

# “Tackling Gender Stereotypes and Sexism”

## SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

**Helsinki  
28-29 March 2019**

**[www.coe.int/equality](http://www.coe.int/equality)**



## Opening Session



**Annika Saarikko**, 35, was appointed Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services in the summer of 2017. She took responsibility for one of the biggest reforms in Finland in recent decades: the healthcare and social services reform. In addition to this reform, other topical issues at the ministry include gender equality issues, services for children, families and elderly people, as well as utilisation of digitalisation, health technology, genome data and setting up the National Pharmaceutical Development Centre. Annika Saarikko became a Member of the Finnish Parliament in 2011, one year after becoming Vice Chair of the Centre Party, a post she held for three terms. During her terms in Parliament, Annika Saarikko has focused on issues pertaining to gender equality, as well as healthcare and social welfare.



**Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni** has served as the Council of Europe's Deputy Secretary General since 2012 and was re-elected in June 2015. She oversees the implementation of the Secretary General's reform agenda, in line with the decisions and priorities of the Committee of Ministers. Her priorities include shaping the Programme and Budget to guarantee member States value for money, while ensuring that the Organisation's activities have maximum impact in advancing democracy, human rights and the rule of law. She also oversees the Council of Europe's staff policy. Before taking up her post, Mrs Battaini-Dragoni held a number of positions within the Organisation. In 2001 she became the first female Director General in the Organisation's history, in charge of Social Cohesion. Between 2004 and 2011, she served as Director General of Education,

Culture and Heritage, taking the Council of Europe's work into new terrain by introducing programmes on democratic citizenship, intercultural learning and human rights to schools, youth projects and other cultural spaces. In 2011 Mrs Battaini-Dragoni established the Directorate General of Programmes (ODG-PROG), enabling greater decentralisation of activities to the field. Under her leadership a new system was created to mobilise extra-budgetary resources in a sustainable and long-term perspective. Mrs Battaini-Dragoni has published widely on a range of issues relating to the Council of Europe's mission, including social rights and the role of intercultural dialogue in modern democracies. She holds a degree in foreign languages and literature from the University of Venice and a diploma from the Institut Européen des Hautes Études Internationales, University of Nice. She was born in Brescia, Italy and is married with three children.



**Kat Banyard** is founder and Director of UK Feminista, an organisation that supports people to take action for equality between women and men. Kat is also author of *Pimp State: Sex, Money and the Future of Equality* (2016) and *The Equality Illusion: The Truth About Women and Men Today* (2010). In 2014 *The Equality Illusion* was used as a key text in the development of the play *Blurred Lines*, written by Nick Payne and directed by Carrie Cracknell, premiering at the National Theatre in London. In 2010 Kat was named in the *Guardian* as "the most influential young feminist in the country" and in 2011 she was selected as one of the *Observer's* 50 contemporary innovators, described as "Game-changers whose vision is transforming the world around us".

## Session 1: Countering stereotypical forces at work and in the public space



**Nicole Abar**, Founder of the *Liberté Aux Joueuses* (LAJ) association, former international football player - 8 times French champion - top scorer in the French league in 1983. LAJ is a 1901 law association founded in 1997 with the aim of promoting equal access for girls and boys, women and men in the field of sport. LAJ intervenes both in the choice of sports practices and in access to positions of responsibility within federations and clubs, whether in elective or technical management positions.



**Roswitha Bocklage**, born 8 September 1965, leads the gender equality office at Wuppertal municipality, a German City with almost 360,000 inhabitants. Within her role as head of the gender equality office, she coordinates measures and strategies to advance gender equality within the municipality, as well as among the city's civil society. Since 2006 she has served as one of 12 spokespersons of the German National Working Committee of Municipal Gender Equality Offices, which is promoted by the Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The Committee initiates and supports gender equality policy measures, projects and processes in Germany. One of these projects involves promoting the European Charter of Equality as a tool to establish structural change for gender equality in German municipalities.



