



United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Fellowship Programme 2019

“The Role of Women in Peacemaking and Conflict Prevention”

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Participants from Europe and North America (EUNA)

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Federal Foreign Office

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Alicia Kuin (Canada) has served as a neutral in over 500 cases and mediates two-party and complex multi-party disputes and designs mixed- method resolution processes. Internationally, Alicia has worked at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, located in The Hague. She has also worked alongside a team of legal counsel to the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDF), focusing on human rights and identity-based issues related to the peace negotiations between the NDF and the Government of the Philippines. Alicia has worked and presented in the Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Switzerland, Kenya and the Philippines. Alicia has ten years of experience designing and facilitating workshops on the topics of asymmetrical conflict and the roles of power, culture, gender, and identity framing in peace processes. She is a frequent presenter at conferences and within the non-profit sector. Alicia is a Canadian representative to the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth network, a Fellow of the International Academy of Mediators, the Founder and Chair of Mediators Beyond Borders International - Canada, and a former Director of the ADR Institute of Ontario.



Anastasia Baskina (Russian Federation) has over 10 years of experience in capacity building and international youth work. She currently serves as a Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding Analyst at UN Cambodia. In this role, she supports UN Cambodia engagement with civil society and national stakeholders, with particular attention to women, youth and marginalised groups. Some of Anastasia's prior professional engagements include delivering trainings on conflict transformation and gender mainstreaming for youth-led networks, evaluating an extracurricular programme for girls' empowerment in the North Caucasus, facilitating virtual cross-cultural exchanges between Western and predominantly Muslim youth, and designing learning programmes for the International Committee of the Red Cross. Besides capacity building, Anastasia was a Schuman trainee at the DG External Policies of the European Parliament, a project coordinator at the Danish Cultural Institute, and a fellow at the CRRC-Armenia, where she undertook research on socio-economic integration of Syrian Armenian refugees.



Broderick Czorniuk-McDonald (Canada) is a speaker, activist, and interfaith leader. He is the Founder & COO of Disrupting Extremism, Canada's first start-up initiative to prevent violent extremism through interfaith dialogue and religious literacy training. Prior to this, Brody served as Chief Liaison to the Prime Minister's Office and Special Advisor to Parliament, where he spearheaded Canada's Youth Employment Strategy which created more than 10,000 jobs for at-risk youth.

While on Parliament Hill, he also worked as a researcher with the Non-Partisan Parliamentary Group for Genocide Prevention & Crimes Against Humanity, drafting Canada's response to the Yazidi Genocide alongside parliamentarians and senior diplomatic officials. Before politics, Brody was a Junior Research Fellow with the NATO Council and the Canadian International Council. He is an Associate Member of Chatham House and Non-Resident Fellow of the Royal Commonwealth Society in London.



Cora Alder (Switzerland) is a program officer in the Mediation Support Team at ETH Zurich. She is working on various projects within the Culture and Religion in Mediation (CARIM) Program – a joint initiative of the Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The program aims to support mediation and conflict transformation processes that deal with the religious dimensions of conflicts. It promotes a non-judgmental, culture- and gender-sensitive approach to the role of religion in conflict. Cora's work

involves researching mediation methodology as well as developing practice and policy guidance, particularly on the nexus of religion and gender in conflict. She advises on gender in mediation support processes on conflicts around religious issues. Further, she is a co-organizer of and trainer on gender at the annual week-long Religion and Mediation Course (RMC). Prior to joining the CSS, she gained experience at the Swiss Embassy in Belgium, where she reported inter alia on counter-terrorism measures and deradicalization efforts.



Donya Nasser (U.S.A.) is currently serving as the 22x20 Campaign's Fellowship Program Manager, overseeing civic engagement for young people. She recently completed a Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace and Security Fellowship at the Truman Project for National Security, where she worked on the representation of women in peacebuilding and diversity and inclusion. She is currently the youngest Board Director of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund Board, as well as a Youth Director on the Western Hemisphere Region Board and Governing Council of the International Planned Parenthood Fund. She is also a member of the US National Commission to UNESCO's Youth Working Group. Donya served as the first Iranian- American and Muslim U.S. Youth Observer to the United Nations, where she had a focus on women and youth in peacebuilding, gender equality, and minorities in leadership. She is a Glamour Magazine Top 10 College Woman and L'Oréal College Woman of Worth, and has been featured on ABC, Al-Hurra, Al Jazeera, the Huffington Post, the L.A. Times, MSNBC, Voice of America.



Isabella Bjorkman (Sweden) is currently pursuing her MSc at Durham University Global Security Institute and focuses her research on how to ensure that early warning systems are more efficient, with a specific focus on gender sensitivity. Prior to this, Isabella worked as the Gender Focal Point for the FBA within the International Secretariat of the Challenges Forum, a global network that generates recommendations for the wider international peace operations community. As such, Isabella focused on increasing female representation as panellists and authors. By managing the Forum's web page and twitter account, she coupled her gender-focused approach with strategic communication, leading to a deeper engagement of the network on gender issues. In 2017, Isabella worked with the UN Senior Leadership appointment section on a publication about the selection and support of senior leadership in UN peacekeeping operations. In 2015 she took part in the project 'Young Women's Peace Academy', a training programme for young women activists from Sweden, the Caucasus, and the Balkans that seeks to develop participants' leadership and communication skills. Participants created a women's charter with recommendations



