

# A JUST WORLD POST COVID-19:

CRITICAL DIALOGUES ON RELIGION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER JUSTICE



**Dr. Nora Khalaf Elledge**  
Joint Learning Initiative on Faith  
and Local Communities



**Rev. Bafana Khumalo**  
Sonke Gender Justice



**Pragya Adhikari**  
Islamic Relief Nepal



**Marianna Leite**  
Christian Aid



**Mike Battcock**  
UK Foreign Commonwealth and  
Development Office

**Launch Event | Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020 | 14:00 - 15:30 CEST | PaRD Virtual Forum | #PaRD2020**

Co-Chaired by Shahin Ashraf MBE (Islamic Relief Worldwide), Dr. Rachel Tavernor (Side by Side) and Marie-Christine Lecompte (TBC, Global Affairs Canada)



A collaborative initiative of the PaRD Gender Equality and Empowerment Workstream

**PaRD**

International Partnership on  
Religion and Sustainable Development



@PaRDSecretariat



RSVP: [info@pard.international](mailto:info@pard.international)

[www.partner-religion-development.org](http://www.partner-religion-development.org)

## 1. PaRD Virtual Forum: Gender Equality and Empowerment Session

The PaRD Virtual Annual Forum will facilitate open and forward-thinking discussions between various donor organisations, governmental entities, multilateral agencies and Faith Based/Faith Inspired organisations (FBOs/FIOs) and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

As part of the PaRD Virtual Forum, the Gender Equality and Empowerment Workstream will host an interactive event on COVID-19, Religion, Sustainable Development and Gender Justice (90 minutes). The event will be the launch of a series of interactive dialogues that will be hosted by the workstream throughout 2020 / 2021.

## 2. Logistics

**Date:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020 | **Time:** 14:00 – 15:30 CEST | **At:** PaRD Virtual Forum

**Platform:** Microsoft Teams, [link to join the meeting](#)

**Co-Chaired by:** Shahin Ashraf, Rachel Tavernor, and Marie-Christine Lecompte

## 3. Context

The COVID-19 pandemic presents a significant challenge to achieving Agenda 2030, to Leave No One Behind. The COVID-19 crisis is increasing pre-existing inequalities in political, social and economic spheres. Around the world, gender roles have a marked impact on exposure, transmission, and outcome patterns. Women and girls are experiencing intersecting injustices, including discrimination based on gender, race, age, ability and class.

As business as usual is paused, stakeholders have an opportunity to discern: How can the COVID-19 pandemic be catalyst for strong action towards Agenda 2030? What action is required for achieving a world rooted in equality and justice for all? Where are the partnerships and pathways for achieving Gender Equality and Empowerment (SDG5) by 2030? Why are faith actors a vital stakeholder in this roadmap?

## 4. Proposed Format (90 minutes)

Time CEST	Activity	Lead Person(s)
13:45 – 14:00	<b>Open Microsoft Teams Meeting for participants to join.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Test speaker microphones, slides and audio.</li></ul>	<b>PaRD Secretariat</b>
14:00 – 14:05	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>Marie-Christine Lecompte</b> Global Affairs Canada (TBC)
14:05 – 14:10	<b>The PaRD Gender Equality and Empowerment Workstream</b>	<b>Dr. Rachel Tavernor</b> Side by Side

14:10 – 14:20	<b>NEW REPORT   Looking Back in order to Look Forward:</b> The Role of Religious Actors in Gender Equality since the Beijing Declaration	<b>Dr. Nora Khalaf-Elledge</b> Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities
14:10 – 14:20	<b>Spotlight 1: Faith, Feminism, Race and COVID-19</b>	<b>Rev. Bafana Khumalo</b> Sonke Gender Justice
14:20 – 14:30	<b>Spotlight 2: Stakeholders in Leaving No One Behind</b>	<b>Pragya Adhikari</b> Islamic Relief Nepal
14:30 – 14:40	<b>Spotlight 3: Economies, Trade and Financial Flows</b>	<b>Dr. Marianna Leite</b> Christian Aid
14:40 – 14:50	<b>Spotlight 4: SDGs, Partnerships and Religion</b>	<b>Mike Battcock</b> UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
14:50 – 15:30	<b>Questions and Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for members to share insights.</li> </ul>	<b>Shahin Ashraf MBE</b> Islamic Relief Worldwide

## 5. Speaker Biographies

**Dr. Nora Khalaf-Elledge** is a Gender and Development consultant and a Post-doctoral Fellow at the Faith & Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths University. She holds a PhD from the University of London that explored the intersection of religion and gender within international development policy and practice. She has worked with international development organisations including Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI), the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI), Information Technology and Agricultural Development (ITAD), the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), as well as the gender offices of multiple United Nations agencies. Nora holds a Master's degree in Gender and Development from IDS and a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Development Studies from the University of Sussex.

**Bafana Khumalo** is Director of Strategic Partnerships at Sonke and one of the organisation's co-founders. He served as co-director of the organisation from 2006-2010 and as manager of Sonke's International Programmes Unit and the Policy, Advocacy and Research Unit from 2010-2011. Bafana has a long and accomplished track record in the NGO sector. He was senior gender technical advisory for EngenderHealth South Africa. In that capacity, he worked with the South African National AIDS Council, the National Department of Health, provincial and district AIDS Councils, and the Department of Basic Education to integrate gender into all HIV-related public health strategies and activities, incorporate comprehensive HIV prevention strategies and information into all education-related policies and programs for schools and communities, and support the South African government and community organisations in quality assessment and improvement of HIV prevention services.

**Pragya Adhikar** is a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) and Communications Specialist, working for Islamic Relief Nepal. Pragya has been working in the development and humanitarian sector for over 8 years. Her experience and expertise spans Disaster Risk Reduction, WASH and Livelihoods, with protection being the cross cutting theme in her work. In the last 6 years, she has specialised in MEAL and program quality. Before joining Islamic Relief Nepal, she worked with Care International and Oxfam in Nepal. As part of the Leave No One Behind Agenda, Pragya has worked with a range of stakeholders, and will be sharing her expertise in her spotlight talk.

**Dr Marianna Leite** is Global Lead for Gender and Inequality at Christian Aid. She is an international human rights lawyer, activist and specialist in gender and development. Dr. Marianna works on the development of holistic approaches to gender and intersecting inequalities that ensure equality of outcomes and rights for all.

**Mike Battcock** is a policy adviser in the Inclusive Societies Department in the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office. Mike has worked for more than 30 years in international development from spice processing in Sri Lanka and small business development in Bangladesh to global LGBT rights and freedom of religion or belief. Mike leads on working with faith groups; coordinated the development of the Department for International Development's Faith Partnership Principles and established the two significant UK Aid Connect programmes on freedom of religion or belief.