**Gabriele Wenner** is a qualified educationalist since 1990 with additional qualifications in client-centred conversation techniques, theme-centred interaction, interpersonal communication, systemic organisational consulting, change management and personnel management. Gabriele has worked as an educational worker in the development of gender-differentiated youth work. She was a communal representative for women's affairs of the town of Bad Kreuznach during which four years were spent as the spokesperson of the state association of communal offices for women's affairs in Rhineland-Palatinate. Since 2002 she has been the Director of the Department for Women's Affairs Frankfurt. Since 2016 she has been a member of the Gender Expert Group of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.



**Gavin Humphries** is a BAFTA nominated and Cannes winning producer having worked on projects with the British Film Institute, Google, Film4, Tate Modern and the BBC. He's currently producing an adaptation of Ursula K. Le Guin's *Nine Lives*, starring Common and Jonny Lee Miller, directed by Siri Rodnes. Recent credits include Deborah Haywood's *Pin Cushion* for the BFI & Dignity Film Finance, selected as the Opening Film for Venice Critics' Week 2017 and premiering in North America at Fantastic Fest. *Pin Cushion* was nominated for three BIFAS (British Independent Film Awards), including Breakthrough Producer; shortlisted for the Evening Standard Film Awards; and nominated for the London Film Critics' Circle Awards 2019. Other work includes feature documentaries *The People vs. George Lucas* (SXSW, Edinburgh) and the BBC's *Boy*

*Cheerleaders* (Hot Docs, IDFA) as well as several short films - four selected at Sundance, two winning at Clermont Ferrand, one nominated by the United Kingdom's Royal Television Society and three Oscar shortlisted.



**Salvatore Marra** is an adviser at the International and European Policies Area of the Italian General Confederation of Labour, CGIL. He is in charge of the relations and cooperation with Sub-Saharan African and Asian unions. He also works at the European level as a member of the ETUC Executive Committee covering collective bargaining, labour markets and social dialogue. He has been President of the Youth Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC/CES) until December 2015. Before moving to the CGIL National headquarters, he has been a trade unionist at CGIL regional confederation in Rome/Lazio collaborating on issues like youth policies, civil rights and labour market. Before taking a trade union leave from his workplace, he had been working for CEMAT, a federation promoting Italian contemporary

music abroad and collaborated with various cultural platforms at national and European level. He graduated from the University of Rome "La Sapienza" in oriental languages and civilizations, and obtained a master degree in dubbing and subtitling for multimedia.



**Alvine Tremoulet** is Inclusion Lead Europe for Pfizer. Between 2016 and 2018, she also held the position of Operation Lead for the Global Women's Council. She currently has the privilege to provide strategic direction and support for Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) through the Diversity and Inclusion Council Europe. She is working to make the workplace more diverse (visible, invisible, cognitive) and inclusive. Communicator, employee engagement specialist, entrepreneur and a constant learner, she likes the concept of corporate activism in alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. She truly believes that companies have a role to play in our societal challenges. She is passionate about engaging and networking with internal and external stakeholders to unleash the full potential of talents. Her networking, engagement and communication experience allow her to

integrate social impact and environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) issues into global operations. Alvine has a degree in Communication from École Française des Attachés de Presse et des Professionnel-le-s de la Communication (EFAP), and an Executive Master in Communication from Sciences Po Paris

## Session 2: Violence, sexual harassment and sexist hate speech as manifestations of the harmful effects of gender stereotypes



**Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo** (Monaco, ALDE) has been a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since 2013. She is currently the Parliamentary Assembly's General Rapporteur on violence against women and is the rapporteur for two Assembly reports: "Female genital mutilation in Europe" (2016) and "Forced marriage in Europe" (2018). She is also the Political Co-ordinator of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence



**Jacqui Hunt** is the Europe and Eurasia Director of Equality Now, an international human rights organisation which uses the law to protect and promote the rights of women and girls around the world. A lawyer herself, Jacqui launched the Europe office of Equality Now in 2005 and has spearheaded several of Equality Now's successful campaigns. Equality Now's main areas of focus are promotion of legal equality and an end to harmful practices, sex trafficking and sexual violence with a cross-cutting focus on adolescent girls. Every five years to coincide with governments' review of achievement of commitments under the Beijing Platform for Action, Equality Now issues its [Beijing+](#) report giving examples of remaining sex discriminatory laws that affect all areas of women's lives in all regions of the world and arise out of stereotypes of what a woman's role should be and how she should behave. Such stereotypes have also influenced the drafting of laws on sexual violence. Equality Now's recently released report [Roadblocks to Justice: How the Law is Failing Survivors of Sexual Violence in Eurasia](#) builds on its global report on sexual violence [The World's Shame: The Global Rape Epidemic – How Laws Around the World are Failing to Protect Girls and Women from Sexual Violence](#).



