

# HEAR MY VOICE

— WOMEN'S NETWORK —

## LEGAL EDUCATORS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Proposed Workshop Dates:  
May 2022 (3 hours per week, over 4 weeks)



### Contact Details

Lauren Donnison- Founder and Director  
[hearmyvoice2020@gmail.com](mailto:hearmyvoice2020@gmail.com)  
[www.hearmyvoice.info](http://www.hearmyvoice.info)



*Brings women, from all over the globe together .*



## BACKGROUND

Hear My Voice- Women's Network (HMV-WN) is a platform that brings women, from all over the globe, together to discuss current issues that are important to them and their community. The network was established in April 2020 and has over 4,000 online followers to date. Our platform creates a safe place for women to share their ideas and opinions and serves as an outlet for their questions. A place to learn through conversation and free expression. We offer women the opportunity to join online programs, thematic panel discussions and networking events, to enhance their public speaking skills, build confidence and ignite their passion to create positive changes in their communities.

In May 2020, we launched our inaugural Women's Online Empowerment Program. The aim of the program is to increase women's knowledge about social justice and women's rights, to empower women to use their voices in their community to speak out for their rights and the rights of other women, and to create a network of like-minded women that can support, learn, and share with each other. The program provides women with the skills and knowledge to try to find their own solutions to social justice issues in their communities. As of January 2022, we have conducted 12 programs for 160 women from 40 countries.

**HMV-WN prides itself on our ability to create a safe space through the Women's Online Empowerment Program that empowers women to discuss issues that are important to them and we enhance their problem solving and action planning abilities to overcome these issues.**

We have small class sizes, 20 participants per program, to create a safe and intimate learning environment. We use interactive, student-centered teaching methods to ensure that participants are fully engaged and for maximum learning outcomes. Each of the activities used during the program are based on successful in-person capacity development activities that have been modified for effective online delivery. Participants are given interactive pre- and post-testing and reflection activities in order to effectively track their progress, both in regard to their increase in skills and their building of knowledge and confidence.

# PROGRAM RATIONAL

**The greatest success of the Women's Empowerment Program has been the encouraging and motivational feedback HMV-WN has received from alumni.**

Many of our alumni are currently studying law or working in the legal field, and we feel that the content and activities included in our Women's Empowerment Program especially resonates with these participants since our key focus is women's rights and social justice. Topics in this area of our curriculum include women's access to justice, sexual and gender-based violence and gender-based discrimination. By exercising a gendered lens in the practice of law, we have seen our students working in the legal field sharpen their critical understanding of the compounding issues their clients may face when seeking justice.

Therefore, in 2021, we wanted to continue to offer our programs to more women and felt that law teachers would be excellent candidates for this program for several reasons;

- Firstly, law teachers not only teach students law but also guide students into developing their own moral compass to enable them to practice law ethically in the future. Our program deepens participants understanding of very relevant and prevalent gender issues, which in turn extends their moral compass.
- Secondly, the increased understanding of gender issues is integral to critical thinking skills which will allow teachers to advance their students ability to use a critical lens in their work. We believe that teachers who participate in this program will be able to pass their learned knowledge directly onto their students in their classrooms.
- Thirdly, since the program will consist of women from different cultural and social backgrounds, participants will be able to learn from each other, broadening participants own perspectives and instilling a deeper sense of empathy. Participants will also be able to share their experiences with each other so that they can bring their gained international knowledge back to their own classrooms.
- Lastly, HMV-WN uses student-centered teaching methods which are proven to be more effective for learners. By experiencing firsthand the effectiveness of these teaching methods, participants will be encouraged to use such methods in their own classrooms. HMV-WN will provide participants with all teaching materials, including lessons plans, at the end of the course to enable participants to replicate the sessions at their own university.

## WHO IS THE PROGRAM FOR?

This program is specifically designed for those that are currently working in the field of legal education, within a university or educational institute. Applicants must demonstrate an interest in, or are currently teach, social justice, particularly women rights. We require that participants have an upper intermediate level of English and have access to an internet connection that will enable active participation in live zoom classes.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

In 2021, we conducted two Empowerment programs specifically for Legal educators which were attended by 28 legal educators, including law professors from over 10 different universities around the world.

In 2022, we will offer two Empowerment Programs for Legal Educators In May and October. Programs are free of charge and all those interested in joining the program must complete an online application form. Below is a detailed timeline of the application process'

 In March 2022, open the call for online applications to be put forward for consideration to participate in the workshop series. Strong candidates will be those who can demonstrate an active interest in women's rights and social justice, and a willingness to learn from others.

 In April, all applications will be reviewed and candidates selected to move to the next phase of the application process will be invited to attend an online interview with the HMV-WN team. HMV-WN will select 20 women from across the region to participate in the workshop series. Those selected must complete the pre-program requirements; signing the required pledge, completing the online survey and submitting a photo.

 In May, HMV-WN will hold a series of 4 online workshops which will be 3 hours each. At the end of the program, once all post program requirements have been fulfilled, participants are provided a certificate of completion, which states the hours completed and topics studied. Participants must attend 75% of the online sessions to be awarded the certificate.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Increase participants knowledge about key women's right and social justice issues, such as sexual and gender-based violence, women's access to justice, and women in leadership.
- Empower participants to share their own experiences and those of women in their community, to increase their confidence to speak about these issues with others in the future.
- Instill confidence in participants to advocate for change, for themselves and other women in their community when their rights are violated.
- To support legal educators to network with educators from other institutes and countries to share and learn from each other best practices to bring gender issues into their classrooms.

## PROGRAM OUTLINE

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- Community building
- Introduction to concepts of sex and gender and gender stereotypes
- Discussing equality and equity
- Introducing the concept of gender discrimination

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- Introduction to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), discussing the different types of SGBV and the prevalent types of SGBV in each participant's country.
- Introducing the contributing factors that fuel the occurrence of SGBV and impacts of SGBV.
- Critically discussing potential community-based solutions to address SGBV.

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- The concept of social justice and why it is essential to achieve gender equality in society.
- Legal justice vs Social Justice??
- Understanding access to justice in societies and the additional barriers women face when trying to access justice.

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- Looking at legal education and the legal profession in their country.
- Timeline of change- discussion regarding the situation of gender inequality as a law student and if they have seen change now that they are a professor.
- Future action planning on how to make real change after the workshop (as a teacher, in their classroom, in their curriculum, on their campus).

*\*Subject to change based on level of participant knowledge.*