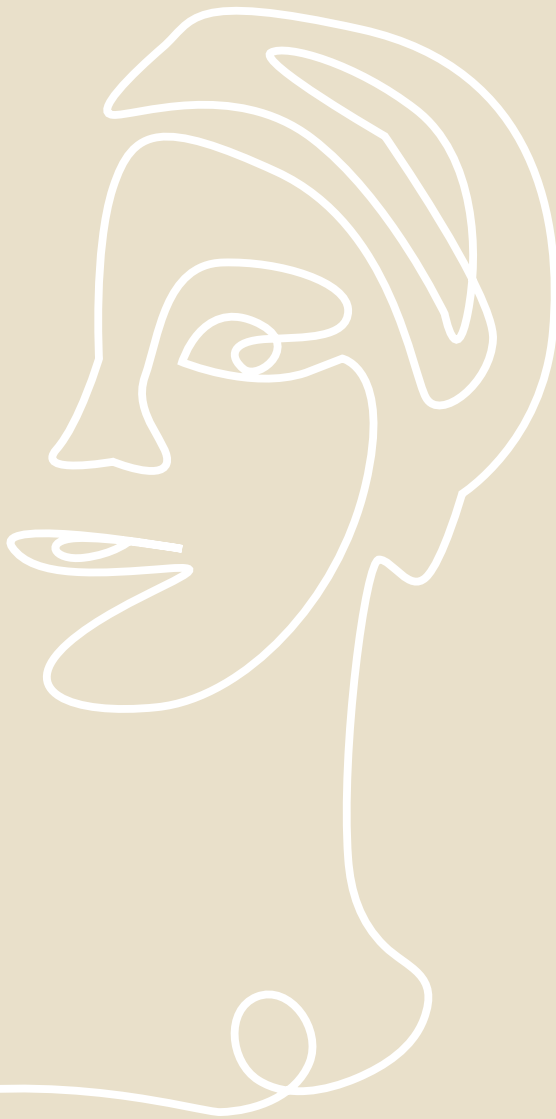


8 Monday
March
2021



**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE**

Women

in the era of the pandemic



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΜΑΡΙΑΝΝΑ Β. ΒΑΡΔΙΝΟΤΙΑΝΝΗ
MARIANNA V. VARDINOYANNIS FOUNDATION



CONCEPT NOTE

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2021, the "Marianna V. Vardinoyannis Foundation" undertakes the initiative for an in-depth discussion on the major challenges women are facing in the era of the pandemic.

While lockdowns, social distancing and stay-at-home orders may be crucial in limiting and preventing the spread of COVID-19, they also have a devastating impact on women and girls' lives. The rates of domestic, sexual and gender based violence are rising worldwide, whilst in the same time a significant number of women may be forced to quit their careers in order to undertake the responsibilities of their households. The immense pressure that women are facing has also a serious impact on their mental health and well being. At the same time the crisis is generating additional barriers for women and girls' access to essential life-saving services such as education, counseling, justice resources and legal advice.

The progress made during the last decades towards gender equality is now being at risk. Now more than ever the international community, individual governments, the private sector and civil society need to join forces in order to tackle these challenges and undertake immediate action.

With the participation of distinguished women from different sectors in Greece and abroad, with key roles in international organizations, governments and policy making, the "Marianna V. Vardinoyannis Foundation" initiates a public discussion with the aim of developing long-term approaches for social awareness and contribution to strategic planning in the benefit of women impacted by the pandemic crisis worldwide.

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PROGRAM

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16.10-16.45 OPENING

Introduction

Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO,
United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Award 2020

Special Address

H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic

Ms. Katerina Sakellaropoulou

Addresses

Andri Anastasiadis, First Lady of the Republic of Cyprus

Mareva Grabowski-Mitsotaki, Wife of H.E. the Prime Minister
of the Hellenic Republic

Kerry Kennedy, President of the "Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights"

*Moderator: **Mara Zacharea**, Journalist*

16.45-17.35 PANEL 1

Challenges for women of the world: Facts and figures

Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Gabriella Ramos, Assistant Director-General of the Sector
for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO

Mona Keijzer, State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Climate Policy, The Netherlands

Amb. Maria Theofili, Permanent Representative of Greece
to the United Nations

Dr. Helena Ndume, Ophthalmologist, First Recipient of the Inaugural
United Nations Nelson Mandela Award 2015

*Moderator/Introduction: **Maria Spyraiki**, Member of the European
Parliament, co-chair Intergroup for Sustainable Development and
Climate Change*

17.35-17.45 KEYNOTE SPEECH

The work of the United Nations human rights bodies in protecting women's rights

Prof. Photini Pazartzis, President of the United Nations
Human Rights Commission

17.45-18.45 PANEL 2

Women and the pandemic: The case of Greece

Domna Michailidou, Deputy Minister of Labour and
Social Affairs, Hellenic Republic

Maria Syrengela, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs
responsible for Demography and Family, Hellenic Republic

Myladie Stoumbou, Chair, Women in Business (WIB)
Committee, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Dr Anastasia Kotanidou, Professor of Pulmonology
and Intensive Care

Marianna Lemos, Vice President of ELPIDA Association
of Friends of Children with cancer

Prof. Fotini Tsalikoglou, Emeritus Professor of Psychology,
Panteion University, Writer

*Moderator: **Andriana Paraskevopoulou**, Journalist-News Anchor*