



FROM GENDER JUSTICE TO
SUSTAINABLE PEACE:
A 25-YEAR VISION
Women, Peace and Security
International Conference
SPEAKERS

Sarajevo,
Bosnia and Herzegovina
12-13 June 2025

DAY 1 – 12 June 2025

City Hall, Sarajevo

Time & Session

Speakers

09:30 – 10:00

Welcome
and Opening Remarks



H.E. Sevlid Hurtić, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sevlid Hurtić (Doboj, 1970) graduated from the Faculty of Economics, and in 2015 he earned a master's degree in management. That same year, he enrolled in doctoral studies and obtained his PhD in 2019.

In the 2016 local elections, he was elected as a councilor in the City Assembly of Doboj, and he retained his seat in the subsequent 2020 elections. From 2021 to 2022, he served as the President of the Doboj City Assembly and as the coordinator for Bosniak issues on behalf of the City of Doboj.

In the 2022 general elections, as part of the coalition "Movement for the State," he was elected as a member of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska. He also served as the Minister of Trade and Tourism in the Government of Republika Srpska. He is the founder and president of the political party BiH Greens.

09:30 – 10:00

Welcome
and Opening Remarks



Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

Under-Secretary-General Pramila Patten was appointed as the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on 12 April 2017. Prior to this appointment and since 2003, Ms. Patten served as a member of the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). She was the Chairperson of the Working Group on General Recommendation No. 30 on "Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post-Conflict situations". She has been a member of several High-Level Panels and Projects, including the High-Level Advisory Group for the Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security, and the Advisory Panel for the African Women's Rights Observatory (AWRO) within the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). She previously was a Commissioner of the International Commission of Inquiry into the massacre in Guinea Conakry on 28 September 2009. A national of Mauritius, she has been a practicing lawyer since 1982 and a member of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn.



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Awa Dabo, Director and Deputy Head of Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)

Awa Dabo is a human rights lawyer with extensive experience in crisis recovery, peace building, transitional justice, humanitarian affairs, and development. Awa has held several positions within the United Nations, including currently as Director and Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) at the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

Awa was previously Chief of Country Oversight and Support for the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, Senior Advisor and Head of the Crisis and Fragility Policy and Engagement team for the Crisis Bureau of UNDP, Country Director for UNDP in Tanzania, and Regional Programme Manager and Team Leader with UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

Awa has experience both at HQ and at country offices, having worked in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe. During her professional career, Awa has worked with other UN and non-UN entities including the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO, now DPO) and the African Society of International and Comparative law, an international law NGO based in London.

Awa holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham and a BA in Law, Sociology and Social Anthropology from the University of Keele.

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Julia Koch de Biolley, Head of the EEAS Task Force for Equality

With extensive experience in international relations and crisis response, Julia de Biolley is the Head of the Task Force for Equality at the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels. She has a strong background in international diplomacy, particularly in the Middle East, where she served twice as Deputy Head of Delegation for the EU: in Lebanon (2017-2020) and in the West Bank and Gaza (2010-2013).

Beyond diplomacy, Julia has significant experience in crisis management, having worked with Médecins Sans Frontières in Africa and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). Her expertise spans emergency response, humanitarian coordination, and political affairs.

Julia also is a trained Systemic Coach and has worked in organizational and human resource development, having held advisory roles in resource and HR management at the EEAS. Throughout her career, she has held key positions in political affairs, crisis response, and career development at the German Foreign Ministry, the European Commission and the European External Action Service.

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video message

Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, UN System Coordination and Programme Results

Ms. Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda (Zimbabwe) assumed her duties as UN Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, UN System Coordination, and Programme Results on 6 February 2024.

Ms. Gumbonzvanda brings more than 35 years of experience in the fields of development, human rights, peace and security, high-level advocacy, civil society engagement, and policy influencing and development, with a focus on women's empowerment, gender equality, and women's and children's rights. Her personal experience growing up in resource-poor and war-ravaged communities drives her passion to ensure that all women and girls, and their families, fully enjoy their rights.

Before her current position, she served as Founder and Chief Executive of Rozaria Memorial Trust, an organization founded in memory of her mother, which has supported girls and women in Zimbabwean rural communities since 2007 through innovative initiatives that promote education, health, and entrepreneurship.

Ms. Gumbonzvanda was appointed the first African Union (AU) Goodwill Ambassador on Ending Child Marriage (2014-2022). In this capacity, she engaged with Heads of State and other high-level officials, civil society, and youth, to advocate for progressive and rights-based continental positions on women's and girls' issues, paving the way for the development of the AU Convention on Violence against Women and Girls in 2023.

Prior to that, she was General Secretary of the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) between 2007 and 2016, Regional Director in the East and Horn of Africa for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, now part of UN Women) between 2001 and 2007, and Human Rights Officer in Liberia and National Child Rights Adviser in Zimbabwe for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) between 1998 and 2001. Previously, she served as the Interim Coordinator for the Zimbabwean Women Lawyers Association and as Assistant Law Officer at the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Constitutional Affairs of Zimbabwe.

Ms. Gumbonzvanda was awarded a Doctor of Laws degree (Honoris Causa) by the University of Massachusetts, United States, and holds a Master in Laws from the University of South Africa, a Post Graduate Certificate in Conflict Transformation from Uppsala University in Sweden, and a Bachelor of Laws, Honors Degree, from the University of Zimbabwe.

