

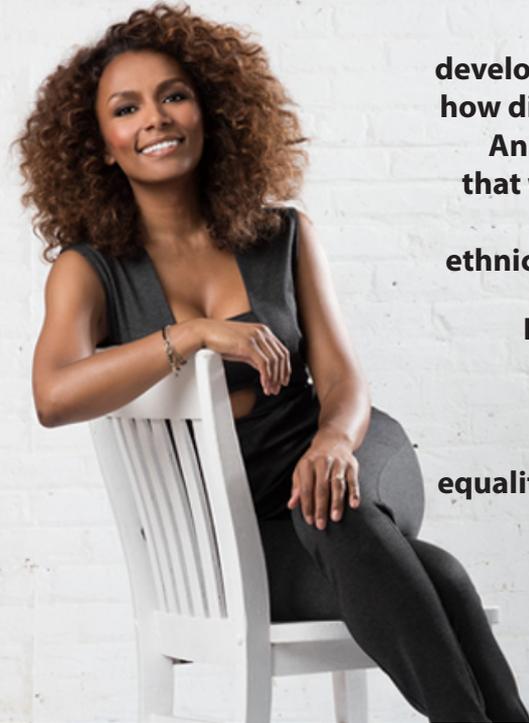


# Intersectionality

## An Inclusive and Effective Approach To Gender Equality

When: Monday, 13 March 2017, 11.30-12.45

Where: Conference Room 8 – GA Building



**Intersectionality is a tool for analysis, advocacy and policy development that addresses intersecting inequalities. It helps us understand how different sets of identities impact on access to rights and opportunities.**

**An intersectional approach to gender equality acknowledges the fact that women have different experiences based on aspects of their identity including race, social class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, age as well as other forms of identity.**

**In this panel debate writer and gender rights activist Janet Mock discusses the importance and benefits of intersectionality with activists from around the world who have an intersectional approach to gender equality. With this side event the Netherlands strives to contribute to further progress in finding common ground between persons, organizations and governments that are committed to gender equality.**

## Speakers



### **Japleen Pasricha – Founder and Director Feminism In India (FII)**

Feminism In India is an award-winning digital intersectional feminist platform to learn, educate and develop a feminist consciousness among the youth. FII amplifies the voices of women and marginalized communities using tools of art, media, culture, technology and community. FII aims to serve as India's first feminist portal for resource & documentation purposes for everything related to feminism in India and a new media community platform for people to break their silence and raise their voices. Japleen smashes the patriarchy for a living. Sex+ve, intersectional feminist, writer, educator, and researcher, she is also a solo traveller and former German lecturer.

### **Jon O'Brien – President Catholics for Choice (CFC)**

Catholics for Choice (CFC), the leading prochoice organization advocating for sexual and reproductive rights from a standpoint of culture, faith, justice and morality. Mr. O'Brien presents a visionary approach to reproductive health policy, focused on advancing reproductive health access for all women and increasing public support for abortion and contraception. Mr. O'Brien speaks for millions of Catholics in the US and abroad when he challenges the powerful Catholic hierarchy on these issues, urging a greater respect for core Catholic values of individual conscience and social justice.



### **Anthony Keedi - Program Manager at ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality.**

He has been working in Lebanon for his past 8 years piloting and promoting the concept of Engaging Men in Ending Violence Against Women. He is, also, certified in conflict resolution. In his work thus far, he and his colleagues have: Created local forums of men standing to end Gender Based Violence in the rural area of Baalbeck, Lebanon; Oversaw the 1st ever White Ribbon Campaign in the Middle East; wrote a supplemental workbook of 20 games for facilitating discussions on Gender Equality with adolescents and young adults; worked with Iraqi & Syrian Refugee men in raising their awareness of Gender Based Violence, Gender Equality, Masculinities and stress and anger management; He has authored qualitative research on as well as overseen qualitative research Masculinities in Lebanon; and helped establish the 1st psychological rehabilitation clinic for men with abusive behaviors in the Middle East.



# Concept note

*How do we name and address differences in experience and form a common agenda at the same time?*

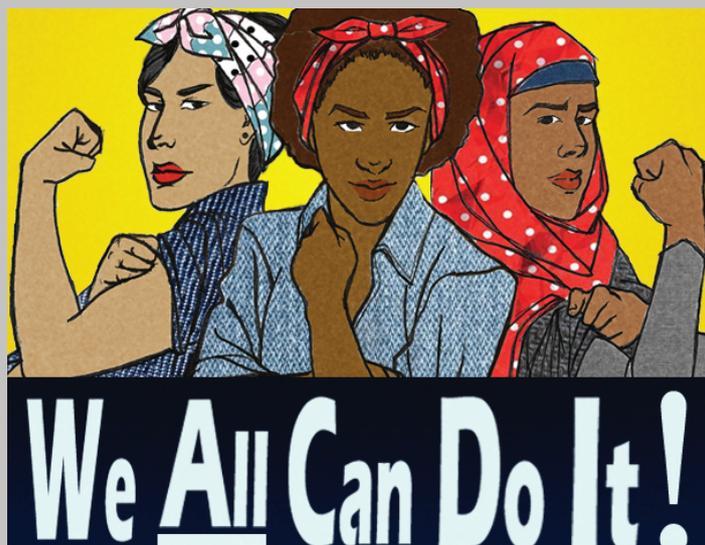
The identity politics of the gender equality movement has been a source of community and strength. However, identity politics sometimes ignores the differences within a group. This becomes problematic when the challenges women face are caused by other dimensions (or a combination of those dimensions) of their identities.

*How can policy advisors, diplomats and activists work in a more intersectional manner and how can it help us in becoming more inclusive, united and effective?*

Obviously not all women around the world share the same experiences. When government officials base their policies solely on the experience of women as if they were one homogenous group, those policies will not be effective. Policies failing to address the multiple identities of women do not work for women who face different challenges because of other aspects of their identities. The same goes for civil society: if NGOs do not address the differences between women, they run the risk of being ineffective, excluding groups of people, or even contributing to further marginalization.

*How can you be an ally?*

It is therefore important to name and address our multiple identities. Naming these identities is in itself a key step in the empowerment process that leads to a greater understanding of women's experience of intersecting inequalities. Every year at the CSW the multiple identities of women are clearly represented in the presence of a diversity of women and women's organizations. They all strive passionately to share the unique experiences they have, and the challenges they face because of their intersecting social identities. Here lies a challenge: how does it affect our work if we focus and sometimes even reduce ourselves and each other to only one aspect of that identity? What language and concepts are most useful when striving for a gender equality that is inclusive and which alliances can be created to make sure we stay united and effective? Intersectionality might just be the key.



All are invited, RSVP: <https://goo.gl/forms/XCnNoAmedMMHlvU83>.  
For further information, please contact: [s.warmerdam@minocw.nl](mailto:s.warmerdam@minocw.nl)  
The event will be held in English. No interpretation will be provided.