

2014 Great Women Of Our Time

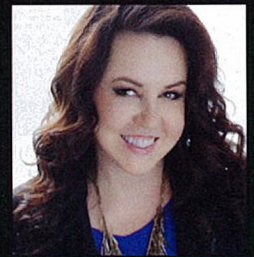
In our annual event, we honour 18 outstanding women – the Great Women Of Our Time – who are making significant contributions to their fields and to society, as well as shaping the future of their industries and others' lives



LAURA HWANG
President, SCWO
After a 16-year financial career, Laura now sits on the prestigious Nomination Council of the international board of the International Women's Forum. In July, Laura presented Singapore's NGO CEDAW Shadow Report to the United Nations CEDAW Committee.



AGNES SNG
General Manager, Raymond Weil
"This year's nominees are phenomenal. They are intelligent, successful, dynamic and pioneering – values which have been shared by Raymond Weil timepieces since we started 35 years ago."



TARA BARKER
Editor-in-Chief, The Singapore Women's Weekly
"All the women nominated this year are amazing. Please vote for the woman you personally find Most Inspiring. This important category is decided entirely by reader vote."



DR CHUA YANG

Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, A Clinic for Women and President-elect, Asia Pacific Menopause Federation

It would've been easier to simply write a cheque to a worthwhile cause, but Dr Chua decided to be more hands-on. She started volunteering her services on medical missions to places such as Indonesia, Nepal, Niger, and Ladakh. Since then, she's never looked back. "I believe that when I return from providing primary healthcare in such rural areas, I'm also a better doctor to my patients here," she says. Last year, Dr Chua even started the Himalayan Women's Health Project in a bid to lower cervical cancer rates in Ladakh through better health education, and by training Ladakhi medical staff to run a sustainable, low-cost screening programme. "I believe in the power of one individual. We don't have to change the world in an earth-shattering way – but we can all contribute in some way."



JONI ONG

Deputy Chairperson, National Family Council and President of pro-family charity I Love Children

An articulate advocate of motherhood, the wife of ex-MP Ong Kian Min is a mother of five who wears multiple caps. She juggles two businesses, heads two committee groups, chairs the management committee of the Fairfield Methodist Schools and leads the Methodist Schools Foundation. Despite this mind-blowingly busy schedule, Joni makes family time a priority and sits down to dinner with her husband and children at 7.30 pm every day. "I believe managing worklife balance is a choice, and has a lot to do with our society's current definition of success," she says. "My definition of success includes a stable and healthy family, both emotionally and physically." Joni hopes to encourage more family-friendly work policies for Singaporeans. "Being able to make incremental contributions for families in Singapore is what inspires me."



SYLVIA MUN

Chief Medical Social Worker, KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH)

In 2007, Sylvia started the Crisis and Trauma team at KKH, which assesses and treats child abuse cases, and handles the risk assessment of babies born to young, single mothers, or mothers with drug or psychiatric problems. "Every child deserves to be loved, and to be free from violence," says this mother of three, who won the Outstanding Social Worker Award last year. "I also want to make a difference in the lives of mothers, particularly those who are socially disadvantaged. Very often, they are also victims of family violence." Sylvia set up the Single Mother's Support Group to help prepare them for their new role, and a Bereavement Committee to offer emotional support to grieving families. She is now looking forward to the International Social Work Conference which Singapore will be hosting in 2016. "Through this, we'll be able to bring our practices and research to a higher level."