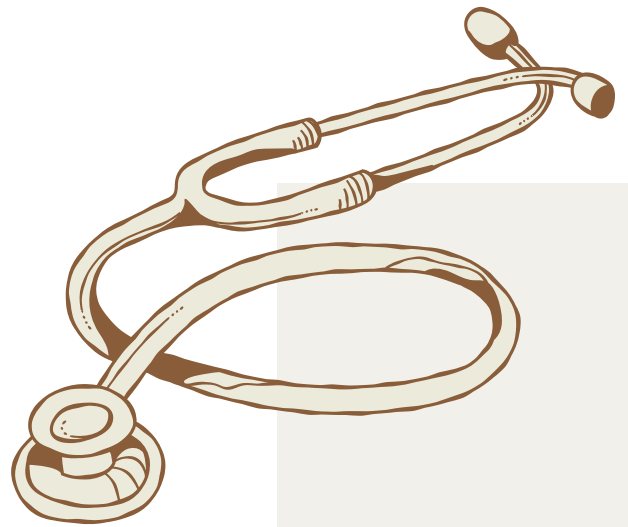




# CELEBRATE WOMEN'S DAY WITH ACCERRUS

**O**N 7 August, 2024, the Anti-Corruption Centre for Education and Research at the School of Public Leadership (ACCERUS SPL) at the Stellenbosch University and its partners, hosted a Women's Day seminar titled, "The Hand that Rocks the Cradle, Rocks the World."

This event followed the ACCERUS SPL's successful Gender and Corruption symposium which was held in June 2024, focusing on the impact of corruption on women's health.



**A**ccording to an official document titled, 'Health Sector Corruption: Practical recommendations for donors' by Ms. Karen Hussmannan it is estimated that US\$500 billion in global public health spending is lost to corruption annually. The document further highlights that corruption in the healthcare sector leads to misallocated resources, poor infrastructure, and a shortage of trained healthcare personnel. This severely affects women's access to quality care, especially in low-income and middle-income countries.

## Session Highlights

Convenor: **Dr. Puni Mamdoo**, Specialist Physician in Public Health Medicine, South Africa.

**Professor Zwelinzima Ndevu**, Director School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University, opened the seminar. In his opening remarks, he said the seminar's theme was thought-provoking, emphasizing the organization's commitment to recognizing the crucial roles women play in society. He encouraged attendees to engage in fruitful dialogues.

## Speaker Programme Summary

**1. Dr. Dafina Gexha Bunjaku**, Deputy Minister of Health, Kosovo

*Topic: The Impact of Corruption in Healthcare*

Dr. Bunjaku highlighted the severe consequences of corruption in both the public and private healthcare sectors, including the prevalence of money laundering and inflated medical prices. She deliberated on the ongoing issue of health workers accepting bribes for services that should be freely provided and noted the 2023 Kosovo Law which introduced measures such as wealth declarations for doctors and salary increases to combat corruption and improve healthcare integrity.

**3. Ms. Zanie Richman**, Community Representative

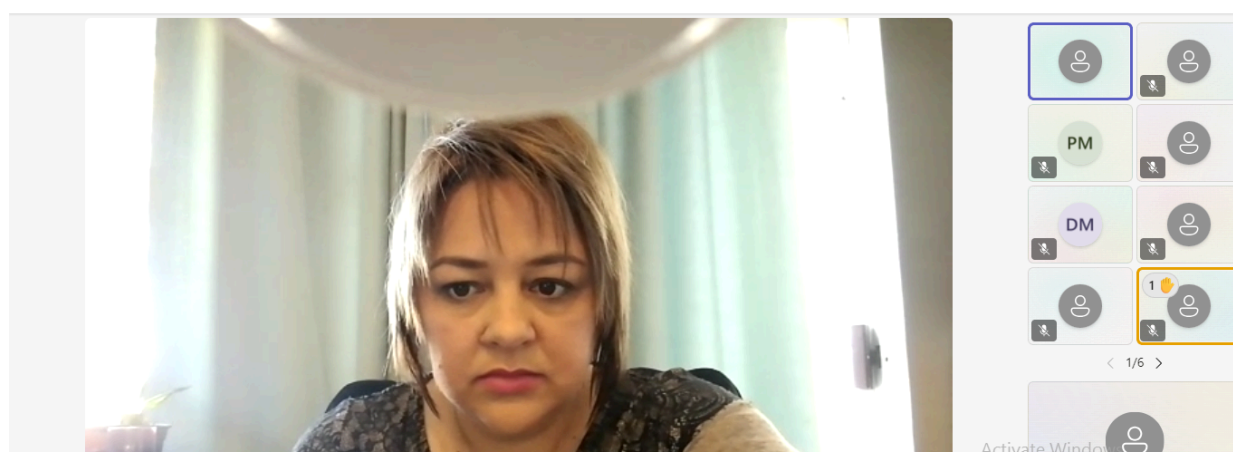
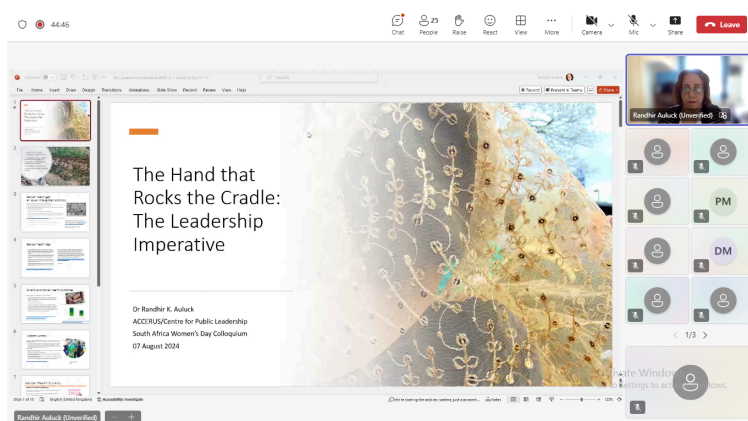
*Topic: Gender Inequality in Healthcare: Lived Experience*

Ms. Richman shared her personal experience giving birth in a public hospital in which country, highlighting how health workers' actions can either uphold or undermine the healthcare system's integrity. She discussed how corruption, through bribery, favouritism, and resource diversion erodes trust and leads to inefficiency, inequity and a decline in care quality.

**2. Dr. Randhir K. Auluck**, Public Leadership Academic, South Africa

*Topic: Examining the Public Leadership Perspective*

Dr. Auluck discussed the gender health gap in the United Kingdom (UK), where women often receive poorer healthcare than men, particularly in dementia cases. In her deliberation, she referenced the "First Do No Harm Report," published on the 8th July 2020 by Ms. Julia Cumberlege which exposed systemic failures in the healthcare system, leading to women's suffering. Dr. Auluck recommended greater transparency in clinical payments and mandatory reporting from pharmaceutical and medical device industries to address these issues.



#### 4. Ms. Chrissy Dube, Public Leadership Data Analytics Expert in South Africa

*Topic: Good Governance and Data to Address Corruption in Health care*

Ms. Dube emphasized the financial losses, reduced care quality, limited service access and erosion of public trust due to healthcare corruption. She advocated for;

- the strengthening of governance structures;
- adopting of data-driven approaches;
- fostering stakeholder collaboration; and
- implementing targeted interventions.

Ms. Dube highlighted that implementing these recommendations will go a long way in ensuring transparency, accountability and equity in healthcare services, ultimately improving health outcomes for women globally.

The seminar ended with a Question and Answer session followed by closing remarks by Professor Pregala Pillay, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University.

