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**Malala Yousafzai, Megan Rapinoe Thrill Crowd of 10,000 at Massachusetts Conference for Women with Calls for Gender Equity, Inclusion**  
***Sold-Out Event Celebrates 15 years of Promoting Women's Advancement***

**BOSTON, December 12, 2019** – Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai and international sports star Megan Rapinoe each called for gender equity and inclusion at the sold-out Massachusetts Conference for Women, which attracted a sold-out crowd of 10,000.

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The packed room

Roughly 1,000 more watched a new livestream of Conference's keynote speakers and certain breakout sessions online.

The initial list of keynote speakers have been confirmed for the 2019 Massachusetts Conference for Women (MACFW) on December 11 and 12, with a slate of inspirational and educational headliners including award-winning actress and activist **Yara Shahidi**; researcher, storyteller and author **Dr. Brené Brown**; best-selling author **Tara Westover**; leadership expert **Simon Sinek**; mental health and LGBTQ activist **Amanda Southworth**; and co-founders and co-CEOs of theSkimm **Carly Zakin and Danielle Weisberg**.

With another year of almost instantaneous sellout, the 2019 **Massachusetts Conference for Women** will have eleven thousand attendees attending the 15th annual event on Thursday, December 12, 2019.

As a result of growing interest in issues relating to women in the workplace and the demand in conference tickets, the Conference will for the first time this year

offer **Livestream Tickets**, allowing people to watch the Conference live from the comfort of their own computer.

Tickets are also sold out for the 5th annual **Workplace Summit**, which will take place the day before the Conference. The Workplace Summit is designed to promote effective partnerships and advance equity within workplaces and will take place at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center from 1 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2019.

The Workplace Summit offers an afternoon focused on key topics facing managers and negotiating the toughest issues in organizations, with keynotes by researcher, storyteller and TED speaker Brene Brown, Wade Davis, former NFL Player and educator on gender, race and orientation equality and president and founder of Reality-Based Leadership and best-selling author Cy Wakeman. "The broad range of perspectives and knowledge represented by these keynote speakers promises a truly transformative experience for attendees at the Conference," said Gloria Larson, Esq., Board President of the Massachusetts Conference for Women. "Over the two days, we expect guests to learn, grow and advance with respect to their personal and professional goals."

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Texas Conference for Women Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Megan Rapinoe and Tracee Ellis Ross Encourage Women to Lift Each Other and  
Amplify Their Authentic Voices**

***Photos from the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Texas Conference for Women can be found at the following link:***

***<https://assignments.gettyimages.com/v2/share/1e4662b3-6b86-47c3-a770-cd4a1f76bcd6>***

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**AUSTIN** \_ Soccer superstar Megan Rapinoe extolled the virtues of teamwork and activism on Thursday in a rousing address at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Texas Conference for Women, saying "we all have a duty and a responsibility to be involved, to be an active citizen."

"Just because you don't experience something personally doesn't mean that it's not happening. It's everybody's responsibility to do everything they can to make it better because we all live in this world. We all live in this community together," Rapinoe said to a crowd of more than 7,500 gathered at the Austin Convention Center for the milestone event. "Much like with a team, when everyone is happy and healthy and feeling appreciated and respected, then I feel like everyone thrives even more."

The two-time World Cup Champion and Olympic gold medalist confessed to an adoring audience of women – and some men – in a packed hall at the Austin Convention Center: "I'm a little bit more nervous here than on the field." Rapinoe, who has been a spokeswoman for pay parity for women in soccer and elsewhere, also said "the idea that being paid equally and knowing what you deserve and being grateful aren't mutually exclusive... I think that we can be so proud and be so grateful to represent our country."

The Texas Conference for Women, which sold out within minutes of tickets going on sale in May, began in 2000 and has grown to become part of the largest national network of women's conferences.

Rapinoe joined a power-packed lineup of keynote speakers for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, including Golden Globe-winning actress, director, producer and activist Tracee Ellis Ross, who said being raised in a family of women, she did not experience the inherent competition that many women feel with each other. "I was taught and raised that we are in this together. You win, I win," she said. "What I like to do is offer experience, strength and hope."

As the CEO of her own haircare line, Pattern Beauty, she also urged women executives to create pipelines for others to rise within the ranks in business and to "guide people along."

"Women and people of color have not been given access to places of power. Everybody says that we want the table to be inclusive and diverse but there hasn't been a pipeline for people to move up," she said.

Other keynotes included New York Times best-selling author Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat Pray Love*; Tiffany D. Cross, co-founder and managing editor of *The Beat DC*, a platform intersecting national politics, policy, business, media, and people of color; Carla Harris, Vice Chairman and Managing Director at Morgan Stanley; Celeste Headlee, a communications and human nature expert, and an award-winning journalist; Amanda Southworth, a 17-year-old iOS developer, designer, and mental health and human rights activist; and Laysha Ward, Executive Vice President and Chief External Engagement Officer for Target.

Gilbert said she'd like to see a revolution of in which women could relax and prioritize just a few important people and concerns.

The full day of networking and inspiration also included breakout sessions and roundtables on topics including work-life balance, social media and small business, and author signings.

The Conference included some new offerings this year, including the first-ever Opening Night event, featuring keynote speakers Gilbert and the Skimm co-founders Carly Zakin and Danielle Weisberg. Also for the first time, tickets were available to Livestream keynote speakers and select breakout sessions.

The Texas Conference for Women began in 2000, with 2,800 attendees. Since its start, 107,480 women and men have participated in the Texas Conference for Women. CEOs, National Book Award-winners, Nobel Laureates, Olympians, Hollywood leading women, global nonprofit leaders, and hundreds of other trailblazers have taken the stage.

In the new book [\*Women Amplified: 20 Years of Insights from Trailblazing Leaders from the Stage of the Texas Conference for Women\*](#), leaders such as Author Brené Brown, Human Rights Attorney Amal Clooney, Global Philanthropist Melinda Gates, Professor and Attorney Anita Hill and Facebook Executive Sheryl Sandberg offer guidance on work-life balance, leadership, inclusion and the importance of women supporting each other.

*Women Amplified* will be on sale widely on Oct. 29 and is available now for preorder on [Amazon](#).

The 20th Anniversary Texas Conference for Women is presented by [Liberty Mutual Insurance](#); and generously sponsored by [Target](#); [Cisco](#); [Accenture](#); [Applied Materials](#); [Broadway Bank](#); [Dell Technologies](#); [IBM](#); [Indeed Inc.](#); [Nutanix](#); [RetailMeNot](#); [United Airlines](#); [Wells Fargo](#); [AT&T](#); [Deloitte](#); [Intel](#); [Mary Kay](#); [Merck](#); [National Instruments](#); [Oracle](#); [Phillips 66](#); [Planview](#); [Q2E Banking](#); [Silicon Labs](#); [Visa](#); [H-E-B](#); [Texas Beverage Association](#); [Arm](#); [CORT Furniture](#); [Fresenius Medical Care](#); [Frost Bank](#); [GLG](#); [Google](#); [Huston-Tillotson University](#); [LegalZoom](#); [SHI International](#); [SKG Texas](#); [Tokyo Electron \(TEL\)](#); [United Healthcare](#); [USAA](#); [Workhuman](#); and media sponsors [Austin American-Statesman](#); [Clear Channel Outdoor](#); [KVUE-TV ABC](#) and [The Texas Tribune](#).

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