

VIRTUAL DIALOGUE

Gender trainers and COVID-19: What have we learned from the pandemic?

18–28 February 2021, Community of Practice (CoP) Online Platform

Webinar: Thursday, 18 February 2021, 10:00 New York/16:00 Central European Time

CONCEPT NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health crisis, a socio-economic crisis and a **learning crisis**. Around the globe, it has shaken education and training opportunities to their core: social distancing, travel restrictions and lockdown measures are affecting delivery, economic downturns are restricting budgets, and skills requirements are shifting drastically while curricula and methodologies struggle to catch up.¹

How has COVID-19 specifically affected training for gender equality? Nearly one year into the pandemic, how have gender trainers navigated this unprecedented crisis? To find out, the latest Virtual Dialogue by the UN Women Training Centre's Community of Practice (CoP) will explore the experiences of gender trainers from around the world with a bilingual [Webinar](#) (in Spanish and English) on the 18th of February 2021 and a two-week forum discussion.

How has COVID-19 affected gender trainers? What have they learned and what do they recommend for the future of training for gender equality? This Virtual Dialogue is our chance to find out.

Objective and key questions

The **objective** of this Virtual Dialogue is to discuss:

- ✓ **How** has the COVID-19 pandemic affected gender trainers and training for gender equality?
 - ✓ What impact has the pandemic had on the volume and content of training for gender equality?
 - ✓ In what ways has COVID-19 changed the way gender trainers work? How has it affected their methodological and pedagogical approaches?
 - ✓ What challenges have gender trainers faced during the pandemic? How have they navigated challenges and resistances?
- ✓ **What** lessons have gender trainers learned from the COVID-19 pandemic?
 - ✓ What has COVID-19 taught us about the focus of the training we deliver? What kinds of training for gender equality – and on what issues – are increasingly needed?
 - ✓ What have we learned about how we can effectively deliver training for gender equality during crises?
 - ✓ How has the pandemic changed the field of training for gender equality?
- ✓ **What** recommendations do gender trainers have for the future of training for gender equality?
 - ✓ How can we strengthen our methodologies to continue evoking transformative change towards gender equality during and after the pandemic?
 - ✓ What needs to change – during and post-COVID-19 – in how we share knowledge, address resistances, approach behaviour change and advance experiential adult learning through training for gender equality?

How can you participate?

Webinar

Join us live
to pose
your
questions
for the
speakers

You can take part in this Virtual Dialogue in two ways: by participating in the live bilingual [Webinar](#) (half in English and half in Spanish) on 18 February 2021 and/or contributing to the [CoP discussion forum](#) (15–28 February). After our four panellists deliver their presentations during the Webinar, you can ask questions using the **Webinar's 'questions' facility**, which the moderator will pose on your behalf. We will post a recording of the Webinar on the CoP platform and the Training Centre's [YouTube channel](#). Everyone who

participates by asking questions in the Webinar or posting in the forum will be credited in the **Virtual Dialogue's Final Report**.

The **Virtual Dialogue is open to everyone**, including members of the UN Women Training Centre's Community of Practice, UN Women and UN system staff, gender and development experts, training practitioners, academics, representatives of governments, civil society, women's organizations, research institutions and all those interested in training for gender equality. We particularly welcome the inputs of gender trainers and trainers in other fields.

¹ See for instance: <https://www.voced.edu.au/focus-impact-covid-19-education-and-training>

Webinar panellists (18 February 2021)



Alvaro will deliver his Webinar presentation in Spanish

Álvaro Campos Guadamuz is the president and legal representative of Instituto WEM, the Costa Rican Institute of Masculinity, Couple and Sexuality – the country’s focal organization for the global MenEngage alliance and the International White Ribbon campaign to prevent violence against women. He leads and coordinates Latin America’s regional MenEngage network and has been heavily involved in working with men and boys during the COVID-19 pandemic to address issues of domestic violence, intimate partner violence and sexuality. His organization, Instituto WEM, is a non-profit association at the forefront of working on gender equality issues with men and boys in Central America. WEM’s purpose is to contribute to research, reflection, training and interventions on issues related to masculinities and sexualities. It organizes therapeutic, personal growth and reflection groups and advises government institutions, municipalities, community groups and companies on policies and institutional processes to advance gender equality. He has also served as a professor at the University of Costa Rica’s School of Psychology.



