

Speakers' Biographies

Opening Session



Vesa Häkkinen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE and Chair of the Permanent Council

Before his current position he served as Ambassador of Finland to Iraq, in Baghdad (2019–2021). He has served also in Poland, Sweden and Russia. He was the Director for Current Affairs Communications in the MFA 2014–2019. Mr. Häkkinen has worked for the Finnish Foreign Ministry since 1999. Before joining the Foreign Service, he worked as Secretary General in Finnish Alliance of Estonian Friendship NGOs and as freelance journalist. Mr. Häkkinen was born in Lohja, Finland, in 1969. He graduated from the University of Helsinki in 1996 with a Master's in Political Science (Political History). His military rank is sergeant. Mr. Häkkinen is married. In his free time he is an active reader.



Katri Viinikka, Ambassador for Gender Equality of Finland

Ambassador Katri Viinikka holds the position of Ambassador for Gender Equality at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland since September 1, 2018. Before that, she was Ambassador of Finland to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Permanent Representative of Finland to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) from 2015 to 2018.

Earlier, Ambassador Viinikka served as Director for United Nations and General Global Affairs at the Political Department of the Finnish MFA from 2010 to 2015. She has also held the position of Chief of Cabinet of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and served at Finnish embassies in Brussels, Berlin and Bonn. She began her career at MFA of Finland in 1992.



Laura Rissanen, State Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland

Laura Rissanen has served as a State Secretary to the Minister of Social Security since June 2023. State Secretary Rissanen is responsible for EU and international affairs that fall within the Minister's area of responsibility, and matters related to occupational safety and health, farm relief services and gender equality.

Rissanen has over twenty years of experience on policymaking, ranging from municipality decision-making to European Parliament.

She knows how decisions are made, and the people behind the decisions.

Rissanen has held numerous positions of trust, such as being a city council member in years 2009-2017 and deputy member since 2017. She holds a Master's degree in Social Sciences, majoring in political history. During her leisure time, Rissanen enjoys reading, jogging, fitness swimming, choral singing, restaurants, travelling and children's hobbies.



Mariana Betsa, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Mariana Betsa graduated from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv in 1999. She holds a Master's degree (diploma with honours) in International Law, interpreter of English.

Mariana Betsa joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in 2001. Between 2001-

2005 and 2009-2012 she held various diplomatic positions in the Treaty and Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. From 2005-2009 she was the Second and then First Secretary at the Embassy of Ukraine in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. From 2012-2015, Ms. Betsa was Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna, before she became the MFA spokesperson and Head of Information Department from 2015-2018. From 2018-2023 she was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Estonia. In 2023-2024 she Ambassador-at-large for Global Ukrainian Community, MFA of Ukraine. Since 2024, Ms. Betsa is Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and President of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO.

Mariana Betsa holds numerous awards of the MFA of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and from the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine. She is awarded with Estonian state decorations.



Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu, OSCE Secretary General

Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu (Türkiye) is the seventh OSCE Secretary General, appointed in December 2024.

Prior to his appointment, Sinirlioğlu served as the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations (UN) from 2016 to 2023. In 2023, he was also appointed by UN Secretary-

General António Guterres as the UN Special Co-ordinator for the Independent Assessment mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 2679 (2023).

He has also held the positions of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye in the interim government of 2015, and of Permanent Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye from 2015 to 2016 and 2009 to 2015.

Sinirlioğlu has a PhD from the School of Political Science and International Relations at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul and a Bachelor's degree from the Political Science Faculty of Ankara University.

High-level OSCE panel



Maria Telalian, Director, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Maria Telalian (Greece) is the ninth Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), appointed in December 2024.

Prior to her appointment, Telalian was a Legal Adviser of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

the Head of the Legal Department. She was also Head of the Public International Law Section of the Legal Department and was appointed as Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations (UN) from 2005 to 2007.

She has also served as an agent before the International Court of Justice, a counsellor before the European Court of Human Rights, a member of the Panel of Arbitrators of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and a representative to the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly.

She is a former member of the Appeals Board of the Western European Union for the settlement of disputes arising out of the WEU Staff Rules. She also has several years of teaching experience at the Diplomatic Academy of the Greek Foreign Service and at the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy.



Christophe Kamp, High Commissioner on National Minorities

Christophe Kamp (Netherlands) is the seventh OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, appointed in December 2024.

Prior to his appointment, Kamp served as the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the OSCE. He also worked as Director of the office

of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. Christophe Kamp has nearly 25 years of experience as a diplomat in the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands and the European External Action Service, with assignments in Europe and Africa.

Before joining the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands in 2001, Kamp worked at the UN Department of Political Affairs in New York and with the UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda. Kamp has a Master's degree in Political Science from Leiden University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.



Jan Braathu, Representative on Freedom of the Media

Jan Braathu (Norway) is the sixth OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, appointed in December 2024.

Prior to his appointment, Braathu served as Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia from January 2021 to December 2024 and Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo from October 2016 to December 2020.

