



World Autism Awareness Day

5 April 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Economic and Social Council Chamber
United Nations

Empowering Women and Girls with Autism

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening

- Alison Smale, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, United Nations
- Message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the General Assembly, United Nations

10:10 a.m. Keynote Address

- Julia Bascom, Executive Director, Autistic Self Advocacy Network

10:30 a.m. Ableism, Sexism, Racism... How They Intersect

- Moderator: Jeffrey Brez, Chief, NGO Relations, Advocacy & Special Events, United Nations
- Morénike Giwa-Onaiwu, Autism and Race Committee Chair, Autism Women's Network
- Amy Gravino, Autism Consultant and College Coach, A.S.C.O.T Consulting
- Saima Wazed Hossain, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Autism in South-East Asia Region
- Prof. Jonas Ruškus, Member, UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

10:55 a.m. "Please Stand By" – Women with Autism in Film (Pt. I)

- Moderator: Elaine Hall, Founder and Creative Director, The Miracle Project
- Lara Alameddine, Producer
- Domonique Brown, Miracle Project member
- Dakota Fanning, Actress
- Michael Golanco, Writer
- Ben Lewis, Director
- Brittanie Sanders, Miracle Project member

11:15 a.m. Gender Disparity in Diagnosis: Causes and Consequences

- Moderator: Jeffrey Brez, Chief, NGO Relations, Advocacy & Special Events, United Nations
- Hadas Arnon Sharabi, Attorney, ALUT - Israeli Society for Children and Adults with Autism
- Dr. Helen Egger, Chair, Department of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, NYU Langone Medical Center
- Beth Finkelstein, Executive Director, Felicity House
- Sarai Pahla, Medical Doctor, Translator and Self-Advocate, South Africa

11:40 a.m. Heightened Risk – Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

- Moderator: Sophie Browne, Policy Analyst, UN Women
- Mallory Cruz, Blogger, ThingsThatCauseAutism.tumblr.com
- Sharon daVanport, Executive Director, Autism Women's Network
- Dena Gassner, Member, Board of Directors, The Arc; PhD Candidate, Adelphi University

- Prof. Rannveig Traustadóttir, Director, Centre for Disability Studies, University of Iceland

12:05 p.m. “Keep the Change” – Women with Autism in Film (Pt. II)

- Moderator: Heidi Landis, Psychotherapist licensed in Creative Arts Therapy
- Samantha Elisofon, Actress
- Rachel Israel, Director
- Aubrie Therrien, Executive Artistic Director, Epic Players

12:25 p.m. The four “E”s: Education, Employment and Economic Empowerment

- Moderator: Tara Cunningham, CEO, Specialisterne
- Tara Curry, Contractor, NY Financial Firm
- Joanna Grochowska, Vice President, SYNAPSIS, Poland
- Rachel Wilson, Student, Mercyhurst University

12:50 p.m. Closing Remarks

The event is organized by the **United Nations Department of Public Information** and **Department of Economic and Social Affairs**, with support from **UN Women**

Co-sponsored by the **Permanent Missions of Argentina, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Denmark, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan and Poland**