



## 7° Encuentro de la Red de Parlamento Abierto de ParlAmericas

El futuro de la democracia en la era digital

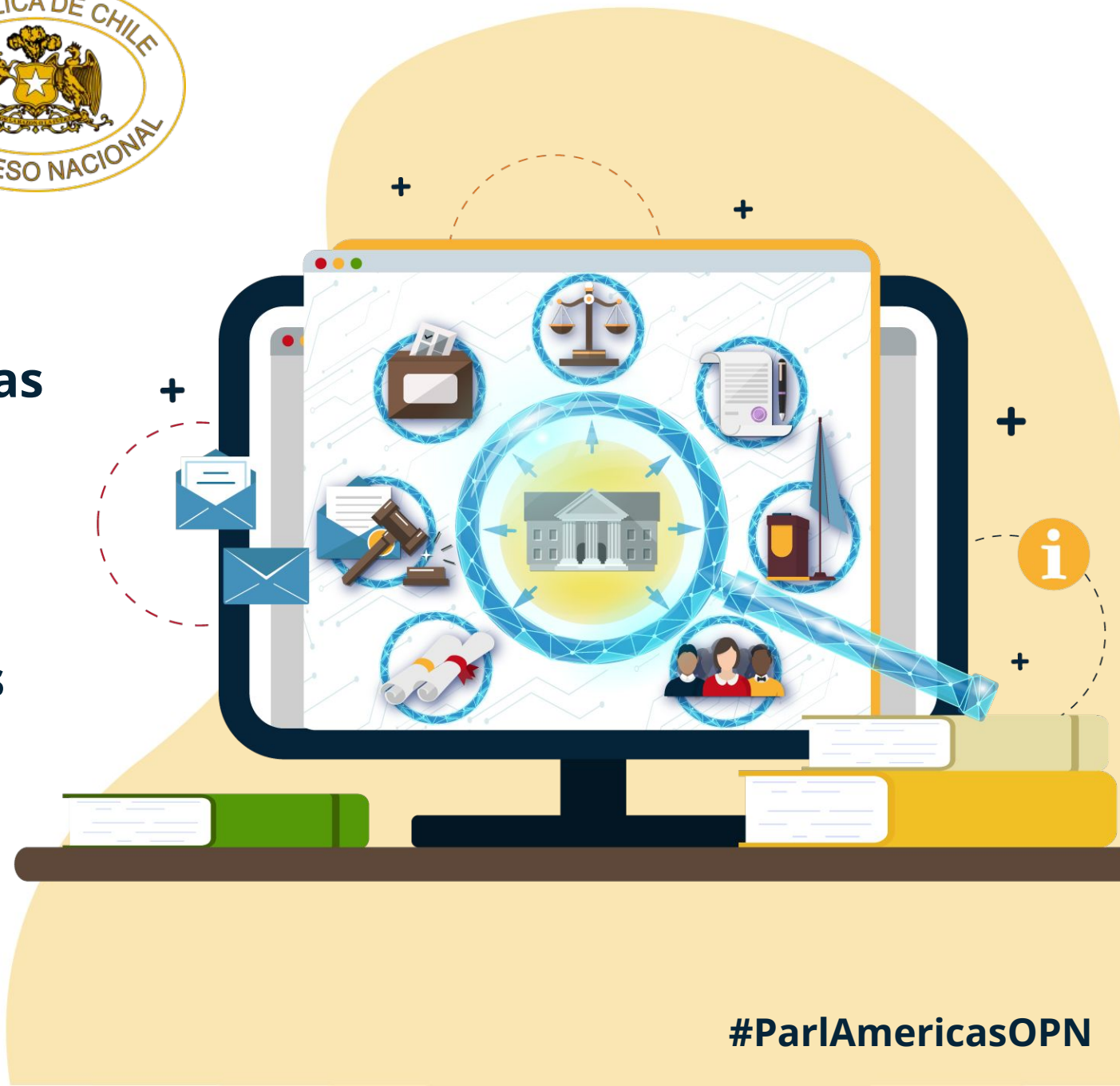
## 7<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

