

Final Concept Note

Beyond 2020:-Towards a Transformative Women, Peace and Security Agenda & Launch of new WPS Focal Points Network Website

Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network (WPS FPN)

Co-hosted by Uruguay and Canada

Thursday July 15, 2021

08:30 -11:30 EDT/New York

Virtual, hosted on Zoom by WPS FPN UN Women Secretariat

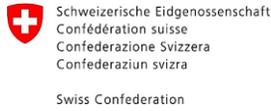
Simultaneous Interpretation in English, French, Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL)

Overview

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda was launched with the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000, and grounded in the belief that people are impacted differently by conflict and have a right to influence decisions that affect their lives and well-being – including decisions on peace and security. The WPS agenda also recognizes that the inclusion of those most affected in decision-making produces better outcomes overall. Women are dramatically under-represented in decision-making processes on peace and security, and marginalized women even more so. The WPS agenda seeks to ensure their active and meaningful participation in all conflict-prevention and conflict-resolution mechanisms and institutions and to mainstream a gender perspective into all peace and security activities and strategies.

Twenty years on, we need a WPS agenda that is fit for purpose to address crises, whether COVID 19, climate change, racialized violence and other peace and security challenges. As we move beyond the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, its time to take concrete action and put the WPS agenda's vision of transformative gender-equal and inclusive peace and security into practice. In this past year, the COVID 19 pandemic has amplified existing peace and security issues and all nations are facing serious challenges on many fronts. In all communities, countries and regions, we see once again that women are not only severely impacted by this crisis; they are on the frontlines of our pandemic response and recovery efforts. In crisis there is also opportunity for positive action and transformation. As nations plan and prepare for a more resilient and peaceful future, we must work harder to ensure women are always at the centre of decision-making.

This meeting will explore the following themes in two main plenary sessions in an interactive format and using collaborative tools. The opening panel, ***“Towards a Transformative WPS Agenda”*** will explore why we need a more inclusive WPS agenda that is applied to the full continuum of sexual and gender-based violence, insecurity and conflict. The second interactive plenary session, ***“Building Trust, Building Peace”***, will highlight the personal experiences and diverse perspectives of women peacebuilders who work as trusted actors and leaders in their communities, countries and regions on violence and conflict prevention, resolution and recovery.



In a third session, the co-chairs are proud to present a new innovation to assist WPS Focal Points in their work -- a WPS Focal Points Network website that will provide global “knowledge platform” on WPS. The new platform will include Network specific content, as well as links to sites and databases that can assist WPS Focal Points and other stakeholders in researching, designing, implementing, and evaluating WPS action plans and strategies. The discussion feature of the platform will allow Focal Points and other stakeholders to share best practices and lessons learned on issues related to the WPS agenda. There will also be a dedicated space for WPS Focal Points to connect with each other on WPS, including on their action plans and strategies.

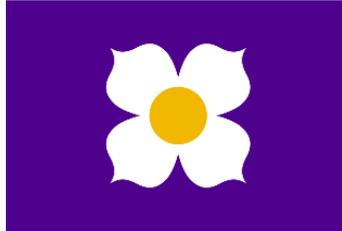
Goals and Guidelines for the Meeting

Through interactive plenary discussions with WPS specialists and experts, this event will support the WPS Focal Points to:

- Enhance knowledge on the applicability of the WPS agenda in non-armed conflict settings, and on the importance of inclusion in peace and security decision-making;
- Develop clear recommendations highlighting concrete actions for Focal Points to advance implementation of these at the national, regional and international level; and
- Identify ways the Network can collectively advance implementation of a transformative WPS agenda.

