



# RFSU FORUM

**26th -27th August 2025**

**Imagining Feminist Futures:  
Intersectional Feminist Solidarity in  
Times of Anti-Gender Politics**

**Program and Speaker Biographies**





## PROGRAM DAY 1 – TUESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2025 AT 15.00-19.00

All times in Swedish Time, (Central European Summer Time, CEST)

[Click here to find your time zone](#)

Zoom: <https://rfsu-se.zoom.us/j/89442927180?pwd=qj1acRRoBxzHtC3xmQVEugLfxqqela.1>

Meeting ID: 894 4292 7180. Password: 661242

15:00 (CEST) - Zoom room opens

15:15-15:30 Opening and Welcome (Ingela Holmertz, RFSU Secretary General)

**15:30-17:00 Panel I: Intersectional Feminist Alliances in a Context of Anti-Gender Politics.**

How has intersectional feminist activism and solidarity challenged anti-gender politics and disrupted patriarchal and colonial legacies? In this panel, scholars and activists critically reflect on and share experiences from different continents: Southern Europe (Daniela Chironi, Scuola Normale Superiore), Brazil (Lena Gemzöe and Thais Machado-Borges, Stockholm University), Nicaragua and Central America (Eveling Carrasco, independent) and Southern Africa (Yaliwe Clarke, independent, Vivienne Mentor-Lalu, JASS).

**17:15-18:45 Panel II: What Has Worked for Us? Practical experiences from SRHR Movements and Civil Society Organisations.**

In this panel, we will listen to activists and human rights defenders sharing their experiences and analysis of local, national and transnational intersectional feminist alliance building and solidarity. We will hear from Abdul-Wadud Mohammed, LGBT+ Rights (Ghana); Joshi Leban and Sara García, Quimera (Central America), Wambui Kimani, Zamara Foundation (Kenya); and Monica Menini, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir (Argentina).

18:45-19:00 Conclusions and Remarks, Day 1





## PROGRAM DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2025 AT 10.00-17.30

All times in Swedish Time, (Central European Summer Time, CEST)

[Click here to find your time zone](#)

Zoom: <https://rfsu-se.zoom.us/j/82409037271?pwd=vIBSaDkBNclaVL6rJVW7XfwET1FqI3.1>  
Meeting ID: 824 0903 7271. Password: 250214

### **10.00-11:15 Panel III: What Has Worked for Us? Practical experiences from SRHR Movements and Civil Society Organisations.**

In this panel, we will listen to activists and human rights defenders sharing their experiences and analysis of local, national and transnational intersectional feminist alliance building and solidarity. We will hear from Alonzo Dorian Dixon, Inclusive Development Initiative (IDI), Liberia; Beka Gabadadze, Queer Association Temida, Georgia; Michael Tetteh Doku, Curious Minds, Ghana; and Sonali Gunasekera, Sri Lanka Family Planning Association.

### **13:00-14:30 Panel IV: Alternative Forms of Resource Mobilisation and Fundraising.**

Recent drastic cuts in international development aid have created a funding crisis with a severe impact on SRHR, feminist and social justice organisations. This panel will discuss the consequences and explore alternative strategies of resource mobilization to sustain intersectional feminist and LGBTQI+ rights work in the current political context.

Panelists: Samuel Shapiro, The Other Foundation, South Africa; Ketevan Tchelidze, Tanadgoma, Georgia; Katrina Anderson, The Global Philanthropy Project (GPP), U.S.; and Oleksandra Brashovetska, FRIDA.

### **15:00 -17:30 Hybrid Workshop – Limited space.**

The agenda and Zoom link will be shared separately with participants who have been accepted to this limited space workshop.





# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## Opening and welcome

### **Ingela Holmertz, RFSU**

Ingela is the Secretary General of RFSU (The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education), the Swedish member association of IPPF. Ingela has a long and extensive leadership experience from humanitarian, development and rights-based organizations. Before taking up the position at RFSU, Ingela was the Secretary General of ActionAid Sweden and a member of the international leadership team of ActionAid, a global federation working for a world free from poverty and injustice. For more than 20 years, Ingela worked in various senior leadership positions within the Red Cross and Red Crescent federation in Sweden and internationally. Ingela is a committed feminist and committed to fight for equal rights and opportunities for all people.

