



BIOGRAPHIES

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Venue: Hofburg, Vienna

Engy

Abdelkader Senior Fellow and Adjunct Professor, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University



Engy Abdelkader is full-time research faculty at Georgetown University. Her research and writing explores religious freedom challenges confronting Muslims. The author of "When Islamophobia Turns Violent: The 2016 U.S. Presidential Elections," (Georgetown) Abdelkader's legal scholarship has been published in the Fordham International Law Journal, Asian American Law Journal at Berkeley Law, and the UCLA Journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law, among others. Her popular writing has appeared in, or her work featured by, TIME, CNN, The Christian Science Monitor, The Washington Post, CBS News, The Huffington Post, and other news outlets. Abdelkader holds two U.S. law degrees, including credentials from the University of Pennsylvania Law School where she graduated with academic distinction.

Prof. Dr.

Feride

Acar President, Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)



Feride Acar is professor emerita of political sociology and gender and women's studies. She is a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of which she was the Chairperson (2003-2005). Currently, she is also the President of GREVIO, the monitoring organ of the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention. She is the author of academic works on women's human rights and gender equality, and has provided consultancy and training to international institutions, governments and civil society organizations.

Mehmet

Ali Çalışkan Founder of YADA Foundation, Turkey



Mehmet Ali Çalışkan, one of the founders of YADA Foundation, Active Living Association and ADHOC Research company, has participated many research and impact analysis studies of international organizations, private sector companies and universities. Besides research projects, he joined management and design teams of various local and international projects and corporate social responsibility projects. In research and implementation projects, Çalışkan has mostly focused on impact of civil society on decisions of companies and governments especially in gender, youth, culture and peace building issues.



Ainuru

Altybaeva Member of Parliament, Kyrgyzstan

Ainuru Altybaeva is a second-term Member of the Kyrgyz Parliament with the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan (SDPK). Altybaeva is a former Chairwoman of Forum of Women MPs of the Kyrgyz Parliament which has showed its national ownership through taking a lead in parliamentary oversight of police reform. Since late 2015 Forum of women MPs has organized a number of OSCE-supported regional parliamentary sessions in the north and south of Kyrgyzstan to oversee the police reform process. As a result, a multi-agency working group has been established by the Kyrgyz Government with inclusion of civil society to develop new legislation on law enforcement.



Kaisha

Atakhanova Chief of Party, Partnership for Innovations, Civil Society Development Association ARGO, Kazakhstan

Kaisha Atakhanova, ARGO Regional Programme Director, Goldman Environmental Prize Recipient (2005). Ms. Atakhanova has over 20 years of experience as a civil society activist, including experience in environmental public policy implementation and civil society development. Her professional expertise covers climate and environmental protection, NGO development, women’s leadership and advocacy. Kaisha Atakhanova is a member of the Advisory Group on Human Rights for the MFA RK, member of the UN Women Central Asian CSO Consultative Group. Since 2012, Ms. Atakhanova has been leading regional programs at ARGO aimed at strengthening civil society in Central Asia and Azerbaijan, including “Partnership for Innovations - P4I” Program (2016-2020) and “Development through Regional Cooperation - DRC” Program (2012-2016).

Ambassador

Alessandro

Azzoni Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE in Vienna



Ambassador Azzoni joined the Diplomatic Service in 1991. Throughout his career he has held many important positions abroad and in Rome. He served as Deputy Head of Asia Office at the Directorate General for Economic Affairs, of the Italian MFA in 1993. He was Consul in Barcelona, Spain (1994-1998), Deputy Head of Mission in Dakar, Senegal, (1998-2001), Chief of Staff of the Directorate General for Multilateral Political Affairs, of the Italian MFA (2001-2004), Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the International Organizations in Vienna, Austria (2004-2008), Deputy Head of Mission in Ankara, Turkey (2008-2012), Head of European Foreign and Security Policy Division, Directorate General for Political Affairs and Security, Italian MFA (2012-2016).

Born in Parma in 1965, he graduated in Political Science from the University of Florence, at the Faculty "Cesare Alfieri". He speaks English, Spanish and French. He is married and has one daughter.

