



# Women's Involvement in Peace Processes through Partnerships with **Religious and Traditional Actors:** Lessons Learned and Steps Forward

**Date: Tuesday, 28 June 2016**

**Time: 1:00 – 2:30 pm (light lunch to be served at 1:00 pm)**

**Location: UNHQ, CR 7**

The Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN, UN-Women and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers cordially invite you to an UN-Women Board Meeting side event bringing together civil society practitioners, experts and senior officials to discuss and advance practical means to effectively support women's and young women's engagement in mediation and peacebuilding processes as faith actors and/or through strengthened partnerships with religious and traditional actors.

The UN explicitly recognizes the vital role women, young women and religious actors play in mediation, peacebuilding processes and preventing violent extremism as progressively laid out in UNSCR 1325 (2000), the UNGAR 65/283 (2012), UNSCR 2242, the Action Plan for Preventing Violent Extremism, and the recently adopted UNSCR 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security. Given today's conflict trajectories, now more than ever, a move beyond silos to a deepened exploration and more effective practical actions that support the intersection between gender, religion and peace are vital. Advancing more collaborative, inclusive approaches among and/or with women and young women of faith and/or through their partnerships with religious and traditional actors where religion is a key to identity will contribute to more effective peace efforts in, for some instances, Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar, Syria, the Philippines. Therefore, while there are key justifications for exploring the role of women and young women in mediation and peacebuilding processes in general, understanding how women and young women of faith's actions and partnerships with religious actors may effectively support and/or hinder inclusivity in peace advancements is crucial.

The event will provide important inputs for the development of a human rights approach that may be utilized to advance practical, contextually tailored, and sustainable international and multilateral policies and programs that advance deepened understanding and collaboration among gender, religion and peace actors. Therefore, the objectives of the event are threefold: 1. evolve deeper understanding of these intersections; 2. share practical strategies and actions; and, 3. discuss and advance means to more effectively recognize and support women and young women's engagement in religiously framed peace mediation and –building processes. Importantly, the event builds upon women's and young women's direct experiences and engagements in religiously framed peace mediation and –building processes in their communities, countries and regions across the globe.

## **Moderator:**

**Antti Pentikainen**

*Executive Director*

*Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers*

## **Speakers:**

**Susan Hayward**

*Director, Religion and Inclusive Societies*

*United States Institute of Peace*

**Lone Jessen**

*Senior Gender and Political Advisor a.i.*

*Gender, Peace and Security Unit, Policy and Mediation Division*

*United Nations Department of Political Affairs*

## **Opening Remarks:**

**H. E. Mr. Kai Sauer**

*Permanent Representative of Finland*

**H.E. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**

*Executive Director*

*UN-Women*

**James Patton**

*Executive Vice President*

*International Center for Religion and Diplomacy*



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

The Network for  
Religious and  
Traditional  
Peacemakers

