



Conference Speakers

Bathilde Diouf, Executive Director, AfricAgir

Bathilde Diouf is the Executive Director of AfricAgir, a nonprofit organization advocating for women empowerment and children's education in West Africa. She was the program Coordinator of the University of the District of Columbia's (UDC) Campaign 9:30 program, an HIV/AIDS Awareness and prevention program funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). There, she was instrumental in the development and implementation of a peer-led program targeting students from minority-serving institutions. She also worked for the UDC's Paving Access Trails for Higher Security (PATHS) program funded through the Temporary Assistance for Needed Families (TANF) program. Prior to working for PATHS, Bathilde worked for the Center for Applied Research and Urban Policy and the Early Care and Education Administration. She received a Bachelor's degree in Management from HECI Casablanca (Morocco), two others in Finance and Economics, and an M.B.A. from the University of the District of Columbia where she is currently pursuing a Masters in Public Admin.

Maureen Greenwood-Basken, Executive Director, Universal Access Project and Director of Policy Initiatives, UN Foundation

Maureen's work encompasses two decades of dedication to human rights and social justice. She was Acting Managing Director of the Government Relations and Advocacy Development Unit of Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) and for ten years AIUSA Advocacy Director for the Middle East, Europe, Central Asia, women, and other human rights topics. At the Union of Councils, she undertook human rights work in the former Soviet Union. She has an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Slavic Studies from the University of Michigan and a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Chicago.

Joanne Manrique, Chief Executive Officer, Global Health and Diplomacy

Joanne is also president of International Development Strategies and is the former executive director of the Susan G. Komen Global Health Alliance. She has advised multiple global leaders, including Senator John Kerry and Sarah Brown, former first lady of the United Kingdom, on global health issues. Ms. Manrique holds a master's in international relations from the University of Maryland and a M.P.H. and doctorate from George Washington University.

Belkis Giorgis, NGO Capacity Building/Gender Advisor, Management Sciences for Health

Belkis's areas of expertise are reproductive health, social mobilization, orphans and vulnerable children, and adolescents. She has previously served as the Gender and NGO Capacity Building Technical Advisor for MSH's Ethiopia HIV/AIDS Care and Support Program and consulted for the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia and the Organization of African First Ladies. Belkis Giorgis received her Ph.D. in African Studies from Howard University.

Erin Prangley, Associate Director for Government Relations at American Association for University Women

At AAUW, Erin works to implement a public policy program which underscores AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls. She regularly lobbies members of Congress and administration officials and works in partnership with diverse coalitions to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls. After graduating from American University's Washington College of Law, Erin worked as a legislative assistant to Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC). She also was the Democratic staff director for the Congressional Women's Issues Caucus and founder of a law practice representing military veterans and interests of minority-owned businesses and represented immigrants seeking to adjust status. In 2004, Erin left private practice to work as Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA). She ran a congressional district office for several years before returning to Washington again to work on Capitol Hill. Erin was elected to the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, County Central Committee in 2008, and in the same year was named "Democrat of the Year for the 40th California Assembly District."

Joan Timoney, Director of Advocacy and External Relations, Women's Refugee Commission

Joan's non-profit background includes serving as Vice President for Programs at the Partnership for Public Service and as the first Director of the Crisis Corps program and Chief of Staff of the Peace Corps. She has also worked in Congress, serving in the office of then-House Majority Whip John Brademas, the late Senator Quentin Burdick, and Senator Kent Conrad. Timoney is a graduate of The George Washington University and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Elsie-Bernadette Onubogu, Sr. Policy advisor, Peace and Security, UN Women

Elsie-Bernadette has worked at the Commonwealth as a gender advisor in the Social Transformation Programmes Division and advised the Secretary General on women, peace and security and political participation issues. Her tenure at the UN includes working in the Division for the Advancement of Women, where she was responsible for 2 critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as work on CEDAW and CSW. She also served as an investigator to the UN Tribunal for Rwanda with 3 UN peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia and East Timor. Elsie-Bernadette Onubogu is an International Lawyer with expertise in the area of human rights and gender. She also has a degree in Sociology and Anthropology, and received a Masters degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston.

Karen Mulhauser, President, Mulhauser & Associates

After having service as executive director of the Center for Education on Nuclear War, Citizens Against Nuclear War, and NARAL, Karen started a progressive consulting firm for non-profits, grant makers, and candidates for public office. Karen serves on many boards and is the current president of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area. Her work as founder of the Women's Information Network is acknowledged every year with the awarding of the Karen Mulhauser Award to the woman who has done the most to support younger women. Karen graduated from Antioch College and did graduate study at Tufts University.

Jamille Bigio, Senior Advisor on Peace and Security and Africa Specialist in the U.S. Secretary of State's Office of Global Women's Issues

Jamille Bigio joined the U.S. Department of State in 2009, serving as Senior Advisor on Peace and Security and Africa Specialist in the U.S. Secretary of State's Office of Global Women's Issues. During her tenure at the Department of State, Ms. Bigio was detailed to the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy to cover the women, peace, and security portfolio, and to the U.S. Mission to the

African Union to cover the United Nations-African Union relationship. Ms. Bigio's professional experience is in humanitarian affairs and post disaster/post conflict reconstruction. She worked on gender advocacy with the policy unit of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in New York, and with OCHA in Ethiopia on building the Government of Ethiopia's capacity for disaster management. She has also focused on Iraq, working for the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq on analysis of the humanitarian and development response in Iraq, and with the Brookings Institution, which published her research on durable solutions for Iraq's internally displaced population. She has conducted research for the World Bank on the intersection of gender, poverty, and infrastructure. At the grassroots level, she worked for NGOs in Ethiopia on public health programming. Ms. Bigio received her Master's degree from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and has received numerous honor awards for her work in the U.S. government.

