

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT 2022

Talk,
Listen, Act,
Change



Leading the Change to
Gender Equity in
Jewish Leadership

28 August 2022 Millie Phillips Building | Emanuel Synagogue

VISIT standup.org.au/summit



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ncjwa
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE
Women Making a Difference

SUPPORTED BY THE
JCA SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

JCA

SUMMIT PROGRAM

28 August 2022 | 10.00am - 4.15pm

9.40am Registration and Coffee, Tea & Snacks

10.00am Welcome and Open Plenary

Welcome to the 2022 Social Justice Summit. Welcome to Country by Indigenous leader **Yvonne Weldon**, and opening remarks from **Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio**. We will then hear four powerful stories from members of our community who will share insights into how gender has impacted their involvement and experiences in the Sydney Jewish community. Hosted by **Jessica Harrison**, the storytellers are **Elana Benjamin**, **Rabbanit Judith Levitan**, **Donna Jacobs Sife** and **Rachel Marie**.

11.00am Gender Equity. What do the survey results tell us?

This interactive workshop will grapple with the results of the recent survey Gender Equity in Jewish community organisations in NSW. **Rebecca Forgasz**, the lead researcher of this survey, will share some key insights and then give participants an opportunity to discuss the data and share some of their own experiences. This survey, which is a first of its kind in our community, received over 240 responses from a wide range of community members. The results provide crucial data to underpin our discussions about how we move forward.

Jewish Women Standing Up

Throughout Jewish history there have been women who have stood up for what they believe in in order to make society more equitable and empathetic.

Join **Rabbanit Judith Levitan** and **Rabbi Alon Meltzer** for a text based discussion based on Midrashic and Talmudic sources that showcase these moments of female empowerment, and what they mean for us today.

12.20pm Delicious Kosher Lunch

All participants will enjoy a catered lunch, and will have an opportunity to network with other summit participants. Creating a movement of Jewish Australians who actively work towards pursuing social justice is a key goal of the Social Justice Summit, so we encourage all participants to step out of their comfort zone and engage with other attendees they might not know.

1.00pm Reflecting on Women in Leadership

Jillian Segal and **Anna Green** have enjoyed successful careers in the corporate world, and have also been actively involved in leading the NSW Jewish community. This conversation between Jillian and Anna will feature lessons learned from their corporate careers, particularly in relation to increasing gender diversity, and how those lessons might be applied to Jewish Community organisations.

1.55pm

Successful Case Studies from our friends in Melbourne

In order to create change in our community we want to identify innovative campaigns and initiatives that are creating a positive difference elsewhere, and hopefully bring them to Sydney. Stand Up's CEO **Courtney Winter-Peters** will introduce us to a range of impactful programs being run in Melbourne. **Lisa Ezekiel** (CEO NCJWA VIC), **Nomi Kaltmann** (Founder JOFA Australia), and **Rebecca Forgasz** (Chair of Advocacy at NCJWA VIC) will each provide an overview of their experiences in leadership positions, their projects, and share their successes and key learnings.

Dear Mr President. From London with Love

The Board of Deputies of British Jews is the peak representative body for the Jewish community in the UK. Over the last decade they have implemented a range of initiatives to empower women and ensure they are actively involved in the Board. Today they have a female president and vice president, and there are many other incredible women leading their organisation. How did this change come about? How has it impacted the work of the board? Which of their initiatives could we implement here in Sydney? Come and join **Marie Van Der Zyl** (President), **Amanda Bowman** (Vice President) and **Dawn Waterman** (Director of Education) as they share their stories and insights.

*Please note: This session will be interactive and include snippets of a pre recorded interview with Marie, Amanda and Dawn. President of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies - **David Ossip** - will help facilitate this discussion with Community Leader **Lynda Ben Menashe**.*

2.50pm

Afternoon Tea & Cake

A great opportunity to debrief the sessions we have attended today so far.

3.05pm

NSW Jewish Community 2030

Today we have looked in the mirror (Where are we at as a community?), and we have looked out the window (Gained inspiration from other communities). Now it is time to start planning for the future. What do we want our community to look like in 2030 when it comes to gender equity? What initiatives, programs, and policy changes are required to create that vision?

Genevieve Abbey from the JCA Diversity Committee will help facilitate this exciting hackathon.

