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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Advisory Group on Gender, Forced Displacement and Protection

Amira Yahyaoui
Tunisia



Amira Yah is a Tunisian human rights advocate and founder of the award-winning *Al Bawsala*, a public policy and accountability NGO. Through *Marsad* (monitor in Arabic), *Al Baswala* monitors the work of the Tunisian Parliament, the Constitutional Assembly and Tunisian city halls, using technology to make information accessible to citizens. While a teenager, Amira was banned from Tunisia for her activism and fled to Paris where she was stateless for several years. Following Tunisia's 2011 revolution, Amira returned home to help draft the Tunisian constitution. She won a Vital Voices Global Trailblazer award in 2012 for women transforming the Middle East and was named one of the 100 most influential Arab women by Arabian Business Magazine.

Asma Jahangir
Pakistan



Asma Jahangir is a founding member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and a leading human rights lawyer. For three decades she has worked to defend the most vulnerable Pakistanis – women, children, religious minorities and the poor. Jahangir founded the first legal aid centre in Pakistan in 1986, and has campaigned against laws that discriminate against women. She was elected as the first female President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan in 2010. She co-chairs the South Asia Forum for Human Rights, served as UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and currently serves on the UN Investigation on Sri Lanka to examine human rights violations there. Jahangir is also a laureate of the Right Livelihood award.

Denis Mukwege
Democratic Republic of
Congo



Denis Mukwege is a Congolese gynecologist and the founder and medical director of Panzi Hospital in the DRC. The hospital has become known worldwide for the treatment of survivors of sexual violence as well as for providing services to more than 30,000 rape survivors. In addition to medical treatment, the hospital provides legal and psychosocial services to its patients. Dr. Mukwege serves on the advisory committee for the International Campaign to Stop Rape and Gender Violence in Conflict. Aside from his medical work, Mukwege has become a leading advocate for women's rights both within DRC and internationally. He has received many awards for his work, including the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought (2014), the Clinton Global Citizen Award (2011), the King Baudouin International Development Prize (2011) and the Right Livelihood Award (2013).



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Dubravka Šimonovic
Croatia



Dr. Dubravka Šimonovic was appointed as the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women for a six-year term in 2015. Dr. Šimonovic earned her Master's degree and PhD in Law from the University of Zagreb, Croatia. In her 20 years of experience in the field of human rights, and in particular women's rights and the prevention and response to VAW, Dr. Šimonovic Chaired the UN Commission on the Status of Women and served as an expert of the UN CEDAW Committee, which she Chaired in 2007-8. She also Co-Chaired the Committee which drafted the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence (2011), and Chaired the Council of Europe Task Force that proposed the establishment of the Convention.

Gary Barker
USA



Gary Barker is the founding Executive Director of Promundo in Brazil, where he lived for 15 years. He has carried out research on men, violence, gender, health and conflict in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. He is also co-chair and co-founder of MenEngage, a global alliance of more than 400 NGOs and UN agencies working to engage men and boys in gender equality. He is coordinator of the multi-country survey on men, the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES), one of the largest ever surveys on men's attitudes and behaviours related to violence, fatherhood and gender equality. He is also co-founder of MenCare, a global campaign to promote men's involvement as equitable, non-violent caregivers. Dr. Barker was awarded an Ashoka Fellowship and received a fellowship from the Open Society Institute. Dr. Barker holds a master's degree in public policy and a PhD in child development.

Jacqueline Bhabha
USA



Jacqueline Bhabha is Director of Research and Professor of Health and Human Rights at Harvard University. As a lawyer and social scientist, she conducts field research on adolescent rights, transnational child migration, and citizenship. From 1997 to 2001 Bhabha directed the Human Rights Program at the University of Chicago. Prior to 1997, she was a practicing human rights lawyer in London and at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. She has published extensively on issues of transnational child migration, refugee protection, children's rights and citizenship. She has also founded the Alba Collective, an international women's NGO currently working with rural women and girls in developing countries to enhance financial security and youth rights.

Jayati Ghosh
India



Jayati Ghosh is professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru university, New Delhi, and the executive secretary of International Development Economics Associates (Ideas). She is a regular columnist for several Indian journals and newspapers, a member of the National Knowledge Commission advising the prime minister of India, and is closely involved with a range of progressive organisations and social movements. She is co-recipient of the International Labour Organisation's 2010 Decent Work Research prize.



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Kah Walla
Cameroon



Kah Walla launched a pilot program with women sellers in one of the largest produce markets of Douala, where 900 women traders had no voice in market operations. Through the program, women sellers formed an association to advocate collectively for improved conditions, elimination of double-taxation and for the creation of a level playing field for women in the marketplace. For 25 years, Kah has focused on good governance, the rights of women and youth and the rule of law. She has worked with civil society in Cameroon and throughout Africa, developing policies and projects at international, national and local levels with farmers, traders, motorbike drivers, persons with disabilities, fishermen, student associations and governments. In 2008, she was one of 7 women entrepreneurs in Africa profiled in the report, *Doing Business: Women in Africa*, released as part of a joint effort between the Doing Business project and the World Bank's Gender Action Plan.