**Sanja Pavlovic** is a feminist activist based in Belgrade. She works at the Autonomous Women's Centre and her work is mainly focused on the fight against male violence against women, especially in domain of sexuality. She is currently a PHD student of political sciences at the University of Belgrade. She is a journalist, member of the group Female Journalists against Violence against Women. In her free time, she visits the local "hackerspace" and is interested in the feminist approach to technology.

**Gareth Sansom** has been an expert in cybercrime for the Government of Canada for more than 25 years. He has worked extensively in the area of child pornography and a wide range of other computer-related crimes. In the past decade he has been focused on the obtaining of digital evidence for criminal justice purposes in the context of globally distributed networks. At the international level Gareth has been an expert or advisor for Canada at the G7-G8, the UNODC Crime Congress, the Commonwealth Harare Scheme and the Council of Europe. Gareth has been involved with the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime in various capacities since its inception. He presented "Website Location: Cyberspace vs. Geographic Space" to the Third Plenary of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (2008) and "Preliminary Considerations on Computer-related Crime in the Context of Cloud Computing" at the Octopus Conference in 2009. He has been Canada's lead at the Cybercrime Convention Committee since the first Plenary and was elected to its Bureau in 2015 and again in 2017. He was a member of the Working Group on cyber bullying and other forms of online violence, especially against women and children (CBG) and helped draft the Mapping study on cyberviolence.

## Interactive Session: Questioning our assumptions



**Dil Wickremasinghe** has one vision and that is to create an inclusive and equal Ireland where all residents can live a fuller and more authentic life. For a decade she was a Social Justice and Mental Health broadcaster and journalist and presented the award winning weekly programme “Global Village” on Newstalk 106-108. She then presented “Sparking Change with Dil” on the Head Stuff Podcast Network and now presents the Insight Matters - Inspire Change in Self and Society podcast. In addition Dil is also a regular contributor to Irish media. Dil is a social entrepreneur and co-founded the mental health support service Insight Matters with her wife Anne Marie Toole in 2013. Along with a team of 50 psychotherapists they provide low cost, inclusive and culturally sensitive personal development, psychotherapy and counselling to over 400 clients per week. Together they hope to “inspire change in self and society.” In 2018 Dil returned to college to train as a Counsellor and Psychotherapist. She is currently attending the B.A. Counselling & Psychotherapy in Dublin Business College. Dil is an activist and campaigns for equal rights and has served on the boards of numerous NGO’s. She is a passionate Mental Health Ambassador for One in Four, Suicide or Survive and See Change and shares her story of recovery to break down stigma around mental health. Dil is an occasional stand-up comedian and in 2012 she made her debut in Irish theatre in Box of Frogs with Mary McEvoy and John Moynes. In 2014 she was honoured with the Frederick Douglas Award as part of the Lord Mayor’s Awards for her outstanding contribution to civic life. In 2015, along with nine other inspiring women Dil won the Irish Tatler Woman of the Year Award for her work as a Marriage Equality campaigner. In May 2015 in the week of the historic Marriage Referendum, Dil and Anne Marie were overjoyed to welcome into the world their son, who they aptly named Phoenix! In August 2017 Dil and Anne Marie were thrilled with the arrival of their daughter Xavier. Dil feels Irish as after living in Ireland 19 years she is a proud Irish and global citizen.

## Session 1: Tackling gender stereotypes and sexist images – online and in the media



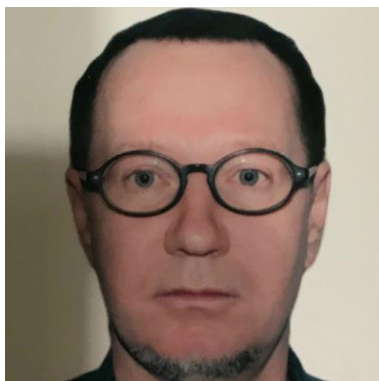
**Sári Halász** is an anti-pornography activist, counselor and educator. She is a member of the European Women's Lobby Taskforce on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and Commercial Sexual Exploitation.