Joaquin Caudeli (Spain) was raised in Buenos Aires and now lives in Madrid where he studied Sociology, Political Sciences and Public Administration at the University of València. He wrote his dissertation on “Gender mainstreaming in peace and security processes in Latin America following Resolution 1325 of the Security Council: an analysis of women's participation”, taking the process of the Peace Agreements of Colombia as a case of study. The objective was to analyze the participation of women and the implementation of the gender perspective in the region. He co-founded “@EquipoEuropa” with a couple of volunteers of the European Parliament in Madrid. This project aims at encouraging the participation of young women and men in European affairs. With his team, he identified issues related to European Neighborhood Policy and he is currently working on organizing a conference about Women Empowerment and the recognition of their role in establishing secure and prosperous countries in the MENA region.



Mirna Aho (Finland) works in the field of women's economic empowerment. Working as an Account Manager for Women's Bank, Mirna contributes to increasing women's sustainable entrepreneurship and livelihood in the Global South. In only 11 years Women's Bank has raised over 14 million euros and supported 59 000 women. Mirna holds a Bachelor's Degree in Speech Communication from University of Jyväskylä and is currently pursuing her Master's Degree from the same university. Her thesis is about interaction in peace mediation. Being a champion for gender equality and youth participation she represented Finland as a Youth Delegate at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018. Mirna has also been active in the 2250 Network of Finland, a coalition of organizations, which successfully lobbied the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland to be the first country in the world to write a National Action Plan on the UNSCR Youth, Peace and Security. Mirna is a Youth Peace Ambassador of the Committee of 100 of Finland from 2016. She also represented Finland in the European Future Leaders Conference in 2016 and at the 56th sessions of the Commission on Social Development in 2018.



Rugile Butkeviciute (Lithuania) works for the Women's Issues Information Center, NGO that is a member of a working group established by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania to make suggestions for implementation of UNSCR 1325. From 2010 to 2016, Rugile has served as a national expert on gender-based violence in the European Women's Lobby Observatory against violence against women. Rugile also works as a lawyer and trainer to facilitate trainings and provide legal counselling to victims of gender – based violence in Lithuania. She also gives lectures to government officials working with migrants and refugees on domestic violence as well as gender-based violence in armed conflicts aiming for officials to be able to provide trauma informed services for migrants and refugees, victims of gender-based violence. She also implements projects on gender equality with a specific focus on gender-based violence and human trafficking in Lithuania, Belarus, and Moldova. She manages the first online platform focusing on gender equality in Lithuania.



Sif Heide-Ottosen (Denmark) is a researcher and a technical adviser focusing on gender and conflict prevention in Somalia and Somaliland. Having spent two years living in Hargeisa, Sif worked closely with women's organisations to conduct research and design recommendations for programming to alleviate the barriers women face in accessing and influencing decision-making and peace-building processes. Currently she is working as a Technical Adviser on a preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) project in Mogadishu which aims to rehabilitate and reintegrate disengaged combatants. As such, she tries to understand how communities fractured by decades of violent conflict can reconcile and accept former combatants back in to their society. She also focuses her research on the inter-section between gender and conflict, involving women and their voices in her conflict analyses to holistically understand violence and preventative measures against it. Sif helped design monitoring and evaluation frameworks for different programmes aiming at assessing their effectiveness in promoting women's role within decision-making and peace-building across the region.



Urban Jakša (Slovenia) is currently finishing his PhD in International Politics at the University of York. His research focuses on ‘frozen conflicts’ involving unrecognized and partially recognized states in post-Soviet space. He is particularly interested in the nexus of Security and Gender. In 2014 as a Trainee for NATO he worked closely with the Secretary General’s Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security. He helped her team organize the first ever conference on gender equality in the security sector that involved civil society organisations on equal footing with NATO. His work on implementing UNSCR 1325 within NATO was complemented with work for the European External Action Service as one of thirteen youth delegates on the implementation of UNSCR 2250. Urban has continued exploring gender and conflict as a researcher, recently as a visiting Fulbright scholar at Columbia University's Harriman Institute and a guest researcher at Higher School of Economics in Moscow. To this day he continues to be active in gender mainstreaming in the security sector through his involvement with Women in International Security (WIIS).



William Lindsay (U.S.A.) is a Program Manager at Women of the World which helps to empower refugee and immigrant women to attain self-sufficiency, with a focus on capacity building and civic engagement. Through a highly personalized approach, William works on supporting refugee and immigrant women with legal assistance, access to healthcare and reliable housing, and English language learning. William works on streamlining processes such as employment outreach and securing contacts with public services. He also works closely with other refugee services providers such as International Rescue Committee and Refugee Services Office to coordinate partnerships and maintain a network whose purpose is to best and most efficiently serve refugee and immigrant women. Prior to this, William worked for Youthline Real Life Program in Salt Lake City, Utah with youth refugees in an after-school program where he led discussions on language, culture, and civic engagement. In 2018, he conducted ethnographic fieldwork among refugees and asylum seekers at a community center in Amsterdam, the Netherlands to learn about integration and the concept of home. His goal was to better the understanding of barriers to integration to improve relations between newcomers and host communities.