

THE WORLD WE SEEK:

*Reigniting
the Dialogue
on Human
Security*



SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 • 9:30AM–5:00PM

KENNEY AUDITORIUM

The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
1740 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20036





In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing, Women's Learning Partnership for Rights, Development, and Peace (WLP) and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies invite you to rediscover the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the foundation for global security and sustainable development. Experts, practitioners, and emerging young leaders from around the world will convene to reignite and reorient international dialogue on the place of human rights in policy-making; and underscore the integral role of women's advancement in the development of human rights. Discussants will focus on the relationship between human, social, economic, and environmental rights and development and peace, and share proven models for alleviating poverty, improving health and sanitation, and countering violent extremism.

The event will premiere WLP's new documentary *Human Rights: The Unfinished Journey*.

PRESENTED BY



9:00 AM **REGISTRATION**

9:30 AM **OPENING REMARKS**

Vali Nasr Dean, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

Mahnaz Afkhami (*Iran/USA*) President and Founder of the Women's Learning Partnership and Former Minister of Women's Affairs, Iran

10:00 AM **KEYNOTE**

Zainab Hawa Bangura (*Sierra Leone*) United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

10:15 AM **WOMEN'S VISION OF A NEW COMPACT OF RIGHTS**

Pat Mitchell (*USA*) (*Facilitator*) CEO POWStrategies LLC and Senior Advisor, Paley Center for Media

Hafsat Abiola-Costello (*Nigeria*) Founder, Kudirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND)

Karima Bennoune (*Algeria*) Professor, University of California at Davis School of Law

Gay McDougall (*USA*) Member, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and Former UN Special Rapporteur on Minorities

Jacqueline Pitanguy (*Brazil*) Founder and Executive Director of Cepia

11:45 AM **FILM SCREENING OF WLP'S DOCUMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS: THE UNFINISHED JOURNEY**

PANEL DISCUSSION

Lina Abou-Habib (*Lebanon*) (*Facilitator*) Co-Executive Director, Women's Learning Partnership

Ann Mayer (*USA*) Former Professor of International Human Rights Law, University of Pennsylvania

Barbara Phillips (*USA*) Social Justice Activist, Law Professor, and Civil Rights Lawyer

Aruna Rao (*India/USA*) Co-founder, Gender At Work

Andrea Romani (*Brazil*) Program Officer, Cepia

1:00 PM **LUNCH**

1:45 PM **LIFELINES: THE POETRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Abena Busia (*Ghana/USA*) (*Facilitator*) Chair of Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University

Elizabeth Acevedo (*Dominican Republic/USA*) Poet, Writer, and Performer

Gowri Koneswaran (*USA*) Poet, Performing Artist, and Lawyer

Lissa Piercy (*USA*) Co-Founder, Flatline Poetry and Co-Founder & Executive Director, Strength of Doves

Jamila Reddy (*USA*) Poet and Writer

2:45 PM **THE WORLD WE SEEK: GLOBAL YOUTH INITIATIVES**

Kent Davis-Packard (*USA*) (*Facilitator*) Co-Executive Director, Women's Learning Partnership

Erica Brooks (*USA*) Vice President of Growth and Development, White Pony Express

Nzira Deus (*Mozambique*) Executive Director, Fórum Mulher

Gökçen Durutaş (*Turkey*) Program Coordinator, Foundation for the Support of Women's Work

Rabeea Hadi (*Pakistan*) Director of Advocacy, Aurat Foundation

4:00 PM **CLOSING REMARKS AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

Yakin Ertürk (*Turkey*) Former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women

Consortium of the Arts Ensemble Chorus Directed by Hilary Hogan



PROGRAM

SPEAKERS



Vali Nasr (*Opening Remarks*) is Dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Author of *The Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat* and other works on Middle East politics, he is currently a member of the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Affairs Policy Board and a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Mahnaz Afkhami (*Iran/USA*) (*Opening Remarks*) is the Founder and President of Women's Learning Partnership and former Secretary General of the Women's Organization of Iran and Minister for Women's Affairs. She is Executive Director of the Foundation for Iranian Studies. Her numerous publications include *Muslim Women and the Politics of Participation* and *Faith and Freedom: Women's Human Rights in the Muslim World*.



