



UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, 5 MARCH 2009 **"Women and Men United to End Violence Against Women and Girls"**

N.B.: The Day is being marked at Headquarters during the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Official Observance

OPENING STATEMENTS Conference Room 2, 10.00 am – 10.45 am

Address

Mr. BAN Ki-moon, Secretary-General.

Speakers

H.E. Mrs. Aja Isatou Njie Saidy, Vice President and Secretary of State for Women's Affairs of the Republic of the Gambia

H.E. Ms. Maria del Rocio Garcia Gaytan, President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico

H. E. Ms. Tanya Plibersek, Minister for the Status of Women of Australia

PANEL DISCUSSION Violence against women and girls in the context of armed conflict.

Conference Room 2, 10.45 am – 12.00 pm

Moderator

Pamela Falk, CBS News Correspondent and Professor of International Relations and Law at Hunter College, New York.

Panelists

Radhika Coomaraswamy, United Nations Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict
Violence against women and girls in the context of armed conflict

Yakin Ertürk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women
Violence against women: the scope and dimensions of a global challenge

William Lucy, International Secretary-Treasurer of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
Violence against women in the work place

Imrana Jalal, Human Rights Lawyer and Advisor at the Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team
Ending violence against women and girls: using the law to create change

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION TO FOLLOW.

Press Conference

Room S-226, 12.30 pm – 1.00 pm

Press conference to be moderated by Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women. Panelists will include Radhika Coomaraswamy, Yakin Ertürk, William Lucy, and Imrana Jalal (titles as above).

Launch Of The Secretary-General's Database On Violence Against Women

Conference Room 2, 1.15 pm – 2.45 pm

Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro will launch a new database on violence against women which will provide the first 'one-stop shop' for information on measures undertaken by Member States to address violence against women, as well as available data and statistics. The event will be chaired by the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Frank Majoor.

Speakers will include

Carolyn Hannan, Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women

Senator Pia Cayetano of the Philippines

Dubravka Simonovic, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Cheryl Thomas, Advocates for Human Rights

Aminata Toure, UNFPA

Theatre Performance And Panel Discussion

Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium, 6.00 pm

Performance of the play MIKA, an awareness-raising play developed and performed by the theatre ensemble Tiyatroglobal and inspired by the United Nations Secretary-General's call to UNite to End Violence against Women. Panel discussion to follow immediately.

Moderator

Margaret Novicki, Chief, Communications Campaigns Service, Strategic Communications Division, UN Department of Public Information

Panelists

Paul L. King, Executive Director; Director of Theater Programs, Office of the Arts and Special Projects, New York City Department of Education

Role of the arts education in creating empathetic, imaginative and sensitive individuals and the importance of giving voice to students in exploring the issue of violence against women

Julie Crosby, Producing Artistic Director, Women's Project.

Examples of good practices and strategies for empowering women to be heard and seen

Helen E. Richardson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theater, Artistic Director, Tiyatroglobal

Theater as a cultural model for understanding and implementing social change

Tom Sellar, editor of Theater magazine, Yale School of Drama and Duke University Press, and assistant professor (adjunct) of Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism at the Yale School of Drama.

Aesthetic strategies for global goals: how does the MIKA project relate to other contemporary theater work regarding social change?

Emilya Cachapero, Director of Artistic Programs, International Theatre Institute-US, Theatre Communications Group
Effectively fund-raising for developing media and arts projects to promote a culture of non-violence against women and girls

Liliana Hendel, Psychologist and Feminist Journalist, Argentina

Role of the media in preventing violence against women and girls