

International Celebration

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SPEAKERS

Lindsay, Ama, Max Reinke, Dak, Yapprack, Vicky, Malka Williams, Lesley Galeano

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Vicky 00:01

Abigail Adams

Yapprack 00:03

Thebaja Tunja

Ama 00:04

Phoebe Robinson,

Lindsay 00:05

My mom, her name is Sarah Chen.

Dak 00:08

My sister. Her name is Sage

Lesley Galeano 00:11

Rihanna.

Max Reinke 00:14

Hello, welcome to another episode of Triton Tools and Tidbits. My name is Max Reinke. I work in Global Education at UC San Diego and I'll be your host for this week's episode. This week's episode is devoted to celebrating Women's History Month and specifically International Women's Day. To give the listeners a bit of background, International Women's Day, or IWD is held every year on March eighth. It's a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. IWD has been celebrated worldwide since 1911. And the theme of this year's day is Choose to Challenge. A challenged world is an alert world, and from challenge comes change. We encourage all of our listeners to participate in the Choose to Challenge call to action in any way you can. This could be raising awareness about women's equality, lobbying for accelerated gender parity, or fundraising for female-focused charities. Additionally, listeners can join by going to their socials, checking out the hashtags, #choosetochallenge and #IWD2021. We invite everybody to use these hashtags in any social media posts and contribute to this global movement. Given that this is an international campaign, we've invited a group of students representing a diverse range of nationalities, genders and identities to share with

us stories of women who have inspired them, and how they plan to forge a gender-equitable world. So, let's dive in. And we will start with Vicky.

Vicky 01:40

My name is Vicky. I'm a second year at Warren College studying structural engineering undergrad. I'm a first generation student, so first of my family to go to college, and I'm studying STEM, which is something that my family has never, you know, dived into, so. And I work as a peer coach at student success coaching.

Max Reinke 02:02

Excellent. Thank you for being here. Yapprack?

Yapprack 02:07

Hi, all thanks for inviting me. My name is Yapprack. I'm from Turkey. I am currently a second year PhD student in literature at UCSD. So, I identify as a feminist, a devoted and edgy one. So, I'm also working as—serving as the chairperson for the Literature Doctoral Student Committee. So yeah.

Max Reinke 02:33

Excellent. Thank you for being here. Ama, the floor is yours.

Ama 02:39

Hi, I'm Ama. I'm a second year at graduate student at GPS, the School of Global Policy and Strategy. I'm focusing on inequality and social policy and program design and evaluation. I'm also on the board for QuIRPS. GPS is LGBT organization and development.

Max Reinke 02:58

Excellent. Thank you, Lindsay.

Lindsay 03:02

Hi everyone, my name is Lindsay. I'm a—I'm a fourth year undergraduate and I double major in Communications and Political Science. I'm from Eminiram, and I'm an international student from Singapore and I am also a transfer student. I work for the International Students Office at UCSD and—as a social media intern and also as a science writer at UCSD Health.

Max Reinke 03:27

Excellent. Next up is Dak.

Dak 03:32

So, hi, my name is Dakshin. My major is data science for the specialization in economics. I'm from India, and my, and I'm an International Senator at Associated Students, and also the UC student representative to the UC SA [Student Association], so International Student Coalition. It's great to be here. I'm a second year and nice to be the only guy on the podcast. So yeah, looking forward to the discussion you're gonna have.

Max Reinke 04:05

Excellent, yes. Thank you Dak for being brave enough to speak on behalf of all men on International Women's Day. We appreciate your service. All right. Lesley, go ahead and introduce yourself. Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Lesley Galeano 04:20

Hi, everyone. I'm Lesley. I'm a fourth year ACC at UCSD. I work for the Dean's Office of Global Education. I major in Communications and I'm minoring in, in Spanish and Biology.

Max Reinke 04:36

Excellent. And last but certainly not least, Malka. Go ahead and introduce yourself.

Malka Williams 04:43

Hi, everyone. My name is Malka Williams. I'm a 2020 alum from UCSD, Marshall College. I was born in Belize and I'm, and I'm currently in Los Angeles. And I'm currently a program manager at the Garifuna International Indigenous Film Festival.

Max Reinke 05:05

Wow. Okay, well, thank you everyone for participating. And yeah, so we'll just, we're just gonna dive right in. And I'm gonna go back to front this time. So, Malka, who is a woman that inspires you? And why does that woman inspire you?

