

WOMEN AND GIRLS: FROM ADVERSITY TO HOPE



17 March 2016
10 - 11:15 a.m.
Conference Room 1



Opening Remarks

Hawa Diallo, Public Information Officer, NGO Relations, Advocacy and Special Events,
Department of Public Information (DPI)

Moderator

Zainab Zeb Khan, President, Muslim American Leadership Alliance (MALA)

Video Clip: Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, **Malala Yousafzai**, (Malala Foundation) addressing youth at
the United Nations in 2013

Presenters

MoniCa Singh, Founder, Mahendra Singh Foundation

Consolee Nishimwe, Motivational Speaker, Author, and a Survivor of the Rwanda Genocide

Naila Amin, College Student, Child Bride Survivor and Activist

Sarri Singer, Founder, Strength to Strength

Alexandra Akira, Executive Producer, Goddess in Progress

Film clip: "Woman" film series featuring **Winona LaDuke**, Indigenous Women Leader



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Webcast: webtv.un.org

Website: outreach.un.org/ngorelations

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#CSW60

#UNNGO2016

**60th Session of the Commission on the
Status of Women (CSW60) Side Event**

OPENING REMARKS



Hawa Diallo

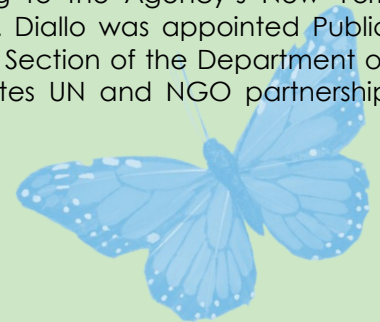
Public Information Officer,
NGO Relations, Advocacy
and Special Events,
Department of Public
Information

 @salonetihawa
 @UNDPINGO

Ms. Hawa Diallo comes to the Department of Public Information with extensive United Nations experience in public information outreach and fostering civil society partnerships, with a particular emphasis on youth and women's organizations.

She began her United Nations career in 1987 with the Department of Public Information in New York, where she worked in various public information capacities. From 1992 to 1994, she served in two United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Cambodia and Somalia, respectively.

Upon her return to New York, Ms. Diallo joined the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General until moving to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Nairobi, as an Associate Human Settlements Officer and later worked as a Partners and Youth Officer until moving to the Agency's New York Liaison Office in 2010. In June 2013, Ms. Diallo was appointed Public Information Officer in the NGO Relations Section of the Department of Public Information, where she coordinates UN and NGO partnership activities.



MODERATOR



Zainab Khan

President, Muslim
American Leadership
Alliance (MALA)



Ms. Zainab Khan is the President of the Muslim American Leadership Alliance (MALA). Ms. Khan is a therapist, award winning painter, and human rights advocate. She became an activist after eye-opening experiences counseling survivors of domestic violence and organizing exhibitions for artists facing repression.

A former Senior Clinician holding a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology, Ms. Khan also co-curated the International Museum of Women's exhibition "Muslimah: Muslim Women's Arts and Voices" and served as a United Nations Association delegate to the 59th Commission on the Status of Women. The YWCA Chicago gave her its 2014 Racial & Social Justice Award.

She has published in *The Daily Beast* about young Muslim-Americans' struggles with bigotry; written about gender-based violence for *No Ceilings*; featured in *Cosmopolitan Magazine*; and appeared in the groundbreaking documentary *Honor Diaries*. She gave a notable TEDx talk, "How to Fight Injustice Without Saying a Word". Ms. Khan was honored as a "Global Hero" for *Safe Magazine's* 2015 issue, and was recognized as one of *Fortune Magazine's* 2015 Most Powerful Women Next Gen. She is also a speaker for the 66th Conference on *World Affairs*.

SPEAKERS



Monica Singh

Fashion Designer and
Motivational Speaker

 @MonicaSingh91

Ms. Monica Singh is a fashion designer, motivational speaker and survivor of an acid attack. She is pursuing a degree in Marketing at Parsons, The New School for Design in New York.

Today, Ms. Singh has become an inspirational and motivational speaker. She recently spoke at the UN during a Humanitarian Award function and was a guest speaker on international human rights at Brooklyn Law School. Ms. Singh also had an opportunity to speak on Women Against Violence at the 2015 Parliament of World Religions meetings held in Utah. Spreading awareness about violence against women and girls has given her a motive to create a new life through her mission. She recently spoke at the UN 2016 International Women's Day Observance.



Consilee Nisimwe

Motivational Speaker and
Author

 @nconsolee

Ms. Consilee Nisimwe is a survivor of the Rwanda Genocide. Born in Western Province, Rwanda, Ms. Nisimwe migrated to the United States in 2001 where she has taken a progression of steps to overcome the multi-faceted traumatic events she suffered during the genocide and to chart a new course for her life.

