The COVID-19 Pandemic has disproportionately affected women and data show that the pandemic has impacted women across the globe. The past year has presented multiple challenges to women around the world, with almost 55 million losing their jobs. Despite this, women are continuously reasserting their roles in society, taking up new spaces of opportunity.

Women across the globe have stepped into positions where they've historically been excluded, and taken swift and effective actions in these roles. A few months ago, Michelle Wu became Boston's first woman and first person of color elected mayor. Women are stepping into positions where they've been historically excluded and taking on roles that go beyond politics. Dr. Rachel Levine is President Biden's assistant secretary for health and the Senate's first openly transgender person ever confirmed. Congress. Last year, Kyrsten Sinema was the first woman — and the first person of color — elected as a U.S. Senator for Arizona. Senator Tammy Baldwin is the first openly gay woman sensor for health and the first openly transgender person confirmed to a record-setting 96 Senate committee. Klobuchar became the first woman to serve on a Senate committee. Klobuchar also became the first woman to be confirmed as a U.S. Senator, breaking the glass ceiling for women in politics.

As Women's History Month comes to a close, we encourage the BU community to reflect on how you can play a role in women's empowerment. Whether it's making space for women, or amplifying the voices of the next generation of female leaders, we ask you to consider how you can contribute to the conversation.

Women across BU reflect on the barriers and opportunities for women's empowerment in their fields.

**Haki R. Madhubuti**

"Women in all lines of work continue to work to advocate for and support other women, so we can advance the conversation on what we need to do to achieve gender equity and justice."

**Luis M. Lopez, PhD, MPH**

Clinical Professor and Director of Global Health

"Women in social work and global health bring important contributions to the field, including their unique perspectives and cultural backgrounds. We need to ensure that these perspectives are heard and valued, and to create meaningful opportunities for women to lead and influence decision-making bodies."

**Jocia Zhang**

Director of Development at Charcoal Magazine, CAS'22

"Women are often regarded as weak and not strong enough and are not taken seriously, and this often results in women being passed over for leadership roles. In these challenging times, it is more important than ever to celebrate the contributions of women and women in our communities."

**Amanda Urias, MBA**

Managing Director, BU Hub, Questrom ‘17

"Women at all levels of society continue to be disproportionately affected by issues and women are uniquely positioned to support others as we move forward. Let's continue to support and empower women in all aspects of society, whether it's personal or professional."

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