

## **7th Annual Symposium on the Role of Religion and Faith-based Organizations in International Affairs**

**2021: A Defining Year for  
Accelerating Gender  
Equality, Equity and Justice**



January 26 2021, 8:00 am - 12:30 pm EST

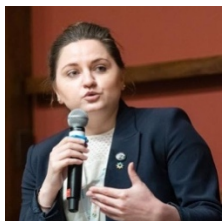
### Speaker bios

#### Co-moderators for Symposium:



**Peter Prove** is the director of the World Council of Churches' Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA). Educated at the University of Queensland, Australia, he previously served as executive director of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and as assistant to the general secretary for international affairs and human rights at the Lutheran World Federation. As part of his extensive experience of relations with the United Nations, Prove has served as a member of the International Advisory Group on Universal Access of UNAIDS, and of the Advisory Group on Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

He was also president of the Committee of NGOs on Human Rights, Geneva, and a founding member of the International Dalit Solidarity Network and the International NGO Committee on Human Rights in Trade and Investment. Prove is currently serving on the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Role of Faith.



**Samira Fatma Baručija-Homoras** is from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. For most of her ten-year long experience in civil society, she has worked to raise awareness, motivate and empower individuals and groups, reinforcing their role in the change they want to see. Her work is focused on trying to facilitate dialog, interfaith work, and reinforce the importance of living together for the sake of peace and security. Peacebuilding is the overall term Mrs. Barucija-Homoras uses to describe what she does.

Mrs. Barucija-Homoras works as the Regional Coordinator for the United Religions Initiative for the Multiregion, working to support grassroots interfaith organizations and create cultures of peace, justice and healing. URI is a global grassroots interfaith network that cultivates peace and justice by engaging people to bridge religious and cultural differences and work together for the good of their communities and the world. Her local and regional outreach and work is done through a youth-led, youth-founded organization called Youth for Peace. Most of her work nowadays is focused on peacebuilding and creating cultures of peace. Working with young people from her county, a post-conflict society has challenged her to shake the status quo and encourage young people she is working with to do the same. On the local level, Mrs. Barucija-Homoras held a number of executive positions in different NGOs working on student's rights, interfaith and peacebuilding. She is also a part of the UNDP's Global Youth Programme as one of 16 young people from around the world, working toward fulfilling the UN's 2030 agenda and SDG 16.

### High Level Opening Session: Multi-stakeholder collaboration to accelerate Gender Equality, Equity and Justice



**Prof. Dr. Azza Karam** serves as the Secretary General of Religions for Peace – the largest multireligious leadership platform with 92 national and 6 regional Interreligious Councils. She also holds a Professorship of Religion and Development at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, in The Netherlands – of which she is a citizen. She served as a Senior Advisor on Culture, at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and as Coordinator/Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development (UN IATF-R&D); and founder of the Multi Faith Advisory Council of the UN IATF-R&D. In those capacities, she coordinated engagement with members of a Global Interfaith Network for Population and Development with over 600 faith-based organizations from all regions of the world, representing all religions and interreligious affiliations. She was the Lead Facilitator for the United Nations' Strategic Learning Exchanges on Religion, Development and Diplomacy, building on a legacy of serving as a trainer cum facilitator of intercultural leadership and management in the Arab region as well as Europe and Central Asia.

Professor Karam has served in different positions in the United Nations since 2004, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations since the early 1990s, such as International IDEA, OSCE, and Religions for Peace. Simultaneously, she lectured in various academic institutions in Europe, in North America (including the United States Military Academy/West Point), Africa and the Middle East.

Her Ph.D. in 1996, focused on Political Islam, and became her first book in Arabic (her mother tongue) and in English. She has since published widely, and in several languages, on international political dynamics, including democratization, human rights, peace and security, gender, religious engagement and sustainable development. She was born in Egypt, and now lives in the United States.



**Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka** is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. Now in her second term (to 2021), she was first sworn into office on 19 August 2013. As the head of the UN entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, she is a global advocate and has led the organization's innovative work on disruption of society's norms. Through coalition and movement building among global leaders in public and private sectors, and with civil society, she is driving the role of women in leadership, and ending discrimination and violence against women and girls. Before joining UN Women, she served in the Mandela Government as Minister of Minerals and Energy, and subsequently Deputy President, working on the fight against HIV/AIDS and coordinating efforts between the private sector, civil society and government to tackle poverty and education issues. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka also worked as a teacher and gained international experience as a coordinator at the World YWCA in Geneva, where she established a global programme for young women. She is the founder of the Umlambo Foundation, which supports leadership and education.



