



**ASIAN UNIVERSITY
FOR WOMEN**

From Survival to Sustainable Development: Overcoming Challenges for Achieving a Just World

*Friday, May 11th 2018 at the Asian University for Women in Chittagong, Bangladesh
To be held at the Radisson Hotel, Chittagong*

By all accounts, the earth's people have never had it better—we live longer and healthier and more productive lives than any time before in history. Our average incomes have never been higher. Every day ushers in innovations that can only be described as extraordinary triumphs. Yet, there are tens of millions of people whose lives are at risk in the face of persecution, violence, or from extreme poverty that denies them even the basic necessities for sustenance, or ecological disasters that banish the prospect of any reasonable life. Nature has been unkind in certain areas, no doubt, but human misadventure and incompetence have pushed millions more to the brink of disaster and death. When desperate people flee inhumane conditions, they find doors are increasingly closed to them.

This symposium will highlight that while the imperative of sustainable development must be supported to ensure an even better future for the world overall, our attention cannot be lost on those who live so perilously close to death—such as the Rohingya ethnic minority now assembled in just about 100 kilometers away from the site of this symposium in Chittagong, Bangladesh. We hope that this symposium will help awaken all of us to the urgent issues at stake in overcoming threats to survival as well as continuing our progress towards a more sustainable future. There can be no sustainable development as long as so many people continue to struggle for basic life.





ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Program Schedule

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Session Title</i>	<i>Description</i>
9:30-11:00am	<i>Opening Plenary</i>	A Bridge towards Sustainable Development: Overcoming Threats to Survival	<p>The opening plenary will feature a set of prominent experts and changemakers to examine the scope and nature of threats to survival presented by persecution and forced migration, persistence of extreme poverty, and vulnerability and violence.</p> <p>Chairs: Kamal Ahmad, CEO and President of Asian University for Women Support Foundation; Professor Nirmala Rao, OBE, FAcSS, Vice Chancellor, Asian University for Women</p> <p>Speakers: Mrs. Tawakkol Karman, 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate; Dr. Ismail Serageldin, former Vice President of the World Bank and Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina; Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and UN Under Secretary-General</p>
11:00-11:30am	<i>Tea Break</i>		
11:30am-1:00pm	<i>Parallel Session A</i>	Persecution & Forced Migration	<p>This session will discuss the current issues arising from migration and violence in Burma, Yemen, Assam, and Palestine. We will also explore underlying regional and global policy impacting on these issues.</p> <p>Chair: Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia Director Human Rights Watch</p> <p>Speakers: Kathleen Ferrier, Former Member of the Dutch Parliament and AUW Professor of Practice; Professor Navine Murshid, Colgate University; Mr. Mohamed Yunus, Rohingya Leader</p> <p>Rapporteurs: Meherun Ahmed, Associate Professor in Economics, AUW; Md. Didarul Hasan, Assistant Professor in Economics, AUW</p>





ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Parallel Session B Extreme Poverty

Roughly 1.3 billion people remain in extreme poverty. These are people whose income amounts to less than \$1.25 per day. This session will describe and analyze the impact of extreme poverty in communities and ways through which they may be addressed.

Chair: *Professor S. R. Osmani, Ulster University

Speakers: Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Center for Policy Dialogue; Dr. Atiur Rahman, former Governor of the Bangladesh Central Bank; Dr. Ismail Serageldin, former Vice President of the World Bank and Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Rapporteurs: AKM Moniruzzaman Mollah, Associate Professor of Life Sciences, AUW; Nazmul Alam, Assistant Professor of Public Health, AUW

Parallel Session C Violence &
Vulnerability

This session will explore how state sponsored and civil violence impacts the lives of ordinary, non-combatant people.

Chair: Shiv Shankar Mukerjee, AUW Vice Chair of Trustees and former Indian Ambassador to Nepal

Speakers: Mrs. Tawakkol Karman, 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate; Dr. Dolly Kikon, University of Melbourne; Shabana Basij-Rasikh, President and Co-Founder, School of Leadership Afghanistan; Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and UN Under Secretary-General

Rapporteur: Herman Salton, Associate Professor in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, AUW

1:00-2:15pm Lunch





ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

<i>Student Workshop & Lunch</i>	The Art of Adaptability: Future Proofing Your Career	<p>Pre-registered Students Only</p> <p>This session with leading Human Resource directors will address what companies are looking for when hiring, how to best present yourself and stand out, how the hiring process is changing, how to be constantly innovating and adapting to a changing world.</p> <p>Introduction: Laura Deal Lacey, Executive Director, Asia, Milken Institute and AUW Trustee</p> <p>Speakers: Nicholas Egger, Vice President, Human Resources, Firmenich; Candice Yip, Human Resources Director, Point72 Asset Management</p> <p>Moderator: Janice Armstrong, Adjunct Faculty, Singapore Management University</p>	
2:15-3:30pm	<i>Alumnae Panels</i>	Alumnae Panels	AUW Classes of 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 will each present their own panel.
3:30-5:00pm	<i>Parallel Session A</i>	Unequal Terms: Understanding the Impact of Gender Discrimination	<p>This session will present and analyze the scope and extent of gender discrimination in different walks of life and evaluate its impact in blunting human progress.</p> <p>Chair: Professor Maithree Wickramasinghe, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Speakers: Kathleen Ferrier, Former Member of the Dutch Parliament and AUW Professor of Practice; Lord Raj Loomba, CBE, Founder of the Loomba Foundation, Member of the House of Lords, UK; Kathy Matsui, Vice Chairman, Goldman Sachs Japan; Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</p> <p>Rapporteur: Lina Kassem, Associate Professor in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, AUW</p>





ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Parallel Session B Art as Liberation;
Art for Liberation

The arts are often viewed as a medium whose access is restricted only among the wealthy and the “cultured.” This session will explore the arts as both instrumental in overcoming repression and securing a sense of dignity as well as an essential element in the life of ordinary citizens.

Chair: Lynne Anne Davis, A UW Trustee and President of FleishmanHillard Hong Kong

Speakers: Dr. Fakhrul Alam, Professor of English, University of Dhaka and Co-Author of *The Essential Tagore*; Anthony Bowne, Principal of Trinity Laban Conservatoire, UK; Karen Thornber, Professor of Comparative Literature and of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, and Victor and William Fung Director, Harvard University Asia Center

Rapporteur: Tiffany Cone, Assistant Professor of Humanities, A UW

Parallel Session C Pathways for
Promise

Pathways for Promise is a pioneering program of A UW that reaches out to women who have uncommon ability in communities that are ordinarily excluded from full educational opportunities by offering up to two years of pre-collegiate preparatory programs with full scholarship support prior to their entry in to A UW’s undergraduate program. Hundreds of students drawn from Bangladesh garments factories, daughters of microfinance borrowers, women from remote areas such as Nagaland in India, and Rohingya ethnic minorities have successfully completed this program. In 2018 the program will introduce students from tea estates and other similarly situated communities.

Chairs: Rubana Huq, A UW Trustee, Managing Director, Mohammadi Group; Catherine Sasanuma, A UW Support Foundation Board Member

Speakers: A UW Alumnae and Current Students

5:00-5:30pm Tea Break





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5:30-6:30pm	<i>Concluding Plenary</i>	This session will outline some specific actions that can and must be taken to improve the lives of those who are most in peril. AUW Family—Students, Faculty, Trustees, Friends, and Alumnae
6:45-8:00pm	<i>Theatrical Student Performance Sultana's Dream</i>	<i>Sultana's Dream</i> is a 1905 feminist utopian story written by Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, a Muslim feminist, writer and social reformer from Bangladesh.

**pending confirmation*

For symposium registration, please follow this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/QJUP6hFXqRUxqDLB3>

Registration Fee: \$250 per participant

AUW Students and Alumnae, as well as Current and Former AUW Faculty, are exempt from the registration fee but must still register using the above form.

For any questions, please contact: kiko.wemmer@asian-university.org

