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Expo 2020 Dubai partnered with the UAE Gender Balance Council. Under the leadership and guidance of HH Sheikha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Council will host an array of sessions at the Women's Pavilion.



Women's World Majlis | 132 Million Girls: Tackling Gender Disparities in Access to Education

Women in Arabia and Islam | The Poets and Storytellers that Shaped the World

.Educate a girl and you will educate the planet

The overwhelming advantages of women and girls' education on the development of countries are well-known. Still, we are faced with a situation where, worldwide, some 132 million girls are out of school. In our *Women's World Majlis* event, keynote speaker HE Dr. Tariq al Gurg, the CEO and Vice chairman of Dubai Cares, advocated that the only way forward is the breaking of a vicious, generational circle. Women who received an education themselves will never advocate for their daughters to remain uneducated, marry early and stay at home.

But to break that vicious cycle, a lot still needs to be done. As our panelists highlighted, this includes educating man and boys to respect women and girls from a young age, convincing tribal and community rally around the need to educate girls. Our speakers also highlighted harnessing the power of innovation and technology to bring more access and the power of finance to improve access, attendance, and quality of education. In many instances, in particular in those areas of conflicts where basic security is not a given, it needs courage, values, and visions. But also, physical as well as legal protection mechanisms.

shaping of knowledge, their key roles in the development of art, literature, and poetry. While Arabic poetry played a transformative role in history, women's contributions were often overlooked. Throughout history, women were not only the inspirations and central figures of both oral or written literature, but also have taken major parts in the composition, narration and transmission of poetry, legends and stories. Spanning 7,000 years, from the sorrowful rithā' (eulogies) of Khansa to the gleeful scorn of Wallada bint al-Mustakfi, from diwans (collected poems) to ghazal (love-song), Arab women boldly refused to be silenced. The vibrant words from Arab and Muslim women celebrate feminine wit and desire, pushed boundaries of social and cultural norms, and nurtured generations.

VISIONS AND JOURNEYS

In this intimate series of fireside chats with prominent personalities from across the globe, we discussed visions and personal journeys towards a more gender equal future.



Hungarian diplomat Amb. Klára Breuer and researcher and Head of the Department of European Studies at the Hungarian University of Public Service, **Professor Boglárka Koller**, shared their personal views on their careers, in academia and in diplomacy respectively. In this engaging conversation, we spoke first of all about an important and unique characteristic women tend to have: at times and when necessary, they are able to set aside their egos. Because while egos are appreciated, letting go of them at the right moments is highly important for building trust, for teamwork and constructive cooperation. The speakers also touched upon the idea of female role models and how, in their view, they do not necessarily need to provide advice, as often their presence and their conduct is sufficient to be a source of inspiration for others, young girls in particular. Simply seeing (older) women achieve something can provide them with the confidence needed to believe they can also succeed.

The recurrent question on the choice, or the balance, between family life and a professional career came up as well. Societies can be healthier, happier and more prosperous with women participating equally. For

families are of importance, as well as the confidence that such policies can be maintained in the long run.

At the same time, young families should not always linger on trying to plan personal and professional choices in a perfect matter. In reality, there simply never is a perfect timing for a decision such as starting a family. Important in this regard is to do whatever you do in a dedicated manner and that men and women support each other in their communal quests.



The League of Arab States is committed to advancing women empowerment, and has been working on this issue actively since 1971. **HE Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh** shared the achievements of the League of Arab States in the area of gender equality and women empowerment. She highlighted the Arab Network for Women Peace Mediators initiative and stressed the benefits that could be derived from having women as peace mediators in the Arab world.



OUTLIER SERIES

This series reflects the rich variety of partnerships of the Women's Pavilion as we bring together stakeholders from a wide range of sectors and geographic areas.



For the 50th National Day of the UAE, visitors at Dubai Expo 2020 were invited to contribute to making the 'World's Biggest Burqa'. This event, organised by **Chikara and alBeqsha**, celebrated women leaders in creative industries and focused on the heritage, tradition, and culture of the Burqa, showing that women empowerment does not look the same across the world.



EWAA, the Abu Dhabi Centre for Sheltering and Humanitarian Care, organised a number of events at the Women's Pavilion in the month of December. In a session titled "The Power of Collaboration", the work done across the UAE providing ongoing support for victims of human rights violations was highlighted. EWAA announced their new mandate, vision, and key goals and a panel discussion focused on how by collaboration and co-creation we create bigger impact. A moving Sound Healing performance by Seven Wellness closed the session.

The organisation also organised a mental and emotional well-being workshop by Briar Jacques, a highly accomplished psychologist and meditation instructor. The interactive workshop focused on providing health professionals with the tools and strategies to support their own health as well as to help strengthen their teams' resilience when dealing with challenging victim cases.

EWAA also marked Human Rights Day 2021 with a selection of special programmes. Events included a keynote speech by HE Sarah Shuhail, Director General of EWAA, a panel discussion on the organisation's model for enforcing equality and promoting Human Rights, and a slam poetry session with Emirati poet Salem Al Attas.



To promote women's empowerment in the UAE, **the General Women's Union** organised a panel discussion titled "SDG 5: Achievements of the UAE". The dialogue shed light on the opportunities and challenges of achieving the SDGs in general, with a focus on SDG5 in particular (which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). The session also highlighted the efforts of the UAE and the most important gains made for and by women in various sectors.



Featuring the work of fifteen female **Seychellois artists**, this celebration of the contribution made by women to national development over the past 250 years included live spoken narrative, still and moving images, as well as sounds. Architects explored women's contribution to the creation of societal structures; creatives presented aspects of the creative processes, concepts and practices of female artists in the Seychelles; influencers focused on the ways tradition and history inform the creation of contemporary artworks by women, while mothers examined aspects of the role of the mother within family and society.



As part of the "League of Arab States Honour Day" celebrations at Expo 2020 Dubai, the **League of Arab States** in partnership with the UAE's General Women's Union and UN Women, held its annual event around the Excellence Award for Arab Women at the Women's Pavilion. The Excellence Award is dedicated to Arab women's contributions in the field of Medicine.



NAMA in collaboration with Irthi organised a Panel Discussion & Workshop: Crafting the Future.

multiple goods and services. Heritage crafts are systems created to produce an outcome or series of products that identify a society, preserving its culture. This session focused on the future of urban design, textiles, fashion, and architecture. Irthi Contemporary Crafts Council, together with art and technology experts, showcased how crafts and technology can coexist and serve as great tools to sustain one another and craft the future. The session included a series of Talli and Safeefah weaving workshops, led by Irthi, demonstrating how to use tablet technology in weaving. Combining crafts and technology in such ways helps in both spreading and conserving knowledge.

NAMA Women Advancement in partnership with Memac Ogilvy hosted an interactive workshop titled “Breaking Biases in Communications.” The workshop was designed to help communication professionals adopt a more critical lens when it comes to gender representation in the media with the aim of helping change negative perceptions around gender, promote gender-sensitive messages, and debunk biases. The workshop addressed several examples of media content across visual, verbal, and written communication and offered guidance on dos and don’ts to improve gender-sensitive reporting.

The Women's Pavilion and its key partners, Cartier and the UAE Gender Balance Council, would like to thank all the speakers and visitors throughout the month of December 2021.



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