Bojana

Balon

Co-ordinator South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), UNDP

Bojana Balon oversees all the UNDP SEESAC projects and is responsible for the long-term, strategic planning of the initiative. Bojana used to be in charge of the day-to-day management of the SEESAC portfolio. Previously, she coordinated SEESAC's activities related to gender mainstreaming in the security sector, including both the Women Police Officers Network in SEE (WPON) and the Gender Equality in the Military project, which she helped develop. She initially joined SEESAC in July 2010 as Project Officer, working mostly on the implementation of the WPON – Support to Gender Mainstreaming in Policing Practices in South East Europe project. Bojana earned her Master's degree in International Relations and European Studies from the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, and her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Prior to joining UNDP in Serbia in 2008, Bojana worked for the General Police Directorate in Ljubljana and the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

Ambassador

Paul

Bekkers

Director of the Office of the Secretary General, OSCE Secretariat



Since January 2016, Ambassador Paul Bekkers holds the position of Director of the Office of the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). From 2013 to 2016, he was Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of Poland, also accredited to Belarus. He served as Ambassador of the Netherlands to the Federation of Malaysia from 2009-2013.

Previously, Paul worked in various roles for the Foreign Ministry in the areas of political affairs, development co-operation, environmental affairs, gender, trade and culture. Besides Malaysia and Poland he served in Turkey, South Africa, Ghana and Zaïre.

Valentina

Buliga

Member of Moldovan Parliament, Deputy President and Chair of Women's Organization of the Democratic Party



Valentina Buliga is a Moldovan politician, a Member of Parliament, and the Vice-President of the Democratic Party of the Republic of Moldova. From 2015, she serves as the Chairwoman of the Foreign Policy and European Integration Committee of the Parliament. From 2009 to 2015, Ms. Buliga was the Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family of Moldova. Prior to that, in 2005, she became a deputy in the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, as a member of the Democratic Party and served as the Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Commission for Social Protection, Health and Family. Mrs. Buliga is also the Chairwoman of the Women's Organization of the Democratic Party of the Republic of Moldova, which she leads from 2005 until today. In 1983, she graduated from the State University of Moldova with a major in Pharmacy, and in 2004 from the Academy of Public Administration of Moldova, one of the most prestigious higher educational institutions of Republic of Moldova. Mrs. Buliga also holds a master degree in Social Assistance and Public Administration.

Gordana

Čomić

Deputy Speaker of Parliament in the National Assembly of Republic of Serbia



Gordana Čomić, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Department of Physics.

Member of Parliament in Parliamentary Assembly of Vojvodina 1996-2004.

Gordana is Member of Parliament in National Assembly of republic of Serbia 2000-present days, Deputy Speaker (2001-2004, 2008-present days). Special activism in women's movement in Serbia, founder of Women Political Network and involved in battle for equity in representation and participation of women in all decision making processes in society. She was member of the Delegation of the NA in the OSCE PA and Rapporteur 2006-2016 III Committee for Human Rights, Democracy and Humanitarian Affairs, member of the PA JIE of 2016.

Amarsanaa

Darisuren

Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE Secretariat



Amarsanaa Darisuren commenced her role as the OSCE's Senior Adviser on Gender Issues in March 2017. A national of Mongolia, Ms. Darisuren brings extensive work experience in the field of gender equality. As a Human Rights Specialist and Programme Manager for the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, she provided technical advisory services to governments and inter-governmental bodies, and supported the advocacy of civil society organizations on a broad range of development issues, with a focus on capacity development for better implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Prior to this, Darisuren served as a national co-ordinator of the OHCHR field presence in Mongolia and worked with national and international NGOs.

