

INAUGURAL GLOBAL WOMEN AND HELLENISM CONFERENCE

Connecting and Empowering Greek
Women Globally

2 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

GRAND SERAI CONGRESS AND SPA
IOANNINA, GREECE



Organised by

Food for Thought

Greek Women and Friends Global Forum

www.fftn.org.au

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WHO WE ARE

IN 2024 we are celebrating 23 years of connecting and empowering Greek-Australian women and their friends.

We are a not for Profit Community Organisation founded in 2001 by Varvara Athanasiou-loannou AM. During the pandemic Varvara created the Private Facebook group, **Greek Women and Friends Global forum** which has become a global beacon for connection and empowerment of Greek heritage women in the world.

This and her Book “**Her Voice: Greek Women and Their Friends**“ have had global appeal and encouraged us to go global and initiate the first ever Global Women and Hellenism Conference in Greece. Refer to our website for more info: www.fftan.org.au

FFTN Board 2024

L-R Christina Roma, Dorothy Hatzopoulou , Kelly Tsagournos , Maria Kalmpyli Vasso Apostolopoulos. **Front** Georgia Pernitzis, Varvara Athanasiou—loannou AM, Maria Maikousis and Maria Makris.**Absent** Maria Karidaki and Helena Kidd





WHO WE ARE

FOUNDER AND CHAIR

Varvara Athanasiou-Ioannou AM

Varvara is an Educator, Human Resources Professional and a Community Leader. She is the Founder and Chair of the Food For Thought Network Inc, (FFTN) and a Sessional Lecturer, specialising in “Learning and Teaching”, “Diversity and Inclusion” and “Women’s Leadership”. She is the author of HER VOICE: Greek Women and their Friends, and a Children’s co author of more than 60 children’s books. Her passion in life is to raise awareness about diversity and inclusion and develop people and organisations to leverage on diversity and become more inclusive.

Varvara is a recipient of multiple awards for her work with the latest being the Order of Australia (AM) in January 2024.



FFTN PATRON

Dr. Vasso Apostolopoulos

Dr. Vasso Apostolopoulos is a Distinguished Professor of Immunology, Head of Immunology and Translational Research at Victoria University, and Program Director at the Australian Institute for Musculoskeletal Science. She is world renowned for her research into cancer vaccines, multiple sclerosis immunotherapy, as well as her research in other autoimmune diseases, rare diseases, infectious diseases and drug addiction. She has published over 500 research papers and books, is ranked in the top 0.2% of researchers worldwide and has received over 100 awards and honours for her contributions to medical research. Vasso is interested in women in leadership especially those of ethnic backgrounds.

OUR GOAL



Our mission is clear - to create a transformative experience for women of Greek heritage and their friends worldwide, by hosting a unique five day conference in Ioannina, Greece.

We aim to celebrate the essence of Hellenism, and hear from our key-note speakers and attendees their views on the future of Hellenism and our part in shaping a world that embraces diversity and inclusion.

OUR PARTNERS



With Greece's Minister of Tourism, Olga Kefalogianni



With the Deputy Minister for Families and Social Cohesion Maria Alexandra Kefala

We have reached out to various Government Departments and Non Government organisations such as the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Families and Social Cohesion, the Secretariat for Greeks Abroad and Diplomacy, the Region of Ipeiros, the Ipeiros Educational Office, The University of Ioannina and various other organisations who share our vision.



Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Diplomacy, Mr Ioannis Chrysoulakis



Acting Regional Director of Education (Ipeiros) Marina Besi



Associate Professor Stauroula Tsiara, Governor of Ipeiros Mr Alexandros Kehrimanis and Stavroula Braimi Botsi Chair of the Board

THE CONFERENCE IN IOANNINA

A 4 DAYS, 5 NIGHTS PROGRAM



Picture this: A conference that not only explores the birthplace of civilization but also embraces the warmth of Greek hospitality in the historic and majestic city of Ioannina.

The Conference promises a blend of rich cultural experiences, thought-provoking discussions, and the chance to connect with like-minded women from across the globe.

It's more than just a conference; it's a journey of self-discovery, networking, and building lifelong relationships.

A unique coming together of amazing and diverse women of Greek heritage and their friends from all around the world – interested individuals, community leaders, academics, lawyers, doctors, businesswomen and trailblazers.

