



## **CSW67 – SIDE-EVENT RESPONDING TO REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES: PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT, REFUGEE AND ASYLUM-SEEKING WOMEN AND GIRLS**

*A side-event to the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, co-organised by the Council of Europe and the Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations, during the Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers to the Council of Europe.*

**BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS**



Permanent Mission of Iceland  
to the United Nations



**PRESIDENCY  
OF ICELAND**  
Conseil de l'Europe 11/2022 – 05/2023  
**PRÉSIDENTIE  
DE L'ISLANDE**  
Council of Europe 11/2022 – 05/2023

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



**Katrin Jakobsdóttir** has served as the Prime Minister of Iceland since November 2017 and is Iceland's second woman to hold that position. She served as Minister of Education, Science and Culture and Minister of Nordic Cooperation 2009-2013. Jakobsdóttir is the Chairman of the Left-Green Movement, a role she has held since 2013, having served as Deputy Chairman 2003-2013. Jakobsdóttir has been Member of Althingi for the Reykjavík North Constituency since 2007. She also serves as the Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders.

Prime Minister Jakobsdóttir's coalition government has continued Iceland's ground-breaking approach to addressing systemic gender inequality and the economic exclusion of women, including implementation of the world's first Equal Pay Certification policy. Her government has taken significant steps to end sexual and gender-based violence and recently took progressive steps to extend shared parental leave for both parents. As Prime Minister she decided also to serve as Minister for Gender Equality to ensure coherent action against all gender-based injustices.

Prime Minister Jakobsdóttir's government is also at the forefront of climate change policy and has committed to make Iceland carbon-neutral before 2040. Under Iceland's Presidency, the Nordic Prime Ministers have adopted an ambitious new plan focusing on climate action and sustainability. Prime Minister Jakobsdóttir has emphasized the importance the approach of Well-being government and spearheaded a framework of 39 indicators that cover social, economic and environmental dimensions of quality of life. These indicators are linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and are intended to complement traditional economic measures, such as GDP, and monitor trends in people's wellbeing.

Born in Reykjavík on 1 February 1976, Jakobsdóttir and her husband, Gunnar Sigvaldason, have three sons. Jakobsdóttir holds a masters degree in Icelandic Literature and a bachelor's degree with a major in Icelandic and minor in French from the University of Iceland. She did her Masters dissertation on the work of popular Icelandic crime writer Arnaldur Indriðason. Before being elected to parliament Jakobsdóttir worked in the media, as a publishing editor and as teacher in secondary school and courses at the Continuing Education Institute at the University of Iceland.



**Sergiy Kyslytsya**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations and President of the Executive Board of UN Women

Diplomatic career: November 2022 – present – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (non-resident). October 2021 – present – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (non-resident). 2014 – 2020 – Deputy Foreign Minister. 2006 – 2014 – Director-General for International Organizations (Directorate-general for the United Nations and Other International Organizations of the MFA of Ukraine until November 2011). 2006 – Deputy Director-general of the Second Territorial Department (The Americas & W. Europe), MFA of Ukraine. 2003 – 2005 – Minister-Counsellor, DCM (political), Embassy of Ukraine in the United States of America. 2001 – 2003 – Political Counsellor, Embassy of Ukraine in the United States of America. 2000 – 2001 – Senior Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Group of Advisers and Ambassadors at Large, MFA, Ukraine. 1998 – 2000 – Chief of Staff of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. 1996 – 1998 – Second, First Secretary (political), Special Assistant to the Ambassador, Embassy of Ukraine to Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg and Mission of Ukraine to NATO; contact point for WEU-Ukraine (Brussels). 1994 – 1996 – Head, a.i., of the Council of Europe Section, MFA, Ukraine; Special Assistant to the Deputy, First Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine. 1993 – Attaché, Third secretary of the CSCE and European Regional Cooperation Department of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine. 1992 – Intern at the CSCE and European Regional Cooperation Department of the MFA of Ukraine. Additional positions: 2023 – President of the UN Women Executive Board Bureau. 2022 – Vice-president of the UN Women Executive Board Bureau. 2021–2023 Vice-president of the UNDP/UNOPS/UNFPA Executive Board Bureau. 2014–2020 Chair of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO. Member of the Delegation of Ukraine to 62nd – 77th sessions of the UN General Assembly. 2017 – Head of the Delegation of Ukraine to the 39th session of UNESCO General Conference. 2015–2017 – Representative of Ukraine to the UNESCO Executive Board; Head of the Delegation of Ukraine to the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw; Chair of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe (re-elected for 2016). 2012–2014 – Vice-Chair of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe. 2006–2011 – Member of the Steering Committee for the Equality between Women and Men (CDEG) of the Council of Europe (2011 Member of the Bureau of the CDEG). 2014–2015 – Co-Chair of the Working group on the elaboration of the draft National Strategy on Human Rights. 2015 Co-Chair of the Working group on the elaboration of the draft Action Plan on Implementation of the National Strategy on Human Rights. 2014–2015 Deputy Head of the Interagency Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation and Export Control of Ukraine. Honours and rewards: Order of Merit of Ukraine 3 d class