Zainab Hawa Bangura (*Sierra Leone*) (*Keynote*) is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Ms. Bangura served as Sierra Leone's second ever female Minister of Foreign Affairs and as the Minister of Health and Sanitation.

WOMEN'S VISION OF A NEW COMPACT OF RIGHTS



Pat Mitchell (*USA*) (*Moderator*) is Senior Advisor and former president & CEO of the Paley Center and former president of PBS. She is the Co-Chair of the Women's Media Center board, Chair of the Sundance Institute, serves on the Acumen Fund, and was appointed by Nancy Pelosi to the National Women's History Museum Commission.



Hafsat Abiola-Costello (*Nigeria*) is the founder and president of the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND), an NGO that promotes the equal participation of women and girls in Nigeria's development. In July 2011, she was appointed to the Ogun State Cabinet as the Special Adviser to the Governor with responsibility for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In 2015 she co-founded a weekly newspaper called *The Point* to foster vigilant, engaged citizenship by providing a credible, balanced news source.



Karima Bennouna (*Algeria/USA*) is a professor of international law at the University of California–Davis School of Law. She is the author of *Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here: Untold Stories from the Fight Against Muslim Fundamentalism* which won the Dayton Literary Peace Prize in 2014. The TED talk based on the book, "When People of Muslim Heritage Challenge Fundamentalism" has been viewed more than 1.3 million times. Bennouna has appeared regularly as a commentator on CNN, MSNBC, NPR, and BBC radio, and has written for the *New York Times* and Reuters.



Gay McDougall (*USA*) is a distinguished visiting Professor at Fordham Law School and an expert on human rights, racial discrimination and international law. Her recent appointments include Visiting Professor in Human Rights at the Georgetown University Law Center in 2011, United Nations Independent Expert on Minority Issues from 2005 to 2011, and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.



Jacqueline Pitanguy (*Brazil*) is the Founder and Executive Director of Cidadania, Estudo, Pesquisa, Informação e Ação (CEPIA) and former President of the National Council for Women's Rights. She is a member of the Board of the Brazil Fund for Human Rights and of the Commission on Citizenship and Reproduction.

DISCUSSION: HUMAN RIGHTS: THE UNFINISHED JOURNEY



Lina Abou-Habib (*Lebanon*) is co-Executive Director of Women's Learning Partnership, and Executive Director of the Collective for Research and Training on Development–Action (CRTD-A). She is the current Coordinator of the Equality without Reservation Coalition in MENA.



Ann Mayer (*USA*) is former professor of human rights law at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. She has advocated on behalf of human rights universality and critiqued the reservations that have been entered to CEDAW. She has published extensively in journals and edited collections, and the fifth edition of her book *Islam and Human Rights* appeared in 2012 and has recently been translated into Persian.



Barbara Phillips (USA) is a social justice activist and former Program Officer for the women’s rights portfolio in the Peace and Social Justice Program of the Ford Foundation. A former law professor and civil rights lawyer, she is a board member of Crossroads Fund, a Chicago foundation, and of the Programme on Women’s Economic, Social and Cultural Rights International based in the Netherlands and India.



Aruna Rao (India/USA) is Co-founder and Executive Director of Gender At Work. In addition to chairing the boards of CIVICUS and AWID, she has served as a consultant to UN organizations, academic institutions, and development NGOs on gender and development and organizational change issues, and published extensively on gender and institutional change.



