



National Alliance of Women's Organisations

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END Sexual Violence in Conflict – Global Summit

Gender Inequality: Cause of Gender-based Violence Links from ESVC Global Summit to Beijing +20 and the Post-2015 Framework

Panel – 3pm Wednesday June 11th, ExCel Centre, Room 1

Focus:

- All gender-based violence is on a continuum from, say, sexual harassment in an office through trolling and stalking to rape and domestic abuse, trafficking and prostitution, harmful traditional practices, and beyond to sexual violence in conflict and war, to femicide.
- The underlying cause of all forms of VAWG is gender inequality - it is global and persistent and endemic. It affects women of all ages - including girls - from **every** group and society.
- Gender Inequality is what links the Global Summit to Beijing+20 and the Post-2015 agenda. It is why we need a transformative gender equality goal with a powerful VAWG component and to have this mainstreamed across all goals. The review of the MDGs has shown that omitting such an approach led to failures in achieving them (see CSW58 Agreed conclusions).

Contact: Annette Lawson
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Brief Biographies

Chair

The Right Hon Nicky Morgan, Minister for Women (UK – Westminster MP)

Nicky is Conservative MP for Loughborough. She was appointed as Financial Secretary to the Treasury and Minister for Women on 9 April 2014.

She served as an Assistant Whip in the Coalition Government, until her appointment as Economic Secretary to the Treasury on 7 October 2013.

Nicky has served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Rt Hon David Willetts MP, Cabinet Minister at the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, and before that was a member of the BIS Select Committee.

Nicky qualified as a solicitor in 1996, specialising in corporate law, and advised a range of private and public companies from 1996-2010 when she was elected to Parliament.

Speakers

Keynote: **Jane Kiragu**, Kenya

African Women's Leadership Network (AWLN)

AWLN is jointly facilitated by the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPFAR) and is part of the Advance Family Planning project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health.

Jane is a human rights lawyer and an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya.

As Founding Director of Satima Consultants Limited she has carved a niche market where she supports African governments, international bodies and non-governmental organisations in strategic visioning; integrating human rights, gender and equality principles in their work; as well as assessments and evaluations. She is currently serving on the global Family Planning 2020 Reference Group representing civil society. In addition to her membership of the African Women Leaders Network for sexual and reproductive health (AWLN), Jane also serves on a several boards including the Refugee Consortium of Kenya, Trustee of FREDa, Limuru Cheshire Home for the Physically Disabled, the Kenya Autistic Association, the Kenya Association of Women in Business (KAWBO) and most recently is a Board Member of INGO Accountability Charter Company.

Jane was the Founding Executive Director (1996- 2000) of the Kangemi Women Empowerment Center where she created a model multidisciplinary center where integrated programmes on Health (particularly HIV/AIDS prevention), Economic empowerment and Human rights were utilized to mobilise Kangemi residents to enhance their status. This Centre is now managed and led by the Kangemi community which has continued to mobilise and influence changes at local and national levels.

Jane has been: Executive Director of the Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya (FIDA Kenya) between 2000-2004 ; a Presidential appointee in 2003 as Commissioner, Kenya Law Reform Commission; Founding Executive Director of the National Anticorruption Steering Committee; Member, Task Force on the Establishment of a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission; Vice Chair, National Council of NGO's (1998- 2000) and Treasurer, Urgent Action Fund Africa, board member of the Kituo cha Sheria.

Jane has expertise and experience in law, human rights, gender, governance, reproductive health rights, advocacy and lobbying, research, legislative drafting, community mobilization, training, facilitation, evaluation, organizational management, performance management and legal work. Jane has specialized skills on gender mainstreaming and women's rights advocacy – this has seen her work closely with government ministries executing the gender and women affairs mandates in terms of policy formulation, strategy development and reviews/evaluations.

Most recently she has been the team leader in the development of the Kenya's health sector gender and equality policy. Jane recently concluded a World Bank sponsored Gender Assessment of the Kenya Power to interrogate the extent to which gender is mainstreamed at consumer levels for equity and at institutional levels as well.

Eleanor Lisney, Sisters of Frida

Eleanor is the founder of Sisters of Frida, a co-operative of disabled women, and played a substantive role in ensuring disabled women were mentioned by the UN's CEDAW Committee in their 2013 Concluding Observations to the UK Government. She is an intersectional advocate of human rights; coordinator of community organisation, Connect Culture; member of the British Council's disability advisory panel, and of the advisory panel to the Access to Elected Office Fund.