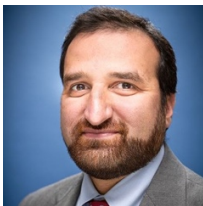
**Alice Wairimu Nderitu** of Kenya is the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. Ms. Nderitu is a recognized voice in the field of peacebuilding and violence prevention, having led as mediator and senior adviser in reconciliation processes among communities in Kenya, as well as in other African settings. She served as Commissioner of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission in Kenya, as well as Founding Member and co-Chair of the Uwiano Platform for Peace, a prevention agency linking early warning to early response. She is also the founder of Community Voices for Peace and Pluralism, a network of African women professionals preventing, transforming and solving violent, ethnic, racial and religious conflicts worldwide. Ms. Nderitu's national experience includes her tenure as Director of the Education for Social Justice programme at Fahamu, and as Head of the Human Rights Education and Capacity-Building Programme for the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and its predecessor, the Standing Committee on Human Rights. Previously, she was Researcher and Administrator of the Kenya Prisons Service within the Ministry of Home Affairs. She is a member of the Kenya National Committee on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination, as well as the African Union Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (Fem-Wise), and the Women Waging Peace Network. Ms. Nderitu holds a master's degree in armed conflict and peace studies and a Bachelor of Arts, Literature and Philosophy from the University of Nairobi. She is a Transitional Justice Fellow at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in South Africa. Widely published, she is the recipient of awards recognizing her commitment to peaceful conflict resolution throughout Africa and her innovative approach to mediation.



**Mr. Ib Petersen** serves as the Deputy Executive Director, Management of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Before that he served as the Director for the Department of Migration, Conflict and Stabilization of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, brings to the position over 30 years of experience within the spheres of bilateral and multilateral affairs and development. Prior to his position as Department Director, Mr. Petersen served as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations from 2013-2019, during which he held several important duties. Most notably, Mr. Petersen has served on the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programmes, including as President of the Joint UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board in 2017, and most recently as Special Envoy for ICPD25 and the Nairobi Summit as well as Special Envoy for Conflict and Fragility.

Mr. Petersen started his long-serving career with the Danish Ministry in 1985. Throughout his service, he notably held the positions of State Secretary of Development Cooperation, Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United Nations from 2007-2009 and State Secretary for Development Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2009-2013. During this time, Mr. Petersen led the development of new strategies for Danish development cooperation, strengthened results-based management and successfully implemented development campaigns and initiatives to support economic growth in Africa, and to support women's rights and empowerment, including through the “MDG3 Global Call to Action” campaign.

Mr. Petersen holds a Master’s Degree in Political Science from the University of Aarhus.



**Anwar Khan** is the President of Islamic Relief USA, a humanitarian and advocacy organization that was established in 1993. The organization works in more than 40 countries, helping to alleviate poverty and hunger, and improving access to healthcare, education and sustainability. He has long advocated for gender justice and women's empowerment, as a means to improve society in general and improve human rights, local economies, and equity. He has helped to champion projects intended to aid and enrich the lives of orphans and widows. This includes a project where women are able to open their own bank accounts and make transactions. Since its inception, some 25,000 women have their own bank accounts. This has enabled women to practice personal finance, and by extension, control their own destiny. Anwar Khan was also heavily involved in the Alternative Livelihood for Orphans project, which provided financial literacy, sustainable livelihood. He was instrumental in recruiting female volunteers for IRUSA since its beginning. This was at a time when many American Muslim organizations were not utilizing female volunteers as much as they should. He also was able to increase their

impact by expanding and strengthening their network and dismantling the barriers that contribute to gender inequity.

A couple of years ago, Anwar Khan and Rob Radkte co-authored a column that appeared in Newsweek about the need for religious leaders to implement effective methods to combat gender-based and sexual violence. Together with Episcopal Relief and Development, IRUSA helped facilitate a dialogue with religious leaders in Liberia, about the need to re-examine teachings in holy texts that in actuality encourage gender equality. This approach helped reduce violence considerably. The column about this initiative is available online: <https://www.newsweek.com/religion-blamed-violence-against-women-we-are-christian-muslim-leaders-fight-1224771>

Anwar Khan has also spoken about the need to reduce child marriages, or early and forced marriages. His organization wrote about this subject, touching upon a recent incident that took place in Texas. <https://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/commentary/article/Early-forced-marriages-obstacles-to-women-s-12794784.php>



**Kiran Bali**, MBE JP is a remarkable global organizational leader and spokesperson in areas of interfaith action, environmental justice and gender equality. She serves as the Global Chair of the United Religions Initiative and has led a number of women's empowerment organisations to equip women from diverse backgrounds to make life-determining decisions and to raise their status in the community. Kiran was honored by HM Queen Elizabeth II with the Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire accolade in 2008 and has received a number of international awards for her selfless service and multidisciplinary approaches. As a UK Magistrate, Kiran underpins all her initiatives with the principles of social justice, compassion and equity toward creating safer, healthier and stronger inclusive communities.



