KARAMA
CSW65
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN LAW, POLITICS, AND PEACE
16th, 17th, 18th March 2021
el-karama.org
# Karama CSW65: Women in leadership in law, politics, and peace

**Dates:** Tuesday 16th March, Wednesday 17th March, Thursday 18th March  
**Start time:** 3pm Cairo (UTC +2), 2pm CET, 9am Eastern  
**Location:** Zoom (registration [here](#))

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| 15:15 - 16:45                           | Pressing problems with the law from the perspective of lawyers and activists in the Arab region | Saadia Wadah, moderator  
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• Fatima Zohra Chaoi  
• Nehr El Abo Komsan  
• Randa Siniora  
• Sarah Ajith  
• Samia El Hashmi  
• Yasmeen Hassan |
| 16:45 - 17:05                           | The work of UN Women in GBV law reform | Bibiana Aido, UN Women |
| 17:05 - 18:30                           | GBV Reform: The experience of Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco since 2017 | Fatema Khafagy, moderator  
• Brigitte Chelebian  
• Fatima Outaleb  
• Hafida Chekir  
• Manal Altaleb |
| 18:30 - 20:00                           | The intersection of law and religion in work to address violence against women and girls in the Arab region | Mongia Nefzi, moderator  
• Aicha Hajami  
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• Hala Abdel Khadder  
• Tareb Amar  
• Zahra' Langhi |
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| 15:15 - 16:40                           | From paper to practice: Judicial perspectives on the success and shortcoming of legal and constitutional reforms | Aicha Nassiri, moderator  
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• Aafet Chaabani  
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| 16:40 - 17:50 | Lessons from the drafting committees: The experience of constitutional reform   | • **Azza Kamel, moderator**  
 • Alaa Talbi  
 • Amal Basha  
 • Anwar Majanni  
 • Jazia Gebril |
| 17:50 - 18:55 | Fragile democracy: Elections post-conflict and under occupation                  | • **Lily Feidy, moderator**  
 • Amani Aruri  
 • Ayat Mneina  
 • Hassan Mahareeq  
 • Huda Shafig  
 • Obiageli Ezekwesili |
| 18:55 - 20:00 | Opportunities for and barriers to mobilizing and maintaining the engagement of women and youth in the political process | • **Sandie Hanna, moderator**  
 • Suheir Farrai  
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 • Emna Mizouni  
 • Rhizlane Benachir  
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| 15:15 - 17:00 | Corruption disruption: Women peacebuilders against the failed status quo         | • **Faiza Mohammed, moderator**  
 • Mouna Ghanem  
 • Zahra Langhi  
 • Amal Basha  
 • Eithar Khalil Ibrahim  
 • Randa Siniora |
| 17:00 - 18:30 | Making the WPS agenda a people’s agenda: how relevant and responsive is 1325?   | • **Salma Nims, moderator**  
 • Suzan Arif  
 • Layla Naffa  
 • Lamis Hantouli  
 • Amal Kreishe  
 • Kamila Kura |
| 18:30 - 19:30 | Karama Adolescent Girls Initiative: Implications for Civil Society & Policy      | • **Perrin Elkind, moderator**  
 • Amani Aruri  
 • Doha Ali  
 • Emna Mizouni  
 • Ola Alaghary  
 • Sandie Hatma  
 • Tamara Maloof |
| 19:30 - 19:50 | Close and thanks                                                                 | **Hibaaq Osman**                                                               |
Outline

To inform the discussions at the 65th Commission on the Status of Women, the Karama women’s network will be hosting a three-day conference looking at key issues identified by our partners.

The conference will look at the state of legal and constitutional reform in the region, with particular consideration to progress toward eliminating violence against women, and the impact of COVID-19. Looking toward democratic processes, the conference will consider the challenges of ensuring that women and youth are able to participate and be represented, and the particular issues faced in countries that are experiencing conflict, occupation, and transition. The conference will also consider progress in implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, both in countries with and without national action plans. The session will also hear from work undertaken in the Karama Program for Adolescent girls.

An action-orientated report will be developed following the conference.

Overview

The Arab region continues to have one of the lowest levels of women in decision making in the world. According to the IPU, just one in five legislators in the Arab region are women, while the percentage of women in the region’s lower houses is the lowest in the world.

Despite significant efforts and apparent victories, the situation improving only gradually, and in some cases it is being reversed. The Yemeni National Dialogue concluded with a commitment for women to represent at least 30 percent of positions in future state institutions. Yet the Yemeni cabinet announced last year included not a single woman.

The impact of women being excluded from and marginalized in decision making processes is that women’s priorities are not on the political agenda. Somalia - where women take up less than a quarter of parliamentary seats - male legislators have been trying to introduce amendments that would turn the clock back on years of work to end child and early marriage and end violence against women.

Conversely we can see in the region what happens when women are able to set the political agenda. Women voters in Tunisia became the crucial constituency in the successful presidential campaign of Beji Caid Essebsi in 2014. Under his Presidency, in 2017 Tunisia passed the most progressive and complete laws to address violence against women seen in the region.

This, however, is not the full story. Despite the importance of that law, what impact has it had in practice for women and girls in Tunisia? Has implementation of the law matched its legislative ambition? Several countries in the region - including Jordan and Lebanon - saw important steps forward in 2017 toward ending gender-based violence, with discriminatory laws abolished or new laws passed. Many celebrated at the time, but what has been the longer-term impact and what can we learn.
Implementation remains a critical problem in translating theory into reality. The women, peace and security agenda has been a key case in point. A number of countries in the region - Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, Tunisia, Lebanon South Sudan, Sudan, Yemen - have published national action plans (NAPs) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. How effective have these been?

NAPs such as the one in Yemen have been criticized for being drawn up without consultation with civil society, while the NAP published by the previous regime in Sudan was seen as whitewashing the situation for women affected by conflict.

To what extent is the women, peace and security agenda in the region a people's agenda?

Many of the countries most affected by conflict do not have NAPs. In the absence of the political stability necessary for such a process, how successful have internationally-led processes been in ensuring the women, peace and security agenda has been respected? Advisory boards set up to increase women's participation in processes such as Syria have been criticized as offering just cosmetic rather than meaningful participation, has there been greater success in the process for Libya or Sudan?

The process in Libya has set the timetable for the first elections to be held there in seven years, while later this year Palestine will hold its first general election since 2005. What are the particular problems of democratic processes following a long absence, and in contexts such as occupation and conflict? How can we ensure the meaningful participation of women and youth in these processes?