Previously, he was Norway's Ambassador to Kosovo and Albania, and Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina. His other assignments have included serving as Deputy Director General and Head of the Division for Western Balkan Affairs. Braathu also served in the Norwegian Foreign Ministry's OSCE Chairpersonship-in-Office Section from 1998 to 2000. He held the role of First Secretary and Acting Counsellor for Economic Affairs at the Royal Norwegian Embassy to the Court of St. James's from 1993 to 1996. He was also First Secretary at the Royal Norwegian Embassies in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from 1990 to 1993.



Moderator: Katja Pehrman, Ambassador for Human Rights of Finland

Katja Pehrman is Ambassador for Human Rights of Finland. Previously, she worked as Senior Advisor at UN Women (2017-2024), responsible for issues related to enhancing gender parity and equality. She was actively involved in implementing and promoting the measures of the UN Secretary-General's System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity in the UN System. She was also the Focal Point for Women in the UN System, responsible for leading and coordinating the work

of 650 Gender Focal Points across the globe.

Ms. Pehrman has served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE in Vienna from 2013-2017. In that capacity, she chaired the Human Dimension Committee of the Organization. Moreover, she was one of the initiators of the OSCE Wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and Co-founder of the OSCE Group of Friends of Mediation. She was also Coordinator of the Helsinki +40 process related to the protracted conflicts.

Ambassador Pehrman has previously served as the Chief of Cabinet of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Furthermore, she has discharged various tasks at the Political Department of the Ministry, including as the Adviser to the General Director and the Under-Secretary of State, working predominantly with security policy and related issues. She has served at diplomatic missions abroad, at the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN in New York (2003-2007) and Permanent Mission to the OSCE in Vienna during Finland's Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2008 (2007-2010) and again in 2013-2017.

Kick-off session



Belén Sanz, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UN Women

Belén Sanz (Spain) has more than 20 years of experience in development policies, with special emphasis on gender equality, women's rights policies and evaluation of public policies in international fields.

Prior to joining UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Belén Sanz served as UN Women's Representative in Mexico from 2017-2024, where she led flagship initiatives in partnership with Mexico, such as the historic Generation Equality Forum, the Global Alliance for Care, and the Spotlight Initiative to end femicide. Between 2013 and 2017, Belén Sanz served as UN Women's Representative in Colombia, where she accompanied the historic peace process, supporting

women's participation and promoting a gender-sensitive approach to peacebuilding. During February - August 2016, she served as the Resident Coordinator, a.i., of the United Nations System in Colombia.

Before joining UN Women Colombia, Belén Sanz served as the First Evaluation Director of UNIFEM, and later UN Women in New York. She also assumed the role of the Chair of the UN Evaluation Group, promoting a human rights and gender approach in the United Nations system evaluation, which earned her many awards.

Prior to joining the UN, she worked as Head of Development Policy Evaluation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, where she led the development of the Evaluation System in Spanish cooperation, and previously as Advisor of gender programs and policies.

Belén Sanz holds two Master's degrees, one in Anthropology from the University of London, and another in Public Policy Evaluation by the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. She graduated in Social Anthropology from the National School of Anthropology.

She has served as a speaker and a lecturer at various academic institutions and in international forums focusing on International Cooperation, Public Policy Evaluation, Human Rights and Gender Equality Policies and History of Mexico.



Saara-Sofia Sirén, Special Representative of the CiO on Gender

Saara-Sofia Sirén (1986) is a third-term Member of the Finnish Parliament dedicated to advancing equality and sustainable development. She currently chairs the Employment and Equality Committee, in addition to her other

parliamentary work. She is also a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Sirén has played a pivotal role in promoting gender equality and human rights through her leadership in various positions of trust, including her tenure as President of the National Council of Women of Finland. In recent years, she has also served, for example, as a member of the Advisory Board for International Human Rights and as Chair of the jury for the International Gender Equality Prize (2023).

With a robust academic foundation, Sirén holds a Master of Economic Sciences in Economics and Business Administration, specializing in International Business, and a Master of Arts in Futures Studies. Her work reflects a strong dedication to building a more equitable society.



Marja Ruotanen, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe

Marja Ruotanen has over 35 years of professional experience in several intergovernmental sectors of the Council of Europe, involving standard-setting, monitoring and cooperation, as well as in the Parliamentary Assembly. She has notably worked in the field of legal cooperation,

judicial reform, efficiency of justice, minority rights, gender equality and children's rights, as well as sport.

During her career, she provided political advice to the Council of Europe leadership (Director of SG Private Office), led intergovernmental cooperation, developed and implemented multi-disciplinary and multi-annual strategies, as well constructed thematic cooperation platforms with other international organizations. Presently Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, her areas of responsibility include children's rights, trafficking in human beings, gender equality, violence against women, addressing intolerance and discrimination, freedom of expression, media, civil society and youth participation, education, culture and cultural heritage. Finnish nationality. Studied international relations (law, political science, economics) at McGill University (Canada).



Gesa Bräutigam, Ambassador for Feminist Foreign Policy and Human Rights of Germany

Ambassador Gesa Bräutigam is the Special Envoy for Feminist Foreign Policy and Director for Human Rights at the German Federal Foreign Ministry.

Before assuming her current tasks, Ambassador Bräutigam was the Permanent Representative of

Germany to the OSCE in Vienna (2019-2023).

