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Women's Access to Justice:

Moving closer to full ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention

An International Conference of the Partnership for Good Governance II Programme

Online, 7-8 October 2021

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



Annette Gerlach, *Host of the Conference, journalist, Arte TV*

Born in Berlin, Annette Gerlach lives in France where she is a well-known journalist and presenter for the European Culture Channel ARTE. She has been a bilingual news anchor for the last 25 years specializing in live events such as Cannes or the Berlin Film Festival, together with season openings at the Scala di Milano, the Fenice in Venice or the new Mariinsky Concert Hall in Saint Petersburg.

She also regularly presents symposiums, round tables and award ceremonies for the Council of Europe, the European Council, the European Parliament and other cultural and European institutions. Annette Gerlach is also a public appearance and stagework coach and in charge of the development of Educ'ARTE in Germany.

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Marija Pejčinović Burić, *Secretary General, Council of Europe*

Marija Pejčinović Burić is the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the pre-eminent Pan-European international organisation in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Prior to being elected to her current position, Ms Pejčinović Burić was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, having served previously, on two occasions, as State Secretary for EU Affairs. She has also served as a Deputy in the Croatian Parliament.



Helena Dalli, *Equality Commissioner, European Union*

Helena Dalli is the first EU Commissioner for Equality since December 2019. Her role is to deliver on the Union of Equality chapter within the Political Guidelines of President von der Leyen, by strengthening Europe's commitment to equality and inclusion in all of its senses.

Prior to taking her role as Commissioner, Dalli held various political roles in Malta including Member of Parliament (1996 to 2019), Minister for European Affairs and Equality (2017 to 2019), and Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (2013-2017). She was also opposition Shadow Minister for public administration, equality, public broadcasting and

national investments (1998-2013) and Junior Minister for Women's Rights in the Office of Prime Minister (1996-1998). Dalli holds a PhD in Political Sociology from the University of Nottingham, and lectured in Economic and Political Sociology, Public Policy, and Sociology of Law at the University of Malta.



Professor. Christine Chinkin, *Emeritus Professor, London School of Economics (LSE)*

Professor Christine Chinkin CMG FBA is Professorial Research Fellow in the Centre for Women, Peace and Security, where she leads three major projects: 'A Feminist International Law of Peace and Security' funded by the AHRC, 'Gendered Peace' funded by the ERC and the UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice and Security Hub. Professor Chinkin was Director of the Centre for Women, Peace and Security from 2015-2018.

Professor Chinkin is a leading expert on international law and human rights law, especially the international human rights of women. In 2000, her co-authored, ground-breaking book with Hilary Charlesworth, 'The Boundaries of International Law: a feminist analysis' examined the status of women in human rights and international law'. In 2005, in recognition of this and other contributions, Chinkin and Charlesworth were awarded

the American Society of International Law, Goler T. Butcher Medal 'for outstanding contributions to the development or effective realization of international human rights law'.

Professor Chinkin has been a consultant or advisor to UN bodies on a range of issues including human trafficking gender-based persecution in armed conflict, peace agreements and gender and violence against women. She was a member of the UN fact-finding missions to Gaza in 2007 (Beit Hanoun) and 2009 (the Goldstone Report).

Professor Chinkin is a leading expert on the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). She co-edited the seminal book 'The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: A Commentary' and authored the chapter on violence against women and girls. She was scientific advisor to the Council of Europe Committee that drafted the Convention on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the 'Istanbul Convention'), the most far-reaching international treaty aimed at tackling violence against women and domestic violence.

She is a Fellow of the British Academy, a barrister and an academic member of Matrix Chambers. She was appointed Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the 2017 Birthday Honours for services to advancing women's human rights worldwide.



Zita Gurmai, *General Rapporteur on Violence Against Women of the Committee on Equality and non-discrimination (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe)*

She is Vice-President of the Hungarian Socialist Party. From 2004 to 2014 she was member of the European Parliament.

She has a PhD and Masters in Economics from Karl Marx University of Economic Sciences, Budapest, Hungary.



Dr. Ilaria Bottigliero, *PhD in International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva*

Dr. Ilaria Bottigliero is an international civil servant, academic and expert practitioner with 25 years' experience in international law, justice and human rights. She currently serves as the Director of Policy, Research and Learning at IDLO, where she leads IDLO's knowledge generation, research and learning, as well as the gender, climate justice and customary / informal justice thematic clusters. In her role, she is responsible for the production of high-level, targeted research, expert knowledge products,

identification and analysis of trends in the rule of law and justice sector, quality control of research and policy outputs.

