

YWCA Toronto's 42nd Women of Distinction Awards Gala
Celebrating feminist changemakers driven to advance equity

TORONTO, June 8, 2023 – Tonight, YWCA Toronto will be celebrating the accomplishments of seven recipients of the 2023 Women of Distinction Award. Women of Distinction are change-makers driven to create change for women, girls and gender diverse people in our city.

Our extraordinary slate of recipients consists of [Dr. Umut Duygu Uzunel](#) (Volunteerism), [Agapi Gessesse](#) (Social Justice), [Dr. Notisha Massaquoi](#) (Health), [Daphne Taras](#) (Education), [Charlie Wall-Andrews](#) (Arts), [Melissa Alexander](#) (Community Service) and [Manvir Bhangu](#) (Young Woman of Distinction).

Award recipients are available for exclusive interviews, upon request.

“YWCA Toronto works tenaciously to break down barriers that hold women, girls and gender diverse people back from achieving equity,” says YWCA Toronto Chief Executive Officer, Heather McGregor. “We also honour the significant achievements of this year’s Women of Distinction who are driven to advance equity, both locally and globally, by championing the rights of women, girls and gender diverse individuals in academia, health care, the arts and many other fields. Join us on June 8, as we celebrate the achievements of seven remarkable women and raise vital funds for YWCA Toronto’s transformative programs at our 42nd Women of Distinction Awards Gala.”

The Women of Distinction Awards is YWCA Toronto’s largest annual fundraising event. Proceeds from this event will make it possible for YWCA Toronto to help women, girls and gender diverse people escape violence, move out of poverty, and access safe, affordable housing. We are proud of our [150-year history](#) of creating positive change in our community!

WHAT: YWCA Toronto’s Women of Distinction Awards Gala with Marivel Taruc, award-winning journalist and host of CBC Toronto News at Six.

WHEN: Thursday, June 8, 2023

Networking Reception & Market-Style Dinner: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Awards Ceremony: 7:30 p.m.

After Party: 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, 123 Queen St. West, Toronto, ON M5H 2M9

NOTE: Interview opportunities with recipients or the host can be arranged.

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RELATED LINKS: www.ywcatoronto.org and www.womenofdistinction.ca