Ordinarily these discussions would be taking place in New York as part of the 65th Commission on the Status of Women. That they are being held online is one of the smaller impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exposed and exacerbated existing inequalities across the world. Only the wars have carried on as usual. This conference will seek to explore the impact of the pandemic on the work to end violence against women, on women's organizing, and on societies in general.

Ten years ago, vast social movements rose across the region demanding an end to corrupt and unaccountable regimes. Leaders were toppled, constitutions rewritten, civil wars began to rage. What has been the lasting legacy of those movements, the reforms, transitions and demands?

The Karama CSW 65 Conference: Women in Leadership in Law, Politics and Peace will provide a platform for regional expertise and experience alongside global leaders to discuss these issues and seek recommendations for a way forward.
Panel Outlines

Day One

Opening remarks from Mervat Tallawy

H.E. Mervat Tallawy is a diplomat and politician. She served in the Egyptian diplomatic service, with ambassadorial postings including Japan and Austria, in addition to serving as Assistant Foreign Minister. Mme Tallawy served as Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, and executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and later as Secretary-General of the Arab Women Organization. She was a member of the Committee to Draft the New Egyptian Constitution.

Panel 1.1 - Pressing problems with the law from the perspective of lawyers and activists in the Arab region

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, women in the Arab region have not been guaranteed access to justice, while they still experience significant inequality under the law through various sources, such as antiquated personal status laws, inheritance laws, and criminal codes. This session will invite senior and experienced lawyers, as well as those working to end violence against women, to explore the fundamental problems they experience in their professions.

Participants will be asked to consider what the main obstacles in the legal sector that they experience to women's access to justice, and to ending violence against women, and how can these be practically addressed.

Saadia Wadah, moderator

Saadia is a lawyer within the Bar of Casablanca, and formerly a member of the Board of Bar from 2000 to 2003. She is presently a member of the National Council of Human Rights and the coordinator of the working group for the protection of human rights and violations' review. Saadia was also a member of the Executive Board of the Moroccan Human Rights' organization from 2000 to 2003 and the legal guide in the Listening, Legal Counseling and Psychological Support Center for women victims of violence in 1996. She is an active member of the Moroccan Association for the Fight against Violence towards Women, which she presided over in 1999. Saadia has written various articles addressing women's rights published by activist organizations in Morocco.

Aida Nour El Din

Aida is a lawyer at the Court of Cassation and the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt. She is also an international arbitration consultant and expert in diplomatic and consular relations. Ms. Noureldin is a trainer and expert in women's and children's rights. She is the founder and the head
of the Board of Directors of the Women and Development Association in Alexandria, Egypt. She also used to be a board member of several civil society organizations and the Regional Union of Private Associations. Ms. Noureldin also is member of the Board of Directors at the Federation for Economic Development Association. She wrote many books and papers on the legal rights of women and children, including with regard to the personal status law in Egypt, international conventions, and the illegal immigration of youth to European countries.

Fatima Zohra Chaoui

Fatima is a lawyer in Casablanca and has been working as a legal consultant at Fama Listening Center since 2005. Ms. Chaoui was a member of the Moroccan Association for Fighting Violence against Women from 2008 to 2011 and is presently the President of the Association. She holds a Master’s in Private Law from the University of Hassan.

Nehad Abo Komsan

Nehad Abo El-Komsan is a lawyer and human rights activist. As Cofounder and Chairwoman of the Egyptian Center for Women’s Rights, Nehad has working to raise Egyptian and Arab women’s voices to the international community. Her work has aimed to actively empower women's participation as effective decision makers in international forums. Nehad Works on supporting the Egyptian and Arab women in their struggling to obtain their rights at the national level. Internationally, Nehad has been a member of the World Bank's Advisory Council on Gender and Development, and she was previously a member of the Global Civil Society Advisory Group at UN Women. Nehad was the winner of the 2008 Adel Abo Zahra Award for efforts in the empowerment of Egyptian women.

Randa Siniora

Randa Siniora is the General Director of the Women’s Center for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC). She is a human rights and women's rights activists with a professional experience in the field of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law for over 35 years. Earlier, she was the Senior Executive Director of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) from 2007 to 2015 and the General Director of AlHaq, Law in the Service of Man (2001-2005). Previously she also headed the Networking and Advocacy at the WCLAC and worked as a Legal Researcher and Coordinator of the Women's Rights Program at Al-Haq. (1987-1997). Randa Siniora was the first Palestinian woman ever to brief the UN Security Council on Women Peace and Security (WPS) in 2018. In 2019, she was selected among the 100 most influential people in gender policy around the world, one of the largest and most prominent global lists that was drawn from over 9,000 nominations to recognize and celebrate the hard work being done on gender policy by many around
the world. Randa has an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex/UK and an MA Degree in Sociology-Anthropology from the American University in Cairo.

Samia ElHashmi
Samia was appointed by the Minister of Justice of Sudan to chair the Committee to review the personal status law for Muslims in Sudan. She is a distinguished lawyer and the co-founder and chairwoman of Mutawinat, an organization that uses law as a strategic tool for positive change for women in Sudan. It prioritizes women's human rights, women's rights in the constitution, and engagement of women in constitution writing. Legal reform, legal literacy, and women's access to justice are the leading aspects of Mutawinat's mission. It was the first organization in Sudan to initiate legal aid clinics and legal literacy programs targeting women. Mutawinat is highly engaged in civil society implementation of the co-operation agreements between Sudan and South Sudan. Samia is the founder of many women networks in Sudan, and is a prominent trainer and women's rights advocate.

Sarah Ajith
Sarah Ajith is a long–activist for women's rights, health and gender. She is currently Executive Director to Support for Women in Governance Organization (SWIGO). The organization carries out issues of advocacy for the involvement of women in leadership, establishment of gender sensitivity acts through lobbying with stakeholders. It was formed to carry out the activities of closing the gap of gender imbalance in leadership and spear-head the issue of affirmative action 35%, she is the former Chairperson for South Sudan Women General Association, a network of women leaders spanning the 10 states of South Sudan. During the year leading up to independence, she led the mobilization of women in the ten Southern States to vote during the referendum. Ms. Ajith advocated for participation of women as well for the education of girls, child rights. In addition, Mrs. Ajith worked with coalition of women to advocate for women's rights in the transitional constitution for South Sudan leading up to independence. In the 2010 General elections she led civic education outreach effort, and also served as an election observer. She was heavily involved as a woman leader in the liberation movement, working with other women to provide support to the struggle, restore communities after conflict, and provide education to children. She has been a member of many civil society initiatives and networks including, Taskforce on engagement of women in peace process. Ms. Ajith holds a Bachelor's Degree in Community Development from Khartoum University, and BA in Teaching Arabic language for Non-Arabic speakers.

