



WESTT

WOMEN'S ECO - NOMIC AND SOCIAL THINK THANK

WESTT INFOPACK

2022

Pressure to Act

The Women's Eco-nomic and Social Think Tank (WESTT) is a leading Women's Think Tank with global dimensions focussing on the economic, environmental and social development of women. At a political level it is also lobbies to raise awareness on key issues but never for commercial gain.

Through its international connections and experts at all levels of government, corporate and development agencies, WESTT is able to assemble panels of all divisions of social partners, employers, employee representatives, NGOs, institutions and academia to analyse challenges and create opportunities.

WESTT knows challenges cannot be addressed in isolation, the key to overcoming the barriers are grass roots, relevant knowledge and multi-stakeholder participation; and to that end, WESTT is a multidimensional Think Tank consisting of both men and women, young and old.

Women's issues are not gender concerns only to be addressed by women. They have social and economic values and can only be solved with men included in the discussions also.

"WESTT seeks to be free thinking, apolitical (even where undertaking government contracts) innovative and practical. Retaining local knowledge, combined with international best practice expertise and models, real issues are debated and the outcomes, concrete proposals and recommendations presented as deliverable, relevant and able to be implemented."

Sustainable Solutions

Whilst there are a number of organisations around the world supporting Women and initiatives for their empowerment and betterment, no one organisation from our research, as yet, is truly providing a holistic solution which encompasses the Social and Eco-nomic outputs which are measured and driven from within each programme, project and initiative for sustainability.

At WESTT, we lead in the invention, development and delivery of research and turn it into practical solutions, which can be tried and tested, amended and ultimately developed into policy changes for the benefit of society underpinned by the triple bottom line: People, Planet and Profit. Additionally, through our development framework we have also included Purpose and Partnership. Hence the five P's of Sustainability for WESTT are:

Purpose, People, Planet, Partnership, Profit

WESTT's core activities implement a gender lens on all activities through the following Framework:

- ✓ Research, benchmarking and local assessment brought together through expert and local panel analysis, specifically with the additional focus on the gender perspective
- ✓ Gender focussed project design with relevant concrete proposals to create sustainability, transparency and local relevance.
- ✓ Project delivery with measurable outcomes, evaluations and monitoring, including parity considerations in the engagement of men and women
- ✓ Gender equality support and intervention – including training, train the trainer, mentoring shadowing and constant effective communication
- ✓ Follow up and monitoring to ensure longevity and continuation of projects –
- ✓ Creation of toolkits, internal working groups and networks.
- ✓ Publication and dissemination of reports, analysis and feedback to increase capacity building.

A common theme throughout our work is that Individuals and Organisations (groups of People or Business) hold the same weight in importance in terms of shareholder and stakeholder value. The inclusive working environment leads to a self-fulfilling network for growth and prosperity where terms such as profitability, sustainability, investment and productivity, are not limited to only corporate terminology.

Global Focus

WESTT is a global organisation working in countries at all levels of development and growth. To bridge the gap between the Developed and the Developing Countries, WESTT must ensure cross fertilisation of expertise and methodologies that work to deliver sustainability. A common purpose, working in partnership, promoting urban and rural sustainability around the World will bring equity, abundance, peace and security.

- Equality and female participation in the decision making process is far from adequate especially in times where women and children are the most impacted by war, crime, employment or education opportunities, discrimination and climate change.
- Global targets towards poverty alleviation, reduction of inequalities, access to basic life resources and access to education, skills or training are not achieved.
- UN declarations, ILO conventions and Global Compact conventions, such as Rio +20 and MDGs are far from being reached or implemented
- Sustainability Strategies driven by Women are widely accepted by organisations as successful and sustainable initiatives.

- With demographic challenges across the planet the role of women as Mothers must be considered higher on the agenda of policy makers.
- Economies continue to fail to recognise the value of women in the economy as Entrepreneurs, as innovators, as employees and managers, and as carers.
- The need for a framework that embraces Women Empowerment & CSR solutions that are having a Positive impact on the balance sheet are being sought.
- Government frameworks are being put in place to drive initiatives but many need implementing and a momentum to be pushed forward.
- Governments and Companies will look for external advice to meet their targets that they are unable to achieve through internal processes.
- Local people, corporations and policy makers hold the key to solving the shortfall in economic and social issues that can be filled by raising the profile and positive outputs of initiatives by linking the plans with education and employers to drive change from grassroots.
- Government policy can be influenced by private companies with the support of a robust framework that also provides economic stimuli.
- With political instability across the globe Women's Social and Economic Rights are deteriorating.



Services, Projects and Solutions

Governance and Accountability

- Mapping of stakeholders.
- Mapping the documentation and knowledge base.
- Understand the current cooperation with EU Commission/Parliament/ Government.
- Building an influence strategy.
- Identifying speaker opportunities.
- Identifying engagement opportunities.

Entrepreneurship

- Development
- Social Innovation
- Enabling Environment
- Job Creation
- Family Businesses
- Social Entrepreneurship and Cooperatives

Capacity Building

- Empowerment
- Girl child
- Eradicating Domestic Violence
- Education
- Health
- Rural and Agricultural development
- Urban development and migration
- Sustainable Growth
- Sustainable Development
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Peace and Security

Testimonials

"I would like to thank you for your support to the European Commission proposal for a Directive on improving gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges. This shows once again the commitment of the European Economic and Social Committee to the promotion of gender equality in the EU. It is indeed important to promote board-ready women to fight the myth that there are not enough qualified women to fill board positions and to give visibility to talented women aspiring to these positions. As you are aware, I strongly supported the initiative launched by leading business schools to establish the Global Board Ready Women database identifying high-achieving women in business. The Global Board Ready Women database allows companies to search over 8,000 highly qualified women ready to start a Board-level position. I very much welcome the diverse initiative underway to promote women's full participation in the governance of companies and organisations as members of boards of directors, such as the Female Board Pool Belgium and the Female Board Pool Luxembourg, to name just a few. I encourage a strong co-operation between all stakeholder involved in these initiative and can ensure you that the European Commission is doing everything in its possibilities to promote gender balance in economic decision-making positions."

Viviane REDING; Vice-President of the European Commission Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

"Madi's Mantra is 'Make a difference' which indeed she has – and continues to do so. I first met Madi in 1999 when I invited her to be a guest speaker in her capacity as UK Asian Women Entrepreneur of the Year. The conference was the first UK Conference focusing on Women's Enterprise Support which I hosted at Durham University and she captivated all present. Since then I have had the pleasure of working with Madi on numerous occasions cross the world supporting women's economic empowerment. Madi is a true 'change maker', practicing what she preaches on a daily basis. She has experienced real hardship and, as Madi does, learned from it, and turned challenges into opportunities. She is a role model for entrepreneurial practice providing inspiration to all who meet her and tirelessly supporting those who are embarking on their own journeys into new venture creation. I am delighted to see that she has written her long awaited book so that even more of us can benefit from her wisdom. Madi is remarkable and I am proud to know her."

Dinah Bennett OBE; Director International Consultants for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise

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Contact

Women's Eco-nomic and Social Think Tank (WESTT)

**Ms Madi Sharma
Madi Group
madi@madisharma.org
madi@westt.eu**

**@WESTT_WORLD
www.westtworld.com**

Tel: + 44 7885 306711