Malka Williams 05:23

The woman that inspires me is Rihanna. She is a go-getter. She's someone who does everything that she loves to do, and is able to show it to the world and share it with the world. And that really inspires me. Because as a Caribbean woman, it's sometimes, it's really difficult to get out of our own community and get out of our comfort zone, when it comes to family, when it comes to survival. But when you're able to really express everything that you are, and be able to share it with the world, through all types of platforms, from her music to her lingerie line, to make up, everything that she does she's able to not only allow it to be something that she's passionate about, but also something that she could share with the world. And that's something that I inspire to do in the future.

Max Reinke 06:18

That's amazing. Thank you for your share. Lesley, who is a woman who inspires you?

Vicky 06:24

America Ferrera. I love her because I feel like after seeing her in Real Women Have Curves, she was not your typical, like, actress body. And she's, I believe she's a—her parents are immigrants from Honduras. And my dad being Central American, I just really relate to her. And I love how she, even though she's westernized, I believe she has this like activist or like something, She Se Puede Program and she's just very involved in the community. And very outspoken about Latinx and the Latino community.

Max Reinke 06:59

Excellent, thank you, Lesley, Dak, who is a woman who inspires you?

Dak 07:06

So, a woman that inspires me is my sister named Saija. And she's actually a researcher at Johns Hopkins University. She works for tobacco control at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. And she, she actually immigrated here six years ago on a student visa. And now she's worked her way up. She was a master's student first, a graduate student, and then she worked her way up to actually doing research there. And yeah, the way she's modeled herself, I feel in this country is so difficult—being an immigrant who's never been to the country before and for the first time to be here. And to just, because India and the Western world are two completely different places. The cultural differences are way too—are really difficult to actually transcend into, I believe. Yeah, that's why I feel that the way she's come up in this country, is something you see, and that's why I feel . . . yeah, that would be my woman that I choose who's empowered me. And the woman inspires me, I feel.

Max Reinke 08:20

Excellent. That's a beautiful story. Lindsey, who inspires you or what woman inspires you? And tell us a little bit why.

Lindsay 08:28

My mom really inspires me. And frankly, I didn't realize how much until I was asked this question. And how much I really appreciate her advice all the time. She's a, she's a breast cancer survivor. And she's also an immigrant. I'm from Singapore, but she's from Taiwan. And I think even just, even though these two countries are so, so close to each other, there's still like a lot of cultural differences in regards to language. And just how daily lifestyle, and I think I didn't realize how much it took for her to emigrate and be constantly without her immediate family all the time until I moved here, myself back in 2017. I moved all the way across to the United States. And all I had was me and my sister. And I was and I was like, I did not realize how hard this would be. So, I think my mom really helped me through this process and kind of, you know, it's much easier to connect with each other now. And yeah, she really inspires me and helps me through my life.

Max Reinke 09:47

That's amazing. Thank you. Ama, who is a woman who inspires you?

Ama 09:53

So, I picked Phoebe Robinson. She is a stand-up comedian, writer and actress. I think she's most as well known for the podcast to Dope Queens, and then she also has two books: You Can't Touch My Hair and another one called Everything's Trash, But It's Okay, which is, I think it's just a hilarious title, especially coming off with the year that we just had. But what I really love about her and what I find so inspiring about her is her honesty, wit and hilarity show a lot of nuances about the black female experience in the United States. Although a lot of things have gotten better, there's a very distinct narrative portrayed in media of what the black experience looks like if you're a female, or if you're a male, which is not correct. I mean, I love Love and Hip Hop as much as the next person. But it's really great to see different nuances and different experiences that put a lot more perspective for the black experience. So, she recently sold the show to Freeform, and I really love how she's made her empire being true to herself. And she hasn't changed since her early days stand up. She still has like, the self-deprecating humor. She's still jokes about her love of YouTube. And it just makes me feel a lot more

seen and a lot more, I don't know, accepted and feeling like my narrative and my story is also valid and also something that people would be interested in hearing.

Max Reinke 11:20

Thank you. Thank you. Yup, Rock who is a woman who inspires you?

Yapprack 11:25

Okay, first of all, I want to acknowledge that this is a really difficult question to answer because there are many great women who inspire me and I just literally have to think and pick one of the people that affected me the most, and I've been through some names like laid out late. There's a call to Aldo to lambda one, Angela Davis. But I ended up picking someone from the Kurdish politicians in Turkey. And her name is Sabina Houghton gel. For those of you who don't know about the political dynamics in Turkey, Kurdish is the biggest ethnicity That is biggest minority that is ethnically oppressed in Turkey. And the Kurdish politicians, especially Kurdish women have been extremely influential and all of the minority of whites in Turkey. And that includes my own life. I've always been a feminist, but my entire take on women's struggle changed after I met Kurdish women's movement. And it's about Tanja unfortunately, she's a former MP in Turkey, like member of the Parliament, but and also honorary co-president of People's Democratic Party, the pro-Kurdish party, but unfortunately, she is now incarcerated because of her political views. And she's been there for, I think, five years now. And she has a lot more years to serve. But she really inspires me because she never back down. She still fights for the elite she believes is right.