Andrea Romani (Brazil) is a biologist and Program Officer of Cidadania, Estudo, Pesquisa, Informação e Ação (CEPIA). Working on environmental issues for over a decade she has focused on sustainable development, mainly as it relates to waste management, human rights, and gender issues, and develops capacity building projects with grassroots women’s organizations from communities across Rio de Janeiro.

THE POETRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS



Abena Busia (Ghana/USA) is Chair of the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies and member of the Executive Board of the Center for African Studies at Rutgers University. She is the current Board Chair of AWDF-USA, the sister organization to the African Women’s Development Fund. An internationally celebrated poet, she is the author of two collections, *Testimonies of Exile* (1990) and *Traces of a Life* (2008).



Elizabeth Acevedo (Dominican Republic/USA) is a National Poetry Slam Champion and a Cave Canem Fellow, CantoMundo Fellow, and participant of the Callaloo Writer’s Workshop. Her manuscript, *Blessed Fruit & Other Origin Myths*, was a finalist for Yes Yes Books’ chapbook poetry prize and will be published in fall of 2016.



Gowri Koneswaran (USA) is a Tamil American poet, performing artist, and lawyer whose parents immigrated from Sri Lanka. She has performed at Lincoln Center Out of Doors, the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage, Atlas Performing Arts Center, and Smithsonian Folklife Festival. She hosts poetry events at BloomBars and Busboys and Poets, and is senior poetry editor of *Jaggery* and co-editor of *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*.



Lissa Piercy (USA) is a Boston based performance poet and the Executive Director of Strength of Doves Productions, an agency that represents socially conscious, activist, spoken word artists. She is also the creator of PWP (Performance with Purpose), a conference that brings together college students across Boston for workshops and dialogue around the idea that performance can facilitate change and action.



Jamila Reddy (USA) is a writer, multidisciplinary artist, and a current MFA candidate at California Institute of the Arts. All of her ventures—artistic and personal—are in pursuit of freedom. She is from North Carolina, but in pursuit of magic wherever it may be.

YOUTH INITIATIVES: THE WORLD WE SEEK



Kent Davis-Packard (USA) is co-Executive Director of WLP. She holds a Ph.D. in Middle East studies and international law from SAIS, and was a Council on Foreign Relations Fellow and Guest Scholar at the American University in Cairo. She served as a Presidential Management Fellow at the State Department, where she played a critical role in launching the Women in Public Service Project.



Erica Brooks (USA) was on the founding team for the international water nonprofit, charity: water, followed by Catapult, where she helped build the first online fundraising platform dedicated solely to girls and women. In 2013, after becoming interested in partnership models that could be replicated in other communities, she helped launch White Pony Express, a volunteer-based nonprofit dedicated to building a “circle of giving” model for sharing community abundance with those in need.



Nzira Deus (Mozambique) is Executive Director of Forum Mulher (Women's Forum). As a human rights activist, she focuses on gender-based violence, economic empowerment, political participation, and sexual and reproductive health for women and girls.



Gökçen Durutaş (Turkey) is the Fundraising and WLP Program Coordinator at Foundation for the Support of Women's Work (FSWW). She develops and coordinates projects aiming to support women's collective leadership and economic empowerment through grassroots women's cooperatives across Turkey.



Rabeea Hadi (Pakistan) is Director of Advocacy and Eliminating Violence Against Women at Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation, where she oversees projects to provide socio-legal support to survivors of violence and leads national working groups on policy and legislation.

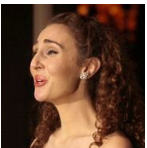
CLOSING REMARKS AND MUSIC



Yakin Ertürk (Turkey) is the former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and President and founding member of Migration and Asylum Research Center (IGAM). She earned her doctorate in Development Sociology from Cornell University in 1980, and is a retired faculty member at the Department of Sociology, Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey.

