



The IWFC is hosting a session in conjunction with the United Nations and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW). This session is one of several "Parallel Events" held between March 13 and 24 which are offered by the NGO CSW in New York during the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us in New York on March 17 for the IWFC session

## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE: INNOVATION AND WOMEN IN POWER**

**Friday, March 17, 2017**

**4:30 pm – 6:00pm**

**Salvation Army Auditorium**

**221 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street (between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

**New York, New York 10022**

**Session Sponsor:** *International Women's Forum Connecticut (IWFC)*

In an era of disruption and innovation, Economic Empowerment will be the driving force for women's successful and equal participation in society. This panel of outstanding women leaders will share opportunities, tools and innovations they have used successfully to drive change and bring women into powerful leadership positions.

This timely panel discussion will be moderated by IWFC member and President Emeritus **Valarie Gelb**, CEO of Gelb Global Business Growth Advisors, and include the following panelists:

**Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro**, President and CEO, Global Fund for Women

**Christine A. McConnell**, Executive Coach, President and Founder, The McConnell Group

**Carolyn Miles**, President and CEO, Save the Children

**Kavita Ramdas**, Philanthropy Changemaker and former President and CEO, Global Fund for Women

There is no cost to attend, and the event is open to the public. Early registration is advised. You can register to attend Parallel Events on the following website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngo-csw-61-forum-registration-registration-30995921636>

This registration will provide you access to the schedule for all Parallel Events during the course of the UN Commission on the Status of Women meetings.

After registering with the NGO CSW/NY, please email Kate Larson ([Kate@IWFC.org](mailto:Kate@IWFC.org)) to confirm your RSVP for this event so that we can anticipate our attendance.

The Salvation Army is located at 221 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The following link reflects the location of all the Parallel Sessions: <https://www.ngocsw.org/ngo-csw-forum/ngo-csw-forum-parallel-events>

## Our Moderator and Panelists:



Moderator: **Valarie Gelb** is CEO of Gelb Global Business Growth Advisors, a consulting service providing viable business and brand strategies to businesses and non-profits. Prior to this, Valarie was Chief Sales Development Officer and Executive Vice President, MasterCard Worldwide, 1997 to 2010. She was one of the eighteen top executives who served on the Management Committee chaired by the CEO and was responsible for the global sales force in 210 countries and territories. Her expertise lies in strategic development, global customer due diligence, products and solutions, sales, marketing, business development, multi-channel distribution, operations, technology, e-commerce and risk management. Valarie holds an MBA and Undergraduate Business Degree with emphasis in Finance and Economics from Baldwin Wallace University. She served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Global Fund for Women. Valarie serves on the Board of MPOWERD, Connecticut Innovations and the International Women's Forum CT. She also serves as a University of Connecticut Student Advisor to MBA and Ph.D. students.



**Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro** is President and CEO of Global Fund for Women. She is an activist for women and girls' health and human rights, and passionate about using philanthropy and technology to drive social change. Born in Kenya, Musimbi traces her passion for human rights, peace, and justice to her Quaker family and community. She is one of 10 children – every daughter given the same educational opportunities as the sons. "I want the same for every girl and woman, no exceptions," Musimbi has said. Musimbi's early work focused on the self-determination of African peoples and the abolition of apartheid in South Africa. She was a national student leader who quickly took leadership on a wider stage, serving on United Nations and other International and Ecumenical Youth Forums, including an early role as an Executive Secretary for the Lutheran World Federation. In 1998, Musimbi was appointed general secretary (CEO) of the World YWCA, the first non-white woman to hold the role. She made the organization a go-to organization for young women's leadership and for HIV prevention and care. She also transformed the World YWCA into a young-women-led organization, with young women under 30 making up 55% of the Global Board of trustees.

Before joining Global Fund for Women as CEO, Musimbi was Director for Population and Reproductive Health at David and Lucile Packard Foundation, managing the \$30 million grantmaking portfolio. During her time at the Global Fund for Women, Musimbi has seen the organization surpass \$100 million in grantmaking and spearheaded a successful merger with another non-profit. She continues to expand the organization's influence through her frequent contributions to major media outlets and many speaking engagements in prominent global forums.

Musimbi has a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Texas, Austin, and a doctorate in Feminist Theology from San Francisco Theological Seminary. In 2014, she was named one of the 21 women leaders for the 21st century by Women's E-News. In 2015, Forbes magazine named her one of 10 women "power brands" working for gender equality. Musimbi serves on the Aspen Leaders Council, the CARE Board, the UN High Level Taskforce for Reproductive Health, UN Women Civil Society Advisory Board, and on The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)'s Scientific Advisory Board.