Nnamdi will deliver his Webinar presentation in English

Nnamdi Esemé is an academic, gender expert, writer, renowned facilitator and a global voice in engaging men and boys to advance gender equality. With years of experience working across sub-Saharan Africa – especially in Nigeria and post-Ebola Sierra Leone – he is creating innovative solutions to some of the most pressing challenges affecting gender equality and young women and girls in Africa. His policy-targeted advocacy in Sierra Leone contributed to wider regional efforts that resulted in an ECOWAS Court ruling which enforced on the Government to reverse its policy prohibiting pregnant girls from attending schools. His most recent efforts focus on addressing intimate partner violence and abuse among migrant women in Europe as well as studying the epidemiology behind gender in primary and transmural care. Nnamdi continues to support social start-ups and drive youth-led feminist movements in Africa through transformative education. He has served in leadership positions both in academia and in international development with organizations such as Baze University, EducAid, the Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance, UNFPA, UNITAR, HIV/AIDS Alliance, UNFPA, FP2020, among others. He is currently completing a Master’s degree in Epidemiology at the Radboud University in the Netherlands.



Adriana will deliver her Webinar presentation in English

Adriana Greenblatt brings 15+ years of diverse experience as a workplace human rights and employment lawyer, trainer and facilitator in gender, diversity and inclusion, leadership and organizational well-being. She has worked with the United Nations, universities as well as the non-profit and private sector. She supports organizations to create equitable, inclusive environments and relations through training, policy development, coaching and communications. Her recent work includes training to empower senior women leaders in a prominent microfinance company, working with STEM companies on inclusive work environments, women’s retention and access to leadership roles, partnering with the McGill University Desautels Faculty of Management to train emerging leaders on building cultures of respect and contributing to the Global Compact Network of Canada’s Blueprint for Gender Equality in the Private Sector. She holds a Civil and Common Law degree from McGill University, a B.A. in International Development/Spanish from Dalhousie University, a Master’s Certificate in Adult Training & Development from the Canadian Organisation Development Institute/York University Schulich School of Business and is a Certified Training Practitioner with the Institute for Performance & Learning.



Daniela will deliver her Webinar presentation in Spanish

Dr Daniela Moreno Alarcon is a Chilean/Spanish researcher, trainer and consultant in the field of gender mainstreaming in sustainable development. She gained her Ph.D. in 2017 from the Complutense University of Madrid, focusing on Gender Responsive Tourism Policies in Nicaragua. Over the past 11 years, she has honed her professional experience in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a particular focus on gender mainstreaming in tourism development in a wide range of countries – among the sectors most impacted by COVID-19. She has collaborated with organizations such as UN Women, the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), ITC-ILO, Serviço Social do Comércio, ECLAC and the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies. She was the LAC Gender Field Expert of the 2nd Global Report of Women in Tourism and the Gender Field Expert of the project “Tourism Destination Vision and Investment Plans for Selected Nature-Based Destinations in Nepal” for the World Bank/Hidria. Working with UN Women Cape Verde, she developed the country’s National Action Plan for gender mainstreaming in tourism (2015–2018) based on the 2030 Agenda. She also supported UN Women Albania’s gender revision of the country’s Draft National Strategy for Tourism 2016–2020.

Background: What are Virtual Dialogues?

Virtual Dialogues are online discussions by which we exchange ideas, insights and good practices on training for gender equality. These inclusive processes of collective knowledge production are organized by the [UN Women Community of Practice in Training for Gender Equality \(CoP\)](#), an open platform for dialogue and a repository of information on [training resources](#), [institutions](#) and [opportunities](#).

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the Virtual Dialogue Webinar on 18 February 2021 ([register here](#)) and the [CoP discussion forum](#)
For more information, please contact ruya.leghari@unwomen.org