in the family and in the upbringing of children, and aware that the role of women in procreation should not be a basis for discrimination but that the upbringing of children requires a sharing of responsibility between men and women and society as a whole,

Aware that a change in the traditional role of men as well as the role of women in society and in the family is needed to achieve full equality between men and women,

Determined to implement the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and, for that purpose, to adopt the measures required for the elimination of such discrimination in all its forms and manifestations,

Have agreed on the following: ...»

To read about the 30 Articles of the Convention, visit the link:
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

Introduction to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants & Other People Working in Rural Areas (Launched on 17 December 2018)

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028881>

“This Declaration is an important tool which should guarantee and realize the rights of the peasants and other working people in rural areas. We urge all states to implement the Declaration in conscientiousness and transparent manner, guaranteeing peasants and rural communities the access to and control over land, peasant’s seeds, water and other natural resources. As peasants, we need the protection and the respect for our values and our role in society to achieve food sovereignty,” said Elizabeth Mpofu, a peasant farmer from Zimbabwe and La Via Campesina General Coordinator.



Elizabeth Mpofu,
General Coordinator
La Via Campesina,
“Building an International
Movement for Food and
Seed Sovereignty”

“As peasants all over the world, we are going to mobilize and we will join hands in our respective countries to lobby for the establishment of policies and strategies that contribute towards recognition, enforcement and accountability. Violations of our rights through land grabbing, forced evictions, gender discrimination, lack of social protection, failing rural development policies and criminalization can now, with the formal international recognition of this Declaration, be addressed with increased legal and political weight.

Peasants Rights are Human Rights! - Globalize the struggle! Globalize hope!”

source: <https://www.eurovia.org/finally-un-general-assembly-adopts-peasant-rights-declaration-now-focus-is-on-its-implementation/>



Introduction to the UN General Assembly announcement

«**Recalling** the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, which recognize the inherent dignity and worth and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Taking into account the principles proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,³ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁴ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁴ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁶ the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,⁷ relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization and other relevant international instruments that have been adopted at the universal or regional level,

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Right to Development,⁸ and that the right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized,

Reaffirming also the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,⁹

Reaffirming further that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and recalling that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

Recognizing the special relationship and interaction between peasants and other people working in rural areas and the land, water and nature to which they are attached and on which they depend for their livelihood,

Recognizing also the past, present and future contributions of peasants and other people working in rural areas in all regions of the world to development and to conserving and improving biodiversity, which constitute the basis of food and agricultural production throughout the world, and their contribution in ensuring the right to adequate food and food security, which are fundamental to attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁰

2. Resolution 217 A (III).

3. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 660, No. 9464.

4. Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

5. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

6. Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

7. Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

8. Resolution 41/128, annex.

9. Resolution 61/295, annex.

10. Resolution 70/1.

To read about the full Declaration use this link: <https://undocs.org/en/A/C.3/73/L.30>

Link to Universal Declaration Human Rights
<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>



About the Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life

The prize (US \$ 1,000 per winner) has been awarded since 1994 by the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF), a non-profit humanitarian, international NGO based in Geneva, serving with its annual campaigns, world days, awards and calls to action the advancement of the rights of women and children. 462 prizes have been awarded in more than 140 countries over 27 years (1994-2020).

The annual award honors creative women leaders and women's groups from around the world, who demonstrate courage and exceptional commitment to improving the quality of life in rural communities.

The prize attracts attention to the contributions by the laureates to sustainable development, household food security, peacebuilding, thus generating recognition and support for their projects. While rural women are essential in providing examples of good practice in their communities, they still do not have full access to tools necessary for sustainable development, such as education, credit, their right to land and clean drinking water, and participation in decision-making. By highlighting and rewarding creative models of development, innovations and experiences improving the quality of rural life, WWSF participates in the elimination of rural poverty, the need for gender equality and the empowerment of women in general. Most of the laureates are involved, directly or indirectly, to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030.

