



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

## IOC Women and Sport Award Winners 2020

### World winner: Skateistan

Skateistan is an award-winning international non-profit organisation that uses skateboarding and education to empower children. Founded by Oliver Percovich in Kabul in 2008, its programmes now reach more than 2,500 children – aged between five and 17 – in Afghanistan, Cambodia and South Africa, teaching them valuable life skills that go beyond the skatepark and classroom.

In the countries where Skateistan works, sport and other recreational opportunities for girls are often severely limited, yet close to 50 per cent of its participants are female. To help empower girls through its programmes, Skateistan makes significant efforts to create a female-first environment where girls can overcome the numerous social barriers they face and benefit from equal access to opportunities in sport. This includes employing female teachers and staff; having female-only classes and girls' days; letting girls skate first at public outreach sessions; and providing indoor facilities with privacy where girls can practise sports in an environment in line with cultural, religious and social conventions in their communities. In addition, Skateistan provides free and safe transport where necessary, and uses female role models from their own community. Together, these strategies for inclusion have proven to be extremely effective at encouraging girls to learn and play in a safe and supportive space, free from gender discrimination.

Skateistan also proudly supports women in administrative and leadership positions. Women make up more than 50 per cent of its staff across all its Skate Schools and Skateistan HQ in Berlin (Germany), while more than 60 per cent of the board and senior management positions are held by women.

Skateistan's success in using skateboarding and sport as a tool for youth development and promoting peace and gender equality has been recognised internationally by a number of prestigious award organisations. These include the 2015 Laureus Sport for Good Award, the 2013 UNICEF Sport for Education Award at the Beyond Sport summit and the 2009 Peace and Sport NGO of the Year Award.

The organisation also continues to develop new initiatives to achieve its goals, including the recently-launched girls mentorship curriculum "This Girl Can" as part of its Youth Leadership programme in South Africa.

### Winner for Africa: Salima Souakri (Algeria)

Salima Souakri overcame prejudice and persecution to become a trailblazer for women's sport within Algeria and beyond. A four-time Olympian in judo, she was the first Algerian and Arab woman to participate in the sport at the Olympic Games, making her debut as a 17-year-old in Barcelona in 1992 and twice coming close to winning a medal, having lost the bronze medal bout in both 1996 and 2004.

But her beginnings in judo were far removed from the Olympic Games, with Ms Souakri seeing first-hand the opportunities that were denied to women in Algeria in the 1980s. Her selection for the Algerian national team at the age of 16 came despite the difficulties that women faced within the country at that time, with Ms Souakri becoming a symbol of resistance to female prejudice.

After her ground-breaking debut at the Olympic Games Barcelona 1992, the persecution escalated, however, culminating in the murder of her brother the following year. The tragedy only served to make



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

Ms Souakri more determined to continue fighting as a role model for gender equality in a conservative society.

After retiring from competition, she continued to devote herself to the gender equality cause, helping to promote a culture of female integration across Algeria and encouraging young girls to practise sport in general, and judo in particular. In 2009, Ms Souakri was appointed coach of the women's national judo team and, in 2011, she became the first Algerian woman to be named as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador, committed to creating equal opportunities for girls throughout the country.

Most recently she has been working as a consultant for the Algerian Ministry of Youth and Sports and as a member of the Gender Equity Committee of the International Judo Federation.

### **Winner for the Americas: Guylaine Demers (Canada)**

Dr. Guylaine Demers is a professor and chair of women's studies research at Laval University in Quebec (Canada) and is one of the country's most prominent advocates for gender equality in sport.

Dr. Demers has spent her professional life educating students and conducting research about the opportunities and benefits of sport, and the necessity for gender equality. At Laval University, she has taught more than 1,000 students in her course on gender equity in sports, while internationally she has contributed to more than 300 leadership development sessions for women in Europe, the United States, Africa, the Middle East and Japan, and worked closely with the Qatar Women's Sports Committee to develop their sport system for girls and to train women coaches.

In 2015, she co-founded the Conversations on Women in Sport conference – a symposium held in Quebec City, dedicated to fostering solutions to bettering the experiences of girls and women in the Canadian sport system.

Her work and achievements have been widely recognised, including being named as one of the most influential women in Canadian sport by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport in 2007, 2010, and 2015.

A former college basketball player, Dr. Demers has also coached women and girls in the sport for more than 20 years. She currently serves as president of Égale-Action (Quebec's Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport), co-chair of Sport Canada's working group on girls and women in sport, and chair of the Federal Minister of Sport's advisory group on girls and women in sport, while she also sits on the editorial board of the Canadian Journal for Women in Coaching.

