

UPF UK: Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls Event 2024

Robin Marsh

November 27, 2024

In the House of Lords hosted by Baroness Sandip Verma



Universal Peace Federation - UK *A Global Network of Peacebuilders*

The **House of Lords programme**, hosted by **Baroness Verma of Leicester** on **November 27, 2024**, was coordinated by the **Universal Peace Federation UK (UPF-UK)**. Organized by **Duchess Nivin ElGamal, Dr. Saima Niaz, Lorna Marah, and Margaret Ali**, the event marked the **2024 United Nations Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)**.

The programme featured panels of male and female speakers offering diverse perspectives on addressing this persistent and critical issue. Despite years of advocacy and campaigns, violence against women and girls remains alarmingly prevalent, with daunting statistics globally and significant challenges still evident in the UK. This underscores the deeply rooted nature of the crisis and the urgency for continued action.

UPF-UK has convened this annual event for over 12 years, with **Baroness Verma** frequently serving as its host. The issue is one of profound importance to her. A former **House of Lords Spokesperson for the Home Office on Equalities and Women's Issues**, Baroness Verma was appointed in 2019 as the **Ministerial Champion for Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Overseas** and served as the chair of **UN Women's UK National Committee** for three years. Her commitment to progress and passion for this cause were evident throughout her moderation of the programme, inspiring attendees to redouble their efforts in the fight against violence.

Keith Best and Dr. Michael Balcomb offered valuable insights into the programme by presenting up-to-date statistics on the prevalence of reported violence against women, both in the UK and globally. Their contributions provided a crucial context for understanding the scale and urgency of the issue. It was also of interest to see the different perspectives and suggestions for progress offered by the male panel and the female panel.

It was emphasised that the progress on this issue requires the sincere effort of men as well as women to challenge the existing culture.

Programme:

Opening Remarks - Baroness Sandip Verma & Margaret Ali -Director UPF

Dr. Mike Balcombe - UPF & FFWPU President Europe & Middle East

Duchess Nivin El Gamal - Patron UPF UK

Keith Best TDMA - Chairman UPF UK

Dr. Saima Niaz - Patron UPF UK

Panel Discussion 1

Moderator : Baroness Sandip Verma

Panellists

Jeremy Blain - Author & CEO Performance Works Int

Dr. Saf Buxy - Psychotherapist, Director HUH Foundation

Nic Careem - CEO Bluesky

Kostas Kapelas - CEO Total Health Clinic

Bennidict Vitae - Physicist / Teacher

Henri-Pierre Kubaka - Journalist

Panel Discussion 2

Moderator: Lorna Marah - Director & Founder Rhybia Consulting

Panellists

Dr. Idit Albert - Consultant Clinical Phycologist NHS UK

Romana Kausar - CEO Pathways Solicitor

Hannah Chinedu - CEO Now Foundation

Anna Somaiya - CEO Anna Consultancy LLC & Diversity Talent UK

Foujia Begun - UPF Young Achiever Nominee

Alham Akram -CEO Basira Foundation MENA

Nafisa Abdullahi - UPF - UK Young Achiever Nominee

Audience Participation.

Call to Action

Lorna Marah: Director & Founder Rhybia Consulting

Closing Remarks

Robin Marsh: UPF-UK Secretary General