The Future of Democracy in the Digital Era

Santiago, Chile

Abril | April | **2023**

#ParlAmericasOPN



# Nicole Pitter Patterson

Cofundadora - Co-founder  
**She Leads IT - Caribbean Girls Hack**



# From Digital Divide to Digital Inclusion

SHE  
LEADS  
IT

CARIBBEAN  
GIRLS  
HACK



## Bridging the digital gender divide



- Technology can help bridge the digital gender divide by ensuring that women and girls have access to digital tools and resources.
- Initiatives such as providing affordable internet access, training programs, and digital literacy programs that target women and girls can help bridge the gap.
- Only 35% of tertiary STEM students are women – UNESCO report

## Building the pipeline of women in technology



Some targeted activities across the region over the past 6 years:

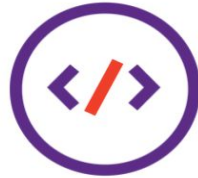
- Belize National Women's Commission (BNWC) - Girls in Tech & Women in Tech programs
- Women in Tech Caribbean - mentorship, networking, and training to advance women in technology
- ICT Academy for Girls and Women - Trinidad and Tobago
- Caribbean Girls Hack, Regional
- Youth Can Do IT, Jamaica
- RSC Tech Clubs, Regional
- Google WomenTechmakers, Trinidad & Tobago
- Microsoft Caribbean DigiGirlz, Trinidad & Tobago

# Building the pipeline of women in technology - EQUALS Global Partnership



## ACCESS

Improve women and girls' digital technology access, connectivity and security.



## SKILLS

Support development of science, technology, engineering and math skills of women and girls



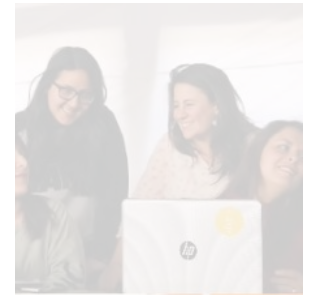
## LEADERSHIP

Promote women in decision-making roles within the ICT field



## RESEARCH

Share research to enable data-driven and evidence-based action in support of digital gender equality.



### • EQUALS Global Partnership

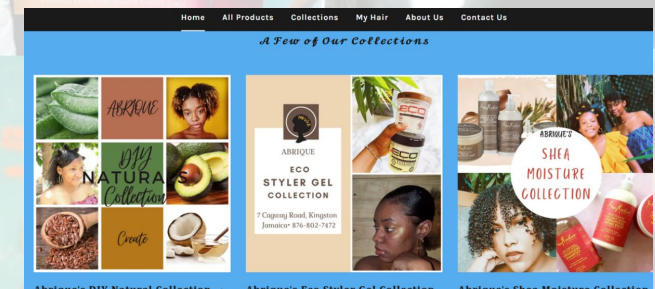
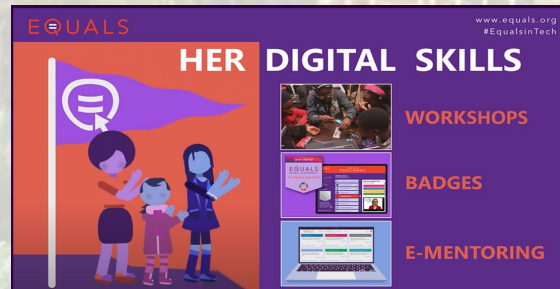
<https://www.equalsintech.org/>

### • ITU Talking Tech

<https://www.equalsintech.org/talking-tech>

### • Tech4Girls Workshops

<https://www.equalsintech.org/tech4girls>



# Celebrating International Girls in ICT Day

Over The Years

GICT Day 2023



## Investing in Future leaders: CGH E-Mentorship Alumna & ParlAmericas Leadership Mentee – Jenieve Richards



“ As a mentee in the first-ever all-women parliament sitting in Jamaica spearheaded by ParlAmericas Caribbean women in leadership, the Government of Jamaica and other stakeholders.