### **Belén Sobrino, RFSU (Forum Convenor)**

Belen is a feminist activist working for the last 20 years in the human rights and development sector. Belén holds two postgraduate degrees, one in Human Rights from the Oslo University and another in Political Economy of Violence and Development (SOAS/UK). She has international working experience from several Latin American countries, Maghreb and Middle East, Ethiopia, Burundi and EU countries. She brings extensive international work experience in equality and non-discrimination issues together with solid academic background on women's human rights, gender and development theory and policy. She joined RFSU in 2022 and currently works as an advisor at RFSU's International Unit.





### Speaker biographies - Continued

#### **Åsa Eriksson, RFSU (Forum Convenor)**

Åsa joined RFSU in 2018 and is working as an SRHR adviser in the organisation's Knowledge and Learning Unit. She holds a PhD in Gender Studies from Stockholm University and is currently also working part time as a researcher at the Multicultural Center (MKC). Her research interests include reproductive justice, anti-gender campaigns, and intersectional perspectives on global work, organising and resistance. Åsa has worked for the past 20 years with social justice, feminist and development organisations, based in Sweden, South Africa and Kenya.

### **Panel I: Intersectional Feminist Alliances in a Context of Anti-Gender Politics**

**Moderator, Åsa Eriksson, RFSU**

#### **Speakers**

#### **Daniela Chironi (she/her), Scuola Normale Superiore**

Daniela Chironi is an Assistant Professor in Political Science at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Italy, where she teaches the PhD course Gender in Social Movements. She obtained her PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the European University Institute. Her research and published articles focus on political participation and protest, with specific reference to feminism and intersectionality, environmentalism, and youth participation; the connections between social movements and political parties; and the electoral consequences of economic inequality. →







### **Speaker biographies - Continued**

Daniela Chironi (she/her), Scuola Normale Superiore (continued)

Daniela has published widely on the Italian transfeminist movement Non Una Di Meno (Not One [Woman] Less), and on processes of intersectional alliance building in times of economic crisis and political backlash. Alongside her academic work, she is engaged in activist networks and public debate on gender, work, and social justice.

**Thaïs Machado-Borges (she/her), Nordic Institute of Latin American Studies, Stockholm University**

Thaïs holds a PhD and an Associate Professor's degree (docent, in Swedish) in Social Anthropology. She is Associate Professor in Latin American Studies and since January 2022, she has served as Director of the Nordic Institute of Latin American Studies, at Stockholm University. She has conducted several years of fieldwork in southeastern Brazil and researched on topics such as popular culture (telenovelas), class and consumption, bodily grooming and modification, overconsumption and the meanings of waste. She was principal investigator of the interdisciplinary research project "Gender Troubled? Cultural Wars on Sexuality, Gender, Religion and Politics in Contemporary Brazil."

**Lena Gemzöe, Stockholm University**

Lena is an anthropologist and professor of Gender Studies at Stockholm University. Her research has centered mainly around gender and religion with a particular focus on lived religion in a feminist perspective, pilgrimage and women's agency. She has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Portugal, Spain, France, Scotland, Sweden and Brazil (digital ethnography). Her current research interests include Brazilian feminism, and new forms of pilgrimage and climate protest in Sweden, emerging in the context of transnational climate movements.





### Speaker biographies - Continued

#### **Eveling Carrazco, Independent Activist**

Eveling is a decolonial, anti-colonial, and anti-racist Nicaraguan feminist, mestizo, and urban woman who currently resides in Spain. She holds a degree in Social Work and Development Management from the Central American University (UCA) in Nicaragua, and a Master's degree in Feminist Studies and a Master's degree in Programme and Public Policy Evaluation, both from the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM). She is a member of the Insurgencias Sentipensantes Collective and the Latin American Group for Feminist Studies, Training and Action (GLEFAS). She has worked as an educator, evaluator and researcher in various spaces, both within and outside academia, including INGOs, international organisations and women's networks (migrant, peasant, indigenous, Afro-descendant and popular sectors) in her country and in other contexts. In collaboration with academic spaces, she has participated as a guest lecturer in various initiatives and she has also collaborated in several editions of the Decolonial Feminist School in Barcelona. Together with other colleagues, she was part of the winning team of the Berta Cáceres Award "Women's Struggle for Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean," organised by the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) in tribute to the Honduran peasant leader who was brutally murdered on 3 March 2016. Thanks to this scholarship, as part of the Nicaraguan team, they co-authored the essay *La lucha/fuerza de mujeres garífunas en el Caribe de Nicaragua* (The struggle/strength of Garifuna women in the Caribbean region of Nicaragua).

