

Parallel Session: Leveraging Parenting and Caregiver Support Programs to Promote Gender Equality and Prevent Family Violence

Speaker Bios



Minister Natalia Plugaru

Moldova Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

Natalia Plugaru is the Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova. Her work focuses on strengthening labour market participation and social protection systems in the context of demographic change, EU integration, and social cohesion.

Prior to joining the Government, she spent over a decade with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Moldova, including as Deputy Representative, where she worked closely with public institutions and international partners to translate global and European policy priorities into national reforms. Her professional experience covers employment, social inclusion, gender equality, youth policies, and the prevention of gender-based violence, as well as humanitarian coordination in times of crisis. Minister Plugaru holds a PhD in Management and has contributed to the development of key national strategies aligned with the EU acquis and the UN 2030 Agenda.



Jenny Doubt

Parenting for Lifelong Health

Jenny Doubt serves PLH as their Senior Scaling and Research Specialist. She works with governments, NGOs, and UNICEF offices around the world to support the development and scale-up of parenting programmes that reduce violence against children and improve child well-being.

Jenny also contributes to PLH's strategic initiatives, including parenting interventions working to address the intersections of violence against women and children. With over 15 years of experience, Jenny brings a background in research, programme design and adaptation, and qualitative evaluation of evidence-based parenting programmes. When she's not working with PLH, she's teaching in Canada and putting her parenting skills to the test with her two energetic kids!



Christine Kolbe-Stuart

UNICEF

Christine is a Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF, focused on the prevention of violence against children and against women. Christine has worked across sectors and agencies leading gender-transformative policy, research and programming to address the social, structural and behavioural drivers of discrimination.

In her current role, Christine is leading UNICEF's efforts to integrate and scale Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) informed approaches within policy and programming to prevent violence against children and against women. She represents UNICEF within the *Technical Working Group for INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for ending Violence Against Children*, the *Global Initiative to Support Parents (GISP)* and is UNICEF's Agency Focal Point for the *Spotlight Initiative*. Christine holds a BA in Sociology from the University of Nottingham and an MA in Conflict, Security and Development from Kings College London.



Dr. Joyce Wamoyi

Tanzania National Institute of Medical Research

Dr. Joyce Wamoyi is a Social and Behavioural researcher with over 20 years of research experience in adolescent and young people's Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH); Social determinants of health; Parenting and child outcomes; and Sexual and gender-based violence.

She has contributed to the understanding dynamics of risky sexual behaviour and to the development of measures to capture complexity of risky sexual behaviour. She is the Tanzanian Principal Investigator for the Parenting for Lifelong Health parenting programmes (ParentApp-Teens and ParentApp-Kids) to prevent violence against children. Dr. Wamoyi has excelled in translating complex research findings into action, collaborating with government, civil society organizations, philanthropic donors, and UN agencies. She is the lead of the project on Building a national parenting support system for scaling evidence-based parenting interventions in Tanzania. She served as a member of the: WHO Behavioural Insights Technical Advisory Group; and UNICEF Advisory Board for the multi-country project *"Children's Experiences and Perspectives of Covid-19, and restrictions"*. She is a co-funder of the organisation, REAL Transformation, that collects evidence and transforms it into action for policy impact.



Kate Doyle

Prevention Collaborative

Kate is a Senior Associate at the Prevention Collaborative. She is a gender and public health specialist with 16 years of experience working with grassroots organisations, international NGOs, government institutions, and United Nations agencies. Her work includes developing and adapting programming to prevent violence against women and children, researching and evaluating programme implementation, and capacity strengthening.

She is passionate about the potential of gender-transformative programmes with parents and couples to prevent family violence, advance gender equality, and interrupt intergenerational cycles. She strongly advocates using rigorous evidence and practitioner-based knowledge to enable effective, quality, and evidence-based programming.



Cody Ragonese

Equimundo: Center for Masculinities and Social Justice

Cody Ragonese is the Director of Programs at Equimundo, where he leads U.S. and global initiatives to engage men and boys as partners in advancing gender equality, care, and social justice. A leading voice on evidence-based solutions for transforming harmful gender norms, Cody works at the intersection of research, policy, and practice to promote healthier, more equitable models of masculinity.

Cody oversees the design and implementation of programs and curricula for boys, young men, and fathers, and collaborates with national governments, multilateral institutions, the private sector, and civil society to advance gender-transformative approaches. His work includes advising organizations on male allyship and care-centered leadership, particularly within workplaces and public systems. He holds a Master of Public Health from Boston University and a BA in International Development from American University's School of International Service.