She regularly represents the Organization through knowledge sharing and learning activities, including events, participation in global debates, dissemination of research and production of lessons learned and resources. Prior to joining IDLO, Dr. Bottigliero has lectured and researched in over 25 countries on key human rights, humanitarian law and gender issues, including at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Lund, Sweden, the Lund University Faculty of Law, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and at the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law.

Dr. Bottigliero has published widely on victims' rights, gender and international criminal justice, including the seminal book "Redress for Victims of Crimes under International Law". She is the recipient of the 2010 Worldwide Universities Network International and Comparative Criminal Justice Network Fellowship.



Alexandra Timmer, Associate Professor, Utrecht University School of Law, the Netherlands

She teaches human rights law and non-discrimination law. In 2017 she was awarded a prestigious Veni grant by the Dutch Scientific Organization (NWO) for her research project on gender justice in European human rights law. She has published extensively on equality and non-discrimination in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

In addition, she is content coordinator gender equality of the European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination (www.equalitylaw.eu). This Network consists of gender equality and non-discrimination from 36 European countries, which is set up by the European Commission in Brussels to support its work by providing independent information and advice on relevant developments in the Member

States. As part of this work, Alexandra has co-authored '[A comparative analysis of gender equality in Europe](#)' which she and her co-authors update yearly.



Anca Ciupa, Team Leader, WAVE Network

She is currently working for Women against Violence Europe Network (WAVE), as a Team Leader, leading various European projects on combating violence against women, in cooperation with international stakeholders such as Council of Europe and UN Women.

She is also one of the four experts that contributed to development of the Council of Europe E-learning online course on 'Violence against Women and Domestic Violence', part of the HELP Platform (Human rights Education for Legal Professionals). Anca Ciupa is also a HELP Tutor, recently, co-tutoring the 'Women's access to justice course' for legal professionals in South East Europe.

Women against Violence Europe Network (WAVE) is the only European network working specifically on combating violence against women and their children. The WAVE network is currently composed of more than 160 women's organisations across Europe, with the aim to promote and strengthen the human rights of women and children in general and prevent violence against women and their children in particular.



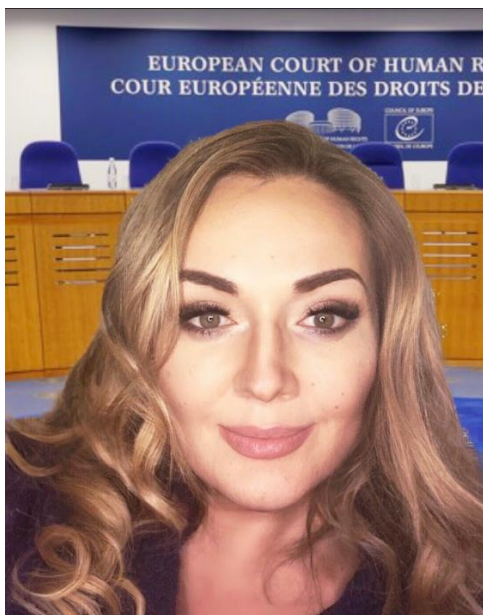
Prof. Feride Acar, former President of GREVIO, Turkey

Feride Acar is professor emerita of political sociology and of gender and women's studies in Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey.

She received her B.S. from METU, and her MA and Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr College, Pa., USA.

Since the mid-1990's, she has been actively involved in standard-setting and monitoring of gender equality and women's human rights at the global (UN) and regional (European) levels.

Prof. Acar was a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for four terms (1997-2005; 2010-2019) and served as CEDAW Chairperson in 2003-2005. During her final term in CEDAW, she chaired the CEDAW Working Group that drafted the "CEDAW General Recommendation No35 on Gender-Based Violence against Women, Updating GR No19" (2017).



Judge Ganna Yudkivska, European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe

Dr Ganna Yudkivska was born in 1973 in Kyiv, Ukraine. She graduated from the Law Faculties of the Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University (Ukraine) and of the University of Strasbourg III (France). She has her PhD diploma from the Academy of Advocacy of Ukraine.

In 1995-2001 she led in Ukraine and Moldova the legacy project on genocide studies (now – Shoah Institute of the University of South California), and also served as human rights and national minorities expert for the Congress of National Minorities of Ukraine. Between 2001 and 2005 she worked as a lawyer and expert for different human rights organizations, as of 2003 she was a defence attorney and member of the

Bar. In 2005-2009 she was a lawyer at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, in 2009-2010 - advisor to the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

In 2010 Ganna Yudkivska was elected judge of the European Court of Human Rights; in 2015–2016 she was Vice-President of Section V of the Court, and in 2017-2019 President of Section IV of the Court.

Judge Yudkivska is also an Associate Professor of European and International law at the Academy of Advocacy of Ukraine. She lectured and researched at universities of USA, France, the Netherlands, Israel and Ukraine. She authored a number of scientific articles on human rights, international law and criminal procedure.

Ms. Yudkivska is a Member of the Executive Board of the European Society of International Law and of the Executive Board of the Ukrainian Association of International Law.



Jaša Vrabec, LL.M, M.Sc., *President of the CEPEJ -GT-EVAL, Council of Europe*

Jaša Vrabec graduated in Law at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He holds a Masters degree in Intellectual Property Law from Queen Mary, University of London, UK and a Masters in Social Sciences (on Trust in the judiciary) from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Since 2006 he has been working at the Supreme Court of Slovenia, until 2013 as advisor in the President's Office, since 2013 as Head of the Office for Court Management Development, dealing with court management, court statistics and innovation of business processes. Member of the working group

on Evaluation of Judicial Systems at the Commission for the Efficiency of Justice at the Council of Europe (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL) since September 2015, president of the group since 2018. Member of different peer review visits (Serbia, Georgia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Kazakhstan) from 2015 on. CEPEJ expert in various Council of Europe or European Commission projects for the improvement of quality and efficiency of Justice (Jordan, Georgia, Moldova, Spain).

Head of the Procedural Justice project at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia – project aimed at improving public trust in the judiciary by analysing all communication channels and providing best practices to improve communication, better inform the general public and deepen the knowledge on the judicial system and its procedures – 2017 to 2020. The project was part of a bigger project Improving the Quality of Justice (IQ Justice) that was awarded the CEPEJ and EU Crystal Scales of Justice prize in 2019.



Johanna Nelles, Executive Secretary,

Johanna Nelles is the Executive Secretary to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women (also known as the Istanbul Convention). She joined the Council of Europe's work on preventing and combating violence against women in 2006 and served as co-secretary to the committee comprising the 47 member states that drafted the Istanbul Convention. She now heads the Organisation's Violence against Women Division which looks after the monitoring of the implementation of this treaty in its state parties. A qualified lawyer by training, she has committed her career to the advancement of women's human rights through preventing and combating violence against women.



Albin Dearing, *Project Manager, Legal Research, Research and Data Unit, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights*

His areas of expertise with respect to the FRA's work include: criminal law and criminal justice; law enforcement reform; crime prevention and victims' rights. He previously worked in various positions, including the Law Faculty at the University of Linz, and at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg.

He has also worked for the Austrian Ministries of the Interior and Justice, and for many years presided over the Austrian Crime Prevention Council. In addition he has worked as a legal assistant at the EU Court of Justice in Luxembourg. He studied law, and is the author of several academic journal articles and book chapters on various themes related to his areas of expertise, included edited books; for example: *Opferrechte in*

Österreich, 2004 (co-editor with Marianne Löschnig-Gspandl); *Schutz vor Gewalt in der Familie: Das österreichische Gewaltschutzgesetz*, 2005 (co-editor with Birgitt Haller).

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) is the independent centre of reference and excellence for promoting and protecting human rights in the EU. Based in Vienna, it helps make Europe a better place to live and work by defending the fundamental rights of all people living in the EU.



Veronika Bílková, *Venice Commission, Council of Europe*

Veronika Bílková is associate professor in international law at the Law Faculty of the Charles University in Prague and the head of the Centre for International Law at the Institute of International Relations in Prague. She chairs National Committee for Human Rights of Older Persons and she represents the Czech Republic in the European Commission for Democracy Through Law of the Council of Europe (Venice Commission) and in the Managerial Board of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. She regularly publishes, in Czech, English and French, on issues of international law (mainly

the use of force, international humanitarian law, international criminal law).



