



Voices of Olympia  
Canada

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Voices of Olympia Canada team from Montreal to attend Virtual United Nations Commission on Status of Women Meetings in New York City, March 2021**

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Montreal, February 22, 2021 – **The International Alliance of Women is proud to announce that Dre. Saôde Savary, will mentor the Montreal based Voices of Olympia team who will join** the 35-person delegation of the International Alliance of Women (IAW) to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York City taking place from March 15-26, 2021.

Voices of Olympia Canada team includes two members of the Board: Me. Malika Saher, Laurence Therrien, and three high school students from Montreal, participants of Voices of Olympia Canada school competition: Harmonie - Toscane, St-Pierre-Delhay, from the Collège International Marie de France; Rose Côté, from the Villa Sainte-Marcelline, and Claire Dadoun, from The Study.

The CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The discussion at this year's session will primarily focus on the following:

**Priority theme:** Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

**Review theme:** Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session).

The active participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is a critical element in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). NGOs have been influential in shaping the current global policy framework on women's empowerment and gender equality: the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. They continue to play an important role in holding international and national leaders accountable for the commitments they made in this Platform for Action.

In the lead up to this session, UN member states were asked to undertake an internal assessment of their progress in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals identified to reach gender equity by 2030. Indeed, across the board, progress has been slow and uneven, with some countries much further ahead than others. With the support of non-government organizations such as the International Alliance of Women the urgency of meeting these goals motivates advocates from countries like Canada to take the lead in committing to accelerating progress for women and girls in all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

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As a Non-Government Organization with Consultative Status with the United Nations, the IAW delegation will be actively participating in the discussions at CSW63. It is the hope of IAW that UN Member States will reach an agreement on how developed and developing countries can work together to accelerate progress and ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment remain central to the post 2016 SDG agenda as both a standalone goal and an Intersectional theme. Voices of Olympia Canada supports the IAW position.

### **About the International Alliance of Women (IAW)**

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Founded in 1904 and based in Geneva, the IAW is an international NGO comprised of member organizations involved in the promotion of the human rights of women and girls globally. The IAW has general consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and is accredited to many specialized UN agencies, has participatory status with the Council of Europe and is represented at the Arab League, the African Union and other international organizations.

For more information: <https://www.womenalliance.org/>

### **About Voices of Olympia Canada / Olympes de la Parole Canada**

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Voices of Olympia Canada is a not-for-profit Canadian corporation involved in organizing a yearly school competition open to high school girls in Canada since 2017. It proposes participants to reflect on the central theme of gender inequalities and its impact on the empowerment of women and girls, uses a human rights approach. This competition offers a unique opportunity for empowered girls to engage in the global conversation, to let their voices be heard, and their actions influence policies that foster a gender-equal world. Laureates are awarded bursaries along with support to implement their winning project in their communities. Participating schools since 2017: The Study, the Sacred School of Montreal, the Villa Maria College, the Collège International Marie de France, and the Villa Sainte-Marcelline. View their projects at "[Thank You United Nations, UN 2020](#)" eBook.

#### **More Information:**

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