

# FORUM DES FEMMES INFLUENTES

12 & 13 mai 2026

Auditorium  
Université Nationale de Vanuatu

AUF



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# Program

## Forum of Influential Women

### May 12-13, 2026

**Tuesday, May 12th:**

## Interdisciplinary viewpoints on rights, education, and authority

8:30 Reception and Registration – Amphitheater Entrance Hall

8:45 Prayer

8:50 Group photograph

9:00 Inaugural ceremony. Welcoming remarks.

- Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Vanuatu, Pr Pascal Michon
- Director of the Francophone Observatory for Inclusive Development through Gender (OFDIG), Caterine Bourassa-Dansereau.
- Director General of the Ministry of Education and Training, Mrs. Cherol Alalanna

### Introduction of the partners and goals of the forum

9:10 **Presentation of the report by Lucie Nmara Nauka, Consultant for OFDIG and UN Volunteers**

What is the current status of research on women's rights, education, and access to power? An examination of the present trajectory and conditions concerning women's roles in decision-making arenas.

Engagement with the participants

*Moderated by Leslie Vandeputte, Director of the Language Centre at the National University of Vanuatu.*

10:10 **Break**

10:30 **Symposium and discourse**

### Equality before the law for girls and women in Vanuatu: advancements, obstacles, and future outlooks

- Representative of the Ministry of Education and Training
- Wilson Toa, Balance of Power
- Micheline Atuary, Malvatumauri
- Tristelle Karae, National Child Desk Coordinator, Ministry of Justice

*Moderated by Amata Fiakaifonu, Director of the Maison des Francophonies.*

12:00 **Lunch**

1:00 PM **Roundtable**

### The incorporation of feminist theories and movements within Vanuatu society: tensions, resistance, and opportunities.

- Josepheen Tarianga, Sister
- Jo Dorras, Wan SmolBag
- Tavola Matas, Vanuatu Women's Center
- Joanne Niras (Paran Latan), music artist

*Moderated by Caterine Bourassa-Dansereau, Director of OFDIG.*

2:15 PM **Break**

2:30 PM **Woman, influential, and a catalyst for change**

- Jenny Tasale Regenvanu, elected as Mayor of Port Vila in August 2024, first LadyMayor
- MP Marie-Louise Milne, elected to the Parliament of Vanuatu in 2025, serves as the representative for the Port Vila constituency
- Sarah Mecartney, representative of the Pacific Secretariat

3:15 PM **Discourse and dialogue**

*Moderated by Wilson Toa, Balance of Power*

4:00 PM **Concluding remarks and acknowledgment**

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### May 12-13, 2026

#### Wednesday, May 13th: Experiences, stereotypes, and women in leadership

8:00 Coffee and conversation. Venue: Entrance hall of the amphitheater.

8:30 Opening

Presentation of the challenges pertaining to gender equality and inclusion within the Francophone sphere – Catherine Bourassa-Dansereau, Director of the Francophone Observatory for Inclusive Development through Gender (OFDIG).

9:00 **Portrait of women in academia, education, and research within the Francophone world.**

- Ariane Naliupis, PhD candidate in linguistic sciences
- Annette Théophile, prospective doctoral candidate in environmental sciences
- Isabelle Taklitani, lecturer and consultant NUV
- Janina Rory, Principal of LAB Secondary School

*Moderation by Georges Cumbo, Director Alliance Française*

10:15 **Break**

10:30 **Stereotypes Concerning Women in the Pacific Context: Insights Gained and Feedback from Current Projects**

- Jane William, Care International
- Ellis Lee, Inclusive WASH Portfolio Manager, World Vision
- Jenny Ligo, Human Rights Advocate of Vanuatu
- UN Women Representative

*Moderated by Thérèse Yawiko, Principal of the School*

12:00 **Lunch**

1:00 PM **Sharing experiences: women-led economic initiatives**

- Sandrine Aurélie Issachar Philemon, Aelan Construction Founder
- Stéphanie Tarbeau, Department of Women's Affairs
- Anne Pakoa, Founder and Director of Community Health School and Nursing Services

*Moderated by Eric-Normand Thibeault, Senior Consultant at the Francophone Observatory for Inclusive Development through Gender (OFDIG).*

2:30 PM **Break**

3:00 PM **Discussion and Recommendations**

*Summary of discussions and proposed actions by Lucie Nmara Nauka, Consultant.*

Execution of the OFDIG/UNV Framework Cooperation Agreement

3:30 PM **Expressions of gratitude by Professor Pascal Michon, Deputy Vice-President of the National University of Vanuatu**

4:00 PM **Forum Closure**  
**Professor Pascal Michon, Deputy Vice Chancellor, NUV, and Catherine Bourassa-Dansereau, Director of OFDIG.**

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

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