Max Reinke 12:47

Thank you, that's incredibly powerful. And Vicky, who is a woman who inspires you and why?

Vicky 12:53

Yeah, I chose Abigail Adams because she was known as the closest advisor to John Adams. And I just felt like she was the epitome of the phrase "Behind every successful man is a strong woman." And I really believe I see that in her. Because whether it was like raising her children when he was away or advising him on things that even he has, John Adams himself is conflicted on, unsure of, she's just so eloquent and powerful as a woman. And I can't continue without also mentioning my own mother as well. She immigrated here when I was seven. And I never really understood how hard it was for her like Lindsey, like for us. My dad's half of his family is here in the United States, like, long before we got here, whereas my mom, like she just had to leave her whole family to come here by herself. And a lot of the times when, like my mom and dad would have little arguments here and there it breaks my heart to see like, she doesn't really have anyone for there to like, back her up whereas my dad has his mom and everything, so yeah, she's just really inspiring.

Max Reinke 14:17

Excellent, thank you, Vicky. This is all incredible. And I think that, especially as we're talking about International Women's Day, with the diverse range of women that inspire all of our panelists, I think it's really, it's really important to just note the intersectionalism of what it means to be a woman. You know, women are immigrants. Women are activists, women are politicians. They're caregivers. They are Mothers, daughters. It's—being a woman, it's just one part of an incredibly intricate and just beautiful identity. And I think that all of you have highlighted this in what you've shared. So, I really appreciate

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that. So, our next topic is going to be, you know, the issue of gender inequity, and confronting bias and trying to eliminate bias to the best of our abilities so that all of us, regardless of gender have a seat at the table, have a say in not only our own destinies, but the ability to affect positive change in the world. And so Yapprack, you have said twice how strongly you identify as a feminist. So, I'm going to start with you. How are you planning to challenge gender inequity and bias in the world? And if you've already done so, we would love to hear it.

Yapprack 15:39

Oh, okay. Um, so this is, again, another difficult question. And I've been trying to challenge in many ways, but I also believe that I'd like to expand on the ways that I challenge—I try to challenge at least—these inequalities. To me the biggest inequality at this point is about our existence as women. I don't know if a lot of people realize this, but there is what I call a war on women currently going on. Because there is this big issue of femicide across the globe. And men are killing women daily, on the daily basis, and people don't understand how big a problem it is, because it's not really on the news that often, especially in the Western discourse, it doesn't come up as powerful as the other issues like for example, terrorism. But in general, approximately in a year, approximately around 90,000 women are killed by men, whereas in terrorist attacks, or what are identified as terrorists, classified as terrorist attacks, it's only around like 15,000 people that are dying. So, it's just so much bigger the numbers for femicide, it's just so much bigger than the terrorist attacks. But we don't hear about this that often. And the governments don't spend money on preventing femicide or actually taking the precautions to protect the lives of women. And that's just femicide. If you just expand this to one step further to violence against women, just to physical violence, not even including the kinds of abuse, it's just a huge scope of violence that women suffer from, and I call it a war on women in general. So that's what I've been trying to challenge. I am both participating in Activists Peers to Prevent Femicide and do as much as possible that I can do from a distance, of course.

Max Reinke 17:32

Thank you, thank you. Next, I'm gonna call on Dak. Especially, I think it's important that as we're talking about the celebration of women and sort of letting women break these glass ceilings and the idea of gender equity, they need male allies. So as the other man on this podcast, how are you planning to challenge gender inequity and bias in the world?

Dak 17:57

As a representative of the other side, I feel it is important for the other side as well to address these issues. These are not issues relating to them. And these are, these are humans, these are people just like you and me, and this is what I'm, I feel, is the duty of every male to address this problem. And not even just to the ones close to us, but to every female. We owe this responsibility to be respectful and to choose equality everywhere we can, always I feel.

Max Reinke 18:34

Yes, thank you very much. Malka, how are you planning to challenge gender inequity and bias in the world?

