



## Karen Nakawala

### Founder, Teal Sisters Foundation

#### Biography

Karen is a cervical cancer survivor who started a Facebook page with the hope of raising awareness about cervical cancer and founded Teal Sisters Foundation after her treatment. Her foundation is responsible for the screening of hundreds of women including those in prisons. The World Health Organization invited her to lead survivors across the world in the Cervical Cancer Elimination strategy Global Launch on 17th November 2020.

In July 2021, Karen chaired the launch of the World Health Organization / International Agency for Research on Cancer guidelines for screening and treatment of cervical pre-cancer lesions for cervical cancer prevention. In September of the same year she was invited to speak at the United Nations General Assembly. In January 2022 she was appointed to sit on the Taskforce for Cervical Cancer Elimination in the Commonwealth. In June 2022, she was among the speakers at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. In August 2023, she was a speaker at the World Health Organization Regional Meeting in Gaborone, Botswana. In October, She was invited to speak at the World Cancer Leaders Summit 2023 in California under the Union for International Cancer Control of which her foundation, Teal Sisters, is a member of.

She has since spoken at many international forums including the London Cancer Week, International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), Workshop, George Bush institute and most recently at the MSD Africa HPV Forum Policy Roundtable. She sits on several committees such as the World Health Organization Systematic Living Guidelines, Co-authoring a paper on Managing Menopause after cancer under Lancet and she sits on the local National Cancer Technical Working Group, the Information Education and Communication committee and was part of the National Cancer Control plan committee.

Karen is very passionate and a strong advocate for cervical cancer elimination and the HPV vaccine and believes that all eligible girls should access the vaccine on demand as it is our first line of defence in the elimination strategy.