



Towards a Better Gender Balance: a Vision for the Future

1st October 2024

19:00 - 21:00

Large Gymnasium, NYC Centre, Yoyogi

The Gender Balance Working Group started in 2016, right after the 12th IAF Congress in Takasaki. As one of the 8 working groups of the IAF, the GBWG has been carrying out modest, yet steady activities for the last 8 years, including throughout the period of the pandemic. As a working group, we promote the idea that gender balance is a sign of health and longevity in the growth of aikido.

Although we have no actuable statistics to gauge our progress, many of us are aware that the presence of women in our art has definitely increased. Additionally, thanks to the groundwork of our predecessors, raising awareness towards improved gender balance has been supported in many ways by all groups.

Thus, this is the perfect moment for us to further discuss women in leadership, to raise awareness of the roles of women at all levels; from chief instructors, board members and instructors who are also involved in the decision making of individual dojos as well as national and international federations. As such, we would like to use this time to identify different strategies and visions per region/ culture, as well as sharing with us common practices in the global Aikido community to foster the inclusion of women in all aspects of aikido.

The GBWG organised this event for the purpose of inviting everyone in the aikido community to contribute, however we can, to strive towards gender balance in our art.

Programme

Opening

1. Words from Predecessors

Yoko Okamoto shihan
Micheline Tissier shihan
Mikiko Sugawara shihan

2. WG's actions (2016 - 2024) : where are we standing now

Presentation of our story, who we are, what we have done, where we are now

3. Balance Workshop

Get inspired by physical exercises by a duo collaboration,
Jorge Rojo shihan, Aikikai Chile
Sharon Dominguez, USAF

4. Possible future actions: group discussions per region

Speak out what YOU can do!

Possible themes:

1. What do you think can Aikido contribute to contemporary societies, to the world which is changing ever faster?
2. In order to make such contributions, how do you wish to engage in Aikido?
3. If you have your own dojo, what would be your vision of it?
4. If you become a board member of your federation, what would be your vision of it?

Closing