Yasmeen Hassan
Yasmeen became the Global Executive Director of Equality Now in 2011 after serving as Deputy Executive Director and Director of Programs for three years. Previously, she was with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women where she worked on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Secretary-General’s study on violence against women. Yasmeen clerked on the D.C. Court of Appeals (1994-1995) and
practiced corporate law at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York and California (1995-2003). In 1999, Yasmeen edited Equality Now's first report on discriminatory laws. She has served on the Council on Foreign Relations' Advisory Board on Child Marriage, provided expert guidance to the U.N. Trust to End Violence Against Women, and advocates for women's rights through appearances in numerous media outlets, including CNN, Al Jazeera, the Huffington Post, the New York Times and the Washington Post. Yasmeen holds a J.D., magna cum laude, from Harvard Law School where, among other subjects, she studied Islamic law and women's rights. She also holds a B.A., magna cum laude, in Political Science from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, USA. For Yasmeen, the law makes a critical difference; it is a statement of your worth as a citizen and influences the direction your life will take. Growing up in Pakistan, her defining moment came at age 10 when her country's laws were ‘Islamacized’ treating women as second class citizens. Advocating for women's rights became a major part of Yasmeen's education and career, ultimately leading her to author the first study of domestic violence in Pakistan which became the nation's submission to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

Panel 1.2 - GBV Reform: The experience of Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco since 2017

Over the course of a few days in 2017, women activists celebrated the passage of landmark legislation to end violence against women in Tunisia, while so-called ‘marry-your-rapist’ laws in Jordan and Lebanon were abolished after concerted campaigns by civil society. Similar progress has also been made in Morocco. Has the political will that saw these reforms through been sustained? Are women and girls safer from violence now as a result of these reforms? What lessons can we learn from the success of that moment in 2017 that can lead to further and sustained progress?

This panel will look at the strengths and weaknesses in the laws and implementation, and recommend how the promise of 2017 can be fulfilled.

Fatema Khafagy, moderator

Fatema Khafagy completed her graduate studies in the UK and obtained a PhD in Development Planning from University of London. Since 1985, she has worked for UN agencies like UNICEF and UNIFEM and established and headed the first Gender Equality Ombuds Office in Egypt. She is a founder and member in national and regional feminist NGOs and networks such as the Egyptian Feminist Union, the Alliance for Arab Women and she is the coordinator of the Arab Women Network for Parity and Solidarity “Tha’era”. She is a member of the gender expert group of North-South Center of Council of Europe. She has been involved with the UN, government and with civil society in Beijing events. She was selected in August 2019 one of twenty world feminists in the civil society advisory group advising UN Women, the Mexican and French governments in preparing for Beijing+25 and the Generation Equality Forums. She is also the co-convener of the Arab States Feminist CSOs Network.

Brigitte Chelebian

Brigitte Chelebian is an Attorney at Law Executive Director/Founder of Justice Without Frontiers (JWF) organization, which works to advance justice, rule of law and equality towards Access to Justice and Information and towards International Criminal Justice.
She is certified to the Justice Rapid Response and UN Women -Sexual and Gender Based Violence - Justice Experts and EVAW Roster. She is appointed as Legal Consultant and Gender Expert by Several UN agencies, EU, and INGOs. Brigitte Chelebian was featured in the Pioneers and Leaders Hub that was launched by the Women as Partners in Progress (WPP) Project within Gibran Chair for Values and Peace at the University of Maryland. Her Law Firm was recognized as one of the seven's best Law Firms in Lebanon in Social Responsibility through its legal practices.

Fatima Outaleb

Fatima is an advocate and lobbyist for women's Human Rights with a special focus on Gender based violence survivors' responsive mechanisms and systems. She is at Union de l Action Feminist board of directors, North South Council of Europe pool of experts’ member, MENA representative at GNWS, KARAMA network and ABAAD advisory board member.

Hafidha Chekir

Prof. Hafidha Cekir is an activist and academic. Professor of Public Law at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences. Member of the Expert Committee of the Supreme Commission for the Achievement of the Goals of the Revolution, Political Reform and Democratic Transition. An expert at the National Constituent Assembly for Constitutional Review Participation in the Consensus Committee that was formed within the National Constituent Assembly to review the latest version of the Tunisian Constitution - Deputy President of the International Federation for Human Rights, founding member of the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women

Prof. Chekir has published several studies, articles and training materials on the political participation of Arab women. Training tools on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women within the framework of training courses organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and a guide on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Tunisia. 2017

Manal Alteleb

Manal Alteleb's activism centers on promoting the voices and rights of young people. People under the age of 30 represent over 50 percent of the region's population; however, young people face few opportunities to have their voices heard. Manal's work focuses on tackling this inequality. Working for one of the most well-established women's rights organizations in the Arab region, the Arab Women Organization of Jordan, Manal has led a number of campaigns to address discriminatory laws and practices that harm women. Her campaign against child marriage entitled “A Bride with a Doll” generated such an impression that it was long listed in one of the world's most prominent activism awards. Manal's
current project - Intergenerational Dialogue: The pathway Towards Equality - aims to creating an active younger generation within an existing umbrella that involves 106 women's organizations. Manal has also contributed to the establishment of “SDG: Goal 5” Coalition, which encompasses members of the Parliament, the Local Councils and the Civil Society. She holds an MA in Women's Studies from the University of Jordan.

Panel 1.3 - The intersection of law and religion in work to address violence against women and girls in the Arab region

Religion and culture play a significant role in political and social discourse - in particular in relation to women's rights and the protection of women and girls. A panel of legal scholars will discuss the historicity of interpretations of religion that have been used to diminish women's rights and undermine work to end violence against women.