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10:00 – 10:45

Keynote Address: Civil Society Leadership in Advancing Women, Peace, and Security

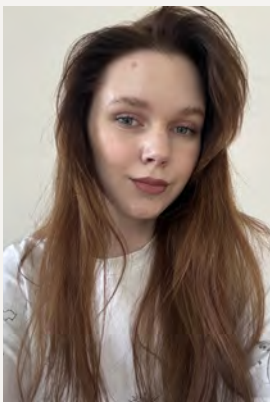


Ajna Jusić, Founder and President of the Forgotten Children of War, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ajna Jusić, a psychologist and activist from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, is dedicated to advocating for the rights of marginalized groups worldwide. Since founding the “Forgotten Children of War” Association in 2016, she has served as its president, leading efforts for the social and legal recognition of children born of conflict-related sexual violence, as well as those whose fathers were members of UN peacekeeping forces and humanitarian organizations. A major milestone was achieved in 2022 when the world’s first law recognizing the special rights of children born of wartime sexual violence was adopted, ensuring the protection of their fundamental human rights. In addition to her activism, Ajna is actively engaged in research and advocacy on social justice and gender equality. She is the co-author of the internationally recognized exhibition “Breaking Free” and the author of the publication “Dealing with Restlessness and Peacebuilding from the Perspective of a Post-Dayton Woman”. Her expertise includes strategic advocacy, impactful research, and effective leadership, contributing meaningfully to human rights and social change at both national and international levels.

10:00 – 10:45

Keynote Address: Civil Society Leadership in Advancing Women, Peace, and Security



Ksenia Ozeran, CSO Ukrainian Women's Fund, 1325 Program Coordinator

A young leader in the public sector whose passion is to support women in Ukraine on their path to leadership and recovery. She has experience working in government, which she has successfully utilized in the implementation of Women, Peace and Security initiatives on behalf of the public sector. She focuses her activities and interests on empowering women from veteran families by raising their awareness of Resolution 1325, providing opportunities for recovery, motivation and development through the project she is currently coordinating at Ukrainian Women’s Fund.

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Keynote Address: Civil Society Leadership in Advancing Women, Peace, and Security



Mary Lawlor, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders

Mary Lawlor from Dublin, Ireland, has worked with human rights defenders for over twenty years, and has been engaged in human rights work for double that. She became a Board member of the Irish Section of Amnesty International in 1975, was elected Chair from 1983 – 1987, and became its Director in 1988. She founded Front Line Defenders in 2001 to focus specifically on the protection of human rights defenders at risk. As Executive Director from 2001-2016, Mary had a key role in the development of Front Line Defenders into the prominent international organization it is today. On 1 May 2020, she took up the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, where she has adopted a people-centred approach to the mandate. Mary is also currently an Adjunct Professor of Business and Human Rights in the Centre for Social Innovation (CSI), School of Business, Trinity College Dublin, and has been awarded Honorary Doctorates in Law from University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin. She is a member of the Advisory Board of both the School of Business of Trinity and the Centre for Ethics in Public Life, School of Philosophy, University College Dublin.

11:00 – 12:30

Theme 1: Global Stocktaking of 25 years of the WPS Agenda



Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Executive Director of Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE), Colombia

Rosa Emilia Salamanca is a Colombian feminist and peacebuilder, also a wife, mother, and grandmother. Her professional background is in anthropology, human rights, and indigenous perspectives. She has years of experience dedicated to the pursuit of sustainable peace in Colombia, contributing to this process through collective initiatives, such as the Summit of Women and Peace, shaping both its social and institutional construction. Her work was fundamental to the Final Peace Accord between the Colombian Government and the FARC-EP, which has been recognized globally for its gender focus. She is part of networks and bodies that emerged from this accord, like the National Security Guarantees Commission. Currently, she is the head of the Social and Economic Research and Action Association (CIASE). Today her work largely centers on security from a feminist perspective and the implementation of peace agreements, especially regarding sustainability and territorial economic recovery. She considers herself an activist researcher, believing the work we produce must be instrumental in bringing about the changes our societies deserve.

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Sara Cook, Director of Cook Consultancy and conflict response specialist, Northern Ireland/USA

Sara Cook is a Belfast-based conflict response specialist with extensive experience working with people affected by conflict in Northern Ireland and internationally. Her peace building work includes mediation, dialogue and storytelling encounters between conflict-affected populations, including victims and survivors of violence, security forces and paramilitaries. Much of her work addresses the psychosocial impact of conflict, including the impact of mediation and peacebuilding work on practitioners. For over 20 years, Sara has designed and implemented methodologies to address conflict-related impact and provides training and facilitation in mediation, dialogue, trauma intervention and resiliency. She has trained people from over 50 countries, including humanitarian aid workers supporting the resettlement of war refugees from Ukraine, Syria, and Afghanistan. The Women, Peace and Security Agenda is a key priority in Sara's peacebuilding work, and she has recently published research on reducing barriers to participation through addressing the psychosocial needs of women mediators and peacebuilders. She is the UK representative to Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth and was a lecturer and field director for the Conflict Transformation Certificate Program at St. Mary's University.

11:00 – 12:30

Theme 1: Global
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Randa Siniora, General Director of the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC), Palestine

Randa Siniora is the General Director of the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) and has been a leading feminist and human rights defender for over 38 years. She holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex (UK) and an MA in Sociology-Anthropology from the American University in Cairo.

Randa made history in 2018 by becoming the first Palestinian woman from civil society to brief the UN Security Council on the situation of Palestinian women under occupation during the Women, Peace and Security Open Day.