Malka Williams 18:43

Well, I personally continue to use my platforms, whether it's social media, my workspace, and especially my voice when it comes to challenging things that affect women, and especially women of color. I want to agree and acknowledge that femicide is also a huge issue across the Caribbean as well, to the point where artists are actually raising awareness through their own music, and through their own platforms to express the pain and frustration that they also feel about the issues within their communities as well. But in the past, I've been able to use my platforms by providing a space for women of color, and all women to share their voices, share their work. I've worked at the design lab before here on campus, and in that space, we are able to interview, bringing in presenters to speak on behalf of their expertise. And that's a way that we could continue to uplift and share voices of women that are oftentimes silenced or not heard, because sometimes they don't have access to different platforms for folks to hear their story or their work or just for them to express their own knowledge at times. And being able to be grateful, as well as respect the work that they have been able to contribute to whatever field or whatever platform that they choose to engage in. And something that's really important, as well is taking people for who they are, and not for who you want them to be or who you expect them to be. Oftentimes, we take our own biases to say, what someone should or should not act like be like, present themselves as, but it's important that we just respect people for who they are, and continue to just love.

Max Reinke 21:11

Yes, I completely agree with that. And I think that, Malka, you made two really good points. One is, yeah, it's, I mean, we're talking about something that has been going on for so long, this, this idea of gender inequity, and in many cases, violence against women. But at the end of the day, it's love and respect, you know, this is not—neither of which are, you would think that difficult to, to impart on other people. So, I think another important point that you just raised, and I'm hearing it throughout all the different panelists that have spoken so far is this idea of like, yes, this is a global campaign. Yes, this is a global issue. But Malka you're talking about the work that you did at the design lab, and just using your own platforms. As much as we would like international unity, even at such a local or individual or personal level, all of us can do something a little bit, just a little something every day to advance gender equity, to eliminate bias, and to just make everyone feel respected and loved. So, I appreciate that. Lindsay, you're next. How are you planning to challenge gender inequity and bias in the world?

Lindsay 22:28

Yeah, I'm glad that you brought up how everyone can do their own part on an on an individual level, to challenge gender inequity. Because for me, I think the most important thing that we can do is to have those hard conversations with friends and family, when they make sexist comments, racist comments. Even if it's like micro aggressions, I think it's important to call people out for why they think that way, and what leads them to think that way. And also, I guess, to have conversations to help them understand the impact of the words they say. For me, I'm an aspiring journalist. So, I'm very curious when I'm looking into people's stories and people's backgrounds of how they're brought up. And a lot of the time, how they're brought up can really affect who they are now. So, I'm working on a senior thesis project on news coverage of campus sexual assault, and campus sexual assault is a very, very gender-based violence. And I think that a lot of these stories need to be told and need to be eliminated, especially when the justice system fails them. And I think they haven't—a lot of campus sex—sexual

assault survivors have nowhere to go other than the media for someone to listen to them. I would like to be part of that movement for media to illuminate these voices and to illuminate women's voices and women's stories when it comes to how the system has failed them. Yeah. And that's what I'm planning to do to challenge gender inequity, and also what everyone can do to challenge gender inequality.

Max Reinke 24:23

There we go. Thank you. That's a super important point, Lindsay. And actually, I liked the way—I was thinking about, like Yapprack said that terrorism is so, is such a hot topic issue, compared to let's say, like femicide and stuff, where the numbers are actually greater. But I think especially your point about microaggressions and sort of having these conversations, you know, similar to sort of the PSAs that people make about terrorism, if you see something say something. If you see inequity, if you see inequality, if you see misogyny, if you see sexism in any form, call it out. Because the more we get away with it, or the more people get away with it, the less things are actually going to change. So, thank you. And let's go with Ama. Ama, tell us how you're going to challenge gender inequity and bias in the world.

Ama 25:21

I think a lot of, I've heard a lot of great things from the panel already that I just kind of want a second. Something else that I wanted to bring up is violence toward trans women and trans folk. That—I think a lot of times when we're having conversations about violence against women—that gets swept under the rug. And that's also a really huge issue. And it's something that I feel like I need to be more of an ally, personally for our trans sisters. And that's something that I've been looking more into, seeing what more I can do to be an ally. But I think, that's yeah, starts with having those difficult conversations, asking people what they need, and really seeing those spaces of intersectionality. In a lot of my spaces, just within my professional life and schooling, I've been one of the only black females there. And a lot of it too, is just showing up representation really matters, being seen. And yeah, just making sure that you are really tending to your own community.

Max Reinke 26:23

Thank you very much, Vicky, how are you going to challenge gender inequity and bias in the world?