THE VENUE

Situated in the heart of Ioannina, Grand Serai Congress & Spa is a 5* exclusive hotel that echoes history and elements of an era made of beauty and opulence. It offers fine dining, luxurious and elegant accommodation and a professional spa centre with a seasonal outdoor swimming pool. Each one of the Grand Serai Congress and Spa rooms and suites is beautifully appointed, decorated in a style reminiscent of the East and features warm, elegant décor with delicate fabrics. Grand Serai's conference facilities are first class and its private spa offers the latest in health and beauty treatments.



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

2 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2024



Grand SERAI Congress and Spa- 5 Star Hotel, Ioannina

Arrive all day on the 2nd September

Depart the morning of 7th September

Duration: 5 nights, 4 days for the complete program

Monday 2nd Sept	Day:	Arrivals during the day & Check-in
	Evening:	Welcome Reception Cocktail
Tuesday 3rd Sept	Day:	Conference with keynote speakers and panel discussions
	Evening:	Evening free to explore Ioannina town, the shopping and the restaurants.
Wed 4th Sept	Day:	Conference with keynote speakers and panel discussions
	Evening:	GALA Formal Dinner
Thursday 5th Sept	Day:	Cultural Experiences - Full day tour to Ioannina & Zagorohoria
	Evening:	Evening Free
Friday 6th Sept	Day:	Cultural Experiences - Full day tour to Parga & Preveza
	Evening:	Free
Saturday 7th Sept	Day:	Check-out and departures

COSTS



Grand SERAI Congress and Spa- 5 Star Hotel, Ioannina

Those registered for the Conference will be notified and sent a code to book their accommodation at the discounted rate.
Early Bird bookings close by COB on 30th April 2024

Double Room B&B: 110 EUROS per night (55 EUR per person)

Single Room B&B: 90 EUROS per night

Please calculate the above by five nights for the full conference

Registration Fee: 100 EUROS (or \$160 AUD / \$110 USD appx.)
(Covers the tickets to attend for two days of the formal conference program that include coffee breaks and light lunches)

Note: Registrations for the conference will be running till July 2024. However, as we have secured a certain number of rooms at the Grand Serai Congress and Spa for a special price, these rooms will be allocated at 'first come and first serve' basis to all those who have started registering already and who have paid the registration fee according to the date of the reservation.



PRESENTATIONS/ABSTRACTS



Abstract submission for the Inaugural Women's Global Conference is open since the 18th November 2023 with a deadline of 12 February 2024 COB.

KEY THEMES

- 1) Representations of Hellenism
- 2) Enablers and Barriers to women's participation in society- Exploring the multifaceted Identity of the modern Greek woman and meeting some exceptional role models who make us proud with their research and actions.
- 3) Sustainability of Hellenism

If you would like to be a presenter please fill out the [form](#)

Abstract submissions can be in the English or Greek language. The abstracts will be reviewed by the Food for Thought Network Global Organizing Program Committee. Decisions will be reached within four weeks of the deadline of the submissions.

Acceptances will be notified by 15 March 2024.

More detailed information for presenters on the website under 'Call for Abstracts' [or click here](#)



FUNDING & SPONSORSHIP:



We will be fundraising and looking for sponsors throughout 2024 to subsidise Conference Costs

BE A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

We are a group of dedicated volunteers working hard to support Greek women and their future generations. Without any funding or sponsorships, we're relying on the power of community to make a difference.

Join us in making history by connecting and empowering today's women, so they can, in turn, empower the next generation of kids with Greek heritage. Your support can truly create a lasting impact!

The inaugural women's conference provides a unique opportunity to all sponsors to increase the visibility of their company to a global audience of women, to create product/service awareness, to highlight the importance of community and social responsibility, to reach-out to new audiences and to be associated with a noble cause.

BE A CONFERENCE SPONSOR

Your sponsorship gives you an exclusive opportunity to partner with FFTN and be part of a groundbreaking and historic conference in Greece that will touch hundreds of women who will be attending and thousands of women around the world through its promotion and appeal.

All sponsorships and donations are welcome. From \$50 to \$10,000 our proposals below offer sponsorship opportunities for any budget but please reach out and discuss with us your own promotion and benefits of partnering with Food For Thought Network as a sponsor of the Inaugural Women and Hellenism global Conference.





SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

Bronze

\$2,000

- Banner LOGO Inclusion
- Event Website 50 words
- Email logo incl..
- 1/4 page Conf. Booklet
- Social Media mentions - 1

Silver

\$3,000

- Event Website 100 words
- Banner LOGO Inclusion
- Email logo incl.
- Video Present. 1 min
- Half page Conf. Booklet
- Social Media mentions - 2

Gold

\$5,000

- Banner Signage 'Main Entrance'
- Event Website 200 words
- Email logo inclusion
- Video Presentation 2 mins
- Full page Conf. Booklet
- Social Media mentions - 4

Platinum

\$10,000

- Banner Signage 'Front Stage'
- Media Wall
- Exclusive Video Presentation
- Speaking Opportunity
- 2 Full Pages Conf. Booklet
- LOGO in the back cover

All Sponsorship packages will receive:

- Logo on website
- Social Media
- Paid Ads Logo inclusion
- Promo items placed in welcome packs
- Acknowledgment of partnership
- Large Screens at venue



OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS



COMMUNITY SPONSOR \$1,500

Community partnership sponsor is only offered to community organisations and associations, local govt bodies, non-for-profit organisations, sporting clubs & schools.

WELCOME COCKTAIL SPONSOR - \$2,500

Sponsor the welcome cocktail party and be acknowledged as the sponsor of the event in all collateral materials

CULTURAL SITE SEEING SPONSOR \$2,000

Sponsor the cost of the two excursions during the conference (cost of buses and Tour Guide) and be acknowledged as the sponsor of the excursions in all collateral materials

SHOW BAG/PRODUCTS SPONSOR

Do you have a product you would like to include in our welcome packs for the conference attendees?

Your products and donation will be included in the program, the booklet and website of the conference

INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR

Any amount from \$50 to \$1000

MEDIA & COMMUNICATION SPONSORS

IN KIND SPONSORS /PARTNERS

Listing in the program booklet and website

Please contact us to discuss options and to communicate your preference to FFTN info@fftn.org.au

DONATIONS - Bank Transfer

Food For Thought Network Inc

BSB 704-191 Account number 189244

All donations and sponsorships will get acknowledged in all promotional material of the conference



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET?



We encourage women to seize the opportunity of early bird registration and secure their spot at this year's Inaugural Women and Hellenism Conference.

Many women from Australia, the USA, Canada, Europe and Greece have already registered and submitted their interest in presenting (abstracts).

The four-day, five-night event promises keynote speakers, panel discussions, business opportunities, exploration of magical Ipeiros, and abundant knowledge-sharing.

Attendees will connect with inspiring individuals, explore business opportunities, and find ways to preserve language and culture.

Early Bird Registration is open. The organizers also invite aspiring presenters to submit abstracts by 12th February, for a chance to shine on stage.

**RESERVE YOUR
SPOT**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q: Can I still register if I did not express interest initially?

A: Yes, absolutely! The first call for preregistrations was to gauge interest, and now that we've received a positive response, registration is open to everyone

Q: What's the next step for those interested in attending the conference?

A: To secure your spot, please register by paying the 100 euros (\$160 AUD) registration fee before the deadline of 30th March 2024

Q: Why is it important to register and pay the fee promptly?

A: Firm numbers are crucial for negotiations with providers and sponsors. Additionally, a timely registration ensures we can cover deposits and make necessary arrangements for the conference.

Q: Do presenters have to pay for their participation?

A: As of now, yes, presenters are responsible for covering their registration fees , accommodation and travel expenses. We had hoped for sponsorship to offset some of these costs, but unfortunately, that hasn't materialised yet. [Click here to secure your spot.](#)

Q: Are there plans to waive presenter registration fees if the sponsorship situation changes?

A: Absolutely! If there's a positive shift in our sponsorship efforts, we would love to revisit the possibility of waiving the presenter registration fees of 100 euro. Your dedication and contribution to the conference are invaluable, and we want to ensure that financial constraints don't hinder your participation.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q: What does the 100 euro, (\$160) registration fee cover?

A: The 100 euro registration fee is designed to cover some of the conference expenses, including morning , light lunch and afternoon tea for the 2 formal days.

Please note that the registration price does not include the activities described in the program such as dinners, the welcome reception and the cultural activities. The cost for the above will be communicated later in the year to all attendees.

and as a final note...

Thank you for understanding the collective efforts that have gone into planning for 200 attendees, and we appreciate your commitment to making this conference a success. Should the circumstances change, and sponsorship becomes available for any of the activities or costs of the conference, we will communicate promptly about reimbursement and/or any adjustments to the current arrangements.

If you can't find an answer to your question below, you can always email us at: info@fftn.org.au



Food for Thought

Greek Australian Women's Network



Thank you!

Varvara Athanasiou Ioannou AM

FFTN Founder, Author of 'Her Voice - Greek Women and their Friends'

**SEE YOU IN IOANNINA
ON 2ND SEPTEMBER 2024!**

Want to find out more? Follow us on social media
for all the latest updates



 info@fftn.org.au

 www.fftn.org.au