Alia

El Yassir

Deputy Regional Director, Head of Office a.i., Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, UN Women

The Honourable Dr. Hedy

Fry

Special Representative on Gender Issues of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



Honourable Dr. Hedy Fry was first elected to Parliament for Vancouver Centre in 1993 becoming the first rookie to defeat a sitting Prime Minister. She has been re-elected in 1997, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2011. Dr. Fry began in 1993 as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health. She spent 6 years from 1996-2002 in Cabinet serving as Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and the Minister for the Status of Women. Dr. Fry is the longest sitting female MP in Canada's history. Currently, she serves as Chair of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. She continues working hard at key priorities of representing her constituents and fighting for issues such as human rights, the environment, LGBTQ2+, health care, poverty, housing and homelessness, education and many other issues. Dr. Hedy Fry has been the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on Gender Issues since 2010.

Brigadier General



Gordana

Garašić

Deputy Director of RACVIAC- Centre for Security Cooperation

Brigadier General Gordana Garašić is currently serving as the Deputy Director of RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation. In her professional career she had different assignments, just to mention a few: Head of Office in the Defense Policy Directorate MoD, Advisor in Military Representation to the NATO/EU (Brussels), Chief of the Cabinet of CHOD, Head of Personnel Management Directorate (J1) in the General Staff of CAF, Head of the Military Office in the Cabinet for Defense and National Security in the Office of the President. She served two mandates in NATO-led operation ISAF in Afghanistan, in 2010 and 2014. During her last tour she held the position of the Gender Advisor to ISAF Commander. BG Garašić graduated from the Law University in Zagreb and holds Master of Science in National Resource Strategy (US National Defense University in Washington D.C.). She was promoted to the rank of BG in May 2015 as the first female general officer in the CAF.

Katarzyna

Gardapkhadze

First Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)



Katarzyna Gardapkhadze, the First Deputy Director of ODIHR, is responsible for managing the operations of the ODIHR, overseeing the preparation, co-ordination and implementation of the activities of the Election, Democratization, Human Rights, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programmes and of the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, as well as formulation of the ODIHR public message. Ms. Gardapkhadze is an expert in management, strategic planning and capacity building, with more than 20 years of professional experience from Poland, the United States, Western Balkans, South Caucasus and Central Asia. Prior to her current appointment, she was the Head of ODIHR's Human Rights Department. In 2003-2011, Ms. Gardapkhadze served as the director of conflict resolution, human rights and child/social welfare reform programs in the South Caucasus. In 2000 – 2002, she led programs focused on human rights, minorities and inter-ethnic dialogue in Western Balkans. Fluent in Polish, English and Russian, Ms. Gardapkhadze holds a Master's Degree in social sciences.

Dr.

Joanna

Goodey

Head of Freedoms and Justice Department, EU Fundamental Rights Agency



Dr. Joanna Goodey is Head of the Freedoms and Justice Department at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). She previously held full-time lectureships in criminology and criminal justice at British universities, and was a research fellow for two years at the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. She has been a regular study fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg. She is the author of the academic textbook 'Victims and Victimology: Research, Policy and Practice (2005)', and has published numerous academic journal articles and book chapters – including on the subject of violence against women.

Jesper



**Goodley
Dannisøe** **Director, Danish Water Forum**

Mr. Jesper Goodley Dannisøe is a biologist of training and he has been working with water-related issues for more than 35 years. Through his working experience from more than 40 countries, he has been involved in water projects, where capacity building has been key tasks and he has through these work assignments worked closely with national water-authorities. He has also as director of Danish Water Forum, which hosts Womens Water Initiative, been heading training courses for women from the water sector from developing countries, strengthening the skills and capabilities for the women. The latest course in 2015 had participants from 4 central Asian countries.

Maruša



Gortnar **Head of Department, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia**

Maruša Gortnar holds a BA in sociology from the University of Ljubljana and MA in gender studies from the Central European University in Budapest. She has been Head of the Equal Opportunities Department, part of the Slovenian Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, since February 2014. She previously worked as a Senior Adviser within the same ministry (2012–2014) and at the Slovenian Government Office for Equal Opportunities (2002–2012). Her areas of expertise include the following: management and organisation of the department’s work, and project management; national gender equality policy-making, including gender mainstreaming; coordination of work and cooperation with EU and international organisations in the area of gender equality; and management and cooperation at the national, EU and international level in expert project groups.

