



A Network of People  
Building Peace

ICRtoP

INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

FRIEDRICH  
EBERT  
STIFTUNG  
NEW YORK OFFICE

# INVITATION

**Fostering inclusion to build resilient societies:  
How women peacebuilders prevent conflicts and atrocities on the ground**

**Wednesday, 24 October 2018**

**3:30pm - 5:30pm**

*UN Church Center*

*777 UN Plaza, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor*

*New York, NY, USA 10017*

25 October 2018 marks the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNSC resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions and reviews have taken note that women, in addition to being greatly impacted by violent conflict, also play a vital role in the implementation of conflict and atrocity prevention measures. They note that, in fact, women are uniquely positioned to identify otherwise overlooked conflict drivers, and their inclusion leads to the formulation of more effective prevention mechanisms, with women's meaningful participation in peace processes leading to an increased likelihood of establishing sustainable peace and more resilient societies.

Despite such significance, more work remains to be done in order to fully realise and effectively make use of the diverse ways in which women's important contributions can be leveraged at all levels. This includes incorporating women's equal participation in both long and short-term prevention and response measures, be it within their communities, or at national or international levels.

As such, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York, the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), working in partnership within the Prevention Up Front (PuF) Alliance, would like to **invite you to join us for a side event entitled "Fostering inclusion to build resilient societies: How women peacebuilders prevent conflicts and atrocities on the ground," on 24 October from 3:30pm – 5:30pm.**

The panel will feature:

- **Ms. Kesia-Onam Birch** (Ghana, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, Women in Peacebuilding Network),
- **Ms. Lucy Nusseibeh**, (East Jerusalem, Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy, Chair of the Nonviolent Peaceforce),
- **Ms. Khin Ohmar** (Myanmar, Progressive Voice),
- **Ms. Lina Zedriga** (Uganda, National Committee for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and All forms of Discrimination)

The event will be moderated by Ms. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls (Fiji, Executive Producer-Director of femLINKpacific, Chairperson of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict), who will lead discussion on practical examples of successes and challenges, as well opportunities for the increased inclusion of women in conflict and atrocity prevention.

***As space will be limited, please register with Ms. Marijke Kremin ([kremin@wfm-igp.org](mailto:kremin@wfm-igp.org)) by 5:00pm on Monday, 22 October 2018. Refreshments will be served.***



## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Kesia-Onam Bijou Birch**

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding's (WANEP) Regional Program Officer of the Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET)

Ms. Birch coordinates WANEP's WIPNET Program and supports its 15 National Networks in the implementation of Gender programs across West Africa, representing the organization in its partnership with ECOWAS. She provides support and expertise in the development, implementation and review of 1325 National Action Plans in West Africa. Furthermore, she is GPPAC's Gender Focal Point in West Africa. Ms. Birch has over fifteen years of experience in women, peace and security as well as youth and peace education with a particular focus on training, negotiation, mediation, facilitation, manual development and conflict analysis. She has regional experience spanning various West African countries and beyond where she conceptualized, organized, conducted and facilitated trainings for women and teachers.

### **Lucy Nusseibeh**

Founder and Chairperson of Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy (MEND), Chair of the Nonviolent Peaceforce.

Ms. Lucy Nusseibeh started working in peacebuilding in the 1990s; her work focuses on education, promoting the participation of women, and on the power of nonviolence. Ms. Nusseibeh is currently the Thematic Gender Focal Point in the GPPAC Global Improving Practice Working Group. She has been associated with GPPAC, and its regional branch MENAPPAC, since its launch in 2005. She is also a member of the Institute of Inclusive Security. From 2004-2005, Ms. Nusseibeh was a senior research fellow at the Women and Public Policy Programme in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. From 2007-2016, she was head of the institute of Modern Media at Al-Quds University, and before that she taught Cultural Studies at BirZeit University, both in the occupied West Bank. Her current work with MEND focuses on media and education and pioneering approaches to the promotion of awareness about the power of nonviolence.

### **Khin Ohmar**

Chair, Advisory Board of Progressive Voice and is GPPAC's Gender Focal Point in South East Asia

Ms. Ohmar is the founder of Women's League of Burma (WLB) and Burma Partnership. She began her human rights work as a student activist, organizing a nationwide democracy uprising in 1988. For years, Ms. Ohmar worked with communities from conflict affected regions of Burma, interviewing survivors of military rape from ethnic communities such as Kachin, Lahu and Rohingya. She has testified before the US congress and parliaments of Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines. Furthermore she has spoken at the UN Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Council about the human rights violations in Burma. Ms. Ohmar's current work focuses on strengthening civil society; building capacity and promoting the leadership of women and youth in democracy development, national reconciliation and peacebuilding; and advocating for the protection of human rights and the end of military atrocities in Burma, particularly against ethnic and religious minorities.



## **Lina Zedriga**

Secretary of Uganda's National Committee for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and All forms of Discrimination

Ms. Lina Zedriga Waru Abuku is a full-time activist working to end social exclusion and discrimination against vulnerable groups, with a special focus on women. Ms. Zedriga is also a practicing attorney and former Magistrate. She is a leader in women's rights advocacy, particularly in promoting the translation of commitments into action at the local, national, and regional levels regarding women's roles in conflict prevention and resolution. In 2007, Ms. Zedriga was appointed Program Manager of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Project, which aims to empower women and increase women's meaningful participation in peace processes. She also participated in the 2010 case study assessment, "What the Women Say: Participation and UNSCR 1325," contributing her expertise from Uganda. In addition to her work in Uganda's National Committee, Ms. Zedriga has led work to increase women's participation in peace processes in both South Sudan and Burundi, as well as at the region level, focusing on work for the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), of which she is the Chair and Convener for Peace Beyond Borders Program in Burundi, Rwanda, and the DRC. Ms. Zedriga is also the Secretary for the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC) Africa Working Group and a member of numerous professional associations, such as the Network of African Peace Builders (NAPS), the African Judicial Network, and the Association of Women Lawyers Uganda (FIDA-U), among others.

## **MODERATOR**

### **Sharon Bhagwan Rolls**

Executive Producer - Director of femLINKpacific

Ms. Bhagwan Rolls is the Chairperson and Gender Liaison of GPPAC's Board, the Co-Chair of Global Fund for Women Board of Directors and a member of the Feminist Alliance on Rights, coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL). Ms. Bhagwan Rolls is one of the founders of FemLINKpacific which emerged from the women led Blue Ribbon Peace Vigil initiative in Fiji in 2000. She contributes to several global media and communications networks – as an adviser to the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS, 2011 - 2015), a founding member of the Asia Pacific Regional Board of AMARC (World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters), and as an Ambassador for the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP). In her work, Ms. Bhagwan Rolls focuses on the intersection between gender, media, communications and peace. She supports the development and production of appropriate and accessible media.