

PROGRAMME AGENDA

5th Annual Knowledge Exchange Conference Somali Women in Higher Education, Research and Academia, #WomenHEConf25

Thursday 20 November 2025, 8am to 5pm,
Maa Hotel and Suites, [Jabavu Road](#), Nairobi, Kenya

“Lifting Each Other: Somali Women’s Voices in Learning, Research, and Leadership”

#WomenHEConf25 #WomenInAcademia #WomenInResearch

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
08:30 - 09:00am	Arrivals, registration & coffee	All Participants
09:00 - 09:05am	Conference starts, prayers, and welcome note	Facilitator
09:05 - 09:10am	Conference objectives and introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sahra AHMED KOSHIN, BA, MA, MPhil and PhD Candidate, University of Nairobi, Director of Somali Gender Hub 2. Fatuma ALI SAMAN, BA and MA in Education Educational Policy and Leadership, Moi University, and a board member of Kenya's Independent Policing Oversight Authority
09:10 - 09:20am	Opening remarks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mawazo Representative 2. Dr Jordan KYONGO, East Africa Research & Innovation Hub Team Leader, British High Commission, Nairobi, Kenya
09:20 - 09:35am	Keynote Speaker Professor Fatuma AHMED ALI , Associate Professor of International Relations and Peace Studies, United States International University – Africa (Online)	<i>Ten Years On: Celebrating Somali Women’s Voices, Visibility, and Vision in Higher Education</i>
09:35 – 09:40am	Keynote Speaker Dr. Abdinuur SHEIKH MOHAMED , Chairman of the Somali Higher Education Commission, Author, Researcher & Former Minister of	<i>The Status of Higher Education in Somalia</i>

	Education, Federal Government of Somalia	
09:40 -10:20am	Panel 1: Policy and Practice Angle From Policy to Practice: Advancing Somali Women's Participation in Education and Peace Processes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Mohamed ABDULLAHI GURE, PhD in Education from the Islamic Science University of Malaysia. <i>Paper Title: Factors Predicting Women's Participation in Managing Educational Institutions in Somalia</i> Dr. Nadifa SHEIKH OMAR, PhD in Peace, Governance and Development, UN Mandated University for Peace - UPEACE. <i>Paper Title: The Impact of UNSCR 1325 on Women's Participation in Peace and Security Processes in Somalia</i> Amina OSMAN HAJI JAMA, MA, BA, in Social Work & Public Administration, East Africa University. <i>Paper Title: From Barriers to Opportunities: Understanding Somali Women's Educational Journeys in Higher Education and STEM</i> Mrs. Hawa DIRIE MOHAMED, BA Economics from Gahayr University and MBA Preston University in Islamabad, Pakistan. <i>Paper Title: Somali Women in Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities</i>
10:20- 10:30am	PANEL 1 Q & A AND DISCUSSION	
	SOMALI WOMEN CULTURAL PERFORMANCE (BURAANBUR)	
10:30 - 10:50am	HEALTH BREAK	
10:50 - 11:30am	PANEL 2: Women, Life Stories and Knowledge Positioning Somali Women in Research, Education, and Policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hawo MOHAMUD, MPhil in Statistics and Demography, Riphah International University, Pakistan. <i>Paper Title: Influence of Girls' School Dropout on Social Development in Garowe District Puntland, Somalia</i>

	(Hybrid)	<p>2. Juliet NAKABUYE, Diploma in Hotel Management from Maganjo Institute of Career Education, Kampala, Uganda. <i>Story Title: My Life Story: A Ugandan Woman's Journey Through Education, Travel, and Life Challenges.</i></p> <p>3. Ayan SAID TUKALE, MA International Law and Human Rights, UN Peace University. Master of Public Health, Kenyatta University, Kenya. <i>Paper title; Women Leadership in Somalia: A Key Area of Focus in Water Management</i></p> <p>4. Fartuun HASSAN ALI, MA in Development Studies, from Jobkey University, Chairlady, Women's Initiative for Climate Action and Peace (WICAP). <i>Paper title: The Role of Somali Women Researchers in Peacebuilding and Social Transformation: The Case of Baidoa</i></p>
11:30 - 12:10pm	<p>PANEL 3: Unequal Pathways</p> <p>Gender, Clan, and Citizenship in Somali Women's Pursuit of Opportunity</p> <p>(Hybrid)</p>	<p>1. Kaltun OSMAN, BA in Business Administration and MA in Project Management and Planning, Burao University. <i>Paper Title: Educational Challenges Affecting Girls' Academic Achievement in Public Secondary Schools in Burao, Somaliland</i></p> <p>2. Khadija JAMA EESHIYA, MA in Peace and Conflict Resolution, Hargeisa University, MBA Abaarso University. <i>Paper Title: Where Are Somali Women' in Research and Publishing? And Why It Matters</i></p> <p>3. Bisharo HUSSEIN, MA in Public Policy (Political Economy and Development), International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) Erasmus University.</p>

