

FEMINIST DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Transforming International Cooperation

Speakers' Profile Booklet

Svenja Schulze - Minister, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany



Svenja Schulze serves as Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development in the cabinet of Olaf Scholz. She has been a member of the German Bundestag since 2021 and is a member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD). Svenja Schulze served as Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in the fourth coalition government of Angela Merkel from 2018 to 2021. From 2010 to 2017, she was Minister for Innovation, Science and Research in the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Sima Bahous – UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director



Sima Bahous became UN Women's third Executive Director in 2021. As a champion for women and girls, gender equality, and youth empowerment, as well as a keen advocate for quality education, poverty alleviation, and inclusive governance, Sima Bahous brings to the position more than 35 years of leadership experience at the grassroots, national, regional, and international levels. She has expertise in advancing women's empowerment and rights, addressing discrimination and violence, and promoting sustainable socio-economic development towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Alvaro Bermejo – Director-General, International Planned Parenthood Federation



Alvaro Bermejo assumed the role of Director-General IPPF in March 2018. He has more than 20 years' experience as a senior executive in global federations, working across HIV, humanitarian issues, and health policy.

Prior to joining IPPF he was Executive Director at the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, where he helped build an adolescent sexual and reproductive health portfolio. Previously, he led the International HIV/AIDS Alliance for more than a decade, where he oversaw rapid growth in its programmes and new country expansion, and achieved significant policy influence. Alvaro also spent more than ten years with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) where, as Director, Health and Care, he created the environment and partnerships that positioned the Red Cross as a key player in the fight against HIV and AIDS and helped establish the IFRC's global emergency health response mechanisms. Alvaro qualified as a medical doctor from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and holds an MA in Public Health from the University of Leeds.

Thokozani Mbwana – Policy, Research, Advocacy, representing Executive Director of Pan Africa ILGA



TK is a researcher, African Studies PhD candidate and poet. They joined Pan Africa ILGA in 2021 as Policy, Advocacy and Research Officer. TK represents the perspectives of Pan Africa ILGA as a stand in for Executive Director Nate Brown.

In 2019 they made a shift from the academic space into the human rights sector where their interest lies in finding ways of incorporating African-centric healing practices in research and community work involving LGBTIQ+ folks.



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Spogmay Ahmed – Senior Global Policy Advocate, ICRW



Spogmay Ahmed is a Senior Global Policy Advocate with the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), handling ICRW's portfolio on feminist foreign policy. She has provided policy analysis and advocacy leadership in multilateral spaces, including the United Nations, G7 and G20. She previously managed ICRW's signature Feminist UN Campaign and all associated publications. Spogmay currently serves as the North America Organizing Partner for the Women's Major Group, promoting engagement in UN sustainable development processes.

Spogmay worked with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand and the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN in New York. Spogmay holds a M.A. in Public Affairs from Princeton University and a B.A. in International Affairs from the George Washington University.

Enana Alassar – Rapper, Singer-songwriter and Activist



Enana is the Sumerian goddess of love, war, sex and fertility.

Much like their name, Enana is a multi-dimensional artist.

Enana is a trans non-binary Rapper, singer-songwriter, performer and activist whose artistic engine has always been fueled by their quest for freedom and social justice.

In the last years they have been nurturing a unique sound that represents their intertwined existence, being born in Damascus & based in Berlin since 2015.

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Åsa Regnér – Deputy Executive Director, UN Women



2018, Åsa Regnér was appointed as Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women. Moreover, she is a politician of the Swedish Social Democratic Party and served as Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality of Sweden from 2014 until 2018. In this role she focused on implementing gender equality policies in Sweden, while also focusing on the prevention of violence against women. She believes that involving men and boys is essential to achieving gender equality. In the role of the Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, Åsa visited Kosovo, where she advocated for the advancement of the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda. Moreover, in Kosovo she and the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Anne Linde worked on enhancing the cooperation regarding the WPS agenda.

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Hind Al-Eryani – Journalist and Human Rights Activist



Hind Al-Eryani is a journalist, activist and member of the UN Women Yemeni Women's Pact for Peace and Security. As an activist and journalist, she writes about women, LGBTQ+ rights and minorities rights in her home country Yemen. Several of her articles have been published in numerous Arabic and Western newspapers. One of her articles entitled "Why don't men cover their faces" was translated to five languages.

Hind worked to protect minorities during the war by starting several campaigns from 2016 to 2020, one of which demanding the release of Baha'is who had been imprisoned by the Houthis. She worked as a mediator communicating with the UN Special Envoy on the release of the Bahais from prisons in July 2020.

