



A Network of People
Building Peace

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INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

FRIEDRICH
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NEW YORK OFFICE

Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality: Putting Prevention Up Front

Tuesday, 12 March 2019

1:15pm* - 2:45pm

Roger Smith Hotel

Winthrop Room (Mezzanine Floor)

501 Lexington Ave

New York, NY, USA 10017

The priority theme for CSW63, *Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls*, presents an opportunity to highlight ways in which the peace, development, and humanitarian nexus can work to remove barriers and accelerate progress for gender equality through establishing gender-sensitive systems, services, and infrastructures. Recognizing the importance of holistic approaches to peace through prevention and inclusive processes, the international community has begun shifting its focus.

The prevalence of armed conflicts and natural disasters frequently leave women and children, especially girls, to survive without basic services and systems, the loss of which leaves women more vulnerable in addition to affecting their empowerment potential and ability to contribute to conflict and atrocity prevention and build sustainable peace in their communities. Moreover, the particular needs and roles of diverse young women and girls are rarely addressed, especially if they are coming from marginalized communities. Research and women's lived experiences show that gender equality is linked to inclusive human security and that when women and girls are empowered and have access to the services they need, states are more peaceful and communities are safer.

By convening civil society, UN, and Member State participants, today's event will serve as an opportunity to support greater access for women and girls to participate within established social infrastructures; better utilize the Women, Peace and Security and Sustainable Development frameworks to incorporate a gender lens into human security approaches; and enhance knowledge and understanding of, as well as advocate for action to prevent violations of the rights of women and girls; among other issues.

The event will be moderated by **Ms. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls** (Fiji, Chairperson of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict), and feature a diverse panel of gender and conflict and atrocity prevention experts, including: **Ms. Adriana Erthal Abdenur** (Brazil, Igarapé Institute), **Ms. Kesia-Onam Birch** (Ghana, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding / Women in Peacebuilding Network), **Ms. Shirine el-Jurdi** (Lebanon, Women's League for Peace and Freedom), and **Ms. Eliška Jelínková** (Czech Republic/UK, United Network of Young Peacebuilders). The panel will engage discussion to explore the priority theme of CSW63 through a conflict prevention lens.



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AGENDA

1:00pm - 1:15pm **A light lunch is served**

1:15pm - 1:25pm **Welcome**

Volker Lehmann; Senior Policy Analyst, FES New York

1:25pm - 2:00pm **Panel Discussion**

- **Ms. Adriana Erthal Abdenur** (Brazil, Igarapé Institute)
- **Ms. Kesia-Onam Birch** (Ghana, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, Women in Peacebuilding Network),
- **Ms. Shirine el-Jurdi** (Lebanon, Women's League for Peace and Freedom),
- **Ms. Eliška Jelínková** (Czech Republic/UK, United Network of Young Peacebuilders)

The panel will be moderated by **Ms. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls** (Fiji, Chairperson of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict).

2:00pm - 2:35pm **Open Discussion**

2:35pm - 2:45pm **Closing remarks**

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls; Chairperson of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Adriana Erthal Abdenur

Coordinator of the Peace & Security Division, Igarapé Institute

Ms Abdenur is a Brazilian researcher and coordinator of the International Peace & Security Division at Instituto Igarapé, a think tank based in Rio de Janeiro. Her portfolio covers projects on conflict prevention and resolution; peace operations; climate and security; migration and refuge; and women, peace and security. She currently sits on the UN ECOSOC Committee on Development Policy and is a member of the group of experts convened by Germany to provide inputs on climate and security to the UN Security Council. She earned her PhD from Princeton University and lives in Rio de Janeiro with her two children.

Kesia-Onam Bijou Birch

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding's (WANEP) Regional Program Officer of the Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET)

Ms Birch coordinates WANEP's WIPNET Program and supports its 15 National Networks in the implementation of Gender programs across West Africa, representing the organization in its partnership with ECOWAS. She provides support and expertise in the development, implementation and review of 1325 National Action Plans in West Africa. Furthermore, she is GPPAC's Gender Focal Point in West Africa. Ms Birch has over fifteen years of experience in women, peace and security as well as youth and peace education with a particular focus on training, negotiation, mediation, facilitation, manual development and conflict analysis. She has regional experience spanning various West African countries and beyond where she conceptualized, organized, conducted and facilitated trainings for women and teachers.

Shirine el-Jurdi

MENA Regional Representative, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

In 2003, Ms el-Jurdi joined WILPF-Lebanon and is now an executive member of the Lebanon section and the MENA Regional Representative. She started her career working on consultancy projects with the Lebanese Ministry of the Return of the Displaced, UN Office on Drugs and Crime and as a researcher on Lebanese Heritage at LAU. She completed her studies at the Lebanese American University (LAU), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) and a research fellowship at SOAS, inspired her belief that academic and grassroots activism should work together for a more holistic approach towards ensuring the Sustaining Peace and 2030 Agendas find their way in a MENA perspective, particularly SDG 5 and 16. Her present work focuses on: women's political participation and representation; Violence against Women Prevention; the WPS agenda and the localization of National Action Plans in a MENA perspective; conflict analysis, social cohesion and peacebuilding; and transitional justice, refugees, and peace processes. She has also worked extensively on disarmament issues, including currently serving as team leader for WILPF Lebanon on the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.



Eliška Jelínková

Co-Chair of GPPAC--UNOY Youth, Peace and Security Working Group & Member of Youth Peace Ambassador's Network

Ms Jelínková is a young European feminist and peacebuilder working on uniting the YPS and WPS agendas. She has an MA in Gender Studies and is currently doing her second MA in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution at the Peace Studies and International Development Department of Bradford University. She is the Co-Chair of GPPAC-UNOY YPS Working Group and the Youth Liaison for GPPAC's Gender Policy Core Group. She has previously worked as an advocacy and gender-mainstreaming officer at UNOY, contributed to the 2018 Progress Study on YPS, The Missing Peace, and co-organized the first ever EU YPS conference. She is also a member of Youth Peace Ambassadors Network, formerly a project of the Council of Europe.

Volker Lehmann

Senior Policy Analyst, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) New York

Volker Lehmann is a Senior Policy Analyst with the FES New York office. His work focuses on international peace and security issues, particularly with regards to the United Nations, and on the various aspects of reforming the UN. He previously worked as a consultant and journalist, and he was the editor of the journal "Biotechnology and Development Monitor" at the University of Amsterdam. He received a master's degree in biology from the Free University of Berlin and a Ph.D. in political science from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

MODERATOR

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls

Chairperson of GPPAC's Board & Gender Liaison of GPPAC's International Steering Group

Ms. Bhagwan Rolls is the Co-Chair of Global Fund for Women Board of Directors and a member of the steering committee of the Feminist Alliance for Rights, coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL). She is a co-founder of FemLINKpacific, which emerged from the women-led Blue Ribbon Peace Vigil initiative in Fiji in 2000. She contributes to several global media and communications networks – including as an Ambassador for the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP). In her work, Ms. Bhagwan Rolls has been a member of several UN-convened civil society advisory groups on Women, Peace and Security (2010, 2015) where she brought a perspective on the intersection between gender, media, communications and peace. She supports the development and production of appropriate and accessible media.