

WCD Honors Bold Leaders 100 Years After Women's Suffrage

Today we remember the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage and the pioneering women who bravely advocated for women's right to vote. As we reflect on that historic event and the evolution of women's rights, we remember the torch bearers who continued to pave the way and set examples of exemplary women's leadership.

We are honored to have powerful and accomplished leaders as members of WCD, and over the course of the week, we will profile the organization's pioneers, starting today with Co-founders Susan Stautberg and Alison Winter, and Global Co-chair Henrietta Fore, who turned their bold vision for gender diversity in the boardroom into reality.

Susan Stautberg, WCD Founding Co-Chair

Susan co-founded WCD from her dining room table in 2001 and served as its CEO and chair for more than 17 years. Since its inception, WCD has grown to chapters in 76 locations on six continents, and it remains a trusted and confidential network of powerful and influential women in business today – the global business elite who serve as directors, CEOs, COOs and other executive positions within their organizations.

Susan currently serves as governance advisor to Atlantic Street Capital, the first private equity firm to recruit women for portfolio executive positions, company boards, and customer advisory boards, and she is president and CEO of PartnerCom Corporation, as well as an author.

Alison Winter, WCD Founding Co-chair

Alison was sitting with Susan at her dining room table when the idea of creating an organization that would provide advocacy for board diversity, as well as support, education, and networking opportunities to women currently serving as directors. Alison played a major role in the structure and mission of WCD.

Alison currently serves as Founder and CEO of Gracious Exit, which provides support to make end-of-life circumstances more manageable and personal for loved ones. She also served as CEO of Braintree Holdings and was a Division President of Northern Trust Corporation for many years.

Henrietta Fore, WCD Global Co-chair

Henrietta, who served as Global Co-chair of WCD from 2005-2018, currently serves as Executive Director of UNICEF. In addition to the many board positions Henrietta has held, she has served in many high-ranking roles within the United States government, including being the first woman to serve as Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and director of United States Foreign Assistance, where she was responsible for managing \$39.5 billion of U.S. foreign assistance annually.

Henrietta also served as Under Secretary of State for Management, which is the Chief Operating Officer for the U.S. Department of State, and as the director of the United States Mint in the U.S. Department of Treasury.

We thank these visionary women who turned a dining room table conversation into a network of accomplished professionals who serve corporate boards around the world.

*Featured in the photo are (from left to right) WCD pioneers Henrietta Fore, Susan Stautberg, and Alison Winter.