Vicky 26:31

Yeah, I think, to challenge any sort of like social issue, whatever it may be, I think it really starts with educating ourselves and acknowledging our implicit bias. I have other professional trainings that I've been to, I've always been taught, like, you're not responsible for your first thought, but you're responsible for your first action. Your first thought, you know, it might be influenced by how others raise you, your environmental factors, whatever it may be. But whatever you decide to do, after you learned what is influencing your attitude towards something, is your responsibility. So, I think really educating ourselves on what, what kind of choices we should make when it comes to the social issues. And for me, coming from a STEM background, it's obvious, like the gender gaps between men and women in STEM engineering fields. It's, it's not even close to 5050. I remember walking into high school, it was my senior year in my engineering class. And looking around, I was the only girl in the class with, like, 25 students at least. And I think if you look at the statistics, you can, we can tell like CEOs of big companies, most are all men. And the way we can change that is for us, women, to educate ourselves,

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get ourselves to be in positions of power. And really, you know, flip, flip it around. So, I think like when I, I worked up to be the project manager of my Engineering Academy, and then when we get up to that position of power, I think it's important to bring others up with us. So, I remember that year, I brought up three other girl team leaders with me. And that was really, I think that happened on a small scale, like everyone said, individual changes that happened in my high school. But that needs to happen in college, in the workplace, wherever it may be. And I think those are the steps that I'm going to take you. But like many others said, looking at our own individual level, and have that effect ripple on. I think that's very important.

Max Reinke 28:47

Thank you very much. And Lesley, how are you planning to challenge gender inequity and bias in the world?

Lesley Galeano 28:55

I think all the bases that I wanted to cover, everybody kind of went over beautifully. But if I had anything to say, I'd say that maybe sharing the history that I've learned in college. So right now, I'm going over Latin American history, and I'm learning that women had a lot to do with political movement. So, for example, the Mexican Revolution, there was women fighting frontlines in Guatemala, in Cuba, there was women, part of the guerrilla groups, and I just, I'd like to share like that. The history and the women in our past have created have been have been part of like, the history that is told but like women aren't acknowledged as much. So just like, kind of share that history with my circle and my friends around me and then using my social media and whatever following I have to bring awareness to anything that relates to women and violence against women.

Max Reinke 29:52

Thank you very much. Actually, I had an idea, all of you have inspired me, especially with International Women's Day, I would like to go around really quickly to everyone. And in one word or a few words. Tell us what you love about being a woman. All right, Malka, what do you love about being a woman?

Malka Williams 30:14

I love that when a woman finds her voice she knows how to shake a room.

Max Reinke 30:21

Right on right on. Lesley, what do you love about being a woman?

Lesley Galeano 30:27

I love the versatility that we can have. We can, even though some of us we like being feminine and pretty, we can still be badass as well-being that.

Max Reinke 30:39

Excellent. Let's see, popcorn Ama, what do you love about being a woman?

Ama 30:45

I love having the ability to do anything that we want.

Max Reinke 30:49

Right on right on. Vicky, what do you love about being a woman?

Vicky 30:54

I feel like we're the underdog. We have—we're limitless. We have so much that is possible for us.

Max Reinke 31:03

Excellent. Yapprack, what's your favorite part about being a woman?

Yapprack 31:09

I love how strong we are. Especially considering that it's women's labor that makes the world keep turning and going around, so—including emotional labor too.

Max Reinke 31:21

Excellent. Dak. What do you love about female power?

Dak 31:25

I'm gonna say what I love about being a man. The thing, the most I love is that I'm born from a woman.

Max Reinke 31:35

Very, very smart answer. All right, Lindsay, are you ready for us? What do you love about being a woman?

Lindsay 31:43

I love how progressive we are. Just like Lesley said, you know, women are always at the frontlines of great revolutions. Great social movements. Yeah, and I really appreciate that.

Max Reinke 31:59

Okay, excellent. Well, I just want to thank all of our incredible panelists for their shares today. I know that the fights for gender equity as long from over but when I hear this group of people, when I hear just the youth of today, talking about what they're doing, the world that they want to live in, and what and how they're trying to make that world possible, it's truly inspiring. And I really, I really appreciate all of you for speaking with us today. So, to our listeners out there, now it's your turn, I challenge you to come up with a way to challenge gender inequity and bias in the world. Give it a thought and when you do take it to your social medias, post something and choose and use the hashtag #choosetochallenge and #IWD2021. And let's see what you got. Thank you everyone for listening to another episode of Triton Tools and Tidbits. My name is Max. I hope you had a good time as, at least as good of a time as I have today. And yeah, International Women's Day is March 8. Go out find that special woman and tell her how much she matters. Have a great day everyone.