### **Winner for Asia: Kim Jin-Ho (South Korea)**

Olympic medallist Kim Jin-Ho is a former international archery champion who is currently a professor at the Korea National Sport University (KNSU) and a board member of the Korean Archery Association (KAA).

She came to prominence as one of the first Korean women to compete internationally in archery and became a national hero by winning gold in the women's individual and team events at the 1979 World Championships – the country's first archery titles on the global stage. Ms Kim went on to win two more gold medals at the 1983 World Championships, as well as clinching a bronze medal in the women's individual event at the Olympic Games Los Angeles 1984. After retiring as an athlete, Ms Kim became



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

the first-ever female professor at KNSU in 1995 and coached the Korean women's team to gold medals at the 2002 and 2014 Asian Games and the 2009 Summer Universiade.

Ms Kim's contributions to women's sport also extend beyond the field of play. As a director of the Women's Sport Association of Korea (1990-1998), a member of the Women's Sport Commission of the Korean Sport and Olympic Committee (2009-2013) and a board member of the KAA, she has successfully advocated for increased female representation within national governing bodies.

In addition, Ms Kim has worked directly on creating more opportunities for female athletes to participate in sport. This has included founding the Myeong-goong council, which provides free archery lessons and scholarships to children – particularly girls – so that they can participate in archery without financial concerns. In recognition of her outstanding services to sport as an athlete, coach, administrator and role model, the KSOC honoured Ms Kim with the Korea Sports Hero award in 2018.

### **Winner for Europe: Else Trangbaek (Denmark)**

After becoming the first female gymnast to represent Denmark at the Olympic Games, in Mexico City in 1968, Else Trangbæk continued to work in the sport as a coach while also becoming a professor and later the Head of the Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences at Copenhagen University. Her many leadership positions within sport have included being an executive board member for both the Danish Olympic Committee and Team Denmark, as well as the founder and chairman for the Danish association of sport history and a member of the International Society for the History of Physical Education and Sport, making her one of the most prominent and influential women in Danish sport.

Her tireless commitment to gender issues led the Danish Olympic Committee to establish a working group from 1983-1987, while various educational initiatives were also launched, designed to strengthen the political voice of women and to provide them with more influence on the development of sport. Her efforts have also helped to ensure that resources are allocated to initiatives tackling gender issues, including a programme for elite female athletes that allows those who have become mothers to have the opportunity to return to competitive sport.

Ms Trangbæk has also documented and described the importance of women in sports through countless books, articles and interviews in the Danish press. In her most recent book, *Olympic Women: A Century of Top Sports and Women's Lives*, published in 2018, she tells the stories of the 370 Danish women who have participated in the Olympic Games. Her tireless commitment to increasing awareness of the role and importance of women in sport has made her a role model for women both within the sports industry and beyond, and she continues to work to put sports policy and sports research in the spotlight.

### **Winner for Oceania: Kitty Chiller (Australia)**

As an athlete, Kitty Chiller was among the first women to compete in modern pentathlon at the Olympic Games, representing Australia in Sydney in 2000 when the women's event was first added to the Olympic programme. Since then, she has continued to be a trailblazer for women in sport, culminating in her appointment in 2016 as the first-ever female Chef de Mission of the Australian Olympic team.

Ms Chiller's commitment to advancing the cause of women in sport started in her early 20s when she was appointed to the Victorian Women's Council – a committee in the Australian state of Victoria, which is charged with protecting and promoting the rights of females, especially in sport. She has since



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

developed into a highly regarded international sports administrator, now sitting on the IOC Athletes' Entourage Commission and the Executive Boards of the Australian Olympic Committee, the International Modern Pentathlon Union (UIPM) and the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG). Ms Chiller is also the first female to be elected president of Modern Pentathlon Australia, the Oceania Confederation of Modern Pentathlon and the Oceania Confederation of Gymnastics.

As CEO of Gymnastics Australia since 2018, Ms Chiller has fought to ensure that all young female gymnasts are able to participate in the sport in a safe, inclusive, positive and fun environment. In January 2019, she was appointed Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant services to Australian and international sport, while she was also named as one of the 50 most influential women in Australian sport by one of the country's leading news outlets. She is also regularly called on to present educational and motivational talks to the sporting sector, especially to young females eager for a career in the sports industry, on and off the field of play.