She is a member of the Management Board of the European Institute for Gender Equality, the European Commission Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, and the High Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming, and the Slovenian Government’s Expert Council on Gender Equality and the Inter-ministerial Working Group for Human Rights.

Ambassador

Gréta

Gunnarsdottir **Permanent Representative Mission of Iceland to the OSCE in Vienna**

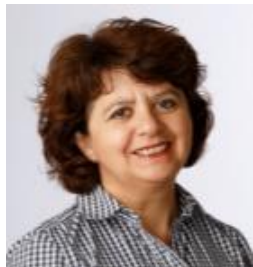
Pirkko



Hämäläinen Under-Secretary of State, Internal and External Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

Ms. Hämäläinen joined the Finnish Foreign Service in 1989 and works as Under-Secretary of State for Internal and External Services since 2014 (Legal service, consular, protocol and administrative services and finance). She served in various positions as Attaché (1989), Second Secretary and Counsellor (1990-2000), Adviser to Under-Secretary of State; Administrative affairs (2000-2002), Head of Unit (2002-2005) and Chief of Personnel (2009-2012). She also worked in Finland’s foreign missions in various assignments, including New York (UN 1989), Reykjavik (Iceland 1990-1992), Vienna (Austria 1996-1998) and Tallinn (Estonia 2005-2009) as Minister Counsellor. During the years 2012-2014 worked as Finland’s Ambassador to Latvia (Riga). Ms. Hämäläinen has a Master in Social Sciences from Turku University.

Maria



Hartl Senior Technical Specialist Gender and Social Equity, International Fund for Agriculture Development

Maria Hartl is a Senior Technical Specialist, Gender and Social Equity at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the United Nations and an International Financial Institution. She is responsible for social targeting and integration of gender equality and rural women’s empowerment in operations supported by IFAD loans and grants. Priorities include gender equality and women’s empowerment in community development, agricultural production, livestock, climate change, microfinance and value chain development, with a particular focus on economic empowerment, skills development, capacity-building and training. Prior to IFAD, she worked at the UN Office in Vienna and New York.

Helene



Jarmer Member of Austrian Parliament

Helene Jarmer is a member of the National Council of Austria and the third culturally deaf person in world history to be elected to a national parliament. She has been a Member of Austrian Parliament since 2009 and serves as the Green Party’s spokesperson for disabled persons. Ms. Jarmer is also the Head of Service Center “Austrian Sign Language Without Barriers” (Österreichische Gebärdensprache Barrierefrei). She is also the President of the Austrian Federation of Deaf People (Österreichischer Gehörlosenbund) since 2001. From 1999 to 2010, she also served as a lecturer at the University of Vienna. She holds a degree (magister phil.) in Education with a specialization in Special and Therapeutic Education from the University of Vienna. She also graduated from a teacher training program to be qualified to teach high schools students. In 2011, she published her book Schreien nützt nichts (Shouting Won’t Help).

Dr.



Livia

Járóka

Forum of Young Global Leaders and the World Economic Forum

Vice-Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the EP, Initiator and EP rapporteur of the European Framework for National Roma Inclusion Strategies launched by the EU aiming the economic integration of the poorest European citizens. As founder and financier of JALTE, a civil organization helping poor families with jobs, training, agricultural, educational, green and sport projects since 2013, she was awarded Wallenberg Award in 2016. In 2006 and 2013 she was awarded MEP of the year in the category of Justice and Fundamental Rights and was named Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2006.

Aleh



Karazei

Head of the Department of Prevention of Crime Prevention the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

Aleh Karazei graduated from the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Ph.D. in Law, assistant professor, author of over 60 scientific efforts on criminology, criminalistics, and administrative procedure. One of the developers of the law «On Framework of Activities Aimed at Crime Prevention», which defines the tasks of government agencies for the prevention of domestic violence. All the regulations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in this area developed with his participation. The National coordinator of the International Technical Assistance project «Strengthening National Capacity to Counteract Gender-based Violence (with focus on domestic violence) in the Republic of Belarus» (2016–2018). The main goal of the project is the development of the national law on the prevention of domestic violence.