		<p><i>Paper Title: Policy, Practice and the Political Economy of Research in Somalia from a Gender Perspective</i></p> <p>4. Dr Abdishakur TARAH, Senior Lecturer at Nottingham Institute of Education within the School of Social Sciences, and Course Leader for BA (Hons) Education <i>Paper Title: Integrating the gender dimensions in teaching, research content and knowledge: Experiences from Somalia.</i></p>
12:10 - 12:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Q&A PANELS 2 AND 3 - DISCUSSION</p>	
12:30 - 1:30pm	LUNCH AND PRAYERS	
1:30 - 2:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">GROUP WORK Participants break away in small groups to brainstorm, discuss and later present key issues discussed. See groupwork discussion questions below</p>	
2:30 - 3:10pm	<p style="text-align: center;">GROUP PRESENTATIONS AND PLANARY DISCUSSIONS</p>	
3:10 - 3:40pm	Highlights and key issues emerging. Did we achieve our objectives?	Facilitator + Rapporteur
3.40 – 4.10pm	Action planning, presentation of action plan 2025-2026 (what do we need to do, how, who, when, where)	Facilitator + Rapporteur
4:10 – 4.30pm	Way forward, next steps and concluding remarks	Facilitator, Fatuma ALI SAMAN and Sahra AHMED KOSHIN
4.30 - 5:00pm	End of conference Informal networking and reception in the garden area	All participants

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR GROUP WORK

Group 1: Barriers and Opportunities for Somali Women in Higher Education and Research

What are the key structural, cultural, and institutional barriers that Somali women face in advancing academic or research careers?

1. How do social expectations (marriage, motherhood, community roles) intersect with women's academic journeys?
2. What support systems - formal or informal - have helped women overcome these barriers?
3. What new opportunities (digital learning, mentorship, diaspora links, research grants) can be leveraged to enhance women's participation?
4. If you could change one policy or institutional practice to support Somali women academics, what would it be and why?

Group 2: Building Women's Research Capacity and Leadership

1. What skills and capacities do Somali women researchers most need to develop in order to lead impactful research projects?
2. How can universities and research institutions in Somalia and the diaspora create more equitable pathways for women's leadership?
3. What role can mentorship, peer-learning, and collaboration play in developing the next generation of Somali women researchers?
4. How can research training programmes be made more gender-responsive and inclusive?
5. What practical steps can be taken to support early-career women researchers?

Group 3: Bridging Research, Policy, and Practice

1. How can Somali women researchers ensure their work informs national policy and development planning?
2. What barriers exist between academic research and policy uptake in Somalia?
3. What strategies can enhance the visibility and credibility of Somali women's research at national and regional levels?
4. How can partnerships with government, civil society, and international actors strengthen evidence-based policymaking?
5. What communication or dissemination tools (policy briefs, community dialogues, media engagement) work best to influence policy?

Group 4: Building Networks, Mentorship, and Sustainable Research Ecosystems

1. How can women researchers collaborate to amplify local voices and produce more context-driven knowledge?
2. What are the most effective ways to create and sustain networks of Somali women researchers locally and in the diaspora?

3. What successful examples of mentorship, collaboration, or peer support exist—and how can they be scaled up?
4. How can we ensure inclusion of women from diverse disciplines, institutions, and regions (urban/rural, inside Somalia/diaspora)?
5. How can funding mechanisms be made more accessible to Somali women researchers?
6. What should a Somali Women Researchers' Network or Hub look like—its vision, activities, and governance model?

Group 5: The Future of Somali Women in Academia (action planning)

1. What does a gender-equitable Somali university or research landscape look like in 10 years?
2. What collective actions can women researchers take to make this vision a reality?
3. How can men, institutions, and international partners become allies in this transformation?
4. What key messages should we communicate from this conference to policymakers, donors, and the public?
5. What are the next practical steps—who will do what, and when?