Kakenya Ntaiya
Kenya



Kakenya Ntaiya grew up in rural south Kenya. Impassioned by the importance of education, she successfully convinced her family to delay her marriage, despite undergoing the traditional ritual involving FGM, so that she could complete her high school education. Following graduation, Ntaiya negotiated with the village elders to receive permission to attend university in the United States and now holds a doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. As an undergraduate, she became the first youth advisor to the United Nations Population Fund. In that capacity, she travelled around the world as a passionate advocate for girls' education, which she sees as a crucial tool for fighting the practices of female genital mutilation and child marriage. She is the founder of Kakenya's Centre for Excellence, which empowers and motivates young girls through education to become agents of change and to break the cycle of harmful cultural practices.

Kim Thuy Seelinger
USA



Kim Thuy Seelinger is the Director of the Sexual Violence Program at the Human Rights Centre, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. She oversees the centre's research, teaching, and writing on conflict-related sexual violence. She has conducted fieldwork in Haiti, Vietnam, Thailand, Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. She was also an expert commentator on the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, and is a member of the expert group on international guidelines on the documentation of sexual violence against men and boys. Seelinger is also author of UNHCR commissioned *Safe Haven: Sheltering Displaced Persons from Sexual and Gender-based Violence*, which explores and improves understanding of the options for immediate, temporary shelter for refugees, internally displaced persons, and other migrants fleeing sexual and gender-based violence in countries affected by conflict or natural disaster.



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Leymah Gbowee
Liberia



Liberian social worker and peace activist Leymah Gbowee is best known for her leadership in the grassroots women’s movement for peace during Liberia’s civil war. Gbowee was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize along with her collaborator and Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in 2011 *for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women’s rights to full participation in peace-building work*. In 2006 she co-founded the Women Peace and Security Network Africa, which she led as the Executive Director for 6 years. In 2011 she founded the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa in Monrovia, an organisation which provides education and leadership development opportunities for women and girls. In addition to her master’s degree in Conflict Transformation, Gbowee has been the recipient of many honorary doctorates and other distinctions. Her story was featured in the award-winning film *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* (2008) on the civil war in Liberia. In 2011 she published her memoir, *Mighty Be Our Powers*.

Marina Mahathir
Malaysia



Marina Mahathir is a Malaysian socio-political activist and writer. She began her career in advocacy in the HIV/AIDS sector. A graduate of the University of Sussex, she was president of the Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) for more than a decade, and was also chairperson of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF). Through her work with the MAC and MAF, Marina came into contact with numerous vulnerable groups, such as the transgender community, drug users, sex workers, migrant workers and people with HIV. After leaving her position as MAC president in 2006, Marina went on to focus on issues related to Islam and gender, and was a board member of Sisters in Islam, which advocates for justice and equality for Muslim women in Malaysia. In 2010, she was awarded UN Person of The Year in Malaysia for her achievements in gender and women’s empowerment and in HIV / AIDs work both in Malaysia and internationally.

Obiageli Ezekwesili
Nigeria



Dr. Obiageli ‘Oby’ Ezekwesili is a Senior Economic Advisor with Africa Economic Development Policy Initiative. Dr. Ezekwesili is also co-founder of the #BringBackOurGirls citizens’ movement advocating for the safe rescue of the abducted 219 school girls of Chibok community in Borno State, Northern Nigeria. She served as the Vice President of the World Bank in Washington DC, where she was responsible for operations in 48 countries and a lending portfolio of nearly \$40 billion. From 2002 to 2007, Ezekwesili worked for the federal government of Nigeria as Minister of Education, Minister of Solid Minerals, head of the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit as well as Chairperson of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. She is a founding Director of Transparency International, representing Africa at the global anti-corruption body based in Berlin. Dr. Ezekwesili was named one of 2015 Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World and 50 Most Powerful Africans by the New Africa Magazine. Ezekwesili was also named as one of the New York Times’ 2015 Women of Impact.



Pablo Collada
Mexico



Pablo Collada is the Executive Director of Ciudadano Inteligente, a Latin American organization based in Chile that works to strengthen democracy and reduce inequality by promoting transparency and citizen participation through the use of technology. Pablo Collada has worked in the social development sector for the past 15 years, with a specific focus on citizenship building, youth and community. He led research efforts for the *Lab for the City* in Mexico City, an experimental office for civic innovation and urban creativity, the first city government department of its kind in Latin America. Collada also managed the creation of regional networks for international agencies to promote local government observatories, and the development and implementation of digital tools to engage youth in Mexico. Pablo received a *New Executives* award from Open Society Foundations in 2015.

