

Panel 1

Prevention of violence against women and girls

Tuesday, 5 March 2013, 3-6 p.m.

Panellists

Ms. Mervat Tallawy is the President of the National Council of Women of Egypt. Ms. Tallawy has expertise in a broad range of areas, including development, trade, gender equality and population issues. She previously served as Minister for insurance and social affairs in Egypt, and has held several diplomatic posts, including Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency and Ambassador to Japan. She also was the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. She has held several leadership positions in intergovernmental and treaty bodies of the United Nations, including as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Ms. Pinar Ilkkaracan is Adjunct Professor at Bosphorus University in Istanbul, Turkey, as well as the co-founder of several NGOs and networks, including the Berlin Initiative against Violence against Women, Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR), and the Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR). She has worked on various aspects of violence against women from a multidisciplinary perspective as a researcher, a psychotherapist, and an activist for legal reforms on violence against women in Germany and Turkey. She has published extensively on violence against women, women's human rights, and women's sexuality in Muslim societies. She is the recipient of the International Women's Human Rights Award of the Gruber Foundation, as well as a member of the High Level Task Force for ICPD.

Ms. Liina Kaanter heads the Department of Gender Equality in the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia. She previously served as Adviser on family policy in the same Ministry, as well as Adviser in the Office of Population and Ethnic Affairs. She also held Government positions at the district level, where she specialized in child welfare issues. She is a former Board Member of the Estonian Sexual Health Association. Ms. Kaanter holds a Master of Social Sciences in social work from Tallinn University.

Ms. Marai Larasi is the Executive Director of Imkaan, a United Kingdom-based charity that supports organizations dedicated to fighting violence against Black, Asian, minority ethnic and refugee women. She has wide experience in the field of gender-based violence, both at operational and strategic levels, and holds senior positions in national networks advocating for action to end violence against women. She is the co-chair of the UK-wide End Violence against Women Coalition, where she leads the Coalition's prevention network. She also contributes to a number of working groups at national, regional and international level, covering themes such as violence against women and girls, women's homelessness, and gender equality. Ms. Larasi was

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awarded the honour of the “Member of the Order of the British Empire” (MBE) by the Queen, for her work with Black and minority ethnic women.

Ms. Claudia Garcia-Moreno leads the Sexual health, gender, reproductive rights and adolescence team in the World Health Organization’s Department of reproductive health and research. She is a physician with a Masters’ degree in community medicine from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, with 30 years of experience in public health and health care delivery, and in global health policy. Her work has focused on women's health, including sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, and on integrating gender dimensions in the health area. She has spearheaded WHO's work on gender equality and health, and developed WHO’s first policy for gender mainstreaming. Ms. Garcia Moreno serves on the advisory boards of a number of interagency projects, and is on the editorial board of several journals. She regularly writes and reviews articles on women’s health and violence against women for a wide range of journals.