**WEDNESDAY 10 AUGUST 2022**

**8th IWG World Conference on Women & Sport marks**

**‘100 days to go’ with more headline speaker announcements**

**from Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Middle East**

***\*\* Earlybird registration deadline closes 31 August 2022 \*\****

***\*\* Exhibition packages amd Event partnerships now available \*\****

To mark **‘100 days to go’ until the 8th IWG World Conference on Women & Sport** in Aotearoa New Zealand this November, a diverse range of additional global speakers have been added to an already impressive line-up. The International Working Group (IWG) on Women & Sport has also today **released a range of in person and virtual Exhibition Packages and Event Partnership opportunities**.

Today’s speakers join over **220+ sessions and almost 500 speakers previously announced** for the world’s largest gathering to advance gender equity and equality in sport and physical activity. Over **1,200+ participants are expected in person** at the iconic Te Pokapū – Aotea Centre in the heart of T**ā**maki Makaurau Auckland, with **hundreds more online** via a world class conferencing system.

* **Angela Ruggiero (Americas)** – Ruggiero is a four-time Olympian in ice hockey, winning a Gold Medal in 1998, Silver Medal in 2002 and 2010, and a Bronze Medal in 2006. She was a member of the International Olympic Committee from 2010 to 2018 and served on the Executive Board from 2016 to 2018, as Chair of the IOC Athletes Commission. She is now Co-Founder and Managing Partner of the Sports Innovation Lab, a market research firm with a focus on identifying trends and evaluating technology products and services that will drive the future of sport. Ruggerio is an outspoken global advocate for women’s rights in sport.
* **Kupawashe Desmond Mukurmbira (Africa) –** an international safe sport expert with extensive experience in consultancy, advisory, advocacy, training, Mukurmbira serves as an advisory board member for UNICEF UK Initiative on Safeguarding Children in Sport, Safe Sport International and Safe Sport Africa. He is the world’s leading non-academic writer for safeguarding in sport and is fully committed to eliminating all forms of abuse from sport.
* **Casey Legler (Europe) –** one of the first trans and non-binary models of the Zeitgeist, Legler is a former Olympic swimmer for France, competing in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. Now a model, author and restaurateur, Legler overcame significant trauma triggered during the Olympics, to become the first woman to be signed as a male fashion model. Legler is an outspoken critic of the patriarchy and an international LGBTI advocate.
* **Khalida Popal (Middle East) –** with the approval and support of the Afghan Football Association, Popal formed the Afghan women's football league with her friends in 2007. As the team grew and eventually began to have success playing internationally, Popal became a higher-profile target for extremist and anti-women groups. Following significant persecution, Popal fled Afghanistan as a refugee in 2011. Now living in Denmark with her family, Popal continues unrelentingly to fight for equality and the right of women to be treated on equal terms. She is the founder of Girl Power, which aims to provide meaningful ways for women and girls in Europe and the Middle East to thrive using sport and education.

This latest speaker announcement was made today by Women in Sport Aotearoa, *Ngā Wāhine Hākinakina o Aotearoa* (WISPA), outgoing Secretariat agency for the International Working Group (IWG) on Women & Sport 2018 - 2022. WISPA will deliver the 8th IWG World Conference on Women & Sport this November, bookending a short period of co-governance with the United Kingdom, which took on global Secretariat leadership during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

It comes on the heels of an earlier headline speaker announcement, which also saw the Earlybird registration extended to 31 August to allow more people to access discounts. These speakers join IOC Executive Board Member, **HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein of Jordan**; former Executive Director of UN Women, **Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**; Commonwealth Games Federation President, **Dame Louise Martin DBE**; Sport New Zealand, Ihi Aotearoa CEO **Raelene Castle ONZM** (Ngāpuhi) and two of Aotearoa New Zealand’s finest athletes,**Dame Valerie Adams OLY**and**Dame Sophie Pascoe PLY.**

**Pauline Harrison, Chair of the IWG World Conference Steering Committee, said:**

*“With only 100 days to go until the IWG World Conference, things are really gearing up now! We are delighted to be adding yet another set of extraordinary global headliners to our programming line-up, just as we also see a surge in global delegations signing up to participate, including the International Olympic Committee, World Rugby, World Netball and the Japan Sports Council.*

*Having just been welcomed at events around the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, it’s clear that the IWG World Conference is considered a ‘must attend’ event on the calendar for any person or organisation working to further the advancement of women and girls in sport and physical activity.”*

The 8th IWG World Conference on Women & Sport is built upon social learning principles – inspired by the storytelling and collaboration inherent to the indigenous Māori culture of Aotearoa New Zealand. Participants will explore five global themes through seven lenses, generated by a 150+ strong global programming team, and agree practical solutions to be applied in their own contexts. The ambition is to bring the movement together as one, to drive equity further and faster in future.

The theme of the conference, “Change Inspires Change” is about encouraging people to share their story of change. No matter how small or large - their story can and will inspire others to make positive change for women and girls in sport and physical activity. The event will spur on participants to develop personal and organisational actions and commitments that will positively impact lives.

The speakers announced today will be added to a brand new “Speakers” page on the IWG World Conference Hub: [www.iwgworldconference.org/speakers](http://www.iwgworldconference.org/speakers). Watch for more announcements soon.

The core programme features some of the world’s most influential sport and physical activity organisations, plus advocacy groups, governments, business, media and academia – including the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**, **FIFA** and the **2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup** team; **Women’s Sport Foundation** (founded by Billie Jean King); the **Commonwealth Games Federation**. Visit the “Programme” page to create a ‘favourites’ list: [www.iwgworldconference.org/programme](http://www.iwgworldconference.org/programme).

In addition, the International Working Group (IWG) on Women & Sport has today released range of **Exhibition Packages and Event Partnership opportunities** to mark 100 days until the IWG World Conference. The event is the perfect backdrop for exhibiting and engaging with a global network of key influencers and decision makers. Showcase your products, services and solutions in a hybrid format, both in person and virtually: [www.iwgwomenandsport.org/iwg-exhibition-packages](http://www.iwgwomenandsport.org/iwg-exhibition-packages).

Group Packages are now on sale now, with a call to action to ‘Register your Delegation’. Confirmed delegations include the **International Olympic Committee, World Rugby, World Netball, Oceania Hockey,** and the **Japan Sports Council**: <https://iwgwomenandsport.org/register-group-delegation/>

**Earlybird closes 31 August 2022.**

**>> ENDS**

**MEDIA ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME**

**Women in Sport Aotearoa will be running a full media programme across all four days of the IWG World Conference on Women & Sport. Pre-register your interest with Peta Forrest, details below.**

**MEDIA APPENDIX**

**>> About the 8th IWG World Conference on Women & Sport core programme:**

The IWG World Conference is a catalyst for advancing positive change. Hosted all over the world since 1994, including most recently in Botswana and Helsinki, the 8th edition this November is on course to deliver the most unique participant experience yet. Designed and hosted **by Women in Sport Aotearoa, Ngā Wāhine Hākinakina o Aotearoa (WISPA)**, the IWG Secretariat 2018 – 2022, it has complete support from the New Zealand government through Sport New Zealand, Ihi Aotearoa.

The global programming team, consisting of **more than 150+ members from over 30 countries**, has identified five global conference themes, to then be examined through seven contemporary lenses.

The core programme announcement has been timed to celebrate the reappearance of the kāhui whetū (star cluster), Matariki, in June 2022. Also known as the Pleiades or the Seven Sisters, this kāhui whetū is known the world over, and each whetū holds special meaning in Māori culture.

Each of the five conference themes has been aligned to a Matariki whetū:

1. **Leadership Whetū – *Matariki, the Mother of all Stars***

*Empowering women to lead systems change.*

1. **Social Change Whetū – *Ururangi, the Winds of the Sky***

*Championing social movements and experiences.*

1. **Active Lives Whetū – *Waipunarangi, the Rains of Change***

*Enabling the enjoyment of active lives.*

1. **High Performance Whetū – *Hiwa-i-te-rangi, the Promise of Prosperity***

*Supporting women to excel at the highest global levels.*

1. **Visibility and Voice Whetū – *Tipuārangi, The Successful Harvest***

*Growing the value and influence of women and girls.*

**Lenses:** Indigeneity; Technology, Data & Innovation; Health and Wellbeing; Systems, Resources and Investment; Environmental Sustainability; Human Rights; and Integrity.

The delivery format is based on social learning principles inspired by the beautiful Māori concepts of **Manaakitanga** (extending compassion), **Kaitiakitanga** (giving freely), and **Whanaungatanga** (creating connections). Storytelling exists at its very heart, including short lightning talks, group discussions, in-depth workshops and plenty of time for like-minded participants to collectively create solutions.

*Note: The Core Programme may be subject to change ahead of the live event, 14 – 17 November 2022.*

**>> Example speakers announced onto the core programme:**

Presenters on the programme come from some of the **world’s most influential sport and physical activity organisations, plus advocacy groups, governments, business, media and academia.**

Examples include:

* The International Olympic Committee (IOC) – global
* FIFA / the 2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup – global
* The Commonwealth Games Federation – global
* Women’s Sport Foundation (founded by Billie Jean King) – North America
* The International Council for Coaching Excellence (ICCE) – global
* Women in Sport India – Asia
* The International Wheelchair Rugby Federation – global
* Juntendo University / Japanese Center for Research on Women in Sport – Asia
* Conférence des ministres de la jeunesse et des sports de la Francophonie (*CONFEJES*) – Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of the Francophonie – Africa
* The Center for Sport, Peace, and Society at the University of Tennessee – North America
* Womens Sport Africa Network (WSAN) – Africa

Several of **brightest leaders from Aotearoa New Zealand and APAC** **have also been confirmed**:

* Sport New Zealand, Ihi Aotearoa
* The Australian Institute of Sport
* The Oceania Football Confederation
* Netball New Zealand
* Auckland University of Technology (AUT)
* Women Sport Australia
* New Zealand Cricket
* High Performance Sport New Zealand
* The Shift Foundation
* The Oceania Hockey Federation

**>> About Women in Sport Aotearoa**

Women in Sport Aotearoa, *Ngā Wāhine Hākinakina o Aotearoa*, exists to transform society through leadership, advocacy and research, ensuring that all women and girls gain equity of opportunity to participate, compete and build careers in play, active recreation and sport in Aotearoa New Zealand.

WISPA was established by 22 original Foundation Members - made up of senior women from across sport, business, government, and academia - and launched on UN International Women’s Day 2017. Its strategic vision is to see ‘women and girls valued, visible and influential in sport’. It is working toward this through delivery of insight and research, change leadership, advocacy campaigns, speaking engagements and events like the Captains Lunch and the Sport NZ Women + Girls Summit.

WISPA works across Aotearoa New Zealand and is currently delivery agent for the International Working Group (IWG) on Women and Sport Secretariat & Conference 2018 - 2022, with the 8th IWG World Conference taking place in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and Online between 14-17 November 2022. The conference is being designed and staged by WISPA, with support from 150+ volunteers.

Women in Sport Aotearoa is a charity. Its funding comes from a mix of Grants and Trusts, Donations, Fundraising, Gifts and Commercial Partnerships. Visit the website to learn more or [DONATE NOW](https://womeninsport.org.nz/donations/).

[www.womeninsport.org.nz](http://www.womeninsport.org.nz)

Search ‘Women in Sport Aotearoa’ on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

**>> About the International Working Group (IWG) on Women and Sport**

The IWG is the world’s largest network dedicated empowering women and girls and advancing sport. Established in 1994, the IWG advocates for gender equity in sport and physical activity year-round, partnering with key agencies, including UN Women and UNESCO. It developed and remains guardian of the Brighton plus Helsinki 2014 Declaration on Women & Sport, which now has almost 600 signatories, and delivers the IWG Progress Report at the quadrennial IWG World Conference.

The IWG administrative function moves every four years. The Secretariat 2022 - 2026 is being led by the United Kingdom, following a handover event during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, whilst outgoing hosts Aotearoa New Zealand continue to lead delivery of the 8th IWG World Conference in November 2022. The IWG United Kingdom Secretariat is being hosted in London and the 9th IWG World Conference on Women & Sport will take place in Birmingham in mid-2026.

[www.iwgwomenandsport.org](http://www.iwgwomenandsport.org)

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