Questions to guide the session:

Mongia Nefzi, moderator

Mongia Al-Nafzi Al-Sawaihi is Professor at the Higher Institute for the Fundamentals of Religion at Zaytuna University, Tunisia. Prof Mongia working on several projects on dialogue between religions and civilizations, women's rights between Sharia, positive law, reproductive health and drug resistance in the MENA region according to the Islamic curriculum and resistance to violent extremism. Prof Munajiya is a researcher and writer, an expert in human development and a religious leader who supervised many doctoral and master's theses in Islamic sciences, interpretation, religion science, women's rights in Islam and resistance to violence against women. She has trained many Arab women on women's rights in Islam and on methods of interfaith dialogue, and the role of women in building societal peace from 1991 to 2020, she has worked as a consultant for the Anda Organization for the Arab World since 2011-2021 and many civil society institutions, member of the executive office of the National Union of Tunisian Women in charge of women, the family, childhood and the elderly. Editor-in-chief of the women's magazine issued by the National Union of Tunisian Women

Aicha Hajjami

Research Professor, Faculty of Law in Fez and Marrakech, Public Law Division (1977-2005), Study of forensic science at the University of Al-Qayrawan in Fez. Researcher in women's rights issues: political rights, family law, the gender approach, the legal and political position of women in the religious authority. Adviser to national and international institutions.
Asmaa Keftaro

Asmaa is an educator and consultant on interfaith dialogue, peacebuilding, and minority rights. She is a member of the Women's Advisory Board to the UN Special Envoy for Syria, and has previously served as consultant and advisor to numerous international bodies, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Educational and Cultural Organization, UNDP and more. Asma Kuftaro: Interfaith Dialogue and Peacebuilding Consultant - Rights of Minorities, Women and Children, Member of the Women's Advisory Council, United Nations 2016 to date, Member of the Women's Advisory Council of the Joint Special Envoy to Syria, Consultant of the King Abdullah International Center for Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue: Member of the Preparatory Committee For the G20 Religious Values Forum, a member of the steering committee of the Women Empowerment Project in the Arab World, a member of the platform for dialogue and cooperation between leaders and various religious institutions, a consultant for the High Commissioner for Refugees' Rights, an expert at the United Nations Education and Culture Organization (ESCWA), an expert in religious and social studies for the reconstruction agenda Syria. Member of the Committee for the Preparation of the First National Report of CEDAW, Member of the Committee for the Development of Women of the United Nations Development Program, Member of the Arab Report Committee to Enhance the Role of Arab Parliaments, Speaker at the Conference on Building Women and Girls Power, Investing in the Future, Sharjah, Researcher in the Women Program of the United Nations Program Syria, participation in the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum, Marrakech Participation in training and advisory workshops for the Finnish and Swedish embassies.

Hala Abd el Kader

Hala is a registered lawyer in the Higher Degree of Appeal. She began her career as a journalist in several Egyptian and Arabic journals. Currently a member of the Board of Trustees, she is the Executive Director of the Egyptian Foundation for Family Development. She worked as a legal consultant for the project on combating violence against women and children for the USAID and NCW. Ms. Abd el Kader conducted several research studies in cooperation with Oxford University and Shaml Center for Human Rights. She holds a diploma in civil society and human rights from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science.

Tarba Amar

Doctor in Islamic History and lecturer at the modern University of Nouakchott - Mauritania - She is interested in women's issues. She participated in several seminars in Mauritania and some Arab capitals on the issue of women.
Zahra' Langhi

Peace activist, gender expert, and scholar. Her research interests are gender, mediation, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, reconciliation, and religion. Zahra has contributed significantly to the body of research and literature on the Libyan Transition and peacebuilding in Libya. Zahra is the co-founder and CEO of the Libyan Women's Platform for Peace (LWPP), a socio-political movement focused on peacebuilding, inclusivity and gender equality. Langhi is a member of the legal committee at the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum. She has participated in the formal peace negotiations and the political dialogue in Libya since 2013. She is also a former UN diplomat with a wide experience on women, peace and security in the Arab region. In 2012, Zahra gave a TED Talk entitled "Why the Libyan Revolution Failed and What Might Work". In recognition of her efforts, in 2014, The Guardian recognised Zahra as one of "Seven Women to Watch in Global Politics". In 2016, Zahra Langhi was named one of the 23 inspiring women fighting for women by the Charter of compassion led by academic scholar Karen Armstrong. In 2016 also, Salt Magazine ranked Zahra 26th on a list of 100 inspiring women working for the empowerment of women and peacebuilding. In 2018, The Rockefeller Foundation named Zahra' one of five women leaders introducing transformative change around the world. In 2020, Zahra Langhi was nominated by ATHENA40 the first global selection of the top 40 most forward thinking women who create positive change in their societies and industries and also support other women and girls to thrive. She was nominated as a role model in peacemaking.

Day Two

Opening remarks

María Teresa Fernández de la Vega

María Teresa Fernández de la Vega is President of Spain's Council of State, and the President of the Mujeres Por Africa foundation. A jurist and politician, she served as Deputy of Prime Minister of Spain between 2004 and 2010, the first woman to do so.

Panel 2.1 - From paper to practice: Judicial perspectives on the success and shortcoming of legal and constitutional reforms

Judges are at the forefront of implementing legal and constitutional reform, so this panel will seek their insight into the problems in law that were not seen at the drafting stage. They have also experienced at first had the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the legal sector, and we will ask them to explore the problems that have arisen through the crisis.
Aicha Nassiri

Aicha was appointed attorney of the King for the court of the first instance of Casablanca in 2011. Prior to this, she served as the Department Chief of Social Statuses and the Department Chief among the Appeal Court of Commerce in Casablanca. She has participated in numerous trainings and meetings, including a human rights training in Greece. She is a member of the Central Bureau of the Widadiya Hassania of Justice and the Regional Commission of Human Rights. Ms. Nassiri has also published various articles and reports, including a booklet on women’s issues that discussed divorce, pregnancy and child custody, and other priority issues for Moroccan women.

Aicha Ayat Haj

The King's attorney at the Civil Court of First Instance in Casablanca, President of the Moroccan Association of Women Judges, Member of the Regional Committee for Human Rights, Casablanca - Settat

Afeef Chaabani

Afeef Chaabani is a Tunisian judge.

Marwan Tashani

Marwan Tashani is a former judge and Director of the Defender Center.
Somoud Damiri

Somoud was the first woman to serve as Prosecuting Attorney of the Personal Status in the Arab world. A dynamic and results-driven legal consultant with over 12 years of extensive and advanced experience in nongovernmental organizations and acted as a senior legal advisor. Background includes competencies in policy analysis, organizational leadership, strategic planning and programs development. Excellent interpersonal, communication, team work/development and leadership skills, with an effective ability to function in high pressure and challenging conditions.

Panel 2.2 Lessons from the drafting committees: The experience of constitutional reform

The last 10 years has seen perhaps unprecedented levels of constitutional reform across the region. What has been the practical impact of this on the fundamental rights of citizens, and in particular on women? This panel will seek the experience of those with experience of the national dialogues and constitutional drafting committees to see how those processes can inform further legal reform.