She currently serves as Co-Convener on the Steering Group of the Arab CSOs and Feminists Network and was recently selected by UN Women to serve on the Generation Equality Multi-Stakeholder Leadership Group (2022–2025), representing civil society organizations on behalf of WCLAC.

Randa's lifelong work centers on advocating for justice, equality, and the protection of women's rights in contexts of prolonged conflict and occupation, making her a key voice in both regional and international gender equality and human rights efforts.

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Radmila Žigić, Director of Foundation Lara Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Radmila Žigić (Brčko, 1960) graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade in 1984, with a degree in Journalism. She has over 25 years of experience working in the media. As a long-term activist and director of the Foundation "Lara," she has dedicated her efforts to advocating for women's rights. Since 1998, Radmila has led initiatives aimed at protecting women from domestic violence. In 2011, she founded a safe house for women and children victims of domestic violence in the Bijeljina area and surrounding cities. She initiated the research project "Women in the History of Semberija" (2010–2018), resulting in three published books and an exhibition highlighting the fight for women's rights and emancipation, representing a significant contribution to documenting women's history in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 2014, she has served as the coordinator of the women's peace movement "Peace with a Woman's Face," which unites 14 women's human rights organizations. The movement develops actions and policies aimed at increasing women's security in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including integrating gender considerations into transitional justice processes. Radmila is also the author and editor of numerous publications and research works. She resides and works in Bijeljina.

11:00 – 12:30

Theme 1: Global
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Facilitator: Jo-Anne Bishop, UN Women Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Jo-Anne Bishop has 20 years of international experience, including senior management with the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and governmental and non-governmental institutions in a broad range of countries. Prior to serving as Deputy Regional Director of the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, she held senior advisory positions with the UN Mission in Kosovo, OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liberia Governance Commission, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and Timor-Leste Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality. She headed and established the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and served as Chief of Party of the Canadian Governance Support Office in Afghanistan. She has led more than 15 global, regional and country-level strategic reviews and evaluations for a range of UN entities including UNFPA, UNDP, IOM, and UN Women in Asia-Pacific, Europe and Central Asia aimed at strengthening performance and increasing the impact of the UN system. Jo-Anne Bishop holds an MA Degree in International Affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs in Canada.

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13:00 – 14:00

Theme 2: From
Commitment to Action
– Interactive Breakout
Discussions

GROUP 1



Introductory Reflection: Sopio Rusetski, Head of Gender Department, Public Defender's Office of Georgia

Sopio Rusetski is a dedicated expert with 18 years of experience working on issues of gender equality, violence against women, and domestic violence. She spent ten years working in the Office of the Public Defender of Georgia, during which she authored three publications on implementing the National Action Plan of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace, and Security," providing recommendations for government agencies and producing other thematic reports. For the past four years, she has been leading the Gender Department, actively contributing to policy development and the protection of women's rights. As a trainer, she provides education on topics such as gender equality, violence against women, early marriage, femicide, and human security. She is a member of the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence Against Women, and Domestic Violence, serving in the working groups on "Women, Peace, and Security" and "Early Marriage and Other Harmful Practices." Additionally, she participates in the femicide working group at the Parliament of Georgia, further advocating for women's rights and safety.

13:00 – 14:00

Theme 2: From
Commitment to Action
– Interactive Breakout
Discussions

GROUP 1



Facilitator: Karine Sujayan, Head of Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Karine Sujayan is a seasoned Armenian diplomat and expert in international human rights and humanitarian law. She currently serves as the Head of the Department for Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, a position she has held since 2019. Her diplomatic career spans over three decades, including postings as Deputy Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and First Secretary at the Armenian Embassy in Poland. Ms. Sujayan has been a driving force behind Armenia's engagement with international organizations on human rights issues, having led related divisions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs across multiple terms since the early 2000s. She holds the diplomatic rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. She is the author of the book *Armenia: Human Rights – Domestic Context and International Politics*, and has published over 50 articles on human rights, diplomacy, and international cooperation. A graduate of Yerevan State University in Philology and Journalism, she has also undertaken specialized human rights training in Finland, Poland, Switzerland, the U.S., and Egypt.

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Theme 2: From
Commitment to Action
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Discussions

GROUP 2



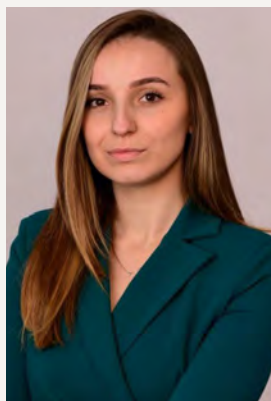
Introductory Reflection: Lieutenant Colonel Strašo Stojčevski, Ministry of Defence of North Macedonia

Lieutenant Colonel Strašo Stojčevski received his education at the Army Military Academy in Belgrade and the Command Staff College at Skopje, North Macedonia. Commissioned into the Army of the Republic of North Macedonia in 1992, he commanded Signal Platoon from 1992-1993 and Signal Company from 1993-1996; was Deputy Battalion Commander and Battalion Commander from 1996 to 2000; and was Head of G-6 from 2000 to 2003. He held the appointment of Adviser for bilateral cooperation in the Ministry of Defense before becoming staff officer in NATO JFC HQ Brunssum 2009-2013. He was appointed as Adviser for NATO-led operations and exercises in 2013. He is a certified Gender Trainer since 2014, planning, conducting and evaluating gender perspective related training events in the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of North Macedonia and Army of the Republic of North Macedonia, as well as instructor and syndicate leader at courses around the region and Europe (Serbia, Georgia, United Kingdom, Croatia). He graduated from the Gender Field Adviser Course 2015 at the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations. He works on the implementation of previous and the new National Action Plan of the Republic of North Macedonia for implementation of UNSCR 1325.