To find out more about the prizewinners (all published online) and consult the Nomination guidelines for the 2021 candidates, visit our [website](#) and see pages 14 to 16.

WWSF convenes three different campaigns, two prize awards and two World Days

1) 17 Days of activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities (1-17 Oct.)

17

Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities
 Jours d'Activisme pour l'autonomisation des femmes rurales et leurs communautés
 Días Activismo para el empoderamiento de las mujeres rurales y sus comunidades
 Tage Aktivismus für die Stärkung der Frauen im ländlichen Raum und
 in ihren Gemeinden

1-17 October

WWSF seeks to mobilize via its [17 Days of activism Kit](#) (17 themes) women leaders in rural areas and their communities. This annual empowerment campaign is designed to increase local and national activities and to stimulate rural women's claim for the basic right to development while connecting their local campaigns with the relevant SDG targets for 2030. WWSF awards an annual Prize (US\$ 1000 per prizewinner) to creative rural women leaders and grassroots groups, giving credit where it's due. Prizewinners are published at www.woman.ch (462 Laureates awarded to date). An additional occasional Prize was launched in 2017 to honor SEWA (India) with the [Rural Women Movements award](#) (US\$ 10'000). WWSF co-created in Beijing the International Day of Rural Women - 15 October.

2) 19 Days of activism for prevention of violence against children and youth (1-19 Nov.)

19

Days of Activism Prevention abuse and violence against Children/Youth
 Jours d'activisme Prévention abus/violence envers Enfants/Jeunes
 Días Activismo Prevención del Abuso/violencia contra los Niños/Jóvenes
 Tage Aktivismus Prävention von Missbrauch/Gewalt gegen Kinder/Jugendliche

1-19 November

WWSF seeks to identify and mobilize through its [19 Days Prevention Kit](#) (including 19 themes) organizations and grassroots groups working for the implementation of the rights of the child and to mobilize its members to organize annual events and activities. The campaign youth is designed to increase local and national activities and encourages the implementation of relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially [Goal 16.2](#). WWSF also awards active coalition member organizations with an annual Innovation Prize for Innovative Prevention Programs (58 awards to date).

3) 365 Days of activism for the elimination of violence against women and youth in CH

365

Jours d'activisme (16 thèmes) pour l'élimination de la violence envers femmes/jeunes - CH
 AktionsTage (16 Themen) für die Abschaffung von Gewalt an Frauen & Jugendliche - CH
 giorni di attivismo (16 temi) per l'eliminazione della violenza contro le donne i giovani - CH
 days of activism (16 themes) for the elimination of violence against women and youth - CH

Campagne annuelle/Jahres Kampagne/Campagna annuale/Year long Campaign

WWSF organizes since 2009 the Swiss White Ribbon Campaign, which aims to eliminate violence against women and youth by 2030. The campaign publishes a Toolkit "[365 Days of Activism](#)" (including 16 themes and seeks to mobilize men, women and youth to pledge online: "[not to commit, excuse, or remain silent about violence against women and youth](#)". The Swiss [Youth Engage](#)-White Ribbon program offers workshop trainings to become [Youth Engage](#) ambassadors/representatives CH and take the campaign pledge into schools, universities, enterprises, clubs & institutions. For more information, visit our websites in French and German – www.ruban-blanc.ch & www.weisse-schleife.ch



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15 Oct. 2020

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN

Journée internationale des femmes rurales
Día internacional de la mujer rural
Internationaler Tag der Landfrauen
اليوم العالمي للمرأة الريفية
世界农村妇女日

2020 Theme: Celebrating all award winners receiving the
WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life



CREATED IN 1995 AT THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE BY THREE INTERNATIONAL NGOS,
THE DAY HAS BECOME IN 2007 AN OFFICIAL ANNUAL UN DAY. WWSF PROMOTES
AND AWARDS ITS ANNUAL PRIZE FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE ON THAT DAY.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation • Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes
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