



## Interactive dialogue on the priority theme

### Eliminating violence against women in public life

Wednesday, 17 March 2021, 9.00 -11.00 a.m., Informal virtual meeting

#### Speaker Bios

##### Moderator

**Mr. Martin Chungong** made history in 2014 by becoming the first African to be elected IPU Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Mr. Chungong has dedicated his professional life to promoting democracy worldwide for more than three decades. He has become a leader in developing programmes assisting parliaments to become more transparent, accountable, representative and effective democratic institutions. Mr. Chungong is also an International Gender Champion, part of a network of decision-makers, men and women, who have committed to breaking down gender barriers.

##### Panelists

**Dr. Laura Albaine** is a researcher at the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) and she teaches at the University of Buenos Aires and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) Argentina. She is also a co-coordinator of the Gender and Politics Group of the Latin American Political Science Association (ALACIP). Ms. Albaine advised on the design and implementation of the Plan for Real Equality of Opportunities and Treatment between Men and Women (Law No. 474) of the City of Buenos Aires and the Electoral Directorate of the district. Ms. Albaine holds a degree in Political Science and a Ph.D. in Social Sciences from the University of Buenos Aires. Her area of expertise is gender-based violence against women in politics and electoral parity in Latin America.

**Ms. Racha Haffar** is Tunisian gender justice and anti-human trafficking and modern slavery activist and the CEO and co-founder of the Youth Against Slavery Movement and the Anti Slavery

Collective for Generation Equality. Ms. Haffar holds consultative and leadership positions in several organizations, such as African Youth Networks Movement, United Africans against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, and UN Women's Gender Innovation Agora and Generation Equality Youth Task Force. Ms. Haffar was honored three times and received the Women's Rights Award from the United Nations Association, the Leadership Award from the University of Kentucky, and the campaigner award from Thomson Reuters Foundation.

**Ms. Nino Lomjaria** is the Public Defender of Georgia. She previously served as the First Deputy Auditor General in the State Audit Office of Georgia and as the Secretary-General of the European Network of Election Observer Organizations. Ms. Lomjaria also held the position of Executive Director of the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED). She was awarded the title of the Human Rights Activist of 2014 for her activism and advocacy to promote and protect human rights with a focus on electoral rights and women's political participation. In 2019, Ms. Lomjaria was named as the Woman Leader of the Year in Government at the Annual Conference on Women's Role in Economic Growth and Development of Reforms.

**Ms. Wafa Bani Mustafa** is a Chairperson of the Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries to Combat Violence against Women and a former Member of the Jordanian House of Representatives for three consecutive terms. She was the first Jordanian woman to chair a bloc two times. In 2013, Ms. Wafa Bani Mustafa founded the Jordanian Women's Caucus. She also held the position of Vice-Chair of the IPU Standing Committee for Sustainable Development. In 2019, she was recognized for her activism in human and women's rights by Khalil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace at the University of Maryland in the USA.

**Ms. Sandra Pepera** is a career diplomat and international development professional. Before joining NDI as its director for Gender, Women and Democracy in 2014, she spent thirteen years as a senior officer at the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), including leading programs in the Caribbean, Rwanda-Burundi and Sudan. Prior to joining DFID, Sandra spent time in British domestic politics; lecturing in political science and international relations at the University of Ghana; and as a political analyst in the Political Affairs Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat. She has a portfolio of skills and experience which include strategy development, political and risk analysis, diplomacy, general management and corporate governance.

**Ms. Åsa Regnér** is the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, UN System Coordination and Programme Results. Ms. Regnér also served as Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality of Sweden. She has extensive experience in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment, having held various leadership positions in government, Non-Governmental Organizations and the United Nations. She has led important processes and campaigns as a leading advocate for feminism and gender equality in Sweden and beyond. She has built and managed strong partnerships with a range of key stakeholders, including women's movements and civil society, both at the global and in country contexts.