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Theme 2: From
Commitment to Action
– Interactive Breakout
Discussions

GROUP 2



Facilitator: Dafina Peci, Head of the Youth Congress in Albania

Dafina Peci has served as the Executive Director of the National Youth Congress of Albania since 2016. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Relations and a Master of Science in Regional Politics and Security. In addition, she completed postgraduate training focused on post-conflict security, peacebuilding, and mediation institutions.

Since 2017, Dafina has also been academically engaged as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

One of the most significant milestones in her career in the field of youth and peacebuilding was her role in the Working Group for the establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), where she served as one of Albania's two state representatives. She later became the Albanian representative on RYCO's first Governing Board, serving a three-year mandate.

Through her work, Dafina has been a strong advocate for youth participation, regional cooperation, and peacebuilding, contributing to policy development and institutional frameworks that promote youth empowerment and interethnic dialogue in the Western Balkans.

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GROUP 3



Introductory reflection: Branka Antić Štauber, President of Association "Snaga žene", Bosnia and Herzegovina

Prim. Dr. Branka Antić Štauber from Tuzla graduated in 1982 from the Medical Faculty in Tuzla. She is a specialist in infectious diseases and a family doctor. She is one of the founders of the "Snaga žene" (Woman's Strength) Association, where she is currently the president, and she also works as a physician. Since the founding of the association, she has been engaged as a doctor in the prevention and monitoring of chronic and infectious diseases in displaced persons' settlements in the Tuzla Canton. Since 2001, she has been actively involved in monitoring the first returnees to the Srebrenica region. She was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit - a deserved recognition for her decades-long engagement with survivors of sexual violence during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 at the German Embassy in Sarajevo. She is a co-author of two significant books on *Helicobacter pylori* and a collaborator with the medical magazine *Acta Medica Saliniana*. As a doctor, since 1997 she has been working in the private clinic Medica in Tuzla. She has received awards for her contributions to the development of the municipality of Tuzla and for achievements in improving and protecting the human environment, preserving cultural and natural surroundings, and significant contributions in health, culture, education, science, sports, as well as humanitarian and other charitable activities. She was also awarded the "Unusual European Woman" award at the Prix Europa radio festival in Berlin.

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Theme 2: From
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Discussions

GROUP 3



Facilitator: Biljana Stepanov, Director of Center for Support of Women, Serbia

Biljana Stepanov is a senior expert in the prevention of gender-based violence, human security, and women's rights, with over 20 years of experience in civil society development, legal reform, and policy advocacy. As Director of the Center for Support of Women in Serbia, she has led numerous national and international projects focused on improving institutional responses to violence against women, developing victim-centered services, and promoting multisectoral collaboration. Her work is rooted in a human security framework, with a particular emphasis on improving the criminal justice response to gender-based violence and femicide, especially in cases involving firearms. She has provided expert support in developing investigative protocols, training curricula, and policy recommendations to prevent firearm misuse in domestic violence. She has received advanced training in gender equality and human rights from Cambridge University, the OSCE Leadership and Management Programme, and the Women's Human Rights Training Institute (WHRTI). She has served as a consultant and lead researcher for OSCE, ODIHR, UN Women, UNDP, and the Council of Europe. Her contributions have been recognized nationally and internationally, including the OSCE "Person of the Year" award and the "Anđelka Milić" Award for feminist activism and social change.

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GROUP 4



Introductory Reflection: Shahla Ismayil, Chair of Women's Association for Rational Development, Azerbaijan

Shahla Ismayil has over 25 years of experience advancing gender equality and women's rights. She chairs the Women's Association for Rational Development (WARD). She directs "Gender Port," Azerbaijan's first gender-oriented think tank. Since 2020, she has served as the elected country facilitator for the Azerbaijan National Platform of the EaP Civil Society Forum. Shahla is a founding member of the WPS Advisory Council and participates in dialogue platforms for peace in the South Caucasus.

She has led over 130 projects and authored more than 170 publications on human rights, gender, and civil society. Shahla developed formal versions of Azerbaijan's NAP 1325 and is a certified international expert in Human and Institutional Capacity Development, advocacy, and coaching. Her awards include the Bob Hepple Equality Award (2018), France's National Order of Merit (2022), and Azerbaijan's National Medal "Progress" (2023).

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GROUP 4



Facilitator: Inger Skjelsbæk, Research Professor at the PRIO Center on Gender, Peace and Security, Norway

Inger Skjelsbæk is a professor at the University of Oslo and at the Centre on Gender, Peace, and Security, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) where she researches political violence, gender norms and transitional justice. She is currently leading a project on European children born of war (EuroWARCHILD) funded by the European Research Council Consolidator Grant 2021–2026.

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Theme 3: Access to
Justice – Strengthening
Local-Global
Connections



Atifete Jahjaga, Founder of Jahjaga Foundation, president of Kosovo ¹
(2011 - 2016)

Atifete Jahjaga was the first woman to serve as president of Kosovo, from 2011 to 2016. A staunch advocate for women's rights, she works to empower women and support survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. During her mandate, with a Presidential Decree, President Jahjaga established the National Council for the survivors of sexual violence during the war, which paved the way to the creation of legal infrastructure for survivors' rights and mobilized public support for their inclusion in peace processes. In 2018, she founded the Jahjaga Foundation, focusing on youth and women's empowerment to drive social change.