H.E.



Sophie

Karmasin

Federal Minister for Families and Youth, Austria

Federal Minister Karmasin took on her position as Minister of Families and Youth (independent) since December 16th 2013. Previously, she worked in various managerial positions in the private sector in Europe and founded her own consultancy company in 2009. From 2011, she was working as Managing Partner in the Austrian Gallup Institute/Dr. Karmasin Martforschung Ltd. and Karmasin Motivforschung Ltd. H.E. Karmasin has a Ph.D. in Psychology.

Iulia



Kharashvili Chairperson, IDP Women Association "Consent" and representing Civic Solidarity Platform

Iulia Kharashvili is a prominent civil society activist, Chairperson of IDP Women Association “Consent” – an NGO, working on protection of rights of IDP women in Georgia. After war in Abkhazia moved to Tbilisi and created a NGO to support internally displaced women. In 1995 joined UN Volunteers team in Georgia; later – worked in UNDP in project “New Approach to IDP Assistance”. During August 2008 war joined Government to assist in organization of humanitarian assistance to IDPs as Deputy Head of International Relations Department in the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation (2008-2010). She issued a number of research publications on IDP, gender and peace issues. Participated in creation of recommendations for CEDAW GR #30. Is a member of Coordination Group on the implementation of Georgia’s NAP on Women, Peace and Security. Since 2014 – member of High Level Advisory Group for the Global Study on the impact of the UNSC Resolution 1325. Since 2016 is a member of Core group of Experts in NATO’s Civil Society Advisory Panel (SCAP). Was awarded by the High Commissioner for Refugees in 2002 and by “Voices of Courage” in 2004. Since 2015 – is involved in the regional platform of women for peace dialogue.

Tiina



Kukkamaa-Bah Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Tiina Kukkamaa-Bah is the Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) based in Warsaw, Poland. Before joining ODIHR in March 2016, she worked as the Executive Director of Political Parties of Finland for Democracy, Demo Finland, a collaborative organization of Finnish political parties in the field of democracy support. She has worked with governments, political parties, and civil society for the past 15 years, focusing on supporting democratic and inclusive governance, political participation of women and youth as well as civil society development across Asia and Africa alongside the OSCE region. She has also held various board positions, for example with the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) and The Finnish NGDO Platform to the European Union, Kehys. Ms Kukkamaa-Bah has a Master's degree in Sociology from the University of Helsinki.

Senator



Ekaterina

Lakhova President, Union of Women of Russia, Russian Federation

Ms. Lakhova was elected People's Deputy of the RSFSR, a member of the Supreme Council of the Russian Federation, where she headed the Committee on Women, Protection of Maternity and Childhood. She was Deputy of the State Duma for six convocations and since 2014 she is a member of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. She was an adviser to the President of the Russian Federation on matters of motherhood and childhood, chairman of the Commission on Women, Family and Demography under the President of the Russian Federation. Ms. Lakhova has a PhD of political sciences and is the author of more than 200 publications on social policy, demography, women's movement, domestic violence, adaptation of women to socio-economic reforms. She is also one of the developers and is a member of the Coordination Council under the Government of the Russian Federation for the implementation of the National Strategy for Women. She was awarded with several state awards for Services to the Fatherland.



Carolina

Lasen Diaz Head of the Gender Equality Unit, Council of Europe

Carolina Lasén Diaz joined the Council of Europe in 2005. She has been the Head of the Gender Equality Unit for over two years. Her previous post was in the secretariat of the Council of Europe's monitoring mechanism on action against trafficking in human beings (GRETA). Prior to her arrival at the Council of Europe, Carolina lived in the United Kingdom from 1997 to 2004, where she provided legal advice on international and EU law. She holds a Law Degree from Madrid's Complutense University and a Master in EU law.



Kateryna

Levchenko President of the International Women's Rights Centre La Strada, Ukraine

Ms. Levchenko is the President of CSO "La Strada-Ukraine", a chairperson of the Board of the International La Strada Association and a member of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). She has also been a member of the Ukrainian Parliament and the Parliamentarian Assembly of OSCE (2006-2007), Adviser of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine on Human Rights and Gender Issue (2004-2006, 2008-2010) and a member of working group on 1325.