Alia El-Yassir, *UN WOMEN Regional Director, Representative to Turkey; Europe and Central Asia Regional Office*

Alia El-Yassir (Canada) has been working with UN Women since 2011. Prior to assuming her role as Regional Director, she worked with UN Women as Deputy Regional Director and as Representative at country level. In these roles, she has supported normative processes and UN coordination efforts, as well as complex programmes and projects for tackling gender equality and women's empowerment. Before taking on these roles within UN Women, she worked with UNIFEM and UNDP. She also has experience in

the science education field. Alia is a strong believer in volunteerism and has supported a number of women and human rights NGOs in a volunteer capacity. She holds a BSc degree in Biology from McGill University and an MSc degree in Desert Studies from Ben Gurion University of the Negev.



Neil Datta, *European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual & Reproductive Rights*

Neil Datta has been the Secretary of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights since 2004. Neil founded the organisation with a select group of parliamentarians and with the support of IPPF in 2000 and has been responsible for its growth to its current membership of over 30 all-party parliamentary groups on population and development issues.

Neil has over fifteen years' experience in the field of political involvement in population and development. Throughout this period, he has conducted in-depth research on anti-choice activity in Europe, publishing a report in 2018 that continues to receive worldwide media

attention."

Before becoming EPF Secretary, Neil coordinated the Parliamentary Programme of the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network.

Neil holds a Master's Degree in European Public Administration from the College of Europe in Bruges and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Languages from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Neil holds 5 nationalities and is bilingual English/French.



Jacqui Hunt, *Equality Now*

Jacqui Hunt is Equality Now's Head of Office (Europe/Eurasia) and the Global Lead for its End Sexual Violence Programme. She is a lawyer with over two decades of experience in working for women's rights and has provided strategic guidance and leadership to Equality Now's advocacy campaigns and collaborations as well as contributing to several of Equality Now's pioneering reports with a global, regional and national remit.

Equality Now is an international human rights organisation working to protect and promote the rights of women and girls. It uses international and regional human rights standards, working in collaboration with partners locally and globally, to hold governments accountable through the law with the aim of structural, long-term change that enables women's equality. Areas of particular focus for

Equality Now include promoting Legal Equality and Ending Sexual Violence, Harmful Practices and Sex Trafficking.

Recently, Equality Now joined forces with the Council of Europe and UN Women, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia and international and local experts, including from the judiciary, to improve the response to sexual violence crimes in Georgia primarily through the development of a manual for the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of sexual violence crimes to ensure compliance with the Istanbul Convention and the effective administration of justice. Trainings based on the manual, officially released on 22 September 2021, are already underway. Trained personnel will have specialised status in the conduct of sexual violence cases.



Caterina Bolognese, *Head of Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe*

Caterina Bolognese was educated in Italy, Australia and Germany, specialising in languages and law, including feminist legal theory. After working in comparative criminal law research in Germany, she joined the Council of Europe, where she has worked on constitutional and criminal law issues and monitored trafficking for sexual exploitation. From 2011 to 2015 she directed the Office in Georgia and she worked for many years with the Organisation's anti-torture monitoring, where she focused on women in prison. Since 2018 Caterina manages the Council of Europe's team working on gender equality. She supports the Gender Equality Commission, the pan-European intergovernmental forum on gender equality policies, including the [Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023](#)

and which has developed many gender-equality-related instruments, including the [Recommendation on combating and preventing sexism](#).

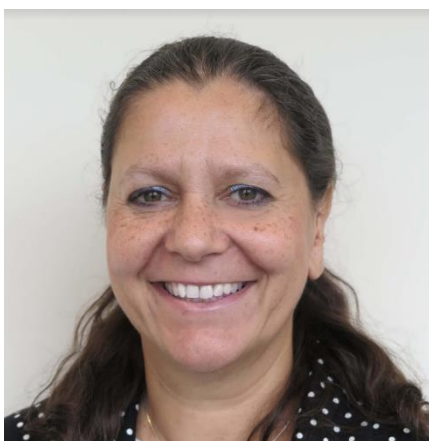


Dr Shazia Choudhry, *Professor of Law, Oxford University*

Dr Shazia Choudhry is Professor of Law and the Jeffrey Hackney Tutorial Fellow in Law at Wadham College, Oxford. She is also an Associate Academic Fellow and Academic Bencher of the Inner Temple. Her research interests lie in the fields of European and UK human rights law and the interface of those fields with criminal law, family law and human rights law. Areas of interest include the impact of the HRA and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) on the law and policy with regard to violence against women and the effect of rights-based reasoning in the law relating to children.