**Iris Luarasi** PhD. is the President of GREVIO at the Council of Europe. She has been leading for 20 years the Counselling Line for Women and Girls (the National Helpline for victims of domestic violence and violence against women) and leads the first male centre in Albania – Counselling Line for Men and Boys that tries to rehabilitate perpetrators of domestic violence and works on prevention with young boys in the country and fatherhood campaigns. She was a member of the GREVIO Working Group on a General Recommendation on the digital dimension of violence

against women at the Council of Europe. Iris Luarasi is a professor in the Department of Journalism and Communications at the University of Tirana. She also trains Albanian journalists in human rights, journalism ethics, as well as countering fake news, hate speech and sexism. Her research and publishing activities include leading a study on domestic violence and sex crimes, a guide for reporters on Gender Based Violence and sexual assault, guidelines for data collection and authoring two books on radio journalism and media in Albania.



In July 2022, **Pär Liljert** (Sweden) commenced his appointment as the Director for IOM's Office to the United Nations.

Prior to taking up his current position Mr Liljert served as the Chief of Mission; Coordinator and Advisor for New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific, based in IOM's Country Office with Coordination Functions (CORF) in Canberra, Australia. For seven years (2011 to

2018) he served as IOM's Special Envoy & Chief of Mission in P.R. China, representing IOM in China and Mongolia. His international civil servant career with IOM includes postings as Chief of Mission in Tanzania (2007 – 2011) and Chief of Mission in Zambia (2002 – 2004). He started his IOM career as a Regional Programme Officer in IOM's regional office in Pretoria and he has also served as Donor Relations Officer in IOM's Headquarters. Prior to joining IOM he worked at the Swedish Embassy in Botswana.

During his time as COM & Special Envoy in Beijing P.R. China became a member state of IOM and the IOM's Africa Capacity Building Center (ACBC) was established in Moshi during the time he served as COM in Tanzania.

Pär holds a master's degree in political science from the Lund University in Sweden. He is married with two sons.



On 1 January 2022, **Leyla Kayacik** took up her functions as the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić, on Migration and Refugees. A long-time member of the Council of Europe Secretariat, Ms Kayacik brings over 30 years of international experience in the field of human rights and the rule of law. During that time, she has served in a number of roles, including in the then European Commission of Human Rights (European Court of Human Rights), the Secretariat of the European Social Charter, in the field and as Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General. Ms Kayacik holds a master's degree in law from the University of Strasbourg and a master's degree in English language and literature from the University of Nice. She is fluent in Turkish, French and English.



**Dr Jemimah Njuki** is the Chief of the Economic Empowerment section at UN Women. She is a recognised leader on gender equality and women's empowerment, having directed global initiatives promoting women's economic empowerment. Jemimah previously worked at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) as the Director for Africa, where she worked with African governments and key stakeholders to develop evidence for transformative policy change.

She has spent the last two years leading the UN Food Systems Summit's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Lever of Change and was instrumental in establishing the Coalition to Make Food Systems Work for Women and Girls. Additionally, she led the design and deployment of the Global Food 5050, an indicator and mechanism for gender responsibility for organisations engaged in global food systems.

She has led the gender equality work with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) including the design of the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GRoW), the Women in Agriculture programme at CARE USA, and the Poverty, Gender and Impact programme at the International Livestock Research Institute.



**Alyssa Ahrabare** is a French feminist activist of Moroccan-Algerian origin. With MA in International Law and Fundamental Liberties, she has over 7 years of experience working with advocacy NGOs and networks at national and EU level. Through her work in the European Network of Migrant Women, and as vice-president of the French coordination for the European Women's Lobby, and co-president of the French organisation Osez le féminisme!, Alyssa has worked on the conception and implementation of several advocacy strategies, contributed to various publications and reports, participated in consultations and provided training to CSOs, professionals, asylum seekers and youth groups on access to rights and justice, asylum rights, children rights and male violence against women and girls.

## **Moderator:Marja Ruotanen**



Following her appointment by the Secretary General, **Marja Ruotanen** started on 1 September 2022 as the new Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity (DGII).

Ms Ruotanen has a deep understanding of the Council of Europe's mission and operations, including in the fields of standard setting, monitoring and cooperation. She has notably served as Director of Equality and Human Dignity (DGII), Director of Justice and Human Dignity (DGI), Director of Cooperation (DGI), as well as Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General. She has also worked several years in the Parliamentary Assembly, most recently as Director of the Committees. Throughout her career, Marja Ruotanen has strived to establish the necessary connections between the various Council of Europe programmes and actors, fostering transversality and teamwork at the Organisation's level.

Ms Ruotanen brings with her a strong commitment to the values of the Organisation and the determination to unleash DGII potential to promote democracy by putting human dignity at the heart of the effort. Convinced of the fact that today's complex challenges need to be addressed by mobilising expertise in many different fields, she will foster reforms and working methods that allow for cooperation across teams within and beyond the DG. Ms Ruotanen is determined to use her influence as Director General to accelerate progress towards gender equality in the Organisation.