Agenda		
Time Zone: EDT/UTC-4/Ottawa and New York		
8:30 - 8:35	Welcome from Moderator: Overview of Program and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Vidal, <i>Uruguay's Ambassador to Canada</i>
8:35 - 8:44	Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>WPS Focal Point for Canada:</i> Gwyneth Kutz, <i>Director General, Peace and Stabilization Programs, Global Affairs Canada</i> • <i>WPS Focal Point for Uruguay:</i> Noelia Martinez-Franchi, <i>Director of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uruguay</i> • María Noel Vaeza, <i>Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean, UN Women</i>
8:44 - 9:00	WPS Myths Icebreaker Exercise (using Menti.com "mentimeter")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Vidal, <i>Uruguay's Ambassador to Canada</i>
Plenary Session 1: Towards a Transformative WPS Agenda		
9:00 - 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Theme 1: Towards a Transformative WPS Agenda ▶ Theme 2: Addressing Systemic Discrimination and Racism in Peace and Security Policy and Planning ▶ Theme 3: Strengthening WPS Connections Across Agendas and Regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katrina Leclerc, <i>PhD Candidate, St. Paul University, Canada; Co-founder, Canadian Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security; Board Member, WPS Network Canada</i> • Toni Hastrup, <i>Senior Lecturer in International Politics at the University of Stirling, United Kingdom</i> • Hilary Anderson, <i>CIM-OAS Senior Gender Specialist for the Inter-American Commission of Women at the Organization of American States</i>
10:00 - 10:10	Introducing the " Let's Talk WPS " video series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Vidal, <i>Uruguay's Ambassador to Canada</i>
Plenary Session 2: Building Trust, Building Peace		
10:10 - 11:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Theme 1: Inclusive Peacebuilding and Mediation ▶ Theme 2: Indigenous Women's Perspectives on Trust and Peacebuilding ▶ Theme 3: Building trust through regional approaches to WPS – Case Study from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) ▶ Audience Q & A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Solomon, <i>Peace Mediator, Member-Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth, Industrial Court Judge, and Director of the Mediation Board of Trinidad & Tobago</i> • Diane Redsky, <i>Executive Director, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Manitoba, Canada</i> • Helen Rojas, <i>Supervising Political Affairs Officer III and Chief of Staff of Member of Parliament Bainon Karon, Philippines</i> • Aniyyah Fatmah A. Guinar, <i>Young Women+ Leaders for Peace Program, Philippines (Marawi)</i>

Closing Plenary		
11:10 - 11:20	Launch of the new WPS Focal Points Network “Knowledge Platform”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harriette Williams Bright, <i>Coordinator, WPS Focal Points Network Secretariat</i>
11:20 - 11:30	Closing Reflections: Moderator and future Co-Chairs of the WPS Focal Points Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Vidal, <i>Uruguay’s Ambassador to Canada</i> • <i>WPS Focal Point for South Africa:</i> Charlotte Lobe, <i>Chief Director, Transformation Programme and Organisational Development, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> • <i>WPS Focal Point for Switzerland:</i> Talia Wohl, <i>Senior Adviser, Women, Peace and Security, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, State Secretariat, Peace and Human Rights Division</i>



This friendship symbol celebrates the partnership of Canada and Uruguay as Co-Chairs of the WPS Focal Points Network in 2020 and 2021 and represents the spirit of collaboration and cooperation. Designed by Uruguayan graphic designer, Gabriel Benderski, the symbol is also inspired by the indigenous Bunchberry flowering plant found in all regions of Canada and the combined color palette of the Canadian and Uruguayan national flags.

Speaker Biographies



Katrina Leclerc –PhD Candidate, St. Paul University, Canada; Co-founder, Canadian Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security; Board Member, WPS Network Canada

Katrina is a Francophone young woman from Western Canada, currently pursuing her PhD in conflict studies at Saint-Paul University with a focus on the synergies between the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas. With extensive expertise in peacebuilding in conflict-affected areas, Katrina has been coordinating the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders’ (GNWP) WPS-YPS programming in Eastern Africa since 2016. She is the former Parliamentary Affairs Advisor to a Canadian Senator, current Steering Committee member of the Women, Peace and Security Network - Canada (WPSN-C), and co-founder of the Canadian Coalition for YPS. Katrina also sits on the boards of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW) and the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW).



Toni Hastrup - Senior Lecturer in International Politics at the University of Stirling

Dr. Toni Hastrup is Senior Lecturer in International Politics at the University of Stirling. A feminist researcher and teacher, her work seeks to understand prevailing global power hierarchies that inform cooperation and conflict within the international system. Her work has explored the politics of knowledge making in the context of the Women, Peace and Security, Global South perspectives on Feminist Foreign Policy and the gendered and racialised nature of and responses to contemporary crises. Toni's current research provides feminist analysis on the foreign practices of Global North actors in the Global South especially around the WPS agenda. Much of this work is centred on the activities of formal institutions like the African and European Unions, and she has published extensively in these areas. Toni is an Editor in Chief of the Journal of Common Market Studies, and on the executive board of Women Also Know Stuff. She is an experienced speaker and an occasional media commentator.



