



#MASSWOMEN

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**Megan Rapinoe, Malala Yousafzai Thrill Crowd of 11,000 at Massachusetts Conference for Women with Calls for Equity and Inclusion
*Sold-Out Event Celebrates 15 Years of Promoting Women's Advancement***

Photos from the Conference can be found at the following link:

<https://assignments.gettyimages.com/v2/share/de73b3fb-0c72-48b8-a431-d441ac8c6d9>

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BOSTON, December 12, 2019 – US Soccer Star and activist **Megan Rapinoe** and Nobel Laureate **Malala Yousafzai** espoused gender and pay equity and standing up for inclusion in Boston Thursday at the [Massachusetts Conference for Women](#), which drew a crowd of 11,000.

Rapinoe and Yousafzai were part of a heavy-hitting lineup of keynote speakers at the 15th annual Conference that also included award-winning actress and activist **Yara Shahidi**; best-selling author **Tara Westover**; leadership expert **Simon Sinek**; mental health and LGBTQ activist **Amanda Southworth**; and **Kara Swisher**, co-founder and editor-at-large of Recode.

"If I stay silent that means I'm giving up on my cause and my mission and, for me, living a purposeful life is an important thing. That's why I stick to my objectives, which is to never give up and to keep on fighting," said Yousafzai, who was nearly killed at age 15 by the Taliban for advocating for girls' education.

Calling education "an equalizing force," she said, "There are girls waiting for us. Waiting for us to raise our voices for them."

Two-Time World Cup Champion Rapinoe urged a wall-to-wall lunchtime crowd to find their own individuality and to fight for justice.

Rapinoe, one of the world's most popular athletes and an activist for pay equity and gender equality, spoke on a variety of issues from politics to the signature, arms-outstretched pose she often strikes after scoring a goal or winning a game. "It's totally a clapback to any detractors but it's also a welcome to everyone else," she said.

Rapinoe, who was named *Sports Illustrated's* Sportsperson of the Year in its December issue published this week, said women must band together to build a more inclusive society, particularly the political system.

"The system wasn't designed for us. It's never going to allow us in. It's never going to fit us. We are never going to be enough. So let's just build our own," Rapinoe said to thunderous applause.

The full day of networking and inspiration also included breakout sessions and roundtables on topics including work-life balance, social media and small business, and author signings.

Although the main day of the Conference sold out months ago, roughly 1,000 more watched a new livestream of keynote speakers and certain breakout sessions online as they happened Thursday.

Also, on Wednesday, preceding the main event, the Conference attracted some 7,000 people to a special Opening Night event and Workplace Summit designed to promote effective partnerships and advance equity within workplaces.

The events included messages from keynote speakers **Brené Brown**, a researcher, storyteller and TED speaker; **Wade Davis**, former NFL Player and educator on gender, race and orientation equality; theSkimm cofounders **Danielle Weisberg** and **Carly Zakin**; and **Cy Wakeman**, president and founder of Reality-Based Leadership and best-selling author.

The Massachusetts Conference for Women provides connection, motivation, networking, inspiration and skill building for thousands of women each year and is the nation's largest event of its kind. Dozens of expert speakers lead workshops and seminars on the issues that matter most to women, including personal finance, business and entrepreneurship, health, work/life balance and more.

The Massachusetts Conference for Women is part of the [Conferences for Women](#), the largest network of women's conferences in the United States. Its annual conferences (held in Austin, Boston, Philadelphia and Silicon Valley) attract more than 50,000 people a year to advance equality for women in the workplace and beyond. Thousands more tune in via Livestream. Each year, the conferences and related events attract from some of the world's most trailblazing women: from Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award-winners to international sports stars and CEOs. The network provides year-round support to its longstanding community of professionals through articles

featuring insights from leading speakers; a podcast, [Women Amplified](#); and social offerings.

The Massachusetts Conference for Women is presented by [State Street Corporation](#) and generously sponsored by [Boston Scientific Corporation](#); [Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany](#); [Target](#); [Cisco](#); [Bose Corporation](#); [Bristol-Myers Squibb](#); [Fidelity Investments](#); [Fresenius Medical Care](#); [Hologic, Inc.](#); [IBM](#); [Johnson & Johnson](#); [JPMorgan Chase](#); [Juniper Networks](#); [Liberty Mutual Insurance](#); [MFS Investment Management](#); [Oracle](#); [Raytheon](#); [Sanofi](#); [Santander Bank](#); [Teradyne](#); [Thermo Fisher Scientific](#); [The TJX Companies, Inc.](#); [Wayfair](#); [Wells Fargo](#); [Akamai Technologies](#); [AMAG Pharmaceuticals](#); [Applied Materials](#); [Bank of America](#); [Bentley University](#); [Biogen](#); [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts](#); [Commonwealth Financial Network](#); [Converse](#); [Harvard Business School Executive Education](#); [Kronos](#); [Merck & Company](#); [National Grid](#); [Ocean Spray](#); [Pfizer](#); [Rapid7](#); [Workhuman](#); [Pegasystems, Inc.](#); [Vertex](#); [Deloitte](#); [Foundation Medicine](#); [Johnson Controls International](#); [Pepper Hamilton](#); [United Airlines](#); [Weber Shandwick](#); radio partners [103.3 Amp Radio](#) and [Mix 104.1](#); and media sponsors [The Boston Globe](#); and [WCVB-TV Boston](#).

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