During her career at the German Foreign Ministry, Ms. Bräutigam has served in various capacities, among others as Head of EU-Coordination (2014-2019), Minister Counsellor at the Political Department of the German Embassy in Washington DC (2011-2014), Member of Cabinet of the German Foreign Ministers Westerwelle and Steinmeier (2007-2011), Political Counsellor at the German Permanent Delegation to NATO in Brussels (2005-2007), and Member of the Parliament and Cabinet Unit of the Federal Foreign Ministry (2002-2005).

Ms Bräutigam holds degrees in History and English from the University of Tübingen, Germany.



Moderator: Dr Lara Scarpitta, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE Secretariat

Dr Lara Scarpitta is the OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues in the Office of the Secretary General. She is an expert on peace mediation and Women, Peace and Security (WPS) with over a decade of experience in promoting the role of women in conflict and post-conflict countries in South-East Europe and in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Prior to joining the OSCE, she worked for over 15 years for the EU and served in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2008-2012), Türkiye (2012-2017) and Brussels (2017-2019). From 2020 to 2022 she worked as Political Adviser on Peace, Mediation and Gender at the EU Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva, focusing on the MENA region.

She was instrumental in the creation in 2018 of the Syrian Women Platform, an EU-supported initiative linking Syrian grassroots female activists with negotiators in the UN-led Syria Peace Process. Since 2019 Dr Scarpitta has also been advising the Centre for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University on Gender and Women, Peace and Security. Born in Sanremo (Italy), she holds a PhD in Russian and East European Studies and an MA in European Studies from the University of Birmingham.

Focus Session: Amplifying Women's Voices from Ukraine



Galyna Kotlyiuc, Gender Democracy Program Coordinator, Heinrich Böll Foundation

Galyna Kotliuk is a Ukrainian feminist and gender expert, currently serving as Gender Democracy program coordinator at the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Kyiv, Ukraine. She has been involved in various initiatives, including the OSCE's Women's Peace Leadership Programme II, which aims to enhance peacebuilding processes and promote sustainable recovery in Ukraine. Galyna's academic background includes two Master's degrees: one in English Philology from Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University (2014) and another in British Studies from the University of Regensburg (2019).



Halyna Fedkovych, Lawyer, Co-founder of the Centre "Women's Perspectives"

Halyna is one of the founders and a Senior Lawyer at the Center "Women's Perspectives" (Lviv, Ukraine). Co-founder of the Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association "JurFem". Attorney at Law since 2009. Degree Master of Psychology (2022).

The main areas of professional interests are women's rights protection, violence against women, domestic violence, gender discrimination, application of international human rights mechanisms at the national level. Halyna provides complex legal and psychological assistance to women survivors of domestic violence and discrimination, including counselling, drafting legal documents, representation in court. She also focuses on training judges and police to ensure adequate access to justice and non-discrimination for women GBV survivors, and promote feminist and survivor centered approaches in justice for women. She participates in international projects as a national expert on women's rights; conduct researches,



Anzhelika Bielova, Founder and President of the Association of Roma Women “Voice of Romni”

Anzhelika Bielova is a Roma woman, feminist, human rights activist. Anzhelika was born and raised in the city of Zaporizhzhia in southeastern Ukraine. In 2020, she founded the Roma women's organization "Association of Roma Women "Voice of Romni" and became a regional representative of the Ukrainian Women's Congress, promoting gender equality and the protection of women's and girls' rights in Ukraine.

Thanks to the projects on economic empowerment of Roma and internally displaced women, which were implemented by the organization "Voice of Romni" for 4 years, more than 300 women received specialties and found jobs.

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, she continues to coordinate the work of her organization to provide humanitarian assistance to Roma in southeastern Ukraine (Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro, Kharkiv, Kherson, Donetsk regions) and western Ukraine (Zakarpattia region). In two years since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, "Voice of Romni" has helped more than 106,000 members of the Roma community and other vulnerable groups. Currently Voice of Romni have 4 regional offices – in Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Kryvyi Rih and Uzhhorod.

"Voice of Romni" prioritizes education by creating spaces for Roma children for pre-school and after-school education, providing psychological counseling, courses in specialized subjects, leadership skills, etc. that contribute to the comprehensive development of children and their competitiveness.

Leadership is one of the areas of work of Voice of Romni, where the organization creates a network of Roma organizations, supports the development of activists from the Roma community, helping them to gain knowledge of project management and fundraising, human rights, etc. and create socially important projects for the community.

Anzhelika advocates for the rights of the Roma community in Ukraine and Roma refugees from Ukraine at the international level (UN Forums on National Minorities, Council of Europe Dialogues with Roma Civil Society, Ukrainian Women's Congresses, Icelandic Women's Congress, Forum on Feminist Foreign Policy in Netherlands, UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York, Ukrainian Recovery Conference in Berlin etc.)



Moderator: Saara-Sofia Sirén, Special Representative of the CiO on Gender Equality

Saara-Sofia Sirén (1986) is a third-term Member of the Finnish Parliament dedicated to advancing equality and sustainable development. She currently chairs the Employment and Equality Committee, in addition to her other

parliamentary work. She is also a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Sirén has played a pivotal role in promoting gender equality and human rights through her leadership in various positions of trust, including her tenure as President of the National Council of Women of Finland. In recent years, she has also served, for example, as a member of the Advisory Board for International Human Rights and as Chair of the jury for the International Gender Equality Prize (2023).

With a robust academic foundation, Sirén holds a Master of Economic Sciences in Economics and Business Administration, specializing in International Business, and a Master of Arts in Futures Studies. Her work reflects a strong dedication to building a more equitable society.

Session 1: Rethinking the Women, Peace and Security Agenda to address multiplying and intersecting crises



Catherine Fearon, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center

From January 2024, Kate Fearon has been Director of the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)/ Deputy Head of the OSCE Secretariat. She joined OSCE in June 2022 as CPC Deputy Director, where she led the Policy Support Service, overseeing the South-Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe desks.

Previously, Kate worked for the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions in Kosovo (EULEX) and in Georgia (EUMM). As Special Advisor to the Civilian Operations Commander of the CSDP missions in Brussels, she worked on the CSDP missions in Ukraine, Ramallah, Rafah, Somalia, Niger, Iraq and Libya. She has also worked on rule of law issues in Afghanistan and Sudan. As Deputy Head of the Political Department in the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kate contributed to the implementation of the Dayton Accords, and as Head of the Mitrovica Office of the International Civilian Office in Kosovo, was responsible for implementing the Ahtisaari Plan in northern Kosovo.

Prior to her international work, Kate was a founding member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition (NIWC) and participated in the negotiations that led to the Good Friday Agreement. Kate studied at Queen's University, Belfast, the University of Sarajevo, and Huddersfield University. She is the author of two books, *Women's Work: The Story of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition* (1999) and *City of Soldiers: A Year of Life and Death in Afghanistan* (2012), as well as numerous peer-reviewed articles on conflict resolution, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and on rule of law and democratization.



Ana María Alonso, Ambassador-at-Large for Feminist Foreign Policy of Spain

Ana Alonso is the Ambassador for Feminist Foreign Policy of Spain. She has been a member of the Spanish Diplomatic Service since 2007. She has been posted in the Spanish Embassies in Afghanistan, Egypt, Thailand and Australia. For the last five years, she has worked at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the United Nations in New York as Counsellor for Gender Equality and Human Rights. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation,

she has worked in the Office of the Undersecretary and in the Deputy Directorate General for the Pacific, Southeast Asia and the Philippines.



Goran Topalović, Expert and Trainer on Gender and Security

Goran Topalovic is the National Military Representative of the Republic of Serbia to NATO (SHAPE) and Co-founder and Director of Operations at the Conflux Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Mediation. With over two decades of experience in peace operations, international security, and capacity building, he has served in leadership roles within the Serbian Armed Forces and on UN missions in Ivory Coast, Cyprus, and Lebanon.

Goran holds a Master's degree in Gender Studies and a postgraduate diploma in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, both from the University of Belgrade, and a diploma from the Baltic Defence College. Currently pursuing a PhD in International and European Studies, his research focuses on gender mainstreaming in mediation and peacebuilding.

A frequent guest lecturer and expert consultant, Goran contributes to training and policy efforts with expertise in gender, peacekeeping, and security sector reform.



Iulia Kharashvili, Founder of NGO "Consent"

Ms. Iulia Kharashvili – in the past researcher in field of immunodeficiency viruses of monkeys (in Abkhazia) – is a civil society activist, Chairperson and co-founder of IDP Women Association "Consent" – an NGO, 29 years working on protection of rights of IDP and conflict affected women in Georgia and in the region of the South Caucasus and eastern Europe. In 1995 – 2007, she worked in UN programmes on Confidence building measures between parties in the conflict in Abkhazia and in the programme "New Approach to IDP assistance". After the 2008 war, she joined

the Government for two years to facilitate international assistance to newly displaced people during 2008 August war.

Since 2013 Ms. Kharashvili is an expert of UN Women, member of the High-Level Advisory group for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325, currently actively working on localization of WPS agenda in Georgia. Since 2020 she is a member of the Action Network of Women in Forced Displacement.

Iulia is a member of High-Level Advisory Group to the OSCE WIN project, and a member of the Planning Committee for the Regional platform of Women for Peace Dialogue which supports efforts of women peace builders and civic activists in the region of the former Soviet Union. For her work she is awarded with several international and Georgia's awards. Currently, she represents Georgia in the NATO Civil Society Advisory Panel on WPS.

The main field of Iulia's activities are rights of IDP and conflict affected women, UNSCR 1325 and the Women, peace and Security agenda as a tool to promote women's rights in emergencies and in protracted displacement.

Married, has two sons and three grandchildren.



Moderator: Alva Bruun, Finnish 1325 Network

Ms. Alva Bruun is a steering member of the Women, Peace and Security 1325 Network in Finland. She has earlier worked in human rights and security for the European Union, the UNDP and the Finnish government, and currently serving a government agency on mineral intelligence. She forms part of the OSCE Women's Peace Leadership Programme. Ms. Bruun holds two master's degrees: in international law (Finland) and human geography (France). She is trained by the government's Crisis Management Centre in Finland.