Eleanor will be speaking on how disabled women are further impacted by gender inequality wherever they are on the globe. Research has shown that disabled women experience abuse at least twice as often as non-disabled women. And in conflict, women are also more likely to acquire disabilities as victims of war. 'Hate crime' – the term used to describe attacks on disabled women and men - is also often gender based but not so recognised because disabled people are not seen as gendered. Disabled women should be afforded equality wherever they are as human rights - enshrined in UN Conventions, especially CEDAW and the CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Disabled People).

Elizabeth Gordon, Survivor, Artist and Campaigner, Non-state torture

Elizabeth Gordon is an artist and human rights activist. She is a woman who has survived non-State torture. Her survivor art-work has been included in feminist journals, articles, education classes, exhibitions and conferences to help raise awareness about non-State torture violence against women and girls. In 2011, Elizabeth created a poster for a UN competition on the theme of "Say NO to VAWG" to raise awareness of NST. Her poster was inspired by Octavio Roth's lino-cut posters of the 30 articles of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. At a Women's Resource Centre meeting in 2011, Elizabeth spoke out for NST to be included as a form of VAWG in the WRC's Shadow Report for the UK's examination at CEDAW in 2013. As a result, a specific report on NST was included, submitted by 'Persons Against Non-State Torture' in Canada. As an individual member of NAWO, in July 2013 Elizabeth attended the UK's CEDAW examination at the UN in Geneva. On 1st June 2014 Elizabeth took part in a CBC Nova Scotia Canada radio documentary all about non-State torture.

Elizabeth will be speaking as a survivor and will use some of her art-work to describe what she means by non-state torture and why this, too, arises from the imbalance of power between girls and women, boys and men. Non-state Torture should be named as a form of gender-based violence.

Marai Larasi, MBE, IMKAAN

Marai is the Executive Director of Imkaan, a UK-based national second tier organisation dedicated to challenging violence against black and 'minority ethnic' women and girls. She has worked in the ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) field for nearly two decades, at both operational and strategic levels, and has developed and led cutting edge services and programmes which address violence against women and girls within marginalised groups.

Marai's activism, public policy work and overall practice are underpinned by a strong commitment to equality and social justice. She is described as '*powerful advocate*' and '*thought-provoking*' and '*inspirational*' public speaker. She has produced papers for, and delivered presentations to numerous and varied audiences in the UK and internationally, covering a range of themes including VAWG, women's homelessness, and equality. Previous speaking engagements, panels and presentations include:

- National Homelessness Conference, Australia 2010
- Women Against Violence Europe, (Poland) 2010 & (Rome) 2011
- Leveson Inquiry into culture, practice and ethics of the press, London 2012
- Violence Against Women – Queensland, Australia 2012
- Whanau of Tomorrow: Building Safer Futures, New Zealand 2012
- UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York 2012, 2013 & 2014
- UN Women Expert Group Meeting on Preventing VAWG, Bangkok 2012

- UN Women Expert Group Meeting on Structural and policy constraints in achieving the MDGs for women and girls, Mexico City 2013
- Official Commemoration of the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, New York 2013

Marai is the joint chair of EAW (the End Violence Against Women Coalition), UK and formerly the joint chair of Women's Aid, England. She also contributes to a number of working and steering groups at regional, national and international level.

Marai's practice is informed by her personal, political and academic interest in integrating post-colonial, feminist and other narratives to produce a more nuanced, effective understanding of the experiences and aspirations of black and 'minority' women. She has contributed chapters to two books including *'Moving in the Shadows: Violence in the Lives of Minority Women and Children'* and has produced articles and papers published in the UK and in other regions.

Marai's activism has been recognised in a range of settings, including the World Pride Power List 2013 where she was ranked number 80 amongst the 100 most influential LGBT people of the year; and the Greater London Authority's 2011 list of London's 40 most influential women over the past 100 years

Marai will focus on:

- Need for a gendered analysis that locates SV in conflict within the context of wider violence against women and gender inequality
- Need for all states to fulfil existing obligations and commitment to address VAWG
- Opportunities for reflection (Beijing +20)
- Need for stand alone gender goal in the post-2015 agenda