Because of her advocacy for peace and women's rights in Yemen, she received the Arab Women of the Year Award 2017. After having fled Yemen, Hind now lives in Sweden.

Suzan Aref – CEO of "Women Empowerment Organisation Iraq"



Suzan Aref is an Iraqi human rights activist, founder and director of the Women Empowerment Organization Iraq since 2004. She works as the coordinator of the "Women Peace Network", a large group of civil society organizations, which had a pioneering role in developing the first National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSC Resolution 1325 in Iraq. Moreover, she was the coordinator of the Iraqi cross-sector task force 1325 on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (2014-2019). In 2018 and 2019, she reported to the Security Council on women's situation in Iraq and the progress made in implementing the Iraqi NAP.

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Rida al-Tubuly – Co-Founder and Director of “Together We Build It”



Rida is a university professor, a human rights defender, and a co-founder and Director of “Together We Build It” (TWBI), an organization that focuses on inclusion and empowerment of women. In 2019, the BBC named her among 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world. Rida gained considerable experience on conflict analysis, peacebuilding, and mediation. Rida is an expert on gender issues and UNSCR 1325 (WPS agenda). She is also interested in GBV and CT/CVE in conflict contexts. Rida is a strong advocate of women’s rights, as a human right, nationally and internationally, as such she briefed the UNSC in New York and delivered oral statements to the UNHRC in Geneva.

Taban Shoresh – Founder and CEO of “The Lotus Flower”



As a four-year-old, Taban Shoresh was imprisoned with her family during the Saddam Hussein regime because her father was a political activist. With the help of Amnesty International, she fled to the UK where she grew up. When the war broke out in 2014, she decided to go back to Iraq to support developmental workers in the Kurdish region. After returning to the UK a few years later, she founded the non-profit organization the Lotus Flower, which aims to improve economic, social and cultural opportunities for vulnerable women and girls in Iraq. The organization also supports conflict survivors from the Kurdish region in northern Iraq. Furthermore, the organization operates women's centers. In these centers, the organization provides training and education, mental health therapy, and campaigns on women's rights and gender-based violence. In 2022 Taban Shoresh joined the Action Network on Forced Displacement, which was launched by BMZ in 2020.

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Derya Türk-Nachbaur – Member of German Parliament



Derya Türk-Nachbaur is a politician from the Social Democratic Party (SPD). She is the deputy spokeswoman for human rights of the SPD and the deputy spokeswoman of the regional group in Baden Wurttemberg. She now serves as Member of the German Parliament and works in the Parliamentarian Committees for Economic Cooperation and Development (AwZ) and for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid. In the AwZ, Ms. Türk-Nachbaur is rapporteur on the Middle East (Turkey, Syria, Israel, Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran and Yemen) and on themes with regard to women/ girls and gender equality for the SPD faction.

Vira Mistry – Young Feminist Europe



Vira Mistry is an intersectional feminist and development professional from India. She has a Masters in International Development and in International Relations. Her work has focused on the areas of gender, anti-racist and youth development to address inequalities present in communities. She believes in an interdisciplinary approach to her work - combining on-the-ground project coordination, communications, research, designing educational material, and conducting workshops -- to address and unpack structures of power and find solutions for meaningful sustainable change. She is currently a Youth Participation Advisor at SOS Children's Villages and a member of Young Feminist Europe.

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Rachel Gasser – Senior Project Manager, Berghof Foundation



Rachel Gasser is a Senior Project Manager at the Berghof Foundation. She is working on peace mediation in the Executive Office as well as with Women in Resistance and Liberation Movements. She is involved in designing and facilitating dialogue and mediation processes activities as well as supporting negotiations parties.

Rachel has been working on peace and security for the past 15 years both at policy and fields level. Prior to joining the Berghof Foundation, she spent several years accompanying processes including in/on Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Libya, Myanmar, Somalia, Syria and the DPRK. Her main responsibilities have been advising and training parties to conflict, supporting third party mediation both at local and international levels and conducting applied research on issues related to peace and security. Rachel worked with the UN (UNHCR and UNDP), NATO & the Swiss Foreign Ministry as well as with international and local NGOs & think tanks including swisspeace. She has a Master from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

Dr. Minu Hemmati – Moderator



Minu Hemmati works on multi-stakeholder processes, sustainable development issues, climate change and gender equality. She provides process design, facilitation and coaching services as well as content contributions. She also works non-profit for MSP Institute e.V., an international charitable association based in Berlin, Germany.