Session 2: Preventing violence against women and girls



Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, President of GREVIO, Council of Europe

Dr. Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou has been a member of the GREVIO team at the Council of Europe since April 2019, and was elected President of GREVIO in June 2023. This team of independent experts is responsible for supervising the implementation of the Istanbul Convention by state Parties. Dr. Kostopoulou works as a legal consultant, providing legal services on human rights issues with emphasis on women's and children's rights and has participated in numerous projects and activities of the Council of Europe, the Academy of European Law (ERA), National Schools of Judges and Bar Associations. For several years, she served as member of the Consultative Board of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP), and since

2016 is the HELP Info Point for the Athens Bar Association and a certified national tutor by the CoE for human rights training.

Dr. Kostopoulou has authored/co-authored around 50 publications on human rights issues, including CoE editions. She holds a PhD and four Masters' degrees (with distinctions): in international and comparative family law, in International and European Legal Studies, in Civil law and in Labor law. She is currently the Vice-Director of the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights and al. member of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights.

In the past, Dr. Kostopoulou served as Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Council of Europe for the Rights of the Child, Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Council of Europe for the Rights of the Child and Chairperson of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Responses to Violence against Children. In these capacities, she led the work of the above Committees for the development of standard-setting instruments subsequently adopted by the Committee of Ministers and participated in the work of the PACE and several CoE bodies and Committees. She also served as a member of the Greek delegation to the Lanzarote Committee (Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse) and member of the Executive Committee of senior experts of the European Network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination.



Brankica Janković, Commissioner for Protection of Equality of the Republic of Serbia

Ms. Brankica Janković, Master of Laws, currently serves as the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality of the Republic of Serbia. She was first elected to this position by the National Assembly in May 2015 and re-elected for a second term in November 2020. Prior to her appointment, she held the position of State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy (2012–2014), and served as Director of the Gerontology Center Belgrade (2006–2012).

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, obtained her Master's degree from the Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad, and is currently pursuing doctoral studies at the Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade. She is fluent in English and Russian.

Ms Janković has contributed to academic teaching, including at the master's programme *Multicultural Social Work – Anti-Discrimination Policies and Practices* at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade. She also lectures at the Advanced Security and Defence Studies of the School of National Defence of the Serbian Armed Forces. She actively participates as a mentor in the regional *Share Your Knowledge* programme and holds membership in numerous professional networks and associations in the fields of social protection, humanitarian work, and philanthropy.

She has initiated and taken part in several regional platforms aimed at strengthening cooperation among women leaders and human rights institutions. Her professional engagement includes substantial contributions to the development of national strategic and legal frameworks, as well as the authorship of numerous expert publications and policy papers.

In recognition of her work, she has received several national and international awards, including the OSCE "Person of the Year" (2017), the *Petar Manojlović* award for her contribution to improving the position of older persons, and the *Golden Wheel* award, granted by the National Council of the Roma National Minority in Serbia for her commitment to the protection of Roma rights.



Veronica Teleuca, Executive Director of the National Coalition “Life without violence”, Moldova

Veronica Teleuca is a coordinator of the National Coalition “Life without Violence” in the Republic of Moldova, comprising 22 civil society and service provider organizations, responsible for running the country-wide advocacy platform on gender-based violence (since 2015). The Coalition is the only national network specialized in GBV in the Republic and is well known in Moldova and abroad for advocacy initiatives and its role in building and advancing women rights movements.

Ms. Teleuca is a lawyer, women human rights psychologist, with experience and understanding of the specificities of working with women’s organizations, the format of donor assistance in GBV area and its impact on women, activists and organizations, and extensive experience of working with different public actors, including the opposition.

Veronica has extensive experience on gender issues, in particular gender-based violence, justice sector reforms, development and implementation of relevant policy instruments, as well as providing technical assistance under UN agencies, Council of Europe, EU, and other international organizations in Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Kirghizstan and Turkmenistan.

Veronica Teleuca holds a Diploma of Honor of the International Women Rights Training Institute in Bulgaria; and was a participant of the International Advanced Training Programme on gender-based violence in Sweden. She holds a Master’s degree in clinic psychology, and wrote her thesis on “Gender-based violence and particularities of different approaches. Feministic therapeutic approach”.



Belma Čano-Sejfović, Judge at the Municipal Court of Sarajevo

Belma Čano-Sejfović was born on September 8, 1982, in Sarajevo. She earned her law degree at the University of Sarajevo in February 2006. Shortly thereafter, she commenced her professional journey at the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she served first as a legal trainee and subsequently as a legal advisor within the Appellate Division. During her more than a decade-long engagement at the Court, she worked on complex and high-profile cases, including those pertaining to organized crime and war crimes, gaining extensive experience in both substantive and procedural law.