Now that I had the opportunity to represent the concerns of youths and bring forth solutions in parliament, it's truly an epiphany moment. This is just the start of greater things to come as I will continue to give back to my country ..”

Jenieve Richards, CGH Ambassador

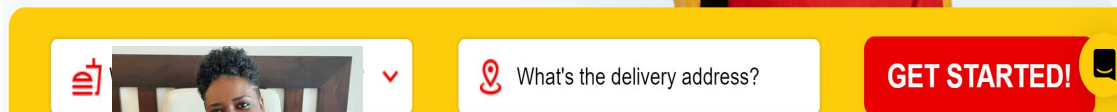


## Empowering women entrepreneurs through digital inclusion

**Food,  
groceries  
and more,  
delivered  
straight to  
your door.**

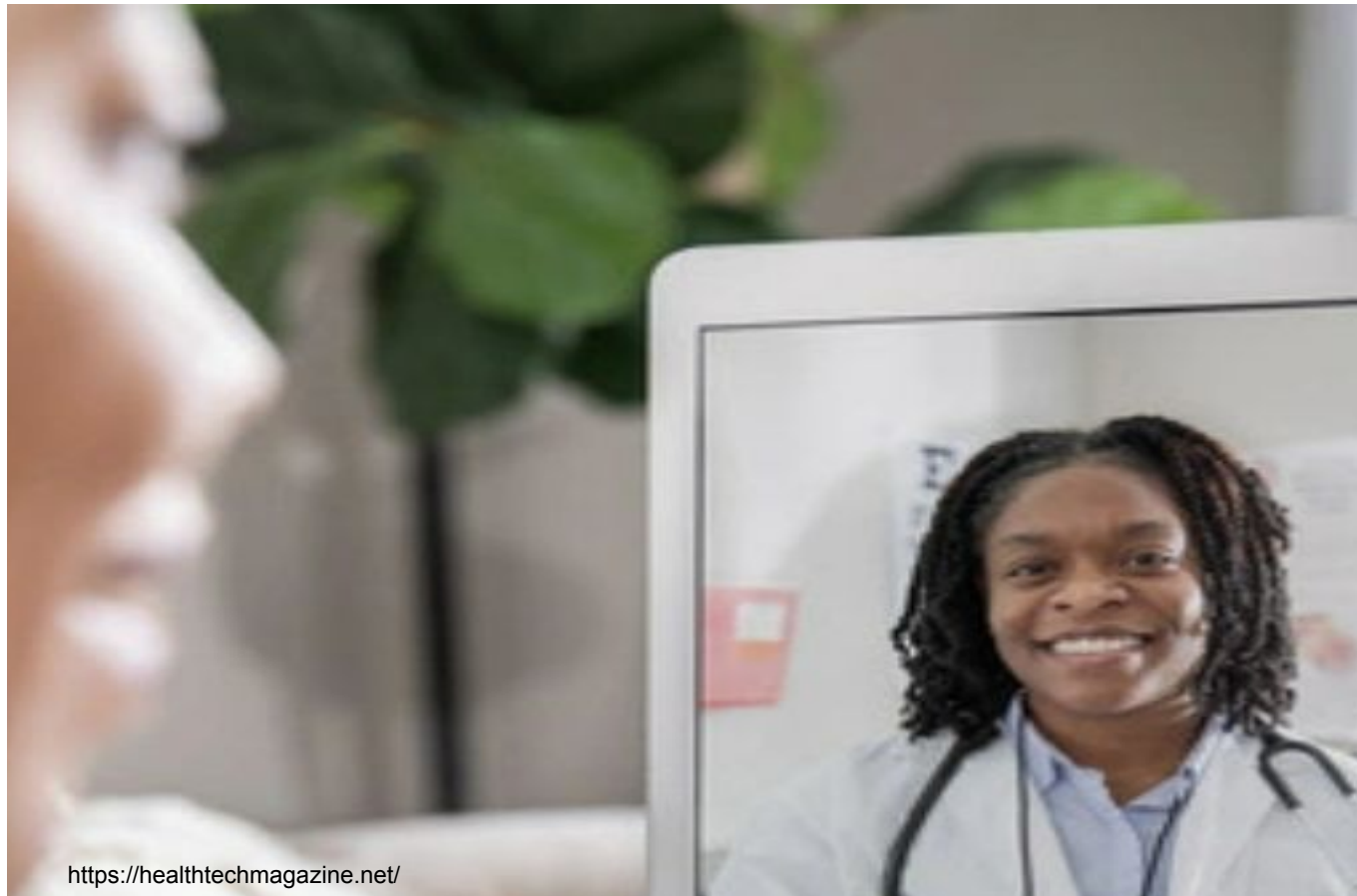


- Technology can provide women entrepreneurs with access to tools and resources that can help them start and grow their businesses.
- Innovative technologies can radically improve business efficiency, access to work flexibility, banking services, information on markets and customers and networking among female entrepreneurs.
- IDB 2022 study found that women-owned digital businesses receive less investment than male businesses.
- Online marketplaces, crowdfunding platforms, and digital financial services that are specifically designed to meet the needs of women can empower women entrepreneurs.
- Some digital initiatives serving women entrepreneurs include:
  - UNCTAD eTrade for Women
  - Connect Americas WeXchange (IDB Lab & Google 2023 initiative)
  - DMZ Canada
  - ITC SheTrades



Monique Powell, CEO of QuickCart

## Improving healthcare for women



<https://healthtechmagazine.net/>

- Technology can help improve healthcare for women by providing them with access to telemedicine, digital health records, and remote monitoring tools.
- Femtech products typically fall under one of six categories: medical device, software, therapeutic drug, consumer product, consumer service or consumer app. No matter the modality, femtech companies are disrupting the ways healthcare providers reach patients.
- This can help ensure that women receive timely and effective healthcare, regardless of their location.

**How is FemTech improving women's healthcare?**

By developing devices focusing on women, we are able to:  
better monitor women's health,  
diagnose diseases more effectively,  
collect data  
and provide tailored solutions.

The applications of FemTech vary from chronic syndromes (e.g. endometriosis) to sexual wellness, mental health and beyond.

Want to know more?

All Online + Free- Join from Anywhere  
[femtechnology.org](https://femtechnology.org)



## Combating gender-based violence

- Technology can be used to combat gender-based violence by providing women with access to safety apps, online reporting mechanisms, and other resources that can help them seek help and support.

- “According to National Women’s Health Surveys, 25% of women in Suriname and 24% of women in Jamaica have experienced sexual harassment (the highest prevalence in the region among the countries for which data is available). ” IDB Therese Turner Blog 2020

- “Research has shown that both domestic violence and sexual harassment are associated with high turnover and absenteeism of women, increasing firms’ costs.” IDB Therese Turner Blog 2020



## How can we reduce the gender bias facing women in tech

### Reality Today

Women represent around 30% of the technology sector workforce in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

The gender gap in the tech industry is wider than in other sectors.

Women are underrepresented in technical and leadership positions.

Women face various barriers to entry and career advancement in the tech sector, such as gender stereotypes, lack of role models, and unconscious bias.

Initiatives are needed to encourage girls and women to pursue STEM education and careers, as well as measures to promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

The percentage of women in tech jobs varies by country in the region, ranging from less than 10% in some countries to over 30% in others.



### Some Solutions

Internships for young women in technology.

Hands-on activities in Girls in ICT Day and STEM activities.

Artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to reduce gender bias by identifying and addressing biases in hiring, promotions, and other workplace practices.

This can help ensure that women have equal opportunities in the workplace.

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Innovation and technology have the potential to advance gender equality by providing women with access to resources and services that can help them overcome barriers and achieve their full potential.

Join us at the EQUALS Global Partnership to strengthen opportunities across Latin America & the Caribbean.

Together, let's do our part for digital inclusion!

**Nicole Pitter Patterson**

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