Mikaela Beardsley, Executive Producer of HALF THE SKY

The producer of award-winning documentary television for over 15 years, Mikaela Beardsley, was inspired by Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Working closely with the authors, she originated the transmedia project in 2007. HALF THE SKY now includes a 4-hour PBS television series, a cutting-edge social action game, mobile games for India and East Africa, and an array of educational and advocacy content for NGOs working on ending gender inequality in their communities. Beardsley began her television career at WGBH in Boston, and holds a B.A. in Comparative Literature from Princeton University.

Laura Liswood, Secretary General, Council of Women World Leaders, Senior Advisor, Goldman Sachs

Laura Liswood, a nationally recognized speaker, author, and advisor, has contributed to women's leadership and diversity for many years. Laura is co-founder of the White House Project and, also, the Council of Women World Leaders. She is Secretary General to the Council, a formidable group composed of women heads of state and government. Her work at Goldman Sachs focuses on globalization and workforce diversity. Laura has an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.A. from California State University, San Diego. She was also awarded a J.D. degree from the University of California, Davis School of Law, and is admitted to practice in California and Massachusetts.

Tiffany Dufu, President, The White House Project

As Vice President and, now, President of The White House Project, Ms. Dufu has focused her passions on empowering women and girls. She expanded the Project to appeal to a broader audience while empowering women in politics and society as a whole. A proven fundraiser and voice for women, Tiffany is a frequent speaker on nonprofit fundraising and women's leadership. She holds a B.A. and M.A. in English and a Certificate in Fundraising Management from the University of Washington.

Farah Pandith, Special Representative to Muslim Communities, U.S. Department of State

Prior to her current appointment as Special Representative to Muslim Communities in 2009, Farah was Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs - a new U.S. position created to engage with Muslim communities in Europe. Her career spans numerous countries and international and government agencies from the National Security Council to USAID. She has been a consultant in both the private and public sectors. Farah Pandith received a B.A. in Government and Psychology from Smith College and her Master's degree in Law and Diplomacy (M.A.L.D.) from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

Emily Martin, Vice President and General Counsel, National Women's Law Center

Prior to joining the Center, Ms. Martin served as Deputy Director of the Women's Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, where she spearheaded litigation, policy, and public education initiatives to advance the rights of women and girls, with a particular emphasis on the needs of low-income women and women of color. She also served as a law clerk for Senior Judge Wilfred Feinberg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Judge T.S. Ellis, III, of the Eastern District of Virginia and previously worked for the Center as a recipient of the Georgetown Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship. She has served as Vice President and President of the Fair Housing Justice Center, a non-profit organization in New York City. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and Yale Law School.

Caitlin Horigan, Legislative Policy Analyst, Population Action International

Caitlin Horigan joined PAI's U.S. Government Relations team to continue her work to eliminate health disparities and increase access to reproductive health and family planning services through legislation. She has devoted her volunteer and career efforts to advocacy, previously working for Planned Parenthood Federation of America on state legislation and emerging policy issues. She sits on the Executive Committee of the Women's Information Network (WIN). Caitlin graduated from Vassar College with a B.A. in Political Science.

Jamila Taylor, Senior Policy Advisor, Ipas

Jamila Taylor joined Ipas in 2009, a global nonprofit dedicated to ending maternal deaths and disabilities from unsafe abortions. She has 14 years of public policy and advocacy experience. Prior to joining Ipas, Jamila worked at The AIDS Institute (TAI) where she was instrumental in the development and implementation of the WIN Project – ‘Women Informing Now’ - an interagency program focusing on international and domestic efforts around critical issues for women and families impacted by HIV & AIDS. Taylor received a Master's degree in Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Howard University.

Sandeep Bathala, Program Associate, Environmental Change and Security Program and Global Health Initiative, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Sandeep Bathala is a program associate for the Environmental Change and Security Program and the Global Health Initiative. Prior to joining the Wilson Center, she was the Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program Director where her efforts included coordinating study tours to India and Ethiopia to build a strong base of support for integrated reproductive health and environmental projects supported by USAID and U.S. contributions to the UN Population Fund. She also spearheaded advocacy partnerships with family planning agencies in Albania and Mali at Planned Parenthood. Sandeep holds a B.A. in Sociology and Women's studies and an M.S.W. with an Administration, Planning, and Policy Focus, from Rutgers University.

Crystal Lander, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Management Sciences for Health

Crystal Landers manages the international organization's U.S. and global health policy in MSH's focus areas of HIV/AIDS, family planning/reproductive health, maternal and child health, fragile states, women and gender health issues. Before joining MSH, Crystal was Senior Advocacy Advisor at the Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) and the Campus Program Director at the Feminist Majority Foundation. She is the Advocacy Chairperson on the National Board of USNC-UN Women. Crystal was awarded her B.A. in Economics from the University of Michigan and her M.P.H. from Tulane University School of Public Health.