



Young Australians in International Affairs Unveils 2026 Young Women to Watch List

Young Australians in International Affairs (YAIA) is proud to announce its highly anticipated 2026 **Young Women to Watch in International Affairs** list. Unveiled each year on International Women's Day, the list celebrates the achievements and contributions of exceptional young women making an impact in international affairs, policy and diplomacy.

Now in its eighth year, the list continues to spotlight inspiring emerging female leaders who are breaking barriers, shaping Australia's international engagement.

The 16 honourees include trailblazers in global health and human rights advocacy, women at the forefront of national security policymaking, and thought leaders creating their own programs to provide solutions to the most pressing global challenges in our world.

Despite progress, women remain significantly underrepresented in global decision-making. Women [make up only around a quarter](#) of national parliamentarians worldwide and are still a minority in senior diplomatic and foreign policy roles. When young women cannot see themselves reflected in leadership, the pathway into these careers becomes harder to imagine.

YAIA CEO, Sarah Ramantanis, said visibility remains one of the most powerful drivers of change for young women pursuing careers in international affairs and global leadership.

"This year's honourees demonstrate the extraordinary talent and ambition of women shaping international affairs in Australia and globally. Through their work, they are expanding and diversifying what leadership looks like. Visibility ensures these emerging female leaders see international affairs as a space where their voices are valued and their leadership is needed."

We are proud to celebrate the achievements of each recipient and look forward to seeing the continued impact they will have on Australia's engagement with the world.

YAIA Young Women to Watch events will be held across Australia celebrating our 2026 recipients. Learn more and register: <https://www.youngausint.org.au/events>

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Meet the 2026 Young Women to Watch: <https://www.youngausint.org.au/ywtw2026>

Learn more about the Young Australians in International Affairs Young Women to Watch List: <https://www.youngausint.org.au/youngwomentowatch>

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