



***In Conversation With Commissioner Jessica Horn
Radically Sensible: Feminist Funding in Global Health***

12 May 2022

Background

The *Lancet* Commission on Gender and Global Health seeks to work in disruptive and inclusive ways to bring fresh thinking and actionable recommendations to gender and health. In line with this commitment, the Commission undertakes multiple programmes of public engagement through its Secretariat. One such project involves a collaboration with youth-led feminist organisations in sub-Saharan Africa, and early conversations have provided crucial insights with regards to the realities of grassroots initiatives as overlooked and underfunded.

Across a rich diversity of local, regional, and national organisations, a reoccurring theme emerged: the struggle for strategic and sustained financial support. In this session, we will explore why successful programs and established organisations continue to face a shortage of funding, challenging conventional ideas of success and evidence in the process. We will challenge the biomedical paradigm with its preference for quantitative indicators and imposed theories, digging deeper into our colonial and colonised past to better understand today's narrow conceptions of knowledge and evidence.

In this context, [the Lancet Commission on Gender and Global Health](#) presents *Radically sensible: Feminist funding in global health*, in partnership with the [UNU Gender & Health Hub](#). The webinar explores the principles and practices of feminist funding in search of lessons for more inclusive, realistic, and effective funding. This episode of *In Conversation With...* Commissioner Jessica Horne and Latanya Mapp-Frett (CEO, Global Fund for Women) brings a feminist funding perspective that not only shows us how the flawed mechanisms of global health funding can be changed, but why they must be changed to support the next generation of leaders in gender and health. We will learn about projects and programs that have thrived with the support of feminist funding, proving that the radical concept of bringing feminist ethics of care and compassion into the realm of funding has a proven track record that speaks for itself. Ultimately, we hope to catalyse change within the larger arena of global health funding.

Seminar objectives

- Challenging 'conventional' global health funding to expose the shortcomings, biases, and long-term implications of such practices.
- Exploring principles and practices of feminist funding as a more inclusive and effective way forward.

Format

The 60-minute *In Conversation With...* series is structured to be forward-looking, solutions-focused, and conversational. The Commissioner will begin with a short presentation to set the scene. In the following conversation, speakers are encouraged to highlight promising approaches with concrete examples. An interactive session will follow to highlight interventions and questions from diverse stakeholders within the audience. The Commissioner will bring the webinar to a close with a concise summary of the key issues raised and the way forward.

Series outcomes

- Strengthen, grow, and connect the Commission and the UNU Gender and Health Hub's online and offline communities for increased knowledge sharing and synergized action towards more evidence-based and better-resourced integration of gender in health policies and programmes.
- Engage with external voices to enable the Commission to include new perspectives – particularly those who can challenge, enrich, and help develop the Commission's work.
- Create broader buy-in, seek feedback, and ensure the relevance of the Commission's work to diverse stakeholders, including the network of policymakers, academics, and implementers involved in the UNU Gender and Health Hub.
- Amplify existing efforts and support evidence-based policy action to catalyse system-wide change in gender and health.

Provisional programme

Time (UTC)	Programme	Speakers
15:00–15:05 (05 min)	Welcome and Introductions	Pascale Allotey , Director, UNU-IIGH

<p>15:05–15:15 (10 min)</p>	<p>Setting the Scene [PPT]</p>	<p>Tiffany Nassiri–Ansari, Secretariat, LCGGH Research Assistant, UNU– IIGH</p>
<p>Panel conversation</p>		
<p>15:15–15:30 (Q1 15 min)</p>	<p>Contemporary Challenges: There is no shortage of successful grassroots activists who struggle to continue, let alone scale up, their work due to insufficient funding. What does and doesn't get funded by 'conventional' funders, and why? What are the underlying justifications and broader implications? How can feminist funding make a difference?</p>	<p><i>Moderated by Tiffany Nassiri–Ansari</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessica Horn (Commissioner) • Latanya Mapp–Frett (Global Fund for Women)
<p>15:30–15:45 (Q2 15 min)</p>	<p>Towards Solutions: Against all 'conventional' wisdom, programs which do not meet typical donor requirements thrive with the support of feminist funders. How can we learn from and capture these programmatic successes in a way that challenges conceptual understandings of change and the narrow evidence bases they draw from, so that we can mainstream feminist principles and practices in the larger arena of global health funding?</p>	
<p>15:45–15:50 (Q3 5 min)</p>	<p>Closing: What is your 2–minute elevator pitch for why global health funding as a whole needs to embrace feminist principles and practices of funding?</p>	
<p>15:50–15:55 (O5 min)</p>	<p>Possible audience interaction Audience questions from live chat</p>	<p><i>Moderated by Tiffany Nassiri–Ansari</i></p>

15:55–16:00 (05 min)	Summary and wrap-up Closing remarks	Pascale Allotey , Director, UNU-IIGH
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This is a joint event hosted by The Lancet Commission on Gender and Global Health (LCGGH), and the Gender and Health Hub (GHH), both of which are housed within the United Nations University – International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH).

For more information, please contact:

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The Lancet Commission on Gender and Global Health responds to the pressing need for substantial, structural, and system-wide change if we are to see considerable progress on gender equality and health equity by 2030. Learn more at genderandhealthcommission.org.

The Gender and Health Hub is here to bridge the gap between knowledge, policy and action. The GHH is a unique global platform established to consolidate the best, policy-relevant evidence on gender integration in health policies and programmes, generated through research and practice at the global, regional, and country level. Learn more at genderhealthhub.org.

The United Nations University – International Institute for Global Health is the designated UN think tank on global health, serving as a policy translation hub for UN member states, agencies and programmes. It was established by a statute adopted by the Council of the United Nations University in December 2005. Learn more at iigh.unu.edu.