3.45pm

In the Doing - Yael Stone

Yael Stone talks about her monumental leap from wanting change - to the messy participation in change. Starting with her work with Liberation Prison Yoga, teaching female inmates at Rikers Island, infamous New York jail. On to becoming a Board Director and the politics and scrappiness of hope and hard work in the small time not for profit space. Then being thrown in for one cycle in the #MeToo spin dryer and reaching for complexity in public discourse. And finally, coming home to Australia and making the insane decision to try to address the behemoth that is Climate Change by founding environmental organisation Hi Neighbour.

SUMMIT SPEAKERS



Anna Green

Anna is a Managing Director and Senior Partner at the Boston Consulting Group, leading BCG's Asia-Pacific People function. Anna has published several research reports on gender diversity and actions needed, with a focus on corporate leadership.

Anna was previously a member of JCA's Allocation committee (2015-2018) and is a member of Chief Executive Women.



Amanda Bowman
LONDON

Amanda chairs the Defence Division of the Board of Deputies, that focuses on the defence of Jewish freedoms, rights and security, specifically all forms of antisemitism, racism, anti-Israel extremism and bigotry.

As a Deputy for The Hampstead Synagogue since 2012, she was Chair of BODSA (the Board's Social Action Group) and its first Gender Equality Champion before being elected Vice President.



Courtney Winter-Peters

Courtney is Stand Up's CEO with a passion for social justice and the Jewish community.

A former lawyer with experience in Senior Leadership roles in the community legal sector, Courtney is committed to advocating for systemic change and empowering vulnerable and disadvantaged people.



Dawn Waterman
LONDON

Dawn Waterman is Director of Education and Community Engagement at the Board of Deputies and a member of the Board's Senior Management Team.

An activist in the Union of Jewish Students, Dawn began her career as parliamentary research assistant to Greville Janner MP with whom she worked on the successful introduction of legislation to enable the prosecution of Nazi war criminals who had entered Britain.



Donna Jacobs Sife

Donna is an award-winning storyteller, educator and writer. She has been involved with Judaism as a teacher, performer, writer and contemporary interpreter.

Donna is a co-founder of Jewish Voices for Peace and Justice, and was the Program Director of Together For Humanity, an interfaith educational organisation.



Elana Benjamin

Elana is an Australian-Jewish writer of Indian-Iraqi heritage. Her work has been published in Good Weekend, Sunday Life, The Sydney Morning Herald, SBS Voices, Essential Kids, ReachOut.com and the Jewish Book Council blog.

She is also the author of My Mother's Spice Cupboard: A Journey from Baghdad to Bombay to Bondi (Hybrid Publishers, 2012).



Genevieve Abbey

Genevieve is a senior manager at Accenture with extensive experience assisting government and private organisations through digital enablement and digital transformation.

She currently leads the Accenture Development Partnerships, Health group and is committed to designing solutions that help create a fairer and more equitable society.



Rebecca Forgasz

Rebecca was Director & CEO of the Jewish Museum of Australia, and an Associate Professor (Practice) at Monash University in the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation and the Monash Intercultural Lab.

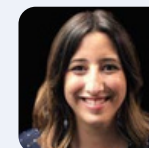
She is currently on the board of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Victoria) and the Jewish Climate Network, which she co-founded in 2019.



Yvonne Weldon

Yvonne is a proud Wiradjuri woman and the Deputy Chairperson of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council. She also serves as an independent councillor for the City of Sydney and is the first Aboriginal councillor in the City's 180-year history.

A life-long activist, Yvonne has 30 years' experience driving positive reform in health, education and child protection. She recently published a novel, Sixty-Seven Days.



Lisa Ezekiel

Lisa has served as Head Community Relations & Fundraising at Community Security Group (CSG) and was a founding board member of the Jewish Professional Women's Network.

Working at NCJWA Vic allows Lisa to combine two of her greatest passions: the Jewish community and equity for women.



Marie Van Der Zyl
LONDON

She became a Deputy in 2012 and was elected Vice President in 2015. She played a crucial part in the fight against antisemitism in the Labour Party.

Marie was at the forefront of the campaign against the so-called "cab-rank" policy, by which the Inner North London Coroner delayed the release of bodies to Jewish families. The High Court ruled that this policy was discriminatory. Her negotiations with King's College London resulted in its adoption of the internationally recognised IHRA definition of antisemitism and she has energetically pursued interfaith relations with Britain's faith communities.