Her work within the field of domestic violence and human rights has been recognised by invitations to speak internationally and by her advisory work and appointments. This has included her appointment as

Specialist Adviser to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights Inquiry into Violence against Women (2014-15) and Specialist Adviser to the Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill (2019), as an expert evaluator for the European Commission, as an expert for the Council of Europe (including participating in the GREVIO monitoring mission to Serbia) and as an expert consultant for the UNFPA. Amongst other advisory work she is a member of the Crown Prosecution Service's Violence Against Women External Consultation Group and advises Women's Aid on research, policy and training. Her recent research on the issue of child contact and victims of domestic abuse has been drawn upon by members of the judiciary, members of Parliament, the Victims Commissioner and the Home Affairs (Parliamentary) Committee in its recent report on the proposed Domestic Abuse Bill 2018: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/law/staff/choudhry.html>



Irena Moozova, *Director, DG Justice and Consumers, European Union*

Irena Moozová is a Director at the European Commission for Equality and Union Citizenship in its department for Justice (DG JUST). She is a Czech national and joined the Commission in 2006 as Head of EU Representation in Prague.

Between May 2010 and April 2017, she was heading the Unit in charge of supporting the Commission Representations, in the Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM). From 1991 until 2006, she had been working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech and Slovak/Czech Republic in various management positions, such as Head of the Department of Internal Administration (1993-1995), Deputy Director of the Department of the Human Rights (1999-2000) and as a team coordinator at the NATO Summit (2002). She had served as Czech Deputy Ambassador in Madrid (1995-1998), Deputy Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the OSCE in Vienna

(2000-2004) and the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the UNESCO in Paris (2004-2006).

Ms Moozová graduated at the Prague Charles University Faculty of Law and she has completed postgraduate studies at Diplomatic Academy in Madrid. She is married and has two daughters.



Claudia Luciani, *Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe*

In 1990 Claudia Luciani joined the Directorate of Political Affairs, first in the External Relations Department and then as political adviser on South East Europe and minorities. She held a number of positions in the Directorate of Political Affairs including in the field and served as Director of Political Advice and Co-operation for five years. She was appointed Director of ODGP in 2011 and then of Democratic Governance and Diversity. Since 2018 she is the Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance with a particular focus on the implementation of the Istanbul and Trafficking Conventions. Claudia's work on governance focuses on the functioning of institutions, election assistance, civil society and she organises annually the World Forum for

Democracy.

Claudia studied philosophy at Trinity College (Washington, DC), graduated in Political Science (University of Padua) holds a specialisation in International Public Law and studied at ENA (Paris).



Amerah Saleh, *Spoken Word Poet, Artist, Activist*

Amerah is a spoken word artist championing the Birmingham Poetry scene, Amerah's writing and performance has been stunning audiences for quite some time. An artist who mixes passion with fiery intelligence and an uncanny insight into what it is to be human. She works in theatre, performance and poetry aiming to find new ways to engage communities and share secrets from within her own community. Poetry has taken her around the world sharing stories with people and also gathering them for her own suitcase when she needs them. Amerah Saleh has performed around the country at events and festivals and has received commissions from Sampad, Birmingham 2022 (Commonwealth Games), BMAG, mac Birmingham, Channel 4, Eastern Electronic Festival, TedxBirmingham, Library of Birmingham, REP Theatre and Watford Palace. She has performed around the world, sharing her stories and

connecting with people. She has performed and created pieces in Birmingham, London, Oxford, Preston, Scotland, Ireland, Poland, Bosnia, New York, Budapest, Austria, Belgium and San Francisco.



Liana Finck, *New Yorker* illustrator

Liana Finck is a cartoonist. Her work appears regularly in The New Yorker and on her Instagram feed. She is the author of three graphic novels. Her fourth, *Let There Be Light*, will be out this spring.

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Vanda Kovács, *Graphic recorder*

Vanda started to use visualization as a tool of learning as a student, and later on as a trainer

started to use it as a professional tool to support groups common understanding of complex topics.

In her sketches, she mixes humour and provocation with sensitivity to spotlight important statements.