



## DR. ADITI SIVAKUMAR Young Woman of Distinction

Dr. Aditi Sivakumar is an Obstetrics and Gynaecology resident doctor, and a dedicated women's rights advocate, elevating the voices of systemically marginalized communities.

After witnessing the devastating effects of gender-based violence through her undergraduate volunteer work at a local domestic violence shelter in Ottawa, Dr. Sivakumar knew she needed to act. In 2018, she launched My Empowerment Platform, an easily accessible web application dedicated to providing women and girls facing violence with the information they need to find safety. This impressive endeavor took on new importance during the pandemic when many women were trapped at home with their abusers and experiencing increased violence. Aditi has since expanded the platform's offerings to include sexual and reproductive health resources through the use of animation and videography.

Beyond My Empowerment Platform, Aditi is the youngest person in the world to be appointed Board Vice Chair to the Partnership

for Maternal Newborn and Child Health hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO). Her work there has encompassed impressive achievements such as co-leading the Global Forum for Adolescents—the largest forum for adolescent health and wellbeing in the world—and What Young People Want (formerly 1.8 Billion Young People for Change Campaign) which aims to gather the perspectives, opinions, and aspirations of young people across the world.

Aditi's efforts have earned her the prestigious Diana Legacy Award, an honour given to twelve youth social change-makers worldwide in commemoration of the late Princess Diana, and a 2023 Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case, which recognized individuals "who have made outstanding contributions to the goal of equality for women and girls in Canada."

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