**Chris McConnell**, President and Founder of The McConnell Group, is a highly respected executive coach, organizational and business consultant. A trusted advisor, Chris is a valued partner in her work with business leaders, senior executives, senior and emerging women, entrepreneurs, innovators private individuals globally, and high net worth families, their leaders and generational successors. Chris is recognized for mastery in coaching, for client effectiveness, for her signature presence of transformational and sustaining impact. Chris is a Member of the Women's Forum of New York, a by invitation community of preeminent New York women leaders and a Member of the International Women's Forum, the esteemed organization through which Women's Forums globally are affiliated. She is a Member of the Leadership Council, Athena Center for Leadership Studies at Barnard College, a pioneering force in undergraduate women's education. She is a Commissioner of the Women's Refugee Commission, a non-profit advocating for laws, policies and programs to improve the lives and protect the rights of refugee women and children, and advisor to its Executive Director. She is an advisor on development and strategy to the President and CEO of Breakthrough, an organization seeking to make discrimination and violence-against women and girls unacceptable globally. Chris is a content expert and

frequent speaker on topics including personal and professional development, leadership, growing and succeeding, living purposeful lives and careers, women and their professional and life choices, next chapter planning, and thought leadership in executive coaching. She is a contributor to articles on women and professional programs and retreats. She is a leader among coaches, a valued mentor and advisor. Chris is a passionate and vocal trailblazer in her focus to bridge executive and philanthropic women leaders and their worlds leveraging the collective and individual power and impact.



**Carolyn Miles** is President and Chief Executive Officer of Save the Children, an organization that gives children in the United States and around the world a healthy start, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. The global Save the Children movement currently serves over 185 million children in the US and in more than 120 countries. As a global organization, Save the Children has committed to driving down the numbers of preventable deaths of children under 5, ensuring every child gets a high-quality basic education and protecting all children from harm.

Miles joined the organization in 1998, was COO from 2004-2011, and became President and CEO in September 2011. Under her senior leadership, the organization has more than doubled the number of children it reaches with nutrition, health, education and other programs. Resources were just under \$700m in 2016. Miles' signature issues include hunger, learning outcomes, and ending preventable child deaths. Prior to Save the Children, she worked in the private sector in Hong Kong for American Express and as an entrepreneur. While in Asia, she confronted the deprivation of the region's children, which motivated her to dedicate her life to their welfare.

Miles has served on numerous boards, including Blackbaud, InterAction, USGLC, MFAN, Academy of Education, Arts and Sciences, FSG and the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business, where she received her MBA. In 2015, Miles was named one of the 50 World's Greatest Leaders by *Fortune* magazine and inducted into the CT Women's Hall of Fame. She is married with 3 children.



**Kavita Ramdas** is a visionary leader and globally recognized advocate for gender equity and justice. She is an inspirational speaker and thought commentator on the challenges facing philanthropy and civil society as they seek to advance equitable and sustainable development and gender and racial equity. From 1996-2010 Kavita led and transformed the Global Fund for Women as its second President and CEO to become the largest public foundation for women's rights in the world. She is recognized as a leader in the global movement, actively engaged in advancing the power, visibility and voice of women and girls. After three years heading the Ford Foundation's operations in South Asia, she has spent the last year as Senior Advisor to the Foundation's President on Global Strategy. She is now an independent consultant in New York.

A gifted communicator, Kavita has spoken at numerous venues including the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the World Economic Forum, TED, and the United Nations. Media appearances include NOW with the Bill Moyers Show, the PBS NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, Democracy Now! and CNN. A natural entrepreneur, Kavita founded a program on Social Entrepreneurship that is housed at Stanford University. She is a member of Aspen Institute's Henry Crown Fellows Program. Kavita has served on numerous boards including those of Princeton University, Mount Holyoke College, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Kavita currently serves on the Investment Committee of the C&A Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund's Board of Trustees. Born in India and educated across the globe, Kavita speaks five languages, loves to sing both on stage and in the shower and cook with her grown daughter Mira Ahmad. She lives with her husband Zulfiqar Ahmad and potted plants in Brooklyn, NY.

#### **About the NGO CSW:**

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY (NGO CSW/NY), supports the work of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and UN Women. NGO CSW/NY is an untiring advocate with Member States for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across the globe in support of the work of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and UN Women. NGO CSW/NY supports the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

UN Security Resolution 1325, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.