Ms. Levchenko is an activist of women and human rights movements. Furthermore, she is a Professor, Doctor of Law and a Doctor of Philosophy. She is an author of more than three hundred scientific articles and books, initiator and participant of different scientific researches on women and child rights.



Sonja

Lokar Executive Director of Central and Eastern European Network for Gender Issues

Ms. Lokar is a Slovenian social democratic politician and civil society activist, sociologist by profession, pacifist and feminist, former MP (1986-1992), Chair of the Stability Pact Gender Task Force (1999-2009), president of the European Women's Lobby in 2012, Executive Director of the CEE Network for Gender Issues from 1998 till today. She has been working as strategist, trainer and consultant of broad regional and national cross cutting coalitions struggling for the implementation of indivisible women human rights, especially for political and social empowerment of women in CEE, SEE, CIS, in four Arab Spring countries and in Africa.

Ambassador



Sian

MacLeod Head of United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE in Vienna

Ambassador Sian MacLeod joined the FCO in 1986. Her first posting was to Moscow. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, she served briefly in the Embassy in Vilnius. Since then she has been posted to The Hague, returned to Moscow 2004-7, where she became Minister (Deputy Head of Mission). Between overseas postings she has worked in the FCO and the Cabinet Office. Ambassador in Prague from 2009 to 2013 and then Director of the British Council Triennial Review and FCO Additional Director for the Eastern European & Central Asian Directorate. Sian became Ambassador and Head of the UK Delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in August 2015. Ambassador MacLeod is married to Richard Robinson and they have three children and enjoy music, cycling and cross-country skiing.

Ambassador



Mara

Marinaki EU Principal Advisor on Gender and UNSCR 1325/Women, Peace and Security

Ambassador Mara Marinaki was appointed by the HRVP Federica Mogherini in July 2015 as the first-ever European External Action Service (EEAS) Principal Advisor on Gender and on the implementation on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and all other gender-related matters, and has assumed her new post as of 1st October 2015. Previously, from May 2011-September 2015 Ambassador Marinaki served as the EEAS Managing Director for Global/Multilateral Issues and Human Rights, where she handled among her key human rights' priorities the promotion of all issues pertaining to women's empowerment and strengthening the role of women and girls in societies. She was also the EU/EEAS Coordinator on Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism with a strong focus on the role of women in combatting radicalization in local societies. Prior to taking up her functions in the EEAS, Ambassador Marinaki was the Permanent Representative of Greece to the OSCE in Vienna, from September 2007 till May 2011, where she also chaired the Permanent Council during the 2009 Greek OSCE Chairmanship.



Adelheid

Meinzolt

Co-ordinator of the Women and Gender Working Group of the Civic Solidarity Platform

Heidi Meinzolt is the European coordinator of WILPF coming from Germany. She is the coordinator of the new Women and Gender Working Group of the Civic Solidarity Platform. Ms. Meinzolt is involved with the Women's Security Council in Germany on the implementation of UNSCR1325 and on women's rights (CEDAW reporting) in diverse international contexts.



Sandra

Nedeljković

Deputy Director of the Serbian Government Public Investment Management Office

Sandra Nedeljkovic holds a degree of University of Political Science in Belgrade, in the field of International Relations and Diplomacy, MA in Public Administration, Local Self-government and Public Policy, from the same University and specialisation in European Studies. After working in the field of journalism, marketing, PR and business, she entered the public administration, and started to work for Government of Serbia in the area of local self-government and decentralisation. In the 2014, she entered the newly formed Government Office for Flooded Areas Reconstruction and Recovery. Being in the resilience reconstruction process from the beginning, Sandra had the opportunity to be involved in a upgrading and reforming the Disaster Risk Management process in Serbia. Being accountable for the implementation of National Disaster Risk Management Program in Serbia, the focus of her professional interest is to assure resilience and risk reduction is mainstreamed as a crosscutting policy in all sectors.