Since November 2017, she has held the position of judge at the Municipal Court in Sarajevo. Initially assigned to the Civil Division, she specialized in labor law matters, adjudicating a broad spectrum of civil disputes. In 2022, she transitioned to the Criminal Division, where she currently presides over criminal cases and serves as a designated judge for juvenile justice. Throughout her career, she has participated in numerous specialized trainings in the fields of juvenile justice, human rights, domestic violence, and sexual harassment. With nearly two decades of judicial and legal experience, Belma Čano-Sejfović is recognized for her expertise, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to the principles of justice and the protection of human rights. She actively contributes to the advancement of the judiciary through her work and participation in various professional initiatives and conferences, both nationally and internationally.

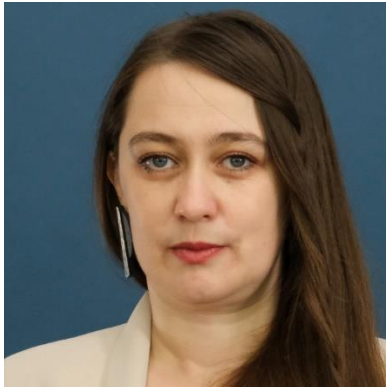


Patrick Stutz, Acting Head, Human Dimension Department, OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe

Patrick Stutz is a peacebuilder and researcher with over ten years of experience in gender-transformative conflict resolution, human rights advocacy, and transitional justice. He currently serves as Human Rights Officer and Acting Head of the Human Dimension Department with the OSCE

in Tajikistan, where he manages multi-sectoral projects on gender-based violence prevention, women's political participation, and inclusive governance.

Prior to this, Patrick Stutz worked as an Advisor on Gender and Conflict with GIZ in the Philippines, leading policy and research efforts on transitional justice, forced displacement, and women's participation in the Bangsamoro peace process. He holds a Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies.



**Moderator: Elmaja Bavčić, Adviser on Gender Equality,
OSCE Secretariat**

Elmaja Bavčić brings over 15 years of experience in advancing gender equality, with a strong focus on women and conflict, gender-based violence, and gender mainstreaming. She holds a Master's degree in Gender Studies and is the author of numerous articles on gender equality, peacebuilding and GBV.

From 2015, she served at the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she led the Gender and Youth Unit. Since 2022, Elmaja has been serving as the Gender Equality Advisor at the OSCE Secretariat. In this role, she leads the organization's efforts on gender mainstreaming within the Human Dimension, and on initiatives addressing violence against women, including in conflict-related contexts. Elmaja is also a recipient of the 2022 OSCE Gender Champion Award, that recognizes significant contributions to advancing gender equality in the Organization.

Session 3: Promoting equal opportunities for women and girls in the digital era



Katri Viinikka, Ambassador for Gender Equality of Finland

Ambassador Katri Viinikka holds the position of Ambassador for Gender Equality at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland since September 1, 2018. Before that, she was Ambassador of Finland to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Permanent Representative of Finland to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) from 2015 to 2018.

Earlier, Ambassador Viinikka served as Director for United Nations and General Global Affairs at the Political Department of the Finnish MFA from 2010 to 2015. She has also held the position of Chief of Cabinet of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and served at Finnish embassies in Brussels, Berlin and Bonn. She began her career at MFA of Finland in 1992.



Dr. Dildora Tadjibaeva, Gender Expert and Consultant on Gender Finance, Uzbekistan

Dildora Tadjibaeva is an international development expert with over 15 years of experience designing and implementing economic programs across Central Asia, Mongolia, and Afghanistan. Dr Dildora Tadjibaeva is an international development expert with over 15 years of experience designing and implementing economic programs across Central Asia, Mongolia and Afghanistan. Specializing in financial sector development, access to finance, gender financial inclusion, and responsible finance, she has advised regulators and policymakers on integrating gender dimensions into National Financial

Inclusion Strategies in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Dildora has contributed to the development of National Women Entrepreneurship Development Programs, supported the introduction of a unified definition of women entrepreneurship in Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan, and conducted gender-responsive Business Census in Mongolia. She has also strengthened the capacity of national statistics offices in collecting and analyzing sex-disaggregated MSME data.

With expertise in gender-sensitive policy design, Dildora has provided technical support for gender analysis frameworks, mainstreaming strategies, and capacity building for government officials, central banks, and tax authorities. Within the ADB Uzbekistan Inclusive Finance Program, she advises financial institutions on designing women-centered strategies, gender equality policies, and training programs for gender-sensitive financial services.



Federica Onori, Member of Parliament Italy, Member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Honorable Federica Onori has a background in scientific studies carried out at Italian and foreign universities, including the Technical University of Munich and the Université Paris Dauphine. After graduating in Mathematics, she obtained a PhD in Statistical Sciences at the Sapienza University of Rome.

She has gained experience through internships and consultancy work with international organizations such as the UN FAO and the IFC of the World Bank Group. Additionally, she worked as a statistical assistant at the European Commission.

In the 2022 Italian general elections, Onori was elected in the Europe constituency and is currently the head of the Italians Abroad division of the Azione party (Renew Europe). In the 19th legislature, she serves as a member and secretary of the III Commission (Foreign and Community Affairs) at the Chamber of Deputies and chairs the Committee on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Onori is actively involved in parliamentary diplomacy, chairing the Italy-Spain Inter-Parliamentary Union and participating in several other bilateral parliamentary groups. She is part of the Italian delegation at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and she's vice chair of the Network of Young Parliamentarians, as well as being involved in various international networks, including the IMF World Bank Global Young MP Initiative and the UNITE Parliamentary Network for Global Health.



Salkynai Emilbekova, Co-Founder “Girls for Girls”, Kyrgyzstan

Salkynai Emilbekova is a passionate gender equality advocate and empowerment leader from Kyrgyzstan. As an Acceleration Analyst at Accelerate Prosperity, she supports women- and youth-led startups through business incubation, technical assistance, and impact investments. She is the co-founder of “Girls for Girls”, a grassroots empowerment program that equips young women from rural areas with life skills, confidence, and leadership capacity. By building a strong sisterhood network and applying a mentorship-based approach, the initiative helps girls overcome social barriers and become change-makers in their communities.

Salkynai is committed to advancing inclusive, youth-driven solutions for gender equality and peacebuilding across Central Asia.



**Moderator: Vera Strobachova-Budway,
Senior Economic Officer, Head of the
Economic Governance Unit, OCEEA**

Vera Strobachova-Budway is Senior Economic Officer and Head of the Economic Governance Unit at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). She joined the OSCE in January 2019 as Senior Coordination Adviser for Gender Issues. She has over 25 years of international public and

private sector experience in economic cooperation and development, diversity management, and program and project management.

Prior to joining the OSCE, Vera spent 12 years as Chief Diversity Officer at the Austrian Erste Group Bank AG where she established, developed and managed the company's first comprehensive Diversity & Inclusion Program; initially in Erste's subsidiary in the Czech Republic and then for the entire organization with 46,000 employees in 7 countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Vera began her career in international affairs, serving as Senior Political Adviser on economic development, democratization and cross-border cooperation at the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe in Vienna and Brussels. She is US national and received her Master's Degree in Political Science and International Relations from Georgetown University (Washington, DC). In addition to her native English, she is fluent in German and Czech, and also speaks Russian and French.

In her spare time, she is active in Rotary Club Vienna Maria Theresia (founding member and President 2020/2021) and is a founding member of the Austria Chapter of the International Women's Forum (IWF).

Session 4: Engaging men and boys for gender equality



Julia Koch-de Biolley, Head of the Gender and Diversity Taskforce, EEAS

With a background in international relations, crisis response, and human resources, Julia de Biolley currently serves as Head of the Taskforce for Equality at the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels. She has extensive experience in international diplomacy, notably in the Middle East, having served twice as Deputy Head of Delegation for the EU: in Lebanon (2017-2020) and in the West Bank and Gaza (2010-2013). In addition to her diplomatic career, Julia has a keen interest in organizational and human resource development,

having held advisory roles in resource and HR management at the EEAS. She is also a trained systemic coach and trains in positive leadership.

Julia held key positions in political affairs, crisis response and career development at the EEAS, the European Commission, and Médecins Sans Frontières.



Sylo Taraku, Member of Men's Gender Equality Commission of Norway

Sylo Taraku (51) is a Norwegian political scientist and author. He currently works at the centre-left think tank Agenda. Taraku is a prominent public intellectual in Norway, known for his work on democracy, extremism, migration, and gender equality.

He was a member of the Men's Gender Equality Commission, appointed by the Norwegian government in 2022 to "investigate gender equality challenges faced by men that contribute to social exclusion and hinder the development of an equal society."

The commission's report, titled *The Next Step for Gender Equality*, was presented in 2024 and recommended that the gender equality challenges faced by men be better reflected and addressed in Norwegian equality policies.

Taraku has authored several books and is currently working on a new publication exploring masculinity in a feminist Norway.



Aleks Dimitrijević, Co-Founder and President of Men against Violence, Malta

Aleksandar is co-founder and the chairperson of Men Against Violence, a Maltese NGO working on engaging men and boys in violence prevention and gender equality. He is sitting on the steering committee of Men Engage Europe and was recently elected as board member of MenEngage Global alliance, a network of more than a thousand NGOs worldwide. He guest lectures on Masculinities, Advocacy in hostile environments and Gender backlash at University of Malta. On a personal level, he is a stay-at-home dad, father of three and researcher into origins of misogyny, masculinities and movements of men.



Kemal Gaitnazarov, Student in Gender Studies at Utrecht University and University of York, Member of the OSCE Pool of Young Experts

Kemal is a member of the OSCE Pool of Young Experts and passionate advocate for gender equality and is currently pursuing a Joint Master's Degree in Gender Studies on an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship at Utrecht University in the Netherlands and the University of York in the United Kingdom. He brings extensive experience from his roles as a Communications Consultant for UNICEF in Turkmenistan and a Communication Officer for UNICEF in Cambodia. As a dedicated

Young SDG Ambassador from Turkmenistan, Kemal has represented Turkmen youth on the global stage at several prestigious events, including the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Youth Interfaith Leaders Fellowship at Duke University in the USA and through the International Monetary Fund Youth Fellowship programme in Morocco. Driven by his commitment to advancing gender equality in Central Asia, Kemal combines his academic expertise and professional experience to create meaningful social impact through diverse youth-focused and youth-led channels and opportunities.