Azza Kamel, moderator

Azza Kamel Mohamed PhD, is writer and journalist, and human rights and women's rights activist. Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Appropriate Communication for Development, the Foundation for the Arab Network for Monitoring and Changing the Image of Women and Men in the Media (2005) and the Founder of the Shift Harassment Initiative, which seeks to combat sexual harassment against women and girls, and to provide legal and psychological support to everyone who is subjected to assault or physical violence in public places. Azza has published numerous research papers and studies on the image of women and men in the visual, readable and audio media (2000-2014), as well as studies on the legal and legislative conditions on Egyptian women, as the director of the Elect the Women campaign. Coordinator of the Women’s Parliament, which aims to build the capacities of women members of local and national legislative assemblies, sensitize and mobilize public opinion on the issue of the inclusion of women in the constitution-drafting process, and advocate for equality between men and women in the articles of the new constitution. Ismailia International Festival for six consecutive years (2009-2014). She participated as chair of the jury for foreign films in the 2008 Muscat International Film Festival. She published the study (Women in the World Constitutions) 2012.

Alaa Talbi

Dr Alaa Talbi is the Chief Executive of FTDES, the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights. His areas of interest include the study of social movements, the rights of women, and the rights of migrants. Dr Talbi is a historian and published poet.
Amal Basha

Amal is a prominent Yemeni, development practitioner, gender & WPS expert from Yemen, co-founded chairwoman of "Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights (SAF)", a leading women rights advocacy organizations. Amal served as the official spokesperson of the National Dialogue Conference. She worked for numerous UN agencies including UNDP, EU, ICRC, UNIFEM, UN Women. Amal served as the MENA Coordinator for Coalition of the International Criminal Court (CICC). Ms. Basha holds both License of Law, Bachelor in Political Science from the American University in Cairo (AUC) and Master's in Gender and Development from IDS, the University of Sussex in the UK. Amal has received several awards, at national, regional and international levels. In 2017, the University of Toronto conferred her an Honorary PhD Law Degree, as one of global human rights leader and she was the laureate of "The Arab Woman of the Year 2014 Award", from Roberto Karam Foundation in Marrakesh, Morocco. As well, she received the Shield of Al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science and Culture as "The Person of the Year in 2008" in Yemen for her contribution to the community development work and activism.

Anwar Majanni

Amwar Majanni is a Syrian jurist, who currently serves as a member of the Syrian Constitutional Committee, representing civil society. He previously served as a judge in Syria, and is an advisor for the Day After organization.

Jazia Gebril

Jazia is an assistant professor of law at Benghazi University. She is a Research team member of the Center for Law and Society Studies, Trainer, legal and legal, activist in the field of women.
Panel 2.3 - Fragile democracy: Elections post-conflict and under occupation

This year will see elections held in Libya and Palestine, while elections are expected to take place in Sudan next year. What are the particular challenges to building a participatory democratic culture in a society that is experiencing conflict or occupation, or that has been under authoritarian rule for many years? This panel will look at the challenges facing potential candidates, campaigners and voters in Libya, Palestine, Sudan and further.

Lily Feidy, moderator

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Hind Al Husseini College for Girls in at Al Quds University – east Jerusalem, Palestine. Dr. Feidy has a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Delaware in the U.S.A. and is an Adjunct Professor at the Department of English at Birzeit University, where she was on faculty in various capacities. Starting her career as an assistant professor at the Department of English Language and Literature from 1988-1996, she also served as the Chairperson of the Department of English from 1992-1993. She was Assistant Dean for the Faculty of Arts from 1993-1995 and Director of the university’s international relations department 1995-1996. She continued her professional pursuit as the Director General for International and Cultural Relations at the Ministry of Higher Education in Palestine from 1996-2002. Dr Feidy served as CEO of “The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy”- MIFTAH from 2006 – 2018. Throughout, Dr. Feidy has been an advocate of human rights, democracy, peace building, youth and gender. She is active in promoting, good governance, accountability and integrity in Palestine. She is also involved in a number of civil regional and International organizations.

Amani Aruri

Amani has built her skills in the field of the analysis of economic policies, strategic planning, project management, and advocacy through her university study and years of experience to advance economic well-being, social Justice, human rights, and peace and security agendas in Palestine and the region. Being results driven, Amani has utilized her skills in managing innovative programs that serve marginalized groups especially youth and women. She is currently a member of Global Youth Taskforce on Beijing +25 and A member of the Generation Equality Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. Through her work and activism, Amani has been working on improving the lives of youth and women in Palestine and the Arab region by advancing gender equality, and empowering women and girls to participate in the social, economic, and political life. Amani has hands – on experience on raising awareness and gaining community support on a certain initiative while building supporting networks and coalitions, with a special focus on gender issues. Her experiences in conflict affected countries like Palestine led her to see the need to better engage more young people especially females as peacebuilders in order to prevent and break cycles of violence, and to contribute to the peace process on the national and international levels.
Ayat Mneina

Ayat Mneina is a Canadian-Libyan activist, digital media strategist and researcher who grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba on Treaty 1 territory. In 2011, she founded ShababLibya (the Libyan Youth Movement), a social media platform that counteracted the Libyan government’s media blackout by reporting the Libyan uprising using a network of sources on the ground and was widely used by international outlets as a source of reliable information on Libya. Ayat has traveled extensively to share her expertise on Libya presenting at international forums, media outlets and academic institutions including the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings, UN Women CSW63, BBC Democracy Day, Yale, MIT, The Guardian, CNN, and Al Jazeera. For three years Ayat worked on political campaigns in Canada developing digital media strategy in Manitoba for Indigenous leader, author and politician Wab Kinew. Ayat is currently based in Toronto as a freelance analyst, researcher and writer as well as a producer and researcher for the documentary film Searching for Kikhia which focuses on the story of slain Libyan opposition leader and former Foreign Minister of Libya, Mansur Kikhia. In 2019, Ayat joined the Stories of Girls Resistance Project as the story curator for the MENA region collecting over 20 girls’ resistance stories that will be developed and shared on various platforms over the coming year. You can follow her on Twitter @amneina.

Hassan Mahareeq

Hassan Mahareeq is a social and political activist, holds a master degree in European Affairs from Heinrich Heine University and a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Bethlehem University. He is currently a project manager in The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy “MIFTAH”, and He also has published a number of research papers and articles about enhancing youth and women political participation in Palestine.