Hilary Anderson, CIM-OAS, Senior Gender Specialist for the Inter-American Commission of Women at the Organization of American States

Since finishing her studies in gender and development at McGill University in Montreal, Hilary has worked with the Pan American Health Organization’s Gender and Health Unit and with the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW, now part of UN Women). In 2009, Hilary joined the staff of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) at the Organization of American States (OAS), where she works as a Senior Specialist on key women’s rights and gender equality issues in the region. From this position she has led the development of knowledge and capacity-building tools to support closing the gap between the international legal framework on women’s rights and national-level laws and policies.



Elizabeth Solomon - Peace Mediator, Member- Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth, Industrial Court Judge, and Director of the Mediation Board of Trinidad & Tobago

Elizabeth Solomon is an Industrial Court Judge and an experienced mediator in a wide variety of political, post-conflict and commercial context around the world. She is a Director of the Mediation Board of Trinidad & Tobago, Former Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Centre and the Caribbean Centre for Human Rights and then Founder of Dialogue Solutions. Elizabeth had a full career in journalism before joining the United Nations, spending the next 20 years as a conflict prevention and peacebuilding practitioner in various conflict context, including in the role of Deputy Co-ordinator of the UN Good Offices team in Cyprus. Elizabeth's work has focused on design and implementation of social cohesion and inclusive peacebuilding processes and in supporting local efforts to build resilient democratic national institutions in Kosovo, Bosnia, Somalia and Sierra Leone. Her work on human rights and development stretches from The Netherlands to Brazil, India and Guyana



Diane Redsky, Executive Director, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre

Diane Redsky is Executive Director of the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre. As a nationally renowned, visionary thinker and community leader, she has long worked to address the myriad of issue's facing Winnipeg's urban Indigenous community in all areas, including health, justice, education, and social services.

Since 1993, she has served in both a professional and volunteer capacity within the social services sector, and has become a strong advocate for Aboriginal, children's and women's issues. She has helped create numerous innovative programs that have supported the building of healthy communities. She believes in an approach that consists of shared values, and that is culturally appropriate, while focusing on attention to detail.

Diane has been instrumental in the development of resources for sexually exploited and trafficked girls, including a safe house and a rural healing lodge in Canada. In 2013-2014, she led the Canadian Women's Foundation National Task Force on Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada, which made 34 recommendations to end sex trafficking in Canada. She has returned to the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in Winnipeg to bring leadership and a voice on Indigenous issues.



Helen M. Rojas - Supervising Political Affairs Officer III and Chief of Staff of Member of Parliament Bainon Karon. Philippines

Helen M. Rojas is currently the Chief of Staff of Member of the Bangsamoro Parliament and concurrent Chairperson of the Bangsamoro Women Commission Hadja Bainon G. Karon. Before joining MP Karon, Ms. Rojas was Head of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) Secretariat of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) from 2015 to 2019. In 2009, she was part of the Preparatory Committee which drafted Philippines NAPWPS, the first action plan in Asia.

As part of sharing implementation experience of the Philippines on Women, Peace and Security, Ms. Rojas delivered presentation at the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing +25 Review held at Bangkok, Thailand. Her most recent international engagements as Resource Speaker on Philippine NAPWPS were during the 2021 ASEAN Regional Forum hosted by the Government of Thailand and the 2020 International Conference on Women, Peace and Security hosted by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

As Chief of Staff, Ms. Rojas led the team that coordinated the formulation of the first Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (RAPWPS) which was launched last October 30, 2020, in time for the 20th year of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

She currently leads a team which coordinates Gender and Development (GAD) Planning and Budgeting as well as Gender Mainstreaming in the BARMM.



Aniyah Fatmah A. Guinar - Young Women+ Leaders for Peace Program, Philippines (Marawi)

Aniyah Fatmah A. Guinar is a member of Young Women Leaders for Peace, a program of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, from Marawi, Philippines. Along with her fellow Young Women Leaders for Peace, she mobilized 4000 youth belonging to different religions from more than 60 schools in over 30 provinces in the Philippines through peace fora on gender equality, women's rights, human rights, and sustainable peace. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, she quickly mobilized to distribute relief goods, face masks, hygiene products, school supplies. She also raised awareness of the gendered impacts of the pandemic by discussing the increase in sexual and gender-based violence including child, early and forced marriage, and teenage pregnancies in her communities. She has also led social media campaigns to counter fake news, misinformation, and disinformation about the pandemic and share critical, life-saving information to prevent the spread of the virus.