Moderator: Saša Gavrić, Adviser on Gender Issues, ODIHR

Saša Gavrić co-leads ODIHR's gender equality in politics portfolio, working on women's representation and gender-responsive governance, and serving parliaments, political parties, governmental bodies, and NGOs across Europe and Central Asia. Among other tasks, he conducts gender audits of parliaments, political parties, and NGOs, helping them identify deeply rooted barriers that hinder progress toward gender parity and inclusive governance for all women and men, in all their diversity.

Before joining ODIHR, Saša led gender equality and democratic governance work at the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the OSCE Mission to Skopje and served as a consultant for UN agencies and other international organisations. His achievements were recognised with the OSCE's 2020 Gender Champion Award. He is the founder and first director of the Sarajevo Open Centre, one of the leading human rights NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Saša is currently pursuing a part-time PhD at Leipzig University. He has authored and edited more than 50 books, book chapters, and academic articles, including ODIHR's latest Sarajevo Tool for Engaging Male Politicians in Achieving Gender Equality in Politics.

Closing session



Natasha Meli-Daudey, Permanent Representative of Malta to the OSCE

HE Mrs Natasha Meli Daudey is Malta's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Austria. She is also the Permanent Representative of Malta to the OSCE, to the United Nations and to the International Organisations based in Vienna. Prior to this appointment HE Meli Daudey has served as Malta's Ambassador to Poland and non-resident Ambassador to Georgia, Moldova, Belarus and Armenia.

HE Meli Daudey is a career diplomat. She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 April 2001. During the first years of her career, she worked mostly on multilateral affairs and followed relations with international institutions including UNESCO, ILO, WHO, the OSCE and the IPU. She became First Secretary on 2 April 2003. Prior to Malta's accession to the European Union in October 2003, HE Meli Daudey was posted to the Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU in Brussels where she served as Antici.

In February 2008, HE Meli Daudey was posted to Malta's Embassy in France and in 2009 she was appointed Counsellor. In 2014 HE Meli Daudey was posted to Malta's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, where she served as Deputy Permanent Representative until July 2016. During her posting HE Meli Daudey followed the works of the Security Council and was Malta's representative on the 1st and 4th Committees. As Malta's representative she was the Chair of the Working Group of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and in this capacity organised several events with NGOs and civil society.

HE Meli Daudey graduated in International Relations (Hons) from the University of Malta, in 1999. The year after she read a Master's Degree in European Politics and Administration at the College of Europe in Bruges, from where she graduated in 2000. In 1996/7 she obtained the Diplome d'Hautes Etudes en Français and the Diplome d'Etudes Supérieures from the Alliance Française.

Prior to joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms Meli Daudey effected an internship with the European Commission and had a brief experience in journalism. Between 2002 and 2003 she was a visiting lecturer on Euro-Mediterranean relations at the European Documentation and Research Centre.

Ms Meli Daudey speaks Maltese, English, French and Italian, has basic knowledge of German, Arabic, Spanish, and Polish. She is married to Xavier and has two children.



Vesa Häkkinen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE and Chair of the Permanent Council

Before his current position he served as Ambassador of Finland to Iraq, in Baghdad (2019–2021). He has served also in Poland, Sweden and Russia. He was the Director for Current Affairs Communications in the MFA 2014–2019. Mr. Häkkinen has worked for the Finnish Foreign Ministry since 1999. Before joining the Foreign Service, he worked as Secretary General in Finnish Alliance of Estonian Friendship NGOs and as freelance journalist. Mr. Häkkinen was born in Lohja, Finland, in 1969. He graduated from the University of Helsinki in 1996 with a Master's in Political Science (Political History). His military rank is sergeant. Mr Häkkinen is married. In his free time he is an active reader.



Raphael Nägeli, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE

Raphael Nägeli was born on 29 September 1969 in Zurich, Switzerland.

He attended schools in Zurich and graduated in 1996 with a Master of Philosophy after studies in History, Economy and History of Eastern Europe at University of Zurich and Free University Berlin.

Following professional experiences in journalism and banking he started his diplomatic career 1998 at the Office of European Integration within the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Subsequently he was posted at the Embassies in Sarajevo and Budapest and from 2002-2004 as first collaborator of the Swiss Embassy Sarajevo. With his return to Bern 2004 he became head of policy planning unit at the Human Security Division of the FDFA. Seconded to the International Civilian Office, a supervisory body for the newly independent state of Kosovo he headed its Unit for Minority Integration from 2008-2011.

Returning to Bern in 2011 Raphael Nägeli first became Regional Coordinator for South-Eastern Europe, 2012 Deputy Head in the rank of a Minister and 2015 Head of the Task Force for the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship.

From August 2016 to August 2018 Raphael Nägeli was Deputy Head of the Human Security

Division of the FDFA with rank of Minister. From August 2018 to May 2022 Ambassador Raphael Nägeli was Assistant State Secretary for Asia/Pacific in the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Raphael Nägeli speaks German, French, English, Italian, Russian and Serbian/Croatian. He is married and has two children.