

The Chamber Celebrates International Women's Day



The Chamber took part in celebrating International Women's Day to support women in business and foster the next generation of women leaders around the globe.

Why it matters: 2020 presented a host of unexpected challenges, threatening the progress the world has made in women's empowerment. From education and healthcare to job security and childcare, women and girls around the globe have been disproportionately burdened by the social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

What happened?

International Women's Day Forum: Last Friday, the U.S. Chamber Foundation hosted more than 45 cross-sector leaders for the [11th Annual International Women's Day Forum: Business Powering a New Tomorrow](#).

We heard from business leaders on how the private sector can narrow gender gaps, redefine leadership, reconstruct workplaces, and drive equality of opportunity for women and girls as we navigate the recovery from the pandemic.

Key moment: Foundation President Carolyn Cawley spoke with Synchrony CEO Margaret Keane about the current landscape for women and how business is leading the way to an inclusive recovery.

"We're at a pivot point in our society. The dialogue happening inside corporations and board rooms gives me hope that we're going to see real change and a new beginning for diversity and inclusion across the board," said Keane.

Missed the event? [Watch it here.](#)

A taste of what else we're doing:

- **Building networks:** Ashley Wilson, Chamber Vice President of Congressional and Public Affairs and head of the [Women Taking the Lead](#) program, explains the importance of [professional networks](#) for women.
- **At this week's Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC)**, the Chamber's Global Innovation Center (GIPC) co-sponsored, "Women in Innovation: Providing leadership, creating solutions and driving change." Women from diverse sectors, countries, and distinct innovation backgrounds, shared how they are working to provide real world solutions.
- **Million Women Mentors – Turkey:** This week, the U.S.-Turkey Business Council launched the [Million Women Mentors/ Milyon Kadına Mentör](#) program in Turkey, connecting private sector leaders with young women for mentorship opportunities in STEM fields. [Contact Ruya Kor](#) to learn more.

Looking ahead: While the pandemic has deepened pre-existing inequities, it has also presented opportunities to reimagine systems, mobilize action, and accelerate momentum for a world that is equal, inclusive, and resilient. As we recover and press forward in 2021, women and their allies are acting with courage, strength, and perseverance to shape a future that works better for all.