



# **Early Childhood Development as a Strategy to Eradicate Poverty and Reduce Inequalities in a Migration and Refugee Context**

**9 February 2017**

**11:45am—1:00pm**

**UN Headquarters, Conference Room E**

## **Welcome and Introduction**

Moderator: Prof. Eva Richter, UN representative for the Poverty Elimination and Community Education (PEACE) Foundation and Co-founder and Treasurer of the NGO Committee on Migration

## **Activities of the Group of Friends on Children and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly regarding early childhood development**

H.E. Mr. Olivier Maes, Deputy Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations

## **SDGs from negotiation to implementation: An overview**

Dr. Jimena Leiva Roesch, Senior Policy Analyst, International Peace Institute, New York

## **Investing in the Early Years of Life: A Transformative Power in Refugee and Migrant Settings**

Dr. Rima Salah, Chair of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC) and Adjunct Faculty Member at the Child Study Center, Yale University

## **Why Invest in Refugee and Migrant Children?**

Prof. Neil Boothby, Allan Rosenfield Professor and Director, Program on Forced Migration and Health

## **Small miracles in the midst of inhumanity**

Sr. Winifred Doherty, RGS, UN Representative, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

## Speaker Bios

**Prof. Neil Boothby** is the Allan Rosenfield Professor and Director of the Program on Forced Migration and Health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

Boothby's research is focused on the developmental outcomes of children growing up in abject poverty, war, and other adverse environments. Dr. Boothby worked with UN and NGO agencies in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, including as the Senior Coordinator for Refugee Children with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the director of Save the Children's children in crisis division. He recently returned from a two year leave of absence during which time he served as the U.S. Government Special Advisor and the Senior Coordinator for the USAID Administrator on Children in Adversity. Dr. Boothby has also received a number of awards, including the Red Cross International Humanitarian of the Year Award, the Mickey Leland Award, and the UN's Global Achievement Award for Excellence in the Social Sector.

**Sr. Winifred Doherty, RGS** is a Good Shepherd Sister from Ireland. Winifred has been the NGO Representative to the United Nations for the Sisters and Mission Partners since 2008. She is a social worker by profession graduating from University College Cork, Ireland. She worked in Ethiopia for 16 years empowering the girl child and young women through education and micro finance programs. She collaborates at the United Nations with other NGO's in efforts for poverty eradication, ending prostitution and human trafficking, ending violence against women and girls and the promotion of the girl child. She is a director of the Working Group on Girls and is currently a core team member of the NGO Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors

**Dr. Jimena Leiva Roesch** joined IPI as Senior Policy Analyst in 2015. She currently leads research projects on the implementation of the SDGs at regional and national levels and on the role of the private sector in the SDGs. Previously, Jimena was at the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the UN in New York, where she last served as Counselor. She was the lead negotiator for the sustainable development goals and the 2030 agenda. She was also Guatemala's focal point for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

**H. E. Mr. Olivier Maes** is Deputy Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations in New York since August 2010. Before assuming this position, Mr. Maes was Deputy Director for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg. Born in 1974, Mr. Maes is married and has two children.

**Prof. Eva Richter** is a UN representative for the organization Poverty Elimination and Community Education (PEACE) Foundation, with headquarters in New York and ties to Bangladesh, an organization concerned with the education of women and the human rights of migrants, regardless of religion or ethnicity. Professor Richter entered the NGO arena in 2002 after her retirement from a long career as a professor of English at various colleges and universities in the US and abroad, including the City University of New York, where a majority of the students are foreign-born migrants. She has served on the Executive Committees of the Committee on Migration, which she co-founded in 2006, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, and the UN Department of Public Information (DPI); she is also a member of the NGO Committee on Human Rights. She has written papers and lectured on migration and on various aspects of CEDAW. In her commitment to advocating for the rights of all migrants and refugees, especially for the realization of equality and gender justice for migrant and refugee women and girls, she has organized many workshops, seminars and panels.

**Dr. Rima Salah**, a national of Jordan, is a member of the Faculty of the Child Study Center at Yale University School of Medicine. She holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology (SUNY-Binghamton). She recently served as a Member of the United Nations High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. A former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, U.N. Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), Dr. Salah has had a distinguished career with UNICEF. Dr. Salah has received many awards of distinction from several non-governmental organizations and U.N. Member States, including the French Legion of Honor. In October 2015, Dr. Salah was elected to Chair the newly formed Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC) of which Yale is a founding member.