

I wanted to share a quick update from us here at Vital Voices. I hope you'll take the time to read about our virtual offerings, upcoming events (save the date for October 18<sup>th</sup>!) and open applications for Vital Voices programs.

In the past six weeks we have:

- Kicked off ten weeks of virtual programming for our [2020 WE Empower Awardees](#), six amazing women entrepreneurs from across the world who are using their businesses to further the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Awardees will be participating in events tied to the 75<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly and Global Goals Week, attend capacity-building training sessions and partake in a virtual pitch competition on September 30<sup>th</sup>. More details on the pitch event below!
- Welcomed our 2020 cohort of [HERlead Fellows](#) to begin their month of virtual programming. Fellows got to know each other over a series of small dinners and have begun their group trainings to help them bring their vision for change in their communities to life!
- Commenced our 2020 [Fortune – U.S. Department of State Global Women's Partnership](#) with 12 mentees and 11 mentor companies participating in this year's program. Mentees are participating in leadership trainings, community gatherings and communications workshops throughout September before virtually joining mentor companies like Uber, S'Well, Audi and Match Group for over a month of virtual shadowing and mentorship!
- Launched our new book, [Vital Voices: 100 Women Using Their Power to Empower](#), which celebrates 100 global women leaders using their power, positions and platforms to empower those around them. If you'd like a copy, please consider donating. [When you donate \\$95 or more to Vital Voices here](#), you'll receive your copy in as a thank you.
- Hosted an insightful conversation on why representation matters featuring Joan Erakit, the founder of [RELATE](#), a unique media platform that gives power to the people by allowing them a space to share their personal narratives.



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Kathryn Bell

With every update, we highlight one of our supporters who has made gender equality part of their personal mission. In this donor spotlight, we are thrilled to feature Kathryn Bell, an [Investment Partner Monthly Donor](#), from Washington, DC.

I've been an Investment Partner Monthly Donor to Vital Voices for about two years now. I was originally drawn to Vital Voices by their guiding principle of investing in women to improve the world. As I've gotten to know the organization better, I've seen how Vital Voices is able to successfully identify and elevate women leaders who are addressing intractable problems in their communities and support their work through Vital Voices' programs. Vital Voices enhances the impact that their network of women leaders have in their communities around the world. **I'm proud to be a Vital Voices donor and know that my monthly contribution is helping to continue this work.**

## Upcoming Applications and Events

- **HAPPENING NOW:** Kendra Scott is partnering with Vital Voices on a special giveback event. Use the code GIVEBACK8858 on [KendraScott.com](https://KendraScott.com) today (Tuesday, September 15th) and tomorrow (Wednesday, September 16th) to donate 20% of your purchase to Vital Voices!
- Join us on Wednesday, September 30th at 3 PM Eastern for our annual WE Empower Pitch Event hosted by Diane von Furstenberg and Fast Company. A Shark Tank-style pitch competition, our WE Empower Awardees will each pitch their business to our panel of expert judges, and the audience will vote to decide



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which woman leader wins a \$20,000 grant for her business. [RSVP to reserve your spot here.](#)

- **Save the date for October 18th for a very special Vital Voices virtual engagement opportunity in partnership with NowThis Next. More details to come soon.**
- The VV GROW Fellowship – our one-year business accelerator program for women owners of small and medium sized businesses – is now accepting applications for its 2021 cohort. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until December 15, 2020 or capacity is reached. Learn more about the fellowship and how to apply [here](#).

Thank you for your support Vital Voices' work partnering with women leaders solving the world's toughest challenges. You make our investment in their leadership possible. Thank you.

Warmly,  
Jenny

**Jenny Smith**

Vice President, Strategic Partnerships & Engagement  
**Vital Voices Global Partnership**