In 2012, Ms. Nisimwe released her memoir *Tested to the Limit: A Genocide Survivor's Story of Pain, Resilience and Hope*. In recognition of her courage and accomplishments, she was awarded the 2013 ASALH Living Legacy Award, the NSANGA STEP UP Service Award, and was recently listed in the ISSUU magazine by the Together for Girls Organization as one of 50 Global Heroes who help stop sexual violence against children in the world.



Naila Amin

University Student
and Activist

Ms. Naila Amin, is a survivor of a forced marriage and currently resides in New York. Ms. Amin studies social work at Nassau Community College and wants to specialize in working with survivors of forced marriage. She wants to open up the first group home for survivors of forced marriage, and for males and females escaping honor violence. Ms. Amin has big plans for the future. Her biggest dream is to criminalize forced marriage and raise as much awareness as possible.

SPEAKERS



Sarri Singer

Founder and Director,
Strength to Strength

 @sarrisinger


Ms. Sarri Singer, Founder and Director of Strength to Strength, a non-profit organization which focuses on bringing together victims of terrorism around the world and assisting with long term psychological care. In 2001, Ms. Singer moved to Israel to volunteer with various organizations working with victims of terror and their families.

Ms. Singer has addressed audiences throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, South America and Israel and continues to share her unique insight into the ongoing struggle for victims of terrorism in Israel and around the world. (www.stosglobal.org)



Alexandra Akira

Executive Producer,
Goddess in Progress

 @AlexandraAkira

Ms. Alexandra Akira is a Philanthropist, Humanitarian, Environmentalist and Social Justice Entrepreneur. Ms. Akira is an Executive Producer whose main focus is to utilize art, music, and the entertainment industry as catalysts for change. She has consulted for fashion, financial, art, cultural, governmental and historic preservation agencies, and provides strategic planning and project management services. She has worked with city, state, and federal government agencies, implementing and strategically developing incentives and initiatives to increase economic development and job creation, while maintaining and growing sustainable economies.

Prior, she was an Executive in Charge of Development and Production for Viacom Entertainment, Paramount Pictures, Disney Publishing, and Ziff Davis for fifteen years, and was instrumental in the development of the Noggin Children's Television Network. Ms. Akira attended the University of Connecticut and the School of Visual Arts in New York City, where she lives with her daughter Gabriella, and is committed to making tremendous contributions to this world.



SAMPLE TWEETS

- [#DPINGO](#) Briefing will focus on the personal stories of women worldwide rising above adversity in their lives to achieve a future of strength. [#CSW60](#)
- [#DPINGO](#) Briefing focus is on [#SDG5](#) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment [#CSW60](#) [#StickTOAGoal](#)
- Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls is the review theme of [#CSW60](#). [#DPINGO](#) [#SDGs](#)
- Did you know women spend 1 to 3 hours more a day on housework than men? [.@UN_Women](#) [#CSW60](#) [#DPINGO](#)
- Companies greatly benefit from increasing leadership opportunities for women, which is shown to increase organizational effectiveness [#CSW60](#) [#DPINGO](#)
- [#CSW60](#) will focus on women's empowerment & its link to sustainable development [#DPINGO](#) [#SDGs](#)
- Learn more about girl's education and the SDGs at [#UNNGO2016](#) Conference in the Republic of Korea at [#DPINGO](#) [#SDGs](#) <http://goo.gl/E3598S>
- Globally, women are paid less than men. Women in most countries earn on average only 60 to 75 per cent of men's wages [#CSW60](#) [#DPINGO](#)
- Increasing women and girls' education contributes to higher economic growth [#CSW60](#) [#DPINGO](#)
- When women are at the peace tables, the probability of a peace agreement increases at least 20% in 2 years, & 35% in 15 years [#CSW60](#) [#DPINGO](#)
- [.@UN_CSW](#) Global review shows the progress made on women's rights from historic Beijing Conference has not been enough [#CSW60](#) [#DPINGO](#)
- [.@UN_CSW](#) today, only one in five parliamentarians is a women [#CSW60](#) [#DPINGO](#)
- Happily announcing Republic of Korea to host 66th [#DPINGO](#) Conference in Gyeongju, 30 May—1 June [#UNNGO2016](#)



Special Thanks to:

NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

Global Family

International Council of Women

Muslim American Leadership Alliance

World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations

Africa Development Interchange Network

Global Family for Love & Peace



www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment

#GlobalGoals #sticktoagoal

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<http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations>