

Hello,

Thanks for having me a part of this and I am so sorry I can't join in person with you darn covid I was really looking forward to being there today.

As girls get older, their confidence decreases – from 56 per cent of girls viewing themselves as confident at 10, to 44 per cent by the time they reach 17.

- By the time girls reach early adulthood (18-25), only 57 per cent agree they have 'every opportunity to become a leader' compared to 75 per cent of the girls aged 10-14.

- 40% of girls think gender is the biggest barrier to their chances of becoming a leader

Targeting this age where the decrease is crucial programs like girls take over parliament where I met the incredible Anaseini is one such example, by empowering young women to shadow a minister of parliament for a day to see what happens inside parliament but to also network with senior leaders and other young women. There is nothing more powerful than a group of united women.

Plan international found that most all (95%) of 10 to 14 year old girls and those aged 15 to 17 (96%) believe they are just as good at being leaders as boys.

But the overwhelming majority of younger girls agree (91%) it would be easier to be a leader if things were more equal between boys and girls. A further 86% think it would be easier if girls had more opportunities to lead.

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Plan also looked at qualities young people believe a leader should have and what they have 80% confidence but 44% said they were 19% of girls said they were bossy and marked this as a quality a leader shouldn't possess. I may not know these girls but I think they are actually confident but have been told that they're bossy because they are women.

What I loved in Rosalind's remarks were how she loved the qualities that Honourable Faime possesses (particularly her courage to stand up for what she believes in) and if we are going to see more young women enter politics it is going to be because of the role models we have in women in leaderships positions such as the Honourable Faime .

We can't be what we can't see, and women bring power to leadership spaces just by being themselves and showcasing what qualities actually make a leader

And we have many examples of amazing women who are fighting against stereotypes and showcasing what it looks like to be a leader in 2022

Notably in the Australian context we have Grace Tame – Brittney Higgins these two young women have demonstrated incredible strength and resilience to fight for a safer Australia for others, and in particular within parliament. Women should not have to consider the

safety of an office or their likelihood of being assaulted or harassed by the place they decide to work.

We need safe spaces for women to be leaders and for women to aspire to occupy.

We have the Honourable Jacinda Ardern who has shown the importance of warmth, compassion and kindness and how these “feminine traits” do not make her soft but actually make her a better leader.

But also within my work I work with young women across Australia who are interested in being leaders and youth advocates across the globe and the future is very bright and we need to keep having these conversations, highlighting the strength of women in prestigious leadership roles but also the women in our own lives who demonstrate these qualities.

To end of a quote from the Honourable Faimie “When women have something in their minds they will work hard to achieve it”. We are making the right steps forward just look at the room today.