**Rudelmar Bueno de Faria** is the General Secretary of the ACT Alliance, appointed in 2017. Mr Bueno de Faria has over 25 years of experience working with national and international religious and church-related organisations on humanitarian, development and advocacy programmes. Prior to this, he served as the World Council of Churches Representative to the United Nations and Deputy Director for the Lutheran World Federation. ACT Alliance is a global coalition of more than 150 religious and church-related organisations working on providing humanitarian relief and emergency assistance to and advocating for the most marginalized

communities. The main programmatic areas include: Gender Justice, Climate Justice, Peace and Human Security, Migration and Displacement, and Humanitarian Response and Disaster Risk Reduction.

## Session 2: An Epoch-Defining Urgency for Gender Equality, Equity and Justice: Framing the Issue



**Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro** is an accomplished leader with extensive experience in Women's Movements and Organizations, International Non-governmental Organizations, Global Multilateral Organizations and Ecumenical Agencies. Kanyoro is the immediate past President and CEO of the Global Fund for Women. She has also served on advisory role on Gender issues with World Bank, UN Women and various other Organizations and Initiatives. Kanyoro is published author and editor of books, articles and inspirational speeches. She holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Texas in Austin and a Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary; She was a visiting Scholar of Hebrew and Old Testament Studies at Harvard Divinity School. Kanyoro has received numerous awards and recognitions internationally. Over time, Kanyoro has served on many International Boards and is currently chair of the two Boards- the Women's Learning Partnerships (WLP) and the United World Colleges (UWC). Additionally, Dr. Kanyoro is a member of the Council of London School of Economics (LSE), a Board member of Care International (CI) and UN Global Compact and a trustee of Homeward Bound (HB). Dr. Kanyoro is a much sought-after speaker in International Forums.



**Ganoune Diop, PhD**, is the Secretary General of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA). He is the Director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department (PARL) at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters in Washington D.C. USA. He is Secretary of the Conference of Secretary of Christian World Communions. Dr. Diop is graced with a fascinating combination of gifts and expertise in Biblical Exegesis and Theology, Philology with an emphasis on Ancient Near East languages and civilizations, Comparative World Religions and World Philosophies. He earned a master's degree in Philology at the School of Languages and Civilizations of the Ancient Near East in Paris. He earned a diploma in New Testament In-depth Studies with a focus on Apocalyptic Literature at the Catholic University of Paris. He completed



postgraduate studies in Semiotics Studies and applied Linguistics at the University of Paris Sorbonne. He graduated from Andrews University, Michigan with a PhD in Old Testament Studies in 1995.

At a diplomatic level, Dr. Diop was the Permanent Representative of the SDA Church at the United Nations in New York and Geneva, until 2015. Since 2015, Dr. Diop holds the position of Secretary of the Conference of General Secretaries of the Christian World Communions, an organization that sums over 2 billion Christians. He is board member of the Global Christian Forum.

Dr. Diop extensively works to foster mutual understanding between Christian faith traditions and other world religions and philosophies. He regularly trains leaders in capacity building in reference to peace, justice, and human rights: the pillars of the United Nations. He was granted a doctorate Honoris Causa for his work in helping promote a culture of human rights grounded on human dignity. He is executive editor of *Religious Freedom World Report* and executive editor of *Fides et Libertas*.

In 2017, he was the recipient of the Thomas Kane Religious Freedom Award, from the well-known J. Rueben Clark Law Society in Philadelphia, United States of America. In 2019, he received the Award of Excellence: Ambassador for Liberty and Peace - Jean Nussbaum & Eleanor Roosevelt at the United Nations in Geneva. In 2020, Dr. Diop has been honored with the Charles Elliott Weniger Award for Excellence.

Dr. Diop has been a key presenter at the yearly symposium entitled “The Role of Religion and faith-based groups in International Affairs”. One of his highly valued contributions was entitled: *Human Dignity as Foundation for Human Rights: A Normative Overlapping Consensus*. Key of the issues he contributes to are justice and peace, the other pillars the international community has identified as necessary to peaceful coexistence. Right from the beginning of his work, Dr. Ganoune Diop has promoted a human rights culture based on universal values, emphasizing the importance of human rights in all aspects of public life, and in particular the importance of freedom and the involvement of religious communities in the development of social welfare. Through an interdisciplinary approach, he offers a unique perspective to the concept of human rights bringