

Keeping the Promise: Leave No One Behind! Social Protection Responses to Forcibly Displaced Children

Speaker Bios:

Suna Hanoz-Penney (Moderator)

Suna Hanöz-Penney currently works as the Director of International Programs at AÇEV— Mother Child Education Foundation. Her work involves building and maintaining collaborative partnerships, while she manages the transfer and implementation of AÇEV's educational programs through partnerships with local organizations in numerous countries in the Middle East, South East Asia and Central America. Her work focuses on both designing and supervising the early intervention programs for children and families implemented at both the national and international fields. Suna, has co-authored AÇEV's Preschool Education Program and the Mother Support Program. She provides key technical expertise to international partners in education program design, management, implementation, field research assessment, and parent training and development. Suna is a Fulbright Scholar and received her dual M.A. degree in Early Childhood Education from Teachers College, Columbia University and holds a B.A. degree in Early Childhood Education and Psychological Guidance and Counseling from Bogğazici (Bosphorus) University, Istanbul.

Mercedes Mayol Lassalle

Mercedes MAYOL LASSALLE is the World President of OMEP (Organization Mondiale pour l'Education Préscolaire /World Organization for Early Childhood Education) since 2020 and elected member of the Coordination Group of the Collective Consultation of NGOs on EDUCATION 2030 - CCNGO/ED 2030, to 2024. Nowadays she is Member of the Board of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE). Graduated in Educational Sciences, she is Professor on Public Policies for Early Childhood in the Master in Early Childhood Education at the University of Buenos Aires. She has been Professor of the Regional Training Program in Educational Policies, of IIEP-UNESCO for Latin America; Professor in Teacher Training on Early Childhood Education, in the National University of Lomas de Zamora and the National University of Santiago del Estero; Member of the Regional History Team of the National University of La Pampa. She organized daycare centers and kindergartens (0-6) for governments; and coordinated ECCE public policies assessments and curricular development. She was Head of the Cabinet of Advisors of the Minister of Education and General Director for Early Childhood of the City of Buenos Aires; Consultant in the United Nations Development Program on education and rurality; Advisor for the Ministries of Education of several government and international organizations.

Divya Lata

Divya Lata leads the global Early Childhood Education program at UNICEF. Prior to this, working in senior technical and strategic advisory roles in leading international organizations, Divya has advanced child-focused policies and programs in diverse contexts in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Eastern and Southern Europe. Deeply committed to disability rights, she has a deep interest in advancing Early Childhood Intervention

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systems for supporting children at risk of disabling conditions. Divya has also served on the Boards of several organizations and networks focusing on Early Childhood, including as Chair of the Regional Funding Committee of the Civil Society Education Fund for Asia; the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC), Singapore and the Child to Child Trust, London. She currently lives in New York with her husband Sandeep and son Nikhil.

Hiro Yoshikawa

Hirokazu Yoshikawa is the Courtney Sale Ross Professor of Globalization and Education at NYU Steinhardt and a University Professor at NYU, and Co-Director (with J. Lawrence Aber) of the Global TIES for Children Center at NYU. He is a core faculty member of the Psychology of Social Intervention and Human Development Research and Policy programs at Steinhardt. He is also a faculty affiliate of the Institute of Human Development and Social Change and Metropolitan Center for Equity and the Transformation of Schools at NYU. He is a community and developmental psychologist who studies the effects of public policies and programs related to immigration, early childhood, and poverty reduction on children's development. He conducts research in the United States and in low- and middle-income countries. He also conducts research on culture, sexuality and youth and young adult development in the context of GSAs (gender and sexuality alliances) with Paul Poteat, Jerel Calzo, and others. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the William T. Grant Foundation, the National Board for Educational Sciences of the US Department of Education, the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel of FCDO, the World Bank, UNICEF and USAID, and the Levante advisory board of the Jacobs Foundation. He is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Education, the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has received two awards for mentorship of ethnic minority students from the American Psychological Association and an honorary doctorate from Utrecht University. He obtained his PhD in clinical psychology from NYU.

Sherrie Westin

Sherrie Westin is President of Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street. Westin leads the organization's efforts to serve vulnerable children through mass media and targeted initiatives in the United States and around the world. Westin spearheaded a partnership with the International Rescue Committee to bring critical early education to children in the Syrian response region, which was awarded the MacArthur Foundation's first ever \$100 million grant, creating the largest early childhood intervention in the history of humanitarian response. This work has expanded to reach children affected by crises in Bangladesh, East Africa, Latin America, and those who have been forcibly displaced from Afghanistan and Ukraine. Westin has held leadership positions in media, nonprofit, and public service. She served as Assistant to the President for Public Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs for President George H.W. Bush, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development and held senior positions at the ABC Television Network and U.S. News & World Report. Westin was named a "Leading Global Thinker" by Foreign Policy Magazine, one of Fast Company's "100 Most Creative People in

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Business,” and to Forbes’ “50 Over 50” list. She was also recognized with the Smithsonian’s “American Ingenuity Award” and the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Citizen Leadership. Westin is Chair of the Joan Ganz Cooney Center and serves on the boards of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, Communities In Schools, and Vital Voices Global Partnership and is a member of the Executive Leadership Council of the Early Childhood Development Education Action Network. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the U.S. Afghan Women’s Council. Westin is a graduate of the University of Virginia and holds an Honorary Doctorate from Concordia College.

Marciana Popescu

Dr. Marciana Popescu is a professor at Fordham University, Graduate School of Social Service (GSS), and a Fulbright specialist on migration policy (2018-2023). In 2016/2017, Dr. Popescu was a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Austria, conducting research on migration policies within the EU space, and their impact on women asylum seekers or refugees. Since 2018, Dr. Popescu is a member of the UN-NGO Committee on Migration, working on global and local migration policies. Her research focuses on forced migration and gender, forced migration and health/mental health, and violence against women; as well as community capacity building and human rights/women’s rights. Dr. Popescu authored multiple publications on migration, women’s rights, and international development; and over the past 3 years worked closely on migration and health/mental health, exploring the impact of the pandemic on women migrants. In 2018, Dr. Popescu was selected as a Social Innovation fellow, working on a research project focusing on the integration of students with a forced migration background in higher education institutions; she continues to research the role of higher education institutions in addressing forced migration challenges, and engaging with communities to create safe spaces for refugees. Dr. Popescu is the co-director (with Dr. Alonzo) of the Her Migrant Hub project (www.hermigranthub.org), a community-based initiative focusing on increasing access and utilization of health and mental health care services for women asylum seekers in New York City.