Huda Shafig

Huda Shafig is a feminist and a women’s rights activist from Sudan with a decade of experience in women, peace and security. Her work has focused on gender equality and social justice being part of Sudanese women’s movement. Huda has held several posts in national, international organizations and with the United Nations in Sudan and the region focuses on Gender, Natural Resource Management, and Peace Building nexus, currently she is Sudan Program Director with Karama, a network of civil society groups and activists across Africa and the Arab region.

Obiageli Ezekwesili

Panel 2.4 - Opportunities for and barriers to mobilizing and maintaining the engagement of women and youth in the political process

What is stopping women and young people from participating in and being represented by politics in the Arab region? This panel will explore why the region’s legislatures do not look like the societies they represent, and ask how this can be addressed.

Thinking about the differences in the barriers faced by women and youth -

Sandie Hanna, moderator

Sandie Hanna is a feminist, intersectional and anti-imperialist activist from occupied Palestine. As part of her advocacy with local WRO and the feminist movement, she supported voicing Gazan women in the report of the independent international commission of inquiry that was dispatched by the Human Rights Council in 2018 to investigate violations of IHL and IHRL in the oPt. She is the founder of Feminist Diaries, an intergenerational collective of young women and girls that analyze and produce art to share stories about their lived realities under colonial oppression and patriarchy, activism journeys and the feminist world they dream to co-shape.

Emna Mizouni

Emna Mizouni is originally a Communications Specialist. She is the Founder of Carthagina organization working on documenting Tunisian History and Heritage for future generation and co-founder of Digital Citizenship, an initiative for women and girls’ digital inclusion. She is an advocate for Open Culture and Open Knowledge, a community leader in the Wikimedia Movement globally with a specific focus on the Tunisian, Arab and African communities. She is a member of several international entities focusing on Human Rights and Technology.

Hayat Mirshad

Hayat Mirshad is a Lebanese feminist activist, journalist, trainer and communications and advocacy expert. Hayat’s mission is to ensure girls and women have access to justice, information, protection and human rights. She continues to spread her message through various platforms by organising nationwide marches, and rallying the masses to challenge corrupt, patriarchal regimes and demand change. She was ranked among BBC’s 100 most inspiring and influential women from around the world for 2020. She is a co-founder and co-director at FE-MALE feminist collective, and former Head of communications and campaigning at the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering- RDFL. She initiated and was the anchor and producer of the first feminist radio program in Lebanon and MENA region “Sharika Wa Laken” (A Partner Not Yet Equal). The radio show was transferred in 2015 into a feminist online platform, where she is now its Editor-in-Chief.
Rhizlaine Benachir

With more than twenty years in the public, social, and association fields, Benachir is a consultant on gender equality and development, human rights, in particular, women's rights, and a member of several national and international networks. Rhizlaine is a great activist who founded the association Jossour Forum of Moroccan Women in 1995. She is also a former president of this association, for which she coordinates national and international projects related to gender equality, advocacy, leadership, the fight against violence and all forms of discrimination against women. She is currently vice-president of Jossour FFM, a member of the women's consulting NGO "X Lance" as well as the African network "Act for Africa", an association of African women entrepreneurs and a member of the Abderrahim Bouabid Foundation office.

Samia Melki

Samia is an activist, trainer, researcher and former parliamentarian. She currently serves as faculty member at the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce of Tunis and leader of the Theara network for women in the Arab region, which she founded. Samia served as a member of the National Council of Ettakatol, a social democratic party in Tunisia, and was the founder of its Women Organization and coordinated its International Affairs Commission. Previously she was elected in 1994 as a member of the board of administration of the 'Université Arabe des Sciences', served from 1994 to 1997 as a consultant at Middle East Consultants and from 1981 to 1987 was in charge of Inflight services training in an International Airline. Samia has trained hundreds of executives as well as NGO members and politicians from many countries, including Tunisia, Libya, Jordan, Egypt, Malta and Turkey.

Suheir Farraj

Upon receiving her degree in nursing, Ms. Farraj opted to turn to her true passion and pursued a career as a professional photographer and film director. Today, she is the founder & Director-General of the Women Media and Development organization (TAM). She represents TAM in the secretariat of the Palestinian National Women Coalition for Security Council Resolution 1325, which works on implementing 1325 UN decision in Palestine. This committee is formed by another 70 NGO in Palestine and functions under the National Palestinian Woman's Union. TAM contributes to attain a free media that reinforces equality and eliminates all types of discrimination and gender-based violence, Reinforcing dialogue between civil society institutions, women and youth groups, and governmental institutions regarding women rights. Under the leadership of Suheir, TAM implemented a project focusing on raising awareness on the tragedy of honor killing among civil society organizations and advocated for the establishment of a referral system for supporting women victims of violence. Building on the achievements gained through the first project, TAM led a national campaign "The Promise to Protect Women", to amend the penal law, specifically the article that provides a reduced sentence for honor killing. On May 19, the Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas, issued a decree to suspend the application of reduced sentence for men committing honor killing.
Zahra Shirwa

Zahra A Shirwa is the former Executive Director of the Global Somali Diaspora (GSD) organization. She has over 20 years of activism in public education, women's rights, voting rights and immigrant's rights. Zahra is deeply engaged in interfaith outreach and collaboration as means to fight Islamophobia and racism. She previously worked for USAID and the Petroleum Finance Company in DC. Zahra is educated in the UK and US.

Day Three

Opening remarks from Emad Algarash

Emad is the Executive Director of the Yemen Organization for Defending Democratic Rights and Freedoms. He is a member of the coordinating committee of the Yemeni Network for Human Rights, a network established between seven Yemeni organizations in cooperation with the Danish Institute. He is also a member of the Coordinating Committee in the MANN (together) network, a youth initiative launched in Cairo in cooperation with Karama. Emad holds a BA in Journalism.

Panel 3.1 Corruption disruption: Women peacebuilders against the failed status quo

"We don't want to just take a piece of the cake, we want to change the recipe", this was the attitude that Zahra' Langhi took at the LPDF when she wanted to disrupt a narrative in UN-led processes that normalizes corruption. This discussion will explore how "genderizing" peace is about more than simply increasing women's representation, and the necessity of disempowering elites.