15:00 – 16:30

Theme 3: Access to
Justice – Strengthening
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Connections



H.E. Fatmir Gjeka, Minister of Human and Minority Rights of
Montenegro

Fatmir Gjeka (Bar, Montenegro, 1975) graduated from the Faculty of Economics at the "Luigj Gurakuqi" University in Shkodër in 1997 and completed postgraduate studies in entrepreneurial economics at the University of Montenegro (2005–2007).

From 2002 to 2011, he served as Secretary for Budget and Finance in the Municipality of Ulcinj, before becoming Director of the Public Enterprise in Ulcinj in 2011. That same year, he was elected President of the Democratic Party.

Elected as a Member of Parliament in the 2012 elections through the Albanian Coalition, he served on the Committee on European Integration and the Anti-Corruption Committee and chaired the Parliamentary Club of Albanian Parties, the Croatian Civic Initiative, and the Liberal Party.

Gjeka was elected Mayor of Ulcinj in 2014, serving until 2016. In 2018, he became President of the Ulcinj Tourism Organization. He returned to Parliament in 2020, representing the Albanian Coalition "Unanimously." Since April 2022, he has served as Minister of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro, where he continues to promote equality, minority rights, and social inclusion.

¹All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

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Munira Subašić, President of Association "Movement of Mothers of Srebrenica and Žepa Enclaves", Bosnia and Herzegovina

Munira Subašić was born in 1948 in Stjenica near Rogatica. From 1967 to 1989, she lived with her husband, Hilmo, in Srebrenica, where she gave birth to two sons. From 1989 until the beginning of the war, she lived with her family in Vlasenica, and then returned with her family to Srebrenica, where they remained until July 1995. She survived the genocide in which 22 members of her immediate family were killed, including her husband, Hilmo, and her younger son, Nermin, who was just under 20 years old when he was killed in July 1995. She is the recipient of several acknowledgments and awards: "Victor Gollanz" – German Society for Threatened Peoples, the Golden Charter of Peace "Linus Pauling" – International League of Humanists, the "Women-Heroes of the Century" award from the Istanbul municipality of Bayrampaşa. She is the recipient of the Human Rights Award from the Spanish Bar Association. She is the founder and president of the Association "Movement of Mothers of Srebrenica and Žepa Enclaves".

15:00 – 16:30

Theme 3: Access to
Justice – Strengthening
Local-Global
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Khrystyna Kit, Chair of Ukrainian women lawyers association "JurFem"

Khrystyna Kit is the coordinator of the expert group on conflict-related sexual violence at the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine and co-chair of the sub-pillar group "Access to Justice and Responsibility" within the Inter-Agency Working Group on Combating Sexual Violence Related to Russia's Armed Aggression against Ukraine and Assistance to Survivors. For over fifteen years, Khrystyna has been engaged in women's rights advocacy. In 2017, she co-initiated and co-founded the Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association "JurFem". Her work focuses on the challenges women face in accessing justice and legal protection, identifying legislative gaps, and addressing discriminatory gender-based practices. She is actively involved in developing and implementing legislation and public policies, training for social workers, police, judges, and lawyers on women's rights and gender-based violence, and conducting monitoring and research in this field.

Khrystyna also leads strategic litigation and legal training efforts for attorneys, prosecutors, investigators, and judges. Her work emphasizes a survivor-centered approach in cases of violence against women, applying the European Convention on Human Rights, CEDAW, and other European standards in court and investigative practice.

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Theme 3: Access to Justice – Strengthening Local-Global Connections



Facilitator: Justine Coulson, UNFPA Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Country Director for the Republic of Albania, Republic of Serbia and Republic of North Macedonia, and Director for Kosovo (UNSCR 1244)

Justine Coulson is the UNFPA Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Country Director for the Republic of Albania, Republic of Serbia, Republic of North Macedonia, and Director for Kosovo (UNSCR 1244). She was previously the UNFPA Representative in China and Country Director for Mongolia, and the Deputy Regional Director for East and Southern Africa. Before joining UNFPA, she worked for MSI Reproductive Choices as the Regional Director for South Asia and held country leadership positions in Nepal, Tanzania and Uganda. Prior to this, she worked as an adviser in the Poverty Research and Policy Centre at Save the Children UK. Throughout her career, Justine has led complex programmes and research initiatives across Asia, Africa and Latin America to address child poverty, increase access to primary health care, prevent violence against women and create opportunities for young people. She is a passionate advocate for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality. Justine holds a PhD in Gender and Development from the University of Newcastle, UK and began her career as a Gender and Social Development Advisor at the university, where she conducted international research on a wide range of topics related to urban development and social inclusion.

16:30 – 17:00

Closing Remarks for Day 1



Laura Lungarotti, Western Balkans Coordinator and IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina Chief of Mission

Laura Lungarotti officially assumed the position of the Western Balkans Coordinator and Chief of Mission of IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina in January 2021. In this capacity, she leads the IOM actions and strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans. She has 21 years of experience working in international humanitarian aid and development; first with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, then with the Italian COSPE NGO, and since 2003 with IOM in Geneva, Egypt, Yemen, Morocco, Senegal/West Africa, and Mauritania in various capacities. Laura has contributed to the IOM's Principles for Humanitarian Action (IOM's Humanitarian Policy), drafting the specific chapter on Protection, and has developed the Protection Mainstreaming in Crisis Response policy for IOM in 2014 and 2015. During her mandate in HQ Geneva, Laura engaged on behalf of IOM, in the UN-led institutional discussions for the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration, and with the specific theme of children on the move. Prior to her posting in Sarajevo, Laura served as the Chief of Mission in Nouakchott, Mauritania where she also worked on the support and protection for rescued and intercepted migrants at sea. She holds a Bachelor's degree in political science - International Relations from the University of Firenze, Italy, a Master's degree in Anthropology of Development from SOAS, University of London, and a Post-Graduate Diploma from the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Firenze on Education and Cultural Pluralism.

DAY 1 – 12 June 2025

European House of Culture and National Minorities (Patriotske lige bb, Kemal Monteno Park), Sarajevo

Time & Session

Speakers

18:00 – 19:30

Evening Programme & Reception – Opening of the exhibition "Speaking Out" of the War Childhood Museum

Opening remarks



Dr. Ingrid Macdonald, UN Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ingrid Macdonald (Australia) assumed the position of the UN Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina in April 2020.

She most recently worked at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as Deputy Director for Operations and Advocacy overseeing the Asia Pacific region. At OCHA, she was also head of the Ukraine office and a Director with the Peer-2-Peer Support Project supporting Humanitarian Coordinators and country teams strengthen their collective delivery of humanitarian response. Prior to joining the United Nations, she served in leadership positions with international non-profits, the private sector and government for 19 years. She worked for the Norwegian Refugee Council as Representative in Geneva and held positions in Afghanistan, Norway and Pakistan. She also worked with Oxfam in Australia, Sudan and throughout the Asia Pacific region; served as Deputy Director with the New Zealand Defence Force; and worked as a management consultant in Australia.

She has a PhD in History from the Université Toulouse - Jean Jaurès, a graduate diploma in International Law from the University of Melbourne and a bachelor's degree in Law and Geography from the University of Auckland. She recently published her book: "Humanitarian Action and Counter Terrorism in the Muslim World".

18:00 – 19:30

Evening Programme & Reception – Opening of the exhibition "Speaking Out" of the War Childhood Museum

Opening remarks



Samra Filipović-Hadžiabdić, Director of the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH of the Ministry for Human Rights and refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Samra Filipović-Hadžiabdić is the Director of the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH. In this capacity, she plays a central role in developing national strategies to mainstream gender equality across all government sectors.

Her leadership has been key to the adoption and implementation of major policy frameworks, including the fourth generation of the Gender Action Plan of BiH, the Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, and the Framework Strategy for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

She has led the drafting process of the Law on Gender Equality in BiH and has been instrumental in establishing gender institutional mechanisms since the early 2000s. She also initiated the development of Gender Master Studies programs in the country.

Recognized internationally for her expertise, she has served as an expert for the Council of Europe and the United Nations. Notably, she was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee responsible for drafting the Istanbul Convention. She regularly represents Bosnia and Herzegovina at UN sessions and leads national delegations in dialogues with UN treaty bodies.

DAY 1 – 12 June 2025

European House of Culture and National Minorities (Patriotske lige bb, Kemal Monteno Park), Sarajevo

Time & Session

Speakers

18:00 – 19:30

Evening Programme & Reception – Opening of the exhibition "Speaking Out" of the War Childhood Museum

Opening remarks



Amina Krvavac, Executive Director of the War Childhood Museum, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Alongside the Museum's small, inaugural research team, Amina Krvavac was engaged in a two-year grassroots campaign that culminated in the opening of the War Childhood Museum in January 2017.

Amina holds a BA in International Relations from the International University of Sarajevo and an MA in Children's Rights from the University of Geneva. Since 2020, Amina has been a member of the Board of Directors of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience Europe – a network of museums, historic sites, and memory initiatives connecting past struggles to today's movement for human rights.

In 2021, Amina joined the European Museum of the Year Award (EMYA) Jury, where she currently serves as the Jury Chair. The EMYA scheme, founded in 1977 by the European Museum Forum, aims to support, showcase, and award excellence and innovation in the museum field.

Amina believes in museums as spaces for social action and drivers of change, and she is particularly interested in unlocking the potential of museums in transitional justice processes.

18:00 – 19:30

Evening Programme & Reception – Opening of the exhibition "Speaking Out" of the War Childhood Museum

Keynote address



Midheta Kaloper, President of Association of War Victims "Foča 92-95", Bosnia and Herzegovina

Midheta Kaloper, born in Foča in 1972, is the president of the Association of War Victims of Foča 92–95. She is the voice of the victims and a fighter for justice. As a protector of memory and human rights, she advocates for preserving the dignity of victims and promoting the culture of remembrance. She has been actively working in the field of human rights since 2005. She currently lives in Sarajevo and is the mother of two daughters.

