



THE 60TH BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

Still rocking at 60!

WELCOME TO PUBLISHER!

This year the Bologna Children's Book Fair is celebrating the happy coincidence of the event dates also falling on International Women's Day by presenting a special area curated by PubliHer (**HALL 29 B36-C45**), which is hosting a programme of events specifically developed to pay tribute to women.

PubliHer is a network created in 2019 by **Bodour Al Qasimi** (founder and CEO of the Kalimat Group, United Arab Emirates, and former president of the IPA - International Publishers Association), to empower female publishing professionals to address the ongoing and no longer ignorable gender imbalances in the international book industry. By discussing and learning from each other, and looking for creative and adaptable solutions, PubliHer professionals aim to promote gender equality and end the many injustices that are still part of the creative industries worldwide.

On **7 March at 10 am**, the PubliHer Area at BCBF is hosting the "**PubliHer Conference**" that will feature discussions on: "**The Role of Women in Challenging the Status Quo in Children's Books**", moderated by **Emma House** (PubliHer Advisory Board Member e Managing Consultant di Oreham Group, UK), speakers **Beatrice Masini** (Editorial Director at Bompiani - Gruppo Giunti, Italy), **Mariagrazia Mazzitelli** (Editorial Director at Salani, Italy) and **Monica Martinelli** (Editorial Director at Settenove Edizioni, Italy): women make up anywhere from 60-80% of the publishing industry workforce. However, with female publishers, writers, and creatives increasingly asserting their voices in global publishing at the highest levels, it is difficult to square how the status quo of gender role stereotypes and male overrepresentation in children's books continues to persist. This panel will attempt to shed light on the role of women in children's book publishing at a time of increasing emphasis on diversity and inclusion in global publishing and greater accessibility of books. "**Women Helping Women in Reaching the Heights of Global Publishing Governance Institutions**" moderated by **Nopi Chatzigeorgio** (Thessaloniki Book Fair Coordinator, Hellenic Foundation for Culture, Greece), with **Tuula Père** (Ph.D. in Law, Author and Publisher of Wickwick, Inc., Finland), **Lina Chebaro** (Rights Director and Chief Editor Arab Scientific Publishers, Inc, Lebanon), **Maria Amélia Jannarelli** (Publisher di Ameli, Brazil): only one woman had presided over the International Publishers Association (IPA) since it was founded in 1896 before Bodour Al Qasimi became President in 2020. Now, it is likely that the IPA will be led by three female presidents in a row. This achievement is a testament to what can be achieved when women support other women. The continuity of this diverse leadership of the institution that represents the voice of publishing ensures that diversity and inclusion will remain at the top of the industry agenda. "**The Role of Mentorship in Developing Emerging Publishing Markets**", moderated by **Dr Wafa Thabet Mezghani** (University Lecturer, Cultural Advisor e Publishing Consultant, Tunisia), with **Fatimah Abbas** (CEO e Founder di Fatimah Abbas Literary Agency e MENA business development manager per Gigaaa Innovation, Egypt), **Mitia Osman** (CEO e Owner of Mayurpankhi Publishing House, Bangladesh) and **Silvia Milano** (CEO and Founder of Silvia Milano publishing



Bologna:
three global events
for the international
rights and licensing
trading

Con il sostegno di | With the support of





consultancy, Italy): the United Nations recently found that more than half of global population growth to 2050 will come from 8 countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Tanzania. These emerging, fast-growing countries are the publishing growth markets of tomorrow. This panel will focus on how female publishers can form peer-based mentorship and institution-to-institution partnerships to contribute to addressing developmental challenges in emerging publishing markets

Last, on **8 March at 9.05 am**, the panel **“The UN SDGS - Empowering the Next Generation of Girls and Youth Through Books”** moderated by **Lisa Lyons**, (Presidente e Publisher di Kids Can Press, Canada), featuring **Perminder Mann** (CEO of Bonnier Books UK, UK), **Karine Pansa** (International Publishers Association President, Brazil) and **Gvantsa Jobava** (International Publishers Association Vice President, Georgia).

Besides this, the programme will include Networking Coffees every day at 2pm and a Women’s Breakfast (**8 March, from 9am to 10.30am**) that will include the presentation of the exhibition **Women Femmes Frauen 女性 Mujeres ... نساء Wanawake**, organised by BCBF and PublisHer and curated by Accademia Drosselmeier/Cooperativa Giannino Stoppani and consisting of 115 editorial gems dedicated to women who have distinguished themselves in the fields of art, science, sport, music, fashion, writing and the promotion of reading.

What’s more, the Area will provide space for the exchange of ideas as well as offering opportunities to learn more about PublisHer and contribute to a survey for publishing stakeholders.

