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## **Breaking Gender Barriers: Local actions towards gender equality**

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Geosciences together with larger STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) communities are highly burdened with striking imbalance between female and male researchers especially at high level positions. Indeed, for example in Earth and Planetary Sciences women represent only around 37% of the scientific community. Moreover, different expressions of gender biases tend to preserve these male dominated environments and thwart achieving gender balanced work places. In this contribution, I present three local actions that aim to improve gender diversity in science and promote gender equality. 1) Together with the 500 Women Scientists organisation and supported by the host university, I have been organising a series of Breaking Gender Barriers discussion evenings. These events include short presentations by female experts, and panel and roundtable discussions. We target female researchers in their early careers to increase their competitiveness, motivate them, show them female role models and provide them with networking opportunities. 2) I co-created a mentoring group at my host institution that helps in career building, provides a safe environment for sharing and offers networking opportunities. 3) Lack of female role models in science (evinced already at very early age in the education chain) impedes heavily the communities to evolve into gender parity systems. That is why I present female scientific role models depicted on high quality posters to large public. Combination of these actions are critical in motivating young girls to pursue a scientific career, support sustainable career development and contribute as a solution to losing female researchers at diverse career stages known as the leaky pipeline problem.