Patricia Sellers
Belgium



Patricia Viseur Sellers is an international criminal attorney and Special Advisor to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Ms. Sellers is also a Visiting Fellow at Kellogg College of Oxford University, where she teaches international criminal law and human rights law. She was a legal advisor and Acting Senior Trial Attorney at the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda. She has served as an expert consultant to UN bodies that address children and armed conflict, gender and women's rights, and internal oversight of Peacekeepers. She lectures widely and conducts trainings for investigators and lawyers on sexual violence under international law. She has testified as an expert witness before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Spanish national courts. Ms. Sellers has authored numerous articles. She co-authored the chapter, "Rape and Sexual Violence" in the recently published, "The 1949 Geneva Conventions, A Commentary," from Oxford University Press. Ms. Sellers is a recipient of the Prominent Women in International Law Award by the American Society of International Law.

Robert Biedroń
Poland



Robert Biedroń is an LGBTI activist and founder of the Campaign Against Homophobia in Poland, which has developed strong advocacy and community mobilization approaches despite a very conservative political context at the national level. Biedroń has a strong background in human rights and is well known within the Polish civil society and human rights movements. He is a former member of the Polish Parliament and was recently elected as the first openly gay mayor of Slupsk, Poland.

**Her Royal Highness
Princess Sarah Zeid of
Jordan**



HRH Princess Sarah Zeid is a global maternal and newborn health advocate. Princess Sarah has successfully sponsored the addition of an unprecedented focus on humanitarian settings in the updated global strategy for the UNSG’s “Every Woman Every Child” (EWEC) initiative. Commissioned by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and in collaboration with the H4+ multilateral agencies (UN and the World Bank), Princess Sarah continues to champion the priority of, and innovation for, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health in humanitarian and fragile settings as the EWEC Strategy moves into implementation. Princess Sarah is on the board of the Women’s Refugee Committee, and a member of the advisory board for the Women’s Rights Division, Human Rights Watch. She holds a BA in International Relations from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas, and a MSc in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Princess Sarah is married to HRH Prince Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein. They have three children.

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**Shereen El Feki
United Kingdom**



Shereen El Feki is the author of *Sex and the Citadel: Intimate Life in a Changing Arab World*. The book is a result of 5 years of research surveying sexual attitudes of women and men in the Arab world. El Feki’s TED talk on sexuality in the Arab region has received over 1 million views since 2014. She is the former vice-chair of the UN’s Global Commission on HIV and the Law, as well as a TED Global Fellow. Shereen serves on the board of several civil society groups working in the Arab region, among them Meedan and the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality. She also writes for The Huffington Post, International Affairs, and The Independent, and has spoken widely on women, sexuality, and HIV in the Arab region.

**Sima Samar
Afghanistan**



Sima Samar is former head of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs in Afghanistan and is a recognized woman’s and human rights activist. Educated as a medical doctor in Afghanistan, Samar spent 17 years in Pakistan after fleeing in 1979. Upon her return, she founded The Shuhada Organisation, an NGO which now supports schools, clinics and hospitals both in Afghanistan and Pakistan. She currently serves as the Chairperson for the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Sudan. Samar has been recognized globally for her work on women’s rights and has received many prestigious awards.



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Victor Ochen
Uganda



Victor Ochen is founder and Executive Director of the African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET) based in Lira, Uganda. He was born and raised in Abia, one of northern Uganda's camps for displaced persons. Like most children there, Ochen grew up during the conflict between the Lord's Resistance Army and the Government of Uganda, which raged for over 20 years. Ochen has dedicated his life to rehabilitating victims of war through AYINET, which he founded in 2005 with the aim of promoting a healthy, peaceful and just society. AYINET has since provided surgical and psychosocial rehabilitation to more than 6,000 persons. Ochen's organisation promotes transitional justice, tolerance, and reconciliation. AYINET also works to build and promote responsible youth leadership for peace and justice. It runs programmes designed to help bright, resilient young people from extremely challenging backgrounds to develop into compassionate, innovative problem-solvers. Ochen was named the Global Goals Ambassador for Peace in 2015 and was nominated for the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize, making him the first Ugandan and the youngest Nobel Peace Prize nominee from Africa.

Zainah Anwar
Malaysia



Zainah Anwar is a founding member of Sisters in Islam and is currently the Director of Musawah, the global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family. She is at the forefront of the women's movement pushing for an end to the use of Islam to justify discrimination against women. The pioneering work of SIS in understanding Islam from a rights perspective and creating an alternative public voice of Muslim women demanding equality and justice led her to launch Musawah in 2009. This knowledge-building movement brings together activists and scholars to create new feminist knowledge in Islam to break the binary between Islam and human rights and the disconnect between law and reality. Anwar is a former member of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, and has received the *Chevalier De La Legion D'Honneur* from the French Government in 2014.