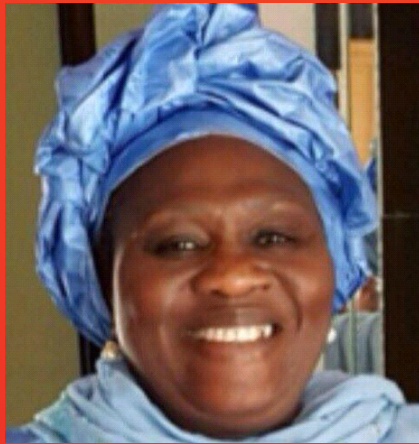


LADDER TO THE MOON NETWORK

presents

2018 Global Awareness & Responsibility Conference

“How does war impact African women socially and economically?”



Keynote Speaker

Coumba Ceesay Marenah

Former Minister of Health, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, The Gambia. Former Advisor on Gender Equality to the United Nations

Mufalo Chitam

Executive Director, Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition

Zahra Abukar

Student and Entrepreneur

Magda Darling

Business Owner, Better Benefits For All LLC

A practitioner from Northern Light Mercy Hospital will talk about health issues of African women in Maine

December 1, 2018

11:30 - 3:30

**Luther Bonney Hall, Talbot Auditorium
96 Falmouth St., Portland, ME**

Sponsored by



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE



Coumba Ceesay Marenah

Coumba Ceesay Marenah is from The Gambia, where she served in government for 25 years. She began in the Community Development Women's Program Unit, where she coordinated programs focused on women's issues, and moved up through the ranks of government service to Public Relations Officer and later Deputy Head of the National Women's Bureau. Her final government role was as Minister of Health, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs. After the military coup of 1994, she was accused of treason and forced to flee the country. She since has served as United Nations Gender and Human Rights Specialist in Ethiopia, South Sudan, the Maldives, and Kenya. She is an expert on the empowerment of women, conflict and post-conflict resolution, and poverty eradication. She is a member of RESULTS and FEMNET and is the regional director for Africa of Global Prosperity and Peace.



Mufalo Chitam

Mufalo Chitam is from Zambia. She moved to the United States in 2000. She has worked for numerous organizations in Maine, including the University of Southern Maine, United Way of Greater Portland, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Kidney Foundation, Easter Seals Maine, American Red Cross and Granite Bay Care. She is currently the Executive Director of Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition. Mufalo is the founder of the annual Empower the Immigrant Woman Conference and was recently featured in the Maine Women's Magazine March issue as one of the Women Who Inspire and honored with the 2018 Community award by the Maine Women's Fund and with a Leadership Excellence Award by her Zambian community at 2018 Mwape Peers Award in New York.



Magda Darling

Magda Adrien-Darling is from Haiti and moved to the United States in the 1970's. In 1996 she started a small manufacturing company in Portland. In 2008 she earned a BA in Health Science. She worked as a quality manager for Maine Health. In 2015 she earned certification and licensure in Health & Life Benefits. She currently owns a health benefits agency named Better Benefits for All. Magda supports several non-profits, including Maine AllCare, whose mission is to help bring about a universal healthcare system here in the state of Maine.



Zahra Abukar

Zahra Abukar is from Somalia and has also lived in Turkey. She arrived in Maine in 2014. She has been sewing since she was 10 years old. She graduated from Portland High School and is working on a business degree at SMCC. She owns a business selling her own line of clothing. Zahra is president of the Multicultural International Student Club, a member of the SMCC Business Club, and serves on SMCC's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Last spring, she won a prestigious Leon A. Gorman Scholarship, named in honor of the late longtime president and CEO of L.L. Bean.