Her social research interests focus on the histories and memories of the recent and long-term past, with a current emphasis on the effects of coloniality/modernity, gender coloniality and extractivism in agri-food policy, as well as on "Political Narratives, Migration and Coloniality of the Border."





### **Speaker biographies - Continued**

#### **Yaliwe Clarke, Independent Feminist Consultant**

Yaliwe Clarke is an independent feminist consultant, life coach, and the immediate past director of the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Since 2008 she has taught and written on African and Decolonial Feminism(s), particularly from the perspective of peace, security, and development. She has a Ph.D. in Social Development that investigated the micro-politics of women's 'peace activism' in northern Uganda. She is also interested in post-conflict reconstruction processes; social change processes in times of crisis; and notions of respectable femininity, marriage, pleasure, and (hetero)sexuality in Africa. Alongside her experience with the academy, Yaliwe has worked with civil society organizations and interacted with a wide range of social justice activists (especially those that work in feminist movements/networks), peace builders/conflict resolution practitioners, diplomats, and peace and security personnel in over 11 countries. She is also a skilled conflict resolution practitioner, trainer, and facilitator who has experience in assisting nonprofit organisations, and government officials across the African continent, particularly during her time as a Senior Trainer at the Centre for Conflict Resolution, based in Cape Town.

#### **Vivienne Mentor-Lalu, Just Associates (JASS)**

Vivienne is a feminist activist committed to defending and advancing womxn's rights and social justice. She has experience as a facilitator grounded in popular education and supporting the work of collectives, coalitions and collaborations. Vivienne studied at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa and completed a degree in social work. She has worked on issues like violence against women and gender-based violence; violence against children and children's rights; sex worker rights; government accountability and public participation; and feminist governance. Vivienne has worked with a range of different approaches including law and policy reform; monitoring and tracking state performance; research; and organising and mobilising. She currently holds the position of Southern Africa regional director at Just Associates, a global feminist movement strengthening organisation.







### Speaker biographies - Continued

## **PANEL II: What has worked for us? Practical experiences from SRHR social movements and civil society organisations**

**Moderator, Belén Sobrino, RFSU**

### **Speakers**

#### **Abdul-Wadud Mohammed (They/Them), LGBT + Rights Ghana**

Abdul-Wadud is a passionate human rights advocate, writer, and researcher with more than eight years of experience working at the intersections of LGBTQ+ rights, community mobilisation, politics, and diplomacy. With an academic foundation in Human Rights and Computer Science, Abdul-Wadud brings a unique interdisciplinary approach to advancing social justice combining grassroots engagement with policy influence. Abdul-Wadud's work focuses on amplifying marginalized voices, building resilient communities, and designing interventions that center care, equity, and dignity. Abdul-Wadud has consistently used storytelling, education, and strategic partnerships to catalyze change. Abdul-Wadud's recent publication in the Cultures and Colonialism reader by the Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation (available in English and German) explores how history and power continue to shape contemporary struggles for liberation and representation. A firm believer in bridging theory and practice, Abdul-Wadud's core interests include decolonial thought, LGBTQ+ rights, the politics of identity and utopia, and ethical storytelling. Whether through research, advocacy, or public dialogue, Abdul-Wadud is committed to fostering inclusive, intersectional conversations and reimagining justice in ways that challenge dominant narratives. Abdul-Wadud is always eager to connect with others exploring the edges of activism, art, technology, and radical care.





### **Speaker biographies - Continued**

#### **Joshi Leban (They/she), Quimera**

Joshi is a Central American feminist communicator specialising in digital communication and narrative building. Their/Her work moves between strategy, visual narrative, and popular education, building bridges between the digital and the community. They/She accompanies movements and organisations in Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen organisational structures, amplify voices, and make resistance visible. They/She has promoted campaigns and communication processes that have contributed to positioning feminist agendas, climate justice, defending human rights, and connecting struggles in different territories.

#### **Sara García (she/her), activist**

Sara is a Transfeminist activist, Lesbian, Human rights defender from El Salvador. She currently works on issues of pleasure, sexuality, historical memory, and abortion. She is a psychologist and is pursuing a PhD in Feminist Studies and Intervention at the University of Sciences and Arts of Chiapas.