Faiza Mohammed, moderator

Faiza Jama Mohamed led the effort to open Equality Now's first regional office in Nairobi, Kenya in 2000. She has more than 20 years of experience working with international organizations and was an active member of the women's movement in Somalia for many years before joining Equality Now. Faiza was instrumental in building several women's organizations with a focus on promoting peace, gender equality and advocacy for women's rights. In 1998, she received the Hundred Heroines Award in recognition of her activism in support of the human rights of Somali women. In 2008, she was awarded the Hunger Project's Africa Prize for Leadership for Sustainable End of Hunger. Faiza serves on numerous committees and Boards dealing with women's rights issues and closely supports the work of the African Union Commission. Faiza holds a M.B.A. from the...
California State University in Fresno, and a human rights diploma from the Institute of Social Studies at The Hague in the Netherlands. Injustice against women and girls inspires Faiza to advocate for their rights. She believes that the law is critical to deterring crimes against women. By showing people the consequences of crimes, the law can serve as an effective prevention tool. Faiza’s is inspired by both her parents, who played a big role in shaping who she is today, and her nieces, for whom she wants a better world. Her mantra: “Always be optimistic! Obstacles or challenges are temporary and they can be overcome with determination and persistent effort!”

Eithar Khalil Ibrahim

A medical registrar (obstetrics and gynecology), Dr Eltar was involved in the negotiation of Sudan peace talks in Juba and the first woman signatory to a political document between Sudanese factions and government, the political declaration concerning gender issues. Dr Eltar is also a Master’s student of Gender, diversity development and peace studies in Alahfad university and former assistant teacher of basic science at the university.

Mouna Ghanem

Mouna is the founder and Coordinator of the Syrian Women’s Forum for Peace, and Vice-President of the Syrian political movement Building the Syrian State. She is a senior gender advisor with extensive experience in the Arab region, having worked for over a decade as the Deputy Representative for UNFPA in Syria and chairing the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs. Mouna also served as the Regional Director for the United Nation Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Jordan, Amman and as Deputy Chairperson for the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) in New York. Mouna trained as a medical doctor, and holds a diploma in Public Health from the World Health Organization, and a Master’s of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University.

Panelists

Randa Siniora  See panel 1.1
Zahra’ Langhi  See Panel 1.3

Panel 3.2 Making the WPS agenda a people’s agenda: how relevant and responsive is 1325?

Many countries in the Arab region now have national action plans for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, but how involved as civil society been in the development, implementation and monitoring of those NAPs? How responsive have those NAPs been to the needs of women on the ground, and the changing contexts they have had to deal with? This session will look at how successful governments and civil society in the region have been in making the women, peace and security agenda a people’s agenda.
Salma Al-Nims, moderator

Salma Al-Nims has served as Secretary-General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women's Affairs from 2014 to the present day, and holds a PhD in development planning and a master's degree in sustainable development from the University of London. She has been working since her doctorate in 2004 as a consultant in development and gender with several government and international institutions, including the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Women, the United Nations Children's Fund, and a fund United Nations Population, and the Canadian International Development Association. She has worked until her appointment as General Secretary of the Jordanian National Committee for Women Affairs as the executive director of the "Progress" platform, a community movement that seeks to build a positive discourse towards change in Jordan. She is active on social media, especially in the areas of human rights and social justice.

Amal Kreishe

Amal is a Palestinian feminist, activist and a political leader who has served as a general director of the Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development since 2006. PWWSD is a feminist, national, and development organization that focuses on women's empowerment in private and public life. Mrs. Khreishe has led many campaigns to advance women's roles in society, including the first program in Palestine to support violated women. Amal Khreishe is a member of the steering committee of the Palestinian National Women Coalition to Implement the UNSCR 1325, and she was a member of the drafting team of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR1325 on Women Peace and Security in the State of Palestine 2017-2019 that is headed by the Ministry of Women Affairs. She is also a gender expert in the EU for the EURO-MED Ministerial Process that have geared by the Euro-med Feminist Initiative. She has experience in training on gender equality, human resources development, advocacy and lobbying and interpersonal and leadership skills, locally and regionally.

Kamilia Kura

Kamilia is Executive director of the Nuba Women for Education and Development Association (NuWEDA).
Lamis Shua’ibi- Hantouli

Lamis Shua’ibi- Hantouli is a Program Director at the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy- MIFTAH. A Palestinian women activist and human rights defender. An active member in several coalitions, national committees and forums and regional networks. Ms. Hantouli holds a master degree in Democracy and Human Rights. She represents Palestinian Civil Society in different occasions on the regional and international levels mainly within the framework of WPS, gender equality and social justice in public policies. She developed her career in principle to Human rights, social justice and gender equality through being engaged actively in different active Civil Society organizations, national and international organizations to enhance principles of democracy and good governance and to promote the political inclusiveness and participation within the Palestinian society as a contribution in the state building. She continues to advocate for amplifying Palestinian women’s call internationally to end the Israeli occupation and to hold the perpetrators accountable for the committed HR violations and crimes against humanity.

Layla Naffa, Jordan

Layla is the director of projects at the Arab Women Organization of Jordan. Layla has devoted her career to making a difference in the lives of Jordanian women. Since 2000, she has been involved in societal activities dedicated to women's rights, gender equality and women empowerment. She uses all available platforms to call for the universality of women's rights, secularism and the civil state. Layla's work has included the establishment of the Mosawa Network, a local partnership with grassroots women organizations, and she has put a strong focus on strengthening solidarity with women activists at the Arab and Euromed regions, and at international level.

Suzan Arif

Suzan is a human rights activist, She is the founder and director of Women Empowerment Organization since 2004, she was the coordinator of the Iraq Cross- Sector Task Force (CSTF) 1325. Since 2012, She has been playing a leading role to ensure a robust partnership between CSOs and both governments of Iraq and Kurdistan in developing the Iraqi national action plan 1325 which was adopted by both governments in 2014. Suzan is coordinating a large alliance of civil society (Alliance to support the implementation of the UNSCR1325) Suzan was one of the peer reviewers of a guideline study (Guidance for practitioners in Iraq- International protocol on the documentation and investigation of sexual violence in conflict). In August 2018, Suzan represented the Iraqi CSTF 1325 at the UN Security Council and presented the great achievements and implementation of NAP 1325 for the WPS agenda. She highlighted the partnership of government and civil society, which is a distinctive model in the region. She has also worked with the European Union in 2018 as a gender expert on a report on gender analysis in Iraq on the situation of women in Iraq in terms of political and economic participation. She has Worked as a Consultant with UNODC in 2019 on a research study titled “Strengthening the Capacity of Women Professionals Working in the Counter-Terrorism Sector in
Iraq” Suzan Aref consolidates efforts and promotes participatory action among government institutions, local organizations, international organizations, embassies, and UN agencies on supporting women's peace security agenda.

Panel 3.3 Karama Adolescent Girls Initiative: Implications for Civil Society & Policy

Young women leaders from across the Karama network will discuss their experience of working on the Karama Adolescent Girls Initiative.

Perrin Elkind, moderator

Perrin Elkind is Director of Programs and Development at Karama. She has worked with both NGOs and funders in the international women's rights field, including advising on grantmaking practices, program development, needs assessments, and monitoring and evaluation. She has also worked in the disability field, expanding access to college education and adaptive technology for people with visual impairments. She has served as an academic editor and mentor, and taught at the university level in sociology, global poverty and practice, and peace and conflict studies. She received multiple grants and fellowships for doctoral research about how private foundations influenced international population and reproductive health movements. Perrin earned her PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Amani Aruri - see panel 2.3

Doha Ali

Doha Ali is a 22-year old medical finalist, the Head of Community Programs for AMNA organization and Sudan's representative for UNDP's Youth Leadership Programme in Civil Society 2018. She's particularly passionate about advocating for gender equality with a specific focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Emna Mizouni - see panel 2.4

Ola Alaghbary

Graduate of the Faculty of Law, University of Taiz. She is a Yemeni social entrepreneur. She is the Founder and CEO of the Sheba Youth Foundation for Development and Peace. Ola is the focal point of Youth Platform of Peace (A National Youth-led Coalition for Peacebuilding in Yemen). Her main concern is to empower young people and women to make a positive change in their societies. She started her social and civic
work since 2011, when she established many volunteering and social initiatives, and that qualified her at the age of 19, to be the youngest speaker at the first TEDx event in her city “TEDx Taiz”, where she talked about the importance of civil work and youth initiatives in building peace and enhance development efforts. In 2013 she was chosen as one of the influential women in Yemen by National Democratic Institute (NDI). In 2016 she graduated from the program of develop the capabilities of young consultants in civil society.

Sandie Hanna - see panel 2.4

Tamara Malouf

Tamara Malouf is a youth and women's right activist. Since July of 2019, she has worked at MIFTAH as a Program coordinator, her work focuses on the empowerment of Women's and youth's political participation and documenting international human rights violations against Palestinian women as well as working on preparing the Beijing +25 Parallel report that details the status of Women in Palestine. She has also been accepted to be a member of the UN women youth gender innovation forum “AGORA”. Tamara plans to continue her master's degree in International Relations and/or Public Policy. Tamara graduated from Guilford College with a double major in Political science and Women Gender and Sexuality studies degree. In college, Tamara worked as an assistant at the Multi-Educational department and was in charge of the “Students for Justice in Palestine club”. During her time in college, she also volunteered with “Every Campus a Refugee” organization as a translator and interpreter for Arabic refugee families, mainly Syrian families. Tamara worked on two local state senate campaigns as a field organizer with the North Carolina Democratic party, encouraging and empowering women and the youth to participate in the elections.

Hibaaq Osman

Hibaaq Osman is the founder of Karama, a movement to end violence against women, and deliver sustainable, inclusive peace and democracy in Africa and the Middle East. Hibaaq's work has encompassed reconciliation and peacebuilding in her homeland of Somalia, campaigning for justice and recognition for Korea's 'comfort women', and supporting grassroots women activists to build constituencies and secure their rights in the wake of the Arab revolutions. Named one of the world’s 500 Most Influential Muslims, Hibaaq is a member of the UNAOC’s Women’s Alliance for Peace and has previously served on a number of advisory groups and boards, including UN Women’s Civil Society Advisory Group, and the board of Donor Direct Action. Hibaaq is a senior fellow at the James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership at Churchill College, University of Cambridge, and a member of the Yale African Women's Leadership Network.
Barbara Wien

Since 1981, Barbara Wien has worked to end human rights abuses, violence, war, and ecological destruction. She has protected civilians from the death squads in conflict zones and worked to establish 280 programs in the study of peace and conflict resolution at universities around the world. Barbara is a public scholar and peace practitioner with extensive knowledge of gender violence, peacebuilding, nonviolent social movements, and the political economy of war. She has edited and written 27 books and articles, led eight non-profits, and taught at six universities. She has been recognized for her leadership and “moral courage” by four foundations and academic societies. Barbara was named “Peace Educator of the Year” in 2018 by the Peace & Justice Studies Association (PJSA), a network of 500 campuses in Canada and the U.S. Her students voted her “Professor with the Greatest Impact” in 2018 and 2019, and graduate students voted her “My Favorite Professor” in 2015 and 2017. She was featured in Amy Goodman’s book Exceptions to the Rulers (2003), and the Progressive magazine for opposing the U.S. military invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq as a U.S. government official who was then terminated from the U.S. Institute of Peace for speaking out. Her media interviews include The Washington Post, NBC Nightly News, Defense One, National Public Radio, Australian Broadcasting, Nuclear Times, and radio programs in India, Uganda, Zambia, Palestine-Israel, the UK, New Zealand, and Australia.

Eleanor LeCain

Eleanor LeCain is a speaker, author and advisor to policymakers who builds on decades of experience in government and campaigns to show practical pathways to building a new America and a new world. Her first book, Breakthrough Solutions: How to Improve Your Life and Change the World by Building on What Works, has a Foreword by the Dalai Lama. It profiles game-changing social innovations that dramatically improve peoples’ lives. Her second book, The Mayors Guide to Accelerating Gender Equality, came from her bringing together mayors with women leaders to discuss an action agenda to improve conditions for women and girls. It was sent to every mayor in the United States. Eleanor was the top policy advisor to a 2020 US presidential campaign. In 2016, she was the National Director of the She Wins We Win campaign to elect Hillary Clinton President and Democratic women to Congress. She helped elect many women to office at the local, state and federal levels, including Elizabeth Warren to the US Senate. Eleanor served in Massachusetts state government as Assistant Secretary of State. She was Executive Director of Blueprint 2000, leading strategic planning for the state government. She advised the Kyoto businessman’s association in Japan on green business opportunities, and the Japanese parliament on policies to spur green business and jobs. She designed and led a leadership seminar in Kabul for the women of Afghanistan. She is the Founder of YaleWomen DC, and an early member of the YaleWomen Council, guiding a global network of 55,000 women graduates of Yale. Eleanor hosts a solution-oriented radio show on gender equality, transformational leadership, pro-democracy movements, climate change and more on PRN Radio available worldwide at www.prn.fm. She graduated from Yale College and Boalt Law School.