**Julian Honkasalo** is a postdoctoral scholar in gender studies at the University of Helsinki, Finland. Honkasalo received a PhD in gender studies from the University of Helsinki in 2016 and a second PhD in political science from The New School for Social Research (USA) in 2018. The dissertation received the 2018 Hannah Arendt Award in Politics. Honkasalo's current research project deals with the history of eugenics and transgender sterilisation legislation, as well as the history of trans activism and community building. Further areas of interest outside the academia include human rights and reproductive justice of gender and sexual minorities. Honkasalo conducted an internship with the UN Women's Women Peace and Security team in New York City in 2014. For most recent academic publications and teaching, please visit: <https://tuhat.helsinki.fi/portal/en/person/jhonkasa>



**Martine Simonis** has been National Secretary of the General Association of Professional Journalists of Belgium since 1992 and Secretary General of the [Professional Journalists Association](#) (Wallonia-Brussels Federation) since its creation in 1998. A lawyer specialising in labour law, she is a frequent practitioner of media and copyright law. She has initiated many actions and projects for journalists, including the [Journalism Fund](#) (2009), studies and actions on [diversity and equality](#) in media and editorial work (since 2010) and, in 2013, the creation of continuing [professional training](#) for journalists (AJPro). At the international level, she has carried out numerous expert and training missions, notably for the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).



**Andrei Sinelnikov** is the Deputy Director of ANNA - Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women in Russia. ANNA is developing and implementing the national model of support systems for women suffering under different forms of violence. Andrei is a member of the Independent National Women's Human Rights Commission on Violence against Women. He is the editor of the Violence and Social Changes Journal and author of articles and books on violence against women and gender issues published in Russia and abroad.





**Elfa Ýr Gylfadóttir** is the Director of the Media Commission, the independent regulator for media, in Iceland. Prior to that she was the Head of Division of Media at the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. Elfa Gylfadóttir was one of the main authors of the Act on the National Broadcasting Service No. 23/2013 and the Icelandic Media Law No. 38/2011, transposing the Audiovisual Media Services Directive. She has been a lecturer at the University of Iceland for 15 years. She is author and co-author of several peer-reviewed articles on media policy and media law. Elfa Gylfadóttir is the Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society at the Council of Europe.

## Closing Session



**Minna Lyytikäinen** is a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Helsinki. Her research focus is on the evolution and implementation of international statebuilding policy, particularly the politics of inclusive statebuilding and feminist interventions in peace and conflict research. In her research, she has been documenting statebuilding policy processes (including the Women, Peace and Security agenda) in Nepal and in Finland. Previously, Minna worked as an independent policy consultant specializing in gender, peacebuilding and security, working, for example, with NGOs to develop guidelines for the integration of gender perspectives into conflict analysis frameworks. Minna has also worked as Senior Programme Officer at International Alert, a peacebuilding NGO, where she led the organisation's thematic programme on gender and peacebuilding. In this role, Minna contributed to various Women, Peace and Security -related policy processes across organisations (the UN and the EU) and countries (particularly the UK, Liberia, Burundi and Nepal). Among her policy publications is the co-authored UN report *Planning for Action on Women, Peace and Security: National-level implementation of Resolution 1325* (2010). Minna has a Masters degree in Development Studies from the London School of Economics.



Of Italian and US parents, **Caterina Bolognese** was raised and educated in Italy, Australia and Germany, specialising in languages and law. After working in comparative criminal law research in Germany she joined the Council of Europe, where she has worked on constitutional issues and criminal law reform, and monitored trafficking for sexual exploitation. She directed the office in Georgia and worked for many years with the Organisation's anti-torture monitoring, where she focused on women in prison. Since 2018 Caterina manages the Organisation's team working on gender equality.



**Tanja Auvinen** is the Director of Gender Equality Unit at the Ministry of the Social Affairs and Health. Previously she worked as the Secretary General for the Coalition for Finnish Womens' Association and from 2012 to 2016, she was the Executive Director for Exit Prostitution in Finland. She holds a Master's Degree in literature from the University of Helsinki.