DAY 2 – 13 June 2025

City Hall, Sarajevo

Time & Session

Speakers

09:00 - 09:15

Opening session
- Recap of Day 1

Dr. Ingrid Macdonald, UN Resident Coordinator in BiH

09:15 – 10:45

Theme 4: Strengthening
Commitments to
Women's Participation
in Peace and Mediation
Processes



Madeleine Rees, OBE, former Secretary General of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, United Kingdom

Madeleine Rees is a lawyer. She served in Bosnia and Herzegovina as head of the office of the OHCHR from 1998 to 2006 and was then Head of the Gender Unit of the OHCHR in Geneva. In 2010 she became Secretary General of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

09:15 – 10:45

Theme 4: Strengthening
Commitments to
Women's Participation
in Peace and Mediation
Processes



Loredana Teodorescu, President of the Women in International Security Italy and Head of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network

Dr. Loredana Teodorescu is the President of Women In International Security (WIIS) Italy, organisation affiliated to a global network dedicated to advancing women's leadership and achieving gender equality in the field of international relations, peace and security. She also leads the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, initiative launched by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2017 and since then implemented by Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and WIIS Italy. Additionally, she is a senior fellow at IAI, a council member of the European Council for Foreign Relations and a member of networks of experts, including the Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Fundamental Rights Agency, the Consultative Forum of the European Asylum Agency, and the NATO Civil Society Advisory Panel on WPS. From 2020 to 2022, she also managed the Secretariat of the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks. She has been advising different think tanks, institutions and organisations, including the Italian Parliament, UN Women and OSCE. Her areas of research and interest focus on women, peace and security, women's leadership, participation and networks, mediation, and EU governance and policies, in particular migration and asylum, the link between internal security and external relations and foreign policy. She earned a PhD from Roma Tre University focusing on migration.

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Time & Session

Speakers

09:15 – 10:45

Theme 4: Strengthening Commitments to Women's Participation in Peace and Mediation Processes



Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini, MBE, Founder and Executive Director of International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), Iran/United Kingdom

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini MBE joined the London School of Economics and Political Science as Director of the Centre for Women, Peace and Security in December 2019. Sanam is a globally recognised advocate in the field of women, peace and security, with 24 years' experience as a peace strategist working on conflicts, crises and violent extremism with a mix of civil society, governments and the UN. Sanam is the founder and CEO of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) where she spearheads the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) comprising independent women-led organisations active in 40 countries, preventing violence and promoting peace, rights and pluralism.

In 2000, she was a civil society leader and drafter of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and in 2011 she was the first Senior Expert on Gender and Inclusion on the UN's Mediation Standby Team, working on Somalia, Libya and Syria among other cases. Her current appointments include serving on the Steering Board of the UK's National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security, the Commonwealth's Panel of Experts on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), UNDP's Civil Society Advisory Council and as adjunct professor at Columbia University. She was the 2014 recipient of the UN Association Perdita Huston Award for human rights and the 2016 Greeley Peace Scholar at the University of Massachusetts.

09:15 – 10:45

Theme 4: Strengthening Commitments to Women's Participation in Peace and Mediation Processes



Oxana Brighidin, Women's Advisory Board member, Moldova

Oxana Brighidin is a lawyer and a member of the Women's Advisory Board in Moldova. She currently serves as a Justice and Anti-Corruption Analyst and Programme Officer at the Soros Foundation Moldova, where she leads initiatives aimed at promoting fairness in the justice system, advancing legal reforms, and strengthening anti-corruption mechanisms. Her work integrates legal research, policy advocacy, and capacity building to enhance the independence, effectiveness, and transparency of justice institutions.

Oxana previously held positions at the Ministry of Justice, the Legal Resources Centre from Moldova, the Moldovan Institute for Human Rights, and Concordia Social Projects. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science with a specialization in Diplomatic Studies, as well as Bachelor's degrees in Law and International Relations from Moldova State University.

In addition to her current work, she is a trainer within the National Network for Legal Education and an active member of professional legal communities, including the Moldovan Bar Young Lawyers Association and the Action for Justice Platform. She also serves as a national delegate to the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

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Speakers

09:15 – 10:45

Theme 4: Strengthening Commitments to Women's Participation in Peace and Mediation Processes



Facilitator: Denis Džidić, Executive Director of Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), Bosnia and Herzegovina

Denis Džidić has worked as a journalist since 2006, focusing on transitional justice and war crimes trials. He joined BIRN BiH (Balkan Investigative Reporting Network) in 2008 and has held several editorial positions before being appointed Executive Director and Editor in 2019.

Throughout his career, he has contributed to raising public awareness and understanding of post-conflict justice through investigative reporting, analysis, and editorial leadership. His work emphasizes the importance of transparent and accountable journalism in strengthening the rule of law, particularly in post-war societies.

Under his leadership, BIRN BiH has become a leading source of independent reporting on justice, human rights, and accountability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

11:15 – 12:30

Theme 5: Financing the WPS Agenda



H.E. Åge Sandal Møller, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ambassador Møller was appointed Danish Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina on 1 November 2024. Prior to that he served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Denmark in Türkiye. Ambassador Møller has held positions as Deputy Director for Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and Counsellor at the Embassy of Denmark in Ethiopia.



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City Hall, Sarajevo

Time & Session

Speakers

11:15 – 12:30

Theme 5: Financing the
WPS Agenda



Christopher Gilbert Sheldon, World Bank Country Manager for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro

Christopher Sheldon joined as Country Manager in July 2021 and is responsible for the overall World Bank program in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro covering diverse sectors including the financial, business climate, health, water, transport, energy, environment, governance, agriculture, forestry, and employment sectors. Most recently he held the position of Practice Manager with the Energy and Extractives Global Practice, in the Infrastructure Practice Group of the World Bank. He had responsibility for the Extractives unit's operations in all six regions of the Bank and the global trust funded programs. Christopher joined the Bank in 1999 and worked on diverse sector issues including legal and fiscal policy, private sector investment, environmental sustainability, community development, transparency and governance.

