

Celebrate International Day of the Girl Child this month with a panel of Powerful Women who are using Creativity for Change

For Immediate Release

Whether as artists, curators, historians or filmmakers, women continue to engage with the arts for empowerment and use it as a platform to inspire, spread awareness and define history. Art made by and for women plays a prominent part in representing issues of gender equality. Irrespective of the genre, the arts continues to be an important platform and voice in channelising and supporting the fight for women equality.

With the unprecedented scenario of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the remarkable progress made in the movement for gender equality and women's rights – over the past few decades, stands threatened. In this crucial transitional period, during which the world is collectively adapting to the ever-changing dynamic of the pandemic, it is vital that we continue to focus our efforts on empowering women globally. Avid Learning believes that gender rights, diversity, parity and inclusivity are key in fuelling empowerment for women and seeks to be a change-maker by providing a platform for fearless and inspiring women to tell their stories, recount their trials and tribulations and instigate change.

To mark the **International Day of the Girl Child 2021**, **The Consulate General of Canada in Mumbai**, **FICCI Flo and Avid Learning** present a panel discussion that features inspirational speakers, mentors and practitioners who will come together to speak about how the arts have been a key enabler in their journey of empowerment.

Author & Journalist, Anindita Ghose, Artist, Creator, Social Entrepreneur Avanti Nagral, Cultural Producer, Curator, Director Engendered, Human Rights Champion, Myna Mukherjee, and Head of Office for Timor-Leste, UN Women, Nishtha Satyam, will be in conversation with Theatre Director, Quasar Thakore Padamsee.

Join these remarkable speakers to learn how they've leveraged the arts to triumph as creative leaders, mentors and change-makers.

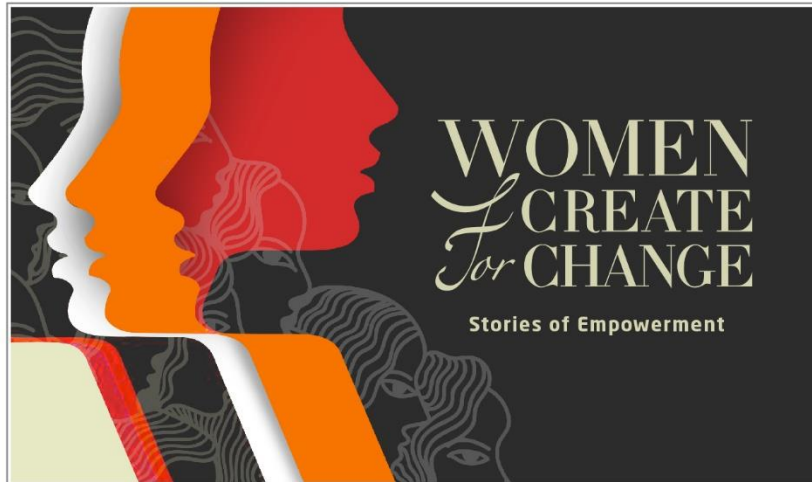
When: Thursday 7th October 2021 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (IST)

RSVP: www.avidlearning.in

Press Email: Ayesha Dadachanji on ayeshah.avid@gmail.com

Please read on for more about the event:

Along with supporting important international campaigns like UN Women's HeforShe and One Billion Rising, local initiatives like Women in Design 2020+ and 50 Years of SCMSophia in Arts and Media, AVID has also supported government campaigns such as *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* and annual international remembrance days such as International Women's Day and International Day of the Girl Child. AVID has been conscious in presenting events showcasing influential women who are bringing about a paradigm shift in the country and in the creative and cultural ecosystem. We feel privileged to have supported, highlighted and championed influential female voices from the field of arts and culture, from across the country and beyond.



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#AVIDONLINE **LIVE**



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Anindita Ghose



Cultural Producer, Curator,
Director Engendered,
Human Rights Champion
Myna Mukherjee



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Social Entrepreneur
Avanti Nagral



Head of Office for
Timor-Leste, UN Women
Nishtha Satyam



Theatre Director
**Quasar Thakore
Padamsee**

MODERATOR

DATE: **THURSDAY, 7 OCTOBER '21**
TIME: **6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (IST)**
RSVP: www.avidlearning.in

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About the Speakers

Anindita Ghose is a writer and journalist based in Mumbai. She was previously the Editor of the Saturday magazine Mint Lounge and the Features Director of Vogue India. She is a graduate of Columbia's Journalism school and was a Hawthornden Writing Fellow in 2019. *The Illuminated* is her first novel.

Avanti Nagral is on a mission to create songs, stories and conversations that challenge societal norms. Avanti's coming-of-age empowerment pop draws inspiration from her background in Indian Classical, Broadway, and Gospel music. She was the first in the world to pursue a dual degree at both Harvard University and Berklee College of Music, changing the narrative of a creative's educational experience. Having performed at the United Nations and TEDx conferences, Avanti's passion for social impact intersects with her love for performing. Avanti has amassed a strong and engaged community, The "Avantribe," 400k+ and growing, with 50M+ views across verticals. Her content takes a community-first approach and she works toward building opportunities for and with her audience.

Myna Mukherjee is a cultural producer, curator, and the founder/Director of Engendered, a New York/New Delhi based Transnational Arts and Human rights organisation with a focus on the intersections of gender and marginalities in South Asia. She is interested in art curation as a feminist practice, an instigation/investigation and reflection of aesthetics and visual spectacle, as means towards subversion of a hegemonic culture. A management strategy consultant by training, Myna left a successful career on Wall Street, to produce and curate the best in contemporary South Asian art, cinema and performance festivals in New York. She has curated internationally at the Lincoln Center, Asia Society, Tribeca Film Center, Queens Museum, and others.

For the India Chapter of Engendered, she initiated Delhi's first and only alternative art space that served as one of the first gallery and artist residency dedicated to incubating a space for cultural production around issues of gender, sexuality and rights for marginalities for over 5 years. She has curated some of India's most prolific touring visual arts exhibitions, and brought to Delhi North America's largest South Asian Human Rights film festival, I View World in 2016. In 2019 Life Style Asia magazine listed her as one of the top 5 curators revolutionising the Indian art scene. In 2020 she was invited to co-curate Hub India, a survey program representing the contemporary art and eco-system of India for Artissima, one of Italy's most pivotal art fairs. Rescheduled to 2021, the Artissima Fair, expanded and she has been invited (for the first time ever) by Fondazione Torino Musei to co-curate shows at four different locations, including World Unesco heritage site La Venaria Reale (Royal Palace of Venaria) considered to be one of the most important centres for art and culture in Italy, Museum of Eastern Art (MAO) that contains one of the major collections of Asian art in Italy, Accademia Albertina, one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Italy and the Artissima Art Fair.

Nishtha Satyam was appointed as the Head of Office for Timor-Leste in UN Women, the entity of the United Nations that is dedicated to working towards Gender Equality and Woman's Empowerment in September 2021. She was the former Deputy Country Representative for UN Women in India and served as the Officer in Charge starting January 2018. As the youngest woman to head a country office for UN Women amongst 193 countries, Nishtha Satyam is an unapologetic feminist, a trained economist with a keen interest in applied macroeconomic and fiscal policy. In her long-standing career in the United Nations, she has managed the UN Women Office for a geo-politically diverse group of countries including India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Nishtha has also served as the Private Sector Partnerships Specialist with the Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations and UNDP.

Prior to her career with the UN, Nishtha worked with leading firms such as KPMG and American Express as an Economist. As a futurist and feminist, she is a loud advocate of the urgency to mainstream women across the marketplace, workplace and community. Nishtha serves on several national and international committees including the national committee to review CEDAW, the advisory board on programming on Artificial Intelligence of Global Policy Insights, the national committee to review Gender Budgeting, amongst many others.

As a policy expert to Governments, Nishtha's interest lies in the intersection of policy, politics and people to foster lasting change for the most marginalized. She is well known columnist with leading dailies in India and is currently working on a book that captures the 25 landmark judgements that changed the course of gender equality in India.

Nishtha holds a Master's Degree in International Business from the University of Nottingham, UK and a Bachelors in Economics from Delhi University.

Quasar Thakore Padamsee is a theatre-holic and lover of all things theatrical. Since 1999, he has directed and produced over 25 plays with QTP, including *Every Brilliant Thing*, *A Peasant of El Salvador*, *Project S.T.R.I.P.*, *So Many Socks*, *Minorities* and many others about contemporary social concerns. Internationally, he has worked on Tim Supple's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the aerial drama *Mind Walking*.

He is a founding member of Thespo - a youth theatre initiative that trains and promotes emerging artists in India. And at present, he is also serving on the festival committee of Tata Literature Live! The Mumbai International LitFest.

Partner Information

FICCI Flo

Website: <https://www.ficciflo.com>

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<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYt7Q44R5xkd4dRefvV3nFloOHEePqLAZ>

The Consulate General of Canada in Mumbai: In India, Canada is represented by the High Commission of Canada in New Delhi and Canada also has Consulate Generals in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Kolkata. There are Trade Offices in Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata. The Consulate General of Canada in Mumbai works together with Indian institutions, organizations and individuals to strengthen relations between both countries by fostering mutual economic prosperity and promoting values of governance, democracy, pluralism and human rights. Canada is a multicultural society and the heart of Canadian multiculturalism is the belief that all citizens are equal, regardless of their race, cultural heritage, ethnicity, religion, ancestry and place of origin. Canada guarantees to all men and women complete freedom of conscience, thought, belief, opinion, expression, association and peaceful assembly.

FICCI FLO was established in 1983, as a division of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) which is the apex body of industry and commerce in India. As an All India Organisation for women, FLO has 18 Chapters pan India - Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Northeast, Pune, Amritsar, Northeast & Uttarakhand, with its Head Office in New Delhi. Our members comprise of entrepreneurs, professionals and Corporate Executives.

India is witnessing interesting times with changes in political, economic, and social structures on the horizon. As women play increasingly important roles to take the country forward amidst this shift, FLO is best positioned to play a catalyst's role in bringing about a positive impact. FLO purpose for this glorious year is to lead women into believing and recognizing their strengths, their unquestionable power and capability.

FLO Mumbai Chapter will focus on Health and Wellness, Power of Design, Education and Skill Development, and Rural Entrepreneurship. Last year onwards FLO Mumbai had undertaken the Village Adoption program at Mokhada in the Palghar district, where extensive work in setting up a community kitchen, medical center, and educational institutions is underway, which will encourage the tribal women of the area to earn a livelihood

Avid Learning, the cultural philanthropy arm of the Essar Group founded in 2009 has, over the past decade, grown into one of Mumbai's leading public programming platforms and is firmly entrenched in the country's wider cultural ecosystem. Over the years, AVID has gained a reputation for curating thought provoking, innovative and path-breaking content that is intellectually and creatively stimulating and engages with a variety of topical subjects and trends. Our thoughtfully curated and diverse events embrace the spirit of collaboration to bring together the best of Indian and international writers, artists,

intellectuals, cultural experts, policymakers and industry leaders across Visual Art, Literature, Culture and Heritage, Education, Design & Technology and the Performing Arts through engaging and dynamic formats like panel discussions, workshops & master classes, roundtables, lecture demonstrations, festival platforms, symposiums & conferences, multidisciplinary performances and walkthroughs. We seek to democratize the arts, create new audiences, and deepen engagement by providing a platform that gives equal access and opportunity to new learners, fresh voices and nascent minds in order to nurture future stakeholders for the creative community in India. To date, AVID has conducted over 1150 programs and connected with more than 140,000 individuals, a widely eclectic group of life-long learners including students, patrons, practitioners, influencers, thought leaders and cultural & creative enthusiasts in Mumbai, Delhi, Jaipur, Bangalore, Goa and Gujarat. We have also made our mark internationally, with events and collaborations in Dubai and New York. We regularly collaborate and partner with institutions, organisations and initiatives like the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), one of the apex bodies that impact cultural policy and the creative sector as a whole. We have been at the helm of programming at the Royal Opera House, Mumbai India's only surviving Opera House since its reopening in 2016. We believe in the importance of arts for social change and we regularly offer our support and platforms for Social Advocacy. Thanks to a dedicated and innovative team, as well as a growing and evolving community of learners, AVID continues to give truth to the belief that Learning Never Stops!