Consortium of the Arts Ensemble Chorus

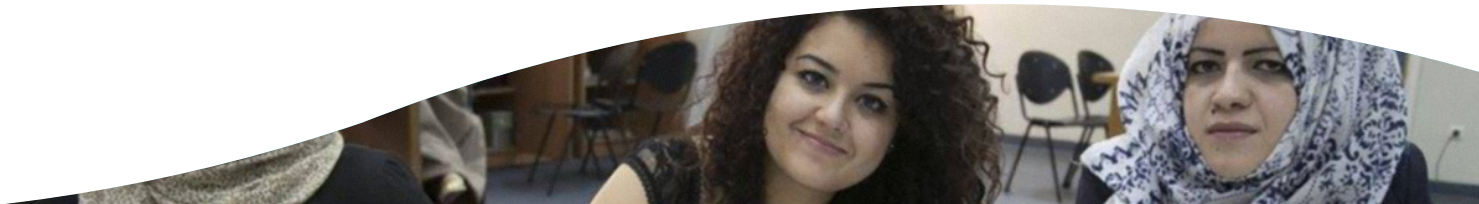
The Consortium of the Arts is a nonprofit group that produces and sponsors programs, plays, and fine arts exhibitions celebrating principles of equality, universal religious tolerance, the welfare of children, and the unity of all life. The Consortium maintains several professionally directed performing ensembles, including an acting troupe, a 70-voice concert choir, and a 20-voice chamber choir. Choral director and featured soloist Hilary Hogan is a professional singer, composer, and music educator.



ABOUT WOMEN'S LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The inspired conversations at the Fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing that continued for the next four years culminated in the creation of Women's Learning Partnership for Rights, Development, and Peace (WLP) in 2000, with five national organizations in Afghanistan, Morocco, Nigeria, Palestine, Lebanon, and an international secretariat in Bethesda, Maryland. WLP has since expanded and become the beating heart to a strong partnership of 20 women's rights organizations in four regions dedicated to women's leadership and empowerment. Together the partners have created a unique culture specific curriculum in more than 20 languages, grassroots led advocacy campaigns, locally led training of trainers institutes, and peer-to-peer organizational capacity-building programs that have reached 50 countries across the Global South.

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WLP International, based in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, is the liaison organization for WLP partners:

<i>Bahrain</i>	Be-Free Center/Bahrain Women Association (BFC/BWA)
<i>Brazil</i>	Cidadania, Estudo, Pesquisa, Informação e Ação (Cepia)
<i>Egypt</i>	Forum for Women in Development (FWID)
<i>India</i>	Asmita Resource Centre for Women
<i>Indonesia</i>	Women and Youth Development Institute of Indonesia (WYDII)
<i>Jordan</i>	Sisterhood Is Global Institute/Jordan (SIGI/J)
<i>Kazakhstan</i>	Shymkent Women's Resource Center (SWRC)
<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>	Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan
<i>Lebanon</i>	Collective for Research & Training on Development-Action (CRTD.A)
<i>Malaysia</i>	All Women's Action Society (AWAM)
<i>Mauritania</i>	Association des Femmes Chefs de Famille's (AFCF)
<i>Morocco</i>	Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM)
<i>Mozambique</i>	Fórum Mulher
<i>Nigeria</i>	The Center for Advancement of Development Rights (CEADER)
<i>Pakistan</i>	Aurat Foundation
<i>Palestine</i>	Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC)
<i>Senegal</i>	Groupe d'Initiatives pour le Progrès Social/ WAR (GIPS/WAR)
<i>Turkey</i>	Foundation for the Support of Women's Work (FSWW)
<i>Zimbabwe</i>	Women's Self-Promotion Movement (WSPM)

WLP also works in partnership with activists and scholars from Iran to develop Persian-language training manuals and multimedia curriculum and to conduct trainings (outside of Iran) for Iranian activists, CSO leaders, journalists, and academics to enable them to develop skills in participatory leadership and to strengthen women's networks in Iran.

We thank the following funders for their support of Women's Learning Partnership's work defending women's human rights around the world:

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