Nomi Kaltmann

Nomi is one of the founding members of the Women's Orthodox Tefillah Group in Victoria. She is also the founder and inaugural president of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA) in Australia.

Her work promoting gender equality for Australian women has been covered in major Australian newspapers. Nomi is the Australian correspondent at Tablet Magazine.

SUMMIT SPEAKERS



**Rabbanit
Judith Levitan**

Judith is a community educator and lawyer in the field of social justice. She currently works at Legal Aid NSW and as the Religious Program Coordinator at Maroubra Synagogue.

She was a founding member of the Jewish Alliance Against Family Violence and is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council of Jewish Women Australia.

She has recently been appointed a chaplain in the Australian Defence Force.



**Rabbi
Jacqueline
Ninio**

Rabbi Jacqueline was ordained as a rabbi in 1998. She began her work at Emanuel Synagogue in Sydney, Australia that year.

Rabbi Ninio was the first female rabbi at Emanuel Synagogue and the third Australian born woman to be ordained as a rabbi.

She is an active leader in the Synagogue's social justice programmes and is committed to the pursuit of tikun olam, working to heal the world through deeds and actions.

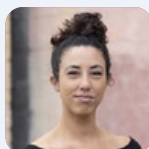


**Rabbi
Alon Meltzer**

Rabbi Alon Meltzer is the Director of Programs at Shalom and the Rabbi of Or Chadash Synagogue.

Originally from Auckland, New Zealand, he has both MAs in Sociology as well as Medieval Jewish History, he received ordination from Yeshiva University is pursuing a PhD at LaTrobe University.

He is a staunch Orthodox Feminist, and believes in furthering the democratisation and accessibility to Jewish knowledge to all areas of Jewish peoplehood.



**Rachel
Marie**

Rachel is a communications professional from Sydney. She is a member of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies' Social Justice division; Yallah (an organisation for Sephardi and Mizrahi youth); and the Sydney Alliance's Jewish caucus.

As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors and Mauritian immigrants, Rachel has always been passionate about bridging division between different CALD and faith communities, as well as elevating Jewish voices in multicultural spaces.



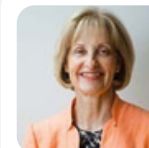
**Yael
Stone**

Australian actor Yael Stone is best known for playing Lorna Morello in seven seasons of the multiply-awarded Netflix series, *Orange Is the New Black*. She's known to Sydney theatregoers for many roles including *Diary of a Madman* and *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. Yael began working on screen in Australia at the age of 12.

Yael has a slew of awards under her belt including Best Newcomer, Best Supporting Actor, 3-time SAG Award winner for Best Ensemble. She is a proud ambassador for AIME, and has written for *The Guardian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Elle* magazine and *Junkee*.

In Jan 2020 at the height of the Australian bushfires, Yael announced that she would be abandoning her US Green Card, with major impact on her transatlantic film career, returning home to Australia as a symbol of her commitment to reducing CO2 emissions. Since then Yael founded *Hi Neighbour*; an organisation that uses solar projects to fund scholarships for local workers training for Technical Low Carbon jobs.

She's currently studying Sustainable Communities at University of Wollongong.



**Jillian
Segal**

Jillian has a legal, corporate and regulatory background. Currently, a Non-Executive Director of the Garvan Institute for Medical Research and Rabo Bank Australia, Chairman General Sir John Monash Foundation, Chairman AICC(NSW), Chairman Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA), Board Member Grattan Institute, a Trustee of The Sydney Opera House.

Previously she has been a non-executive director of the ASX, NAB and UNSW Sydney. Jillian is also the current President of the ECAJ, having served as Deputy President or Secretary over the last 9 years. Other past community roles have included: JCA (1996 – 2012) – a member/Chairman Allocations Committee; a member/Chairman, Planning Committee and now an Honorary Life Governor.

In all her roles she has been a strong supporter of having more women in senior roles and, as a past director of the ASX, she was involved in driving systemic change regarding approaches to diversify within the corporate sector.

VISIT

standup.org.au/summit

The Social Justice Summit pays respects to First Nations Custodians of the lands on which the Summit is being held. We pay our respects to elders past, present, and emerging.