

Women's Intercultural Conference 2025

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Esther 4:14

Join us for the 2025 Women's Intercultural Conference (WIC), a three-day gathering to **empower, equip, and enrich Intercultural women** in ministry and leadership.

This event will include:

- Inspiring keynote speakers
- Small-group discussions
- Interactive workshops
- Networking across communities and generations

The 2025 WIC aims to **empower, enrich, and equip** intercultural women to be action-oriented and lead boldly into the future.

It affirms our shared responsibility to ensure no woman is locked out or left behind and encourages intercultural women to embrace every opportunity to engage to participate.

The conference will support women from diverse communities, including intercultural young leaders, to learn, share, and bring intercultural richness into the ministry and mission of the Church.

We also seek to equip intercultural women to be enablers and leaders in all areas of society. As women leaders our role is to remain relevant and to reflect the times that we live in. Our lived experiences of food, health and economic insecurities are some of the shared common challenges we face in our homes, communities and at national level. This conference is a **call to action for such a time as this** to address our community struggles using community-driven initiatives, including a collaborative partnership with our churches.

Whether you are already active in intercultural ministry or just starting, **2025 WIC invites you to participate, share, and lead.** Intercultural women and all supporters of gender equality are welcome, including men.

For more information please contact the organisers, David Kim at david.kim@victas.uca.org.au or Lesieli Tauali'i at rachaeel72@gmail.com

2025 Event Schedule

Friday 3 October 5PM–10PM

Box Hill Town Hall
1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill

Saturday 4 October 9AM–5PM

Centre for Theology and Ministry
29 College Crescent, Parkville

Sunday 5 October 1PM–5PM

St John's Uniting Church
Cnr Mt Alexander Road & Buckley Street,
Essendon

Get Your Ticket

Cost: \$60 for all three days (catering provided)

Register by **Friday, September 26th**

Get your ticket at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/wic2025>

Our Speakers

Featuring leaders in theology, ministry, advocacy, and community development, including:

- Rev Charissa Suli
- Rev Dr Monica Melanchthon
- Virginia Lavaki
- Luisa Tuilau
- Dr Hye Kyung Park
- Sylvia Coombe
- Rev Salesi Faupula

Learn more about our speakers on the back.

Hosted by the VicTas Synod and 2025 WIC Team. WIC is a **safe space for all**



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



equipping Leadership for Mission

Meet Our Speakers



Rev Charissa Suli

Charissa is the 17th President of the Uniting Church in Australia, making history as the youngest person and the first of Pacifica and non-Anglo-Celtic heritage to hold the role.

Ordained in 2014, Charissa brings a wealth of experience from her work in congregational ministry, cross-cultural engagement, and national leadership.



Rev Dr Monica Melanchthon

Monica is Associate Professor, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies and now Research Coordinator at Pilgrim Theological College in Naarm/

Melbourne, Australia. She is an ordained minister of the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church, India, who positions herself as a feminist advocate and a liberation theologian, committed to producing reflections and texts that resist and counter cultures and languages of dominance that exclude the voices of the oppressed.



Virginia Lavaki

Virginia is a passionate faith leader and advocate for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities within the Uniting Church in Australia. Drawing from her Tongan

heritage and deep commitment to the Gospel, Virginia plays a vital role in mentoring emerging leaders and empowering second-generation CALD youth.



Luisa Tuilau

Luisa a lawyer has spent the past decade working in the fields of decolonisation, self-determination, and nuclear disarmament. Specialising in women, peace, and security, Luisa

brings expertise in data management, MEL, policy and research to craft evidence-based stories that connect grassroots experiences with policy development.



Sylvia Coombe

Sylvia is a Multicultural Commissioner in the Victorian Multicultural Commission. As a Multicultural Commissioner, Sylvia works at the grassroots level to gain a solid

understanding of the issues facing ethnic communities. Her leadership roles in community associations and her active involvement in volunteer work showcase her passion for the welfare of others and her commitment to making a positive impact in various spheres of society.



Dr Hye Kyung Park

Hye Kyung Park is Director and Associate Professor in the Department of Theology at Chang Jung Christian University, Taiwan.

Raised in South Korea, she earned her PhD from Claremont Graduate University, USA. Her research focuses on Old Testament hermeneutics, Asian theology, and Asian women's biblical theology.



Rev Salesi Faupula

Salesi is Moderator of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. Originally from Tonga, Salesi has been an active member of the UCA since 1979 and brings

extensive experience in congregational ministry, having served faithfully for 12 years across both the NSW/ACT and VicTas Synods. He is committed to fostering intercultural dialogue and inclusivity within the Church and wider community.