Dita

Nowicka

Director of OSCE Border Management Staff College

Dita Nowicka joined the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC/College) in the capacity of Director in June 2015. As a BMSC Director, Ms. Nowicka ensures the proper functioning and performance of the College via strategic planning, project development, as well as strengthening and developing communication/cooperation with relevant training institutions and the BMSC Partner Organizations. Prior to joining the OSCE, Ms. Nowicka served as a Deputy Head of Training Unit for Border Guard Headquarters of Poland. Ms. Nowicka's pursued her MA degree in Cross-Cultural Relations at the Warsaw University with specialization of political history and religions of Asia and Africa, cultural psychology and language and communication, as well as completed her BA degree in History of Art and Archeology from the University of Athens in Greece concentrating on philosophy, philology and pedagogy.

Rasa Ostrauskaite Director OSCE Department of Trans-National Threats, OSCE Secretariat



Rasa Ostrauskaite is Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Having joined the OSCE in 2009, Rasa also served as Deputy Director for Policy Support Service at the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre CPC). Previously, she worked for the EU in various capacities: at the EU Council's Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit; as Political Advisor to the EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina; as Political Advisor to the EUSR in the Southern Caucasus; and Senior Political Advisor to the EUSR for the crisis in Georgia. Prior to that, Rasa worked for the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry both in Vilnius as well as in Lithuania's Representations to the United Nations in New York and to the EU in Brussels. Rasa holds an MA in International Relations and European Studies and an MPhil in Political Science, both from the Central European University. Rasa has a number of publications on the EU foreign and security policy and the OSCE, including two co-authored books.

Montserrat Pina Martinez President of the European Network of Policewomen



President of the European Network of Policewomen and member of the Equality Commission of Barcelona Council, has a long career in the Police. She was the first policewomen to be appointed to the rank of Superintendent in the police in Catalonia. She has a degree in Psychology, an Executive Masters in Public Administration, a Masters in Criminology and Judicial procedures, a Masters in Clinical Psycopathology, and a Masters in Research in Security and Crime Prevention. She has been the Deputy Director of the Catalonia Police School, the Director of a male prison, and is a Human Rights trainer in the Police School.

Nico Schernbeck Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Youth and Security



Ambassador

Désirée

Schweitzer

President of the UN Women National Committee Austria

Begoña

Suarez Suarez

Deputy Director General for Entrepreneurship and the Professional Promotion of Women, Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, Spain

Elvira

Surabaldieva Member of Kyrgyz Parliament, Chair of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians



Elvira Surabaldieva was elected first time to the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan in November 2015. She is the Chair of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. Ms. Elvira Surabaldieva graduated from the University of Bristol (UK), Department of International Affairs. Before starting a political career, Surabaldieva was engaged in a private business. Prior to that, she held various managerial positions in Kyrgyzstan’s Union of Entrepreneurs. From 2004 to 2006, she also served as the Head of the Public Relations Department of the State Social Fund. Surabaldieva has several Certificates of Merit from Bishkek’s Mayor Office for her contribution to the development of the city.

Barbara

Torggler Head of Evaluation, Office of Internal Oversight, OSCE



Barbara Torggler is the Head of Evaluation and Deputy Director of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) in the OSCE. She is responsible for the management of OIO’s overall evaluation function, the conduct of large-scale strategic evaluations of the OSCE’s work, and the strengthening of the evaluation culture of the organization. This year’s work focuses on the ongoing evaluation of the implementation of the OSCE’s 2004 Action for the Promotion of Gender Equality, as well as on several other strategic evaluations.

Ms. Torggler also has extensive experience in working with international organizations such as UNESCO’s Internal Oversight Service, where she has been in charge of several evaluations of the organization’ standard-setting work. She has also worked for UNODC, the Austrian Development Agency, UNDP, CARE International and other organizations, conducting evaluations and managing and monitoring projects and programmes in support of international cooperation and sustainable development all over the world. She has worked on a diversity of thematic topics related to the OSCE’s mandate and beyond. Ms. Torggler furthermore used to be a University lecturer and coach. She has a background in social and cultural anthropology and languages.

Ajla

van Heel Merdanović

Adviser on Gender Issues of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)



Ajla van Heel Merdanović is currently Adviser on Gender Issues at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Her work focuses on advancing women’s political participation. While at ODIHR, she contributed to the development of the following publications: Gender Equality in Elected Office: A Six-Step Action Plan, Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality, Comparative Study of Structures for Women MPs in the OSCE Region, Handbook on Promoting Women’s Participation in Political Parties, and Compendium of Good Practices for Advancing Women’s Political Participation in the OSCE Region. Prior to joining the OSCE, she worked with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), mainly on combating trafficking in women and girls in the Western Balkans. Ms. van Heel holds a bachelor degree in international affairs from Princeton University and a master’s degree in human rights from University of Bologna. Her efforts to promote peace and advance women’s rights were recognized through awards received from the British Royal Family, Rotary International, and Zonta International.

Ambassador

Melanne

Verveer

Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender



Ambassador Verveer most recently served as the first U.S. Ambassador for Global Women’s Issues, a position to which she was nominated by President Obama in 2009. She played a leadership role in the Administration’s development of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. President Obama also appointed her to serve as the U.S. Representative to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. She also serves as the Special Representative on Gender Issues for the OSCE Chairmanship.

From 2000-2008, she was the Chair and Co-CEO of Vital Voices Global Partnership, an international NGO that she co-founded to invest in emerging women leaders. During the Clinton administration, she served as Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady. She also led the effort to establish the President’s Interagency Council on Women and co-authored *Fast Forward: How Women Can Achieve Power and Purpose* (2015). Ambassador Verveer has a B.S. and M.S. from Georgetown University and holds several honorary degrees. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission and serves on the Boards of the National Endowment for Democracy and the Atlantic Council, as well as the World Bank Advisory Council on Gender and Development. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Secretary of State’s Award for Distinguished Service. In 2008, the President of Ukraine awarded her the Order of Princess Olga.

Neil J. Walsh **Chief, Cyber and Emerging Crime, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**



Neil Walsh joined the United Nations in January 2016 and is the Chief of the Global Programme on Cybercrime. With staff in four continents, Neil leads the UN Office on Drugs and Crime strategic response to cybercrime by delivering technical assistance and capacity building in 70+ countries, aiding Member States with counter-cybercrime policy making and representing the UN on cybercrime diplomacy matters globally. Prior to joining UNDOC, Neil served for over 15 years within the UK National Crime Agency including long-term postings to The Hague and Malta.

Narantuya Zagdkhuu **Member of Mongolian Parliament**



Narantuya Zagdkhuu possesses over 20 years of experience in Mongolian government and political institutions. She has served as a board member to the Democratic Women's Union of Mongolia since 2010 and the Chairwoman of Democratic Party in Zavkhan Province. As the only female representative of the Mongolian Democratic Party Caucus in Parliament, she holds the title of head of Parliamentary sub-committee on Budget Supervision (Monitoring). Her career has been dedicated to transforming and developing banking and financial sectors, starting from her work at Central Bank and later serving as Chairwoman of the Financial Regulatory Commission of Mongolia. She has a First Class Master of Art in Law from the Irkutsk State University, Russia and Financial Economy from the Institute of Finance and Economy of Mongolia. In 2006, she was also awarded a Master's Degree of Public Administration in Advanced Economic Policy Management from Columbia University, New York, USA.

Adisa Zahiragić **Judge and President of the Association of Women Judges, Bosnia and Herzegovina**



Adisa Zahiragić is a Judge of the Cantonal Court in Sarajevo. She completed law school in Sarajevo and bar exam, Master of Political Science at the faculty of Sarajevo. She has 22 years of judicial experience mostly in criminal cases and is an educator for judges, prosecutors, police and students of law school in the field of criminal procedure, human rights, human trafficking, gender equality, gender based violence and juvenile delinquency. Ms. Zahiragić is the President of the Association of Women Judges in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the author of the publications 'Fighting sextortion, Benchbook' and 'Consideration of Domestic violence'.