Before joining the World Bank, Christopher had a 10-year career in the private sector working for an international mining company in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines and as a Chartered Accountant in his home of Sydney, Australia. He holds an MBA from the University of Newcastle, is an Australian Chartered Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Economics (in accountancy and legal studies) from Macquarie University.

11:15 - 12:30

Theme 5: Financing the
WPS Agenda

Awa Dabo, Director and Deputy Head of Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)



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Speakers

11:15 – 12:30

Theme 5: Financing the WPS Agenda



Facilitator: Nargis Azizova, UN Women Regional Policy Advisor, Women, Peace and Security

Nargis Azizova is the Regional Policy Advisor on Women, Peace and Security for UN Women Regional Office in Europe and Central Asia (ECARO) starting from October 2022. Previously, she led the intergovernmental, normative and knowledge management work at the UN Women ECARO and supported UN Women offices and partners across thematic areas through the normative, partnership and intergovernmental angles. She facilitated the UN Women engagement and contributions to key intergovernmental, civil society and multi-stakeholder platforms. She supported UN Women Coordination work at regional level and has represented UN Women in some countries of the region with no UN Women presence, especially Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Prior to her assignment in UN Women ECARO, she worked for the UN Women Multi-country Office for Central Asia in Almaty and led the Regional Programme for Labour Migration in Central Asia, also covering WPS and DRR. She led preparations for the annual Open Day for Peace dialogues and cross-country events, as well as cross-border programmatic work in Central Asia. She was instrumental in UN Women's engagement in the preparations for the humanitarian summit 2014 and DRR related intergovernmental dialogues/processes at the sub-regional level. Nargis has been working for more than 20 years in the United Nations system in various capacities, including as Assistant Representative of the UNDP programme and as UNIFEM Gender and Governance Advisor to the UNCT in Tajikistan. Prior to joining the UN, Nargis worked at the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Tajikistan for more than 10 years, including as head of the Department of International Economic Relations.

14:00 – 15:30

Theme 6: Catalytic Partnerships for Peace



H.E. Darja Bavdaž Kuret, Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, former Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations

Ambassador Darja Bavdaž Kuret is the Special Envoy and Ambassador at Large for Women, Peace and Security and Empowerment of Women in International Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia. She is a Slovenian diplomat, social scientist and women's rights advocate. She was posted as Permanent Representative in UN and Ambassador to Russian Federation, India, Hungary, Sweden and Israel. Ambassador Bavdaž Kuret served as a Special Advisor for Gender Equality to the President of the 76th Session of UN General Assembly Abdullah Shahid.

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14:00 – 15:30

Theme 6: Catalytic
Partnerships for Peace



Lara Scarpitta, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

Dr. Lara Scarpitta is the OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and Head of the Gender Issues Programme in the Office of the Secretary General, a role she assumed in May 2022. A recognized expert in peace mediation and the Women, Peace and Security agenda, she has extensive experience supporting women's participation in peace processes across South East Europe and the MENA region, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Syria, Yemen, and Libya.

Before joining the OSCE, Dr. Scarpitta served for over 15 years with the European Union in various roles across Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Brussels, and the EU Delegation to the UN in Geneva, with a focus on gender and mediation. Notably, she played a key role in establishing the Syrian Women Platform in 2018, connecting grassroots women activists with UN-led peace initiatives.

She is a board member of Women in International Security (WIIS) Italy, a visiting professor on peacebuilding and reconciliation at the College of Europe, and an advisor since 2019 to George Mason University's Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution.

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.

14:00 – 15:30

Theme 6: Catalytic
Partnerships for Peace



Sebastian Gahnström, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE

Sebastian is a career diplomat with the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He has worked and lived in Tanzania, Russia, Germany and the US. For the past 5 years, he has worked with the OSCE in Vienna. Promoting gender equality has run through Sebastian's career, and in the OSCE, he was in the lead for the recently launched OSCE-wide Roadmap on WPS implementation. Sebastian received the OSCE White Ribbon in 2021 for his work on promoting gender equality.

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Theme 6: Catalytic
Partnerships for Peace



Facilitator: Miki Jačević, Vice-President at Inclusive Security

Mirsad “Miki” Jačević is a seasoned peacebuilding and conflict resolution practitioner with nearly 30 years of global experience. A native of Bosnia and Herzegovina, he witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of war, which shaped his lifelong commitment to conflict prevention, violence reduction, and post-conflict recovery.

Most recently, he served as the Senior Women, Peace and Security Adviser at the Office of Global Women’s Issues at the U.S. Department of State. He is currently Vice Chair of Inclusive Security, Senior Fellow at Our Secure Future, and Lead Associate at Gender Associations International.

He has authored key resources such as the Women Waging Peace curriculum and contributed to the development of training on Security Sector Reform and National Action Plans (NAPs). A globally recognized trainer, he has facilitated over 700 training sessions and developed academic courses on peacebuilding, gender, and advocacy at universities worldwide.

His core focus is on helping governments translate international WPS commitments into actionable national policies. He has worked with over 80 governments and facilitated WPS NAP Academies in collaboration with ASEAN, the African Union, OSCE, UNDP, and UN Women.

15:30 - 16:00

The Way Forward -
Conference Conclusions
and Closure

H.E. Åge Sandal Møller, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark in Bosnia and Herzegovina

H.E. Darja Bavdaž Kuret, Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, former Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations

Samra Filipović-Hadžiabdić, Agency for Gender Equality of BiH of the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina

