

# GLOBAL



# POWER WOMEN YEARBOOK

An intriguing narrative of extraordinary women powering impact across the globe

**VOLUME 1**

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CENTRE FOR  
ECONOMIC AND  
LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT

A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND LEADERSHIP  
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## INTRODUCTION

# "The Road to Equality: Women's Quest for Voice and Dignity"

*"The world's most prominent women leaders show the importance of honesty, courage, impact, and decisive action in leadership." - Oprah Winfrey, 'Queen of all Media' and Philanthropist*

My quest to explore the true meaning of impact through the lens of the World's power women has led to the discovery of the story of the rise of women from an era where they were largely regarded as non-entities, to the gains of the past two centuries, and a decade evidenced by women securing the rights to vote and be voted into the highest levels of public office. As my quest continued, it was clear that the essence of my expedition would be lost without paying homage to two of the renowned matriarchs of women liberation, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns. How these two women changed the course of history for millions of others, is a question that motivated me to explore this story of the rise of extraordinary women who have shaped the course of history and civilizations.

Therefore, on the 30th of May 2023, I journeyed to Alice Paul Institute and Birthplace in Paulsdale, New Jersey to get first-hand experience and perspective into the life of the



Icon, Alice Paul. Whilst touring and walking on the grounds of the historic facility, words such as 'Resilient and Fearless' readily came to mind in a bid to describe these timeless women - Alice Paul and Lucy Burns. Their revolutionary role in securing the ratification of the 19th Amendment and women's constitutional right to vote and indeed in the suffrage movement, was not without very extreme hardships nor was it a walk in the park. Both

women faced diverse dimensions of cruelty, sacrifices that formed the rich history of women progress recorded so far.

Quincy, my amiable tour guide recounted that their revolutionary strategy of sustained dramatic, non-violent protests characterised by colourful, high-spirited suffrage marches and songs, were met with different forms of physical and brutal attacks including daily pickets and arrests accompanied with brutal prison conditions. These led to organised hunger strikes by the women, which attracted stringent militancy measures of forced feeding. To date, it remains a mystery as to how it was difficult to break their spirit and stop them in their tracks despite the gruesome circumstances they faced. They remained true to the cause without throwing in the towel or breaking under pressure. Their continued loyalty and commitment were rewarded with the Hunger Strike Medal 'for Valour' (depicted in figure 1) by the then Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU).



Interestingly, there were striking differences between both matriachs. Burns was American and the diplomat who was more keen to negotiate whereas Paul was British and the feisty one, humorously regarded as the militant amongst the two women.

Regardless, such differences seemed to become a combined force that fuelled their common passion and fearlessness in the face of excruciating pain, resistance, and torture. Although they both received top education to the highest levels, they were driven by their determination to push back on the academic route to pursue their philosophy of "holding the party-in-power responsible" until they win full equality for women. This unique measure involved a revolutionary approach of withholding women's support from the political parties that were averse to suffrage, accompanied with a bold declaration that read- 'support our bill for suffrage or we will make sure you don't get re-elected.'

As I assimilated this insightful information during my Paulsdale tour, I was struck by the impact of Paul and Burns in fighting for women's voice and dignity and paving the way for women in subsequent generations to confidently take on the reins of leadership in various spheres. Their bravery produced a rich legacy of women leaders who have worked hard across different sectors to redefine the true meaning of impact. Such impact-focused transformational leadership underpins the motivation of the team that produced this timeless collector's item – the Global Power Women (GPW) Yearbook, and I am excited for the privilege to have led this effort, which is both timely and novel.

The GPW Yearbook therefore attempts to present the intriguing narrative that weaves the history of women's progress across centuries and generations, especially in the past decade. The book draws inferences from similarities between women's leadership attainments and approaches in the past centuries, and those who had or currently hold the reins of leadership. This is to inspire more women to begin to visualise the possibilities in making the decision to take on such roles and achieve such feats.

In this maiden Volume 1 edition, a strong narrative of the impact of women's leadership across diverse sectors and regions of the world is weaved into every page of this insightful book. Subsequent volumes will provide answers to address arguments on whether the number of women in leadership roles directly affect the magnitude of their leadership impact and influence or whether despite the few numbers, their leadership impact should

rather become a powerful motivation for more women to take up such roles that will in turn increase that number.

It is anticipated that such increase in women in leadership roles is likely to result in an exponential growth to the level of the critical mass required to position women not just as second fiddle to their male counterparts, but as influential stakeholders involved in addressing the world's greatest challenges. And now, more than ever, when the world is grappling with different dimensions of various global challenges, is the time to pay attention to transformational women leadership and draw inspiration from these leading Power Women, driving positive change and transformation across the globe.

This book is therefore not just a tribute to the power-women who have shaped and continue to shape the world with their voice and contributions, but a call to action for more women to join them in creating positive change and transformation in the face of acute global challenges. It is also a rallying cry for women everywhere to take their place at the table and put in the hard work required to produce the world we want for girls and daughters. I hope that this book will inspire you to discover your own power and potential as a woman leader in the 21st century with the anticipation for a future where more women take centre stage in the chapters of history and not as footnotes.

*Dr Mrs Ibifuro Ken-Giami*

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# AFRICA

Africa's growth is deeply entrenched in the quality of its resources (human resources) and transformative leadership. This is why the most progressive nations on the continent have seen women feature prominently in its growth.

Many virtues driving this growth are often unreported when compared to the vices daily projected to the global audience to skew the narrative.

From Zimbabwe, the bread basket of the continent comes Tsitsi Masiyiwa, the driving force behind Delta Philanthropies. For her, it's not just about writing checks but creating lasting empowerment. Her passion for education, exemplified through the Capernaum Trust, has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands across multiple nations.

Next, we dive into the incredible career of Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a powerhouse in global economics and diplomacy. Her journey from the World Bank to becoming Nigeria's first female Finance Minister is a testament to her dedication in reshaping her nation's economic destiny.

Caroline Abel, the first female Governor of the Central Bank of Seychelles, enters the spotlight, navigating economic instability with competence and innovative policies.

Sahle-Work Zewde, Ethiopia's first female President, leads a nation toward unity and reform, embodying hope, healing, and dignity.

COMING NEXT >>>>>

# GLOBAL POWER WOMEN YEARBOOK

## VOLUME 2

Volume 2 will further explore the magnitude of women leadership impact and deep insights from beneficiaries of their impact-driven projects/programs across the globe

# WATCH OUT

**A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND LEADERSHIP  
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