



PUBLICATION  
Mar 19, 2020

25 FOR 25 SERIES

## YASMEEN HASSAN

*25 for 25 is an original content series by Gucci and CHIME FOR CHANGE to mark the historic milestone of Beijing +25 in March, as well as Women's History Month. The series will highlight activists, CHIME Advisory Board members, partners and supporters who represent the progress made on gender equality over the past 25 years, and the emerging next generation continuing this critical work.*



In this series, CHIME is honored to spotlight an extraordinary woman at the forefront of creating a gender-equal world, CHIME Advisory Board member and Global Executive Director of Equality Now, Yasmeen Hassan. In a discussion with CHIME, Yasmeen shares her hope for a future free of violence against women and with more legal systems to achieve full equality for everyone around the world.

### **What are your hopes and expectations for gender equality in the next 25 years?**

My hope is that in the next few years all laws that discriminate on the basis of sex will be repealed, that there will be laws against all forms of violence against women, and that legal systems will be re-framed to provide victims true access to justice. I especially hope that countries will spearhead true equality in the family and actively reform discrimination based on region, tradition or culture. In short, I hope that in 25 years, Equality Now will be out of business and our daughters will hear about us in history books!

### **What does gender equality mean to you?**

Gender equality is equality in rights, equality in obligations and equality in opportunity for the sexes in every area. Legal equality is an essential first step in achieving gender equality. For equality to be realized, culture change must go hand in hand with legal change.

### **What keeps you energized and committed as a leader for gender equality?**

I am motivated by the thousands of activists, women, and girls that I come across in the course of my work as Global Executive Director of Equality Now who are dedicated, brave, creative and inspirational and are starting important conversations and leading critical change in their communities. In particular, I would like to pay tribute to the survivors of gender-based violence who use their negative experiences to generate positive change for others, such as Brisa de Angulo who fights to end sexual violence, and Jaha Dukreh who is working to end

female genital mutilation.

**What advice would you give younger generations on how to advocate / work for gender equality as they get older?**

When you are young, you are energized by the injustices you see and you take action. As you are older you have more experience and you are better at nuance and building bridges. We need the young to benefit from the wisdom of the older activists and we need older activists to understand the perspectives and priorities of the younger activists and take advantage of their creativity.

**Who do you look to as an example / role model in the fight for gender equality?**

In my life I have learnt the most from Asma Jehangir, who was my first mentor and a visionary and extraordinarily brave lawyer and human rights activist in Pakistan. From Asma I learnt to never fear anyone, to always speak out for justice and equality, and to be strategic at different levels to move the dial for gender equality. Additionally, Gloria Steinem who has been our long standing board member, has taught me invaluable lessons on listening to people, on building bridges and bringing different and diverse people to the movement together for gender equality.