#### **Wambui Kimani (she/her), Zamara Foundation**

Wambui is a bold Pan-African feminist thought leader and the founder of Zamara Foundation, a trailblazing feminist organization committed to amplifying the voices, choices, and agency of women and girls in marginalized communities. Grounded in transformative justice, Wambui's work dismantles oppressive systems and reimagines a world where intersectional feminist leadership, collective care, and liberation are non-negotiable. With deep expertise in feminist transformative leadership development, reproductive justice, movement building, and rights-based advocacy, she brings decades of experience to the frontlines of social change. Trained as a psychologist, Wambui weaves together political consciousness, healing, and strategic action in every space she holds.





### **Speaker biographies - Continued**

#### **Monica Elizabeth Menini (she/her), Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, Argentina**

Monica is a lawyer, who graduated from the National University of La Plata, specialising in Family Law, Children and Adolescents, and Gender Violence. She has received a Higher Diploma in Gender and Public Policy from FLACSO. She works for Catholics for the Right to Decide Argentina, and is a member of the Alliance of Lawyers for Women's Human Rights, and the National Campaign for the Right to Legal, Safe, and Free Abortion.

### **Panel III: What has worked for us? Practical experiences from SRHR social movements and civil society organisations**

**Moderator, Annika Malmberg, RFSU**

#### **Speakers**

#### **Alonzo Dorian Dixon, Inclusive Development Initiative (IDI)**

Alonzo is a Liberian development professional, disability and human rights advocate, and organisational leader. He has more than 15 years of experience in civil society, humanitarian work, and government initiatives. His focus areas include disability rights, families of persons with disabilities, caregivers, inclusive education, healthcare, and human rights. He holds an MBA Degree in Management, a BSc Degree in Economics, a BBA Degree in Management, and multiple professional certifications from institutions in Liberia and internationally. Alonzo has led and collaborated on major donor-funded projects with international partners. His work has focused on inclusive education, disability rights, healthcare, livelihood and economic empowerment, and transitional justice, particularly for those impacted by Liberia's civil war. →





### **Speaker biographies - Continued**

#### **Alonzo Dorian Dixon (continued)**

As the founder and Executive Director of the Inclusive Development Initiative (IDI), he has partnered with organizations like USAID/Education Development Center (USAID/EDC), USAID/Liberia Accountability and Voices Initiative (USAID/LAVI), RFSU, Samaritan's Purse, the Amplifying Rights Network (ARN), Office of the War and Economic Crime Court of Liberia, UNICEF, through the Special and Inclusive Education Division at the Ministry of Education, Save the Children International, AIFO, and the Carter Center, promoting the inclusive policies, mental health programs, sexual and reproductive health and rights, inclusive teachers training programs, youth economic empowerment, the advancement of the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and transitional justice for persons with disabilities affected by Liberia's civil war. Alonzo has held key roles in organizations, including the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, National Union of Organizations of the Disabled (NUOD), and the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY), Central Bank of Liberia and is recognized for his expertise in project management, strategic planning, financial management, research, youth and community empowerment, and advocacy. Alonzo's work has significantly influenced Liberia's disability and social justice landscape, and he continues to drive lasting impact across Liberia, advancing equity, accessibility, and social justice for the marginalized population.

#### **Beka Gabadadze (they/he), Queer Association – Temida**

Beka Gabadadze (they/he) is a social worker, queer activist, and gender researcher from Georgia. As a social worker, Beka has more than 10 years of experience working on improving access to health services for queer people. Their work focuses on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender affirmation, and the availability of social services. As a gender researcher, Beka studies and monitors anti-gender narratives and policies, with particular expertise in media monitoring and analyzing how queer issues are represented by anti-gender media actors. Beka is the Chairperson of the Queer Association Temida, a partner organisation of RFSU, and continues their professional and activist work despite the ongoing human rights crisis in Georgia.







### **Speaker biographies - Continued**

#### **Michael Tetteh Doku, Curious Minds Ghana**

Michael Tetteh Doku is a youth advocate and communications professional with over a decade of experience advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equity, and social justice in Ghana. He currently serves as the Advocacy and Communications Lead at Curious Minds Ghana, a youth-led organisation promoting youth empowerment, rights-based advocacy, and inclusive development. Michael's work focuses on mobilising young people through stakeholder engagement, digital media campaigns, and radio programming. He works to challenge harmful social norms, promote bodily autonomy, and ensure access to SRHR information and services—particularly for girls, women, and marginalised groups. He brings practical experience in alliance building, intersectional advocacy, and movement-driven communications that centre the voices of young people and those most affected by discrimination. Michael is passionate about using storytelling, strategic partnerships, and participatory approaches to resist backlash and drive sustained progress on SRHR in Ghana and beyond.

#### **Sonali Gunasekera (she/her), Sri Lanka Family Planning Association**

Sonali has extensive experience working with NGOs and CSOs on SRHR, child protection, gender, labour rights, SGBV, and human rights. She is presently working at the Family Planning Association as the Director of Advocacy. She is an advocate for abortion rights, LGBTQI+ rights, HIV prevention, comprehensive sexuality education, and modern contraceptives. Sonali has worked as the Child Protection Advisor for Save The Children Fund, ChildFund and she coordinated the National Partnership to End Violence Against Children. She was the Gender advisor at Oxfam GB in Sri Lanka. She has worked very closely with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka. On labour rights issues she worked for the Ethical Trading Initiative UK, Verification of Trade and Export (US), and GAP incorporated as a compliance auditor and worker rights advocate. →





### **Speaker biographies - Continued**

Sonali Gunasekera (she/her),(continued)

Sonali has been a member of senior management teams and represented many organisations at international forums. She has presented many papers and has spoken about her experience on rights issues with other distinguished panelists. She is a keen advocate on family planning and empowerment of women and girls.

### **Panel IV: Alternative Forms of Resource Mobilisation and Fundraising**

**Moderator, Carolina Poggio, RFSU**

### **Speakers**

#### **Samuel Shapiro, The Other Foundation**

Samuel Shapiro is a Programme Officer at the Other Foundation, where he leads research, grantmaking, movement building, and networking to support LGBTIQ+ communities across Southern Africa. He was previously the National Organizer and Senior Researcher at Equal Education, working to strengthen education justice campaigns through community organizing and evidence-based advocacy. Samuel is a founding board member of the I\_Menstruate Movement, which is driving systemic solutions to menstrual health access in South Africa. He is also a TEFL-certified English teacher and a registered marriage officer.





### **Speaker biographies - Continued**

#### **Ketevan Tchelidze (she/her), Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health – Tanadgoma,**

Ketevan is a medical doctor by training and a long-standing civil society activist with more than 25 years of experience in the fields of women’s rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and gender equality. She is one of the co-founders of the Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health – Tanadgoma (Georgia), where she currently leads the organization’s Reproductive Health and Rights Program. Throughout her career, Ketevan has coordinated and implemented numerous national and international projects supported by UN agencies, international NGOs, and bilateral donors, focusing on women’s empowerment, HIV/AIDS prevention, gender-based violence, youth education, and healthcare system reform. She has worked extensively on integrating sexual and reproductive health into child care reform, promoting healthy lifestyles among adolescents, and improving access to preventive health services such as breast and cervical cancer screening.

#### **Katrina Anderson (she/her), The Global Philanthropy Project (GPP)**

Katrina joined the Global Philanthropy Project in August 2024 as the Director of Philanthropic Field Engagement. She leads GPP’s strategy to mobilize the philanthropic sector to bolster the magnitude and impact of funding for LGBTI communities in the Global South and East, and to center LGBTI communities in philanthropic responses to rising anti-gender ideology. Katrina brings 25 years experience advancing gender justice as a queer feminist activist, human rights advocate, and movement strategist.





### Speaker biographies - Continued

#### **Oleksandra Brashovetska (she/her), FRIDA.**

Oleksandra Brashovetska is a program and operations professional with a background in project management and education. As Senior Programs Officer at FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund, she leads participatory grant making aimed at providing flexible funding to young feminist-led initiatives and strengthening grassroots feminist movements across the globe. With more than a decade of experience in philanthropy and grant making, Oleksandra has collaborated with a variety of organisations in Ukraine and across Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. A committed advocate for well-being, gender equality, and human rights, she brings a feminist and mentorship centred perspective to her work, highlighting the power of collective action and inclusive leadership. Oleksandra's research focuses on how education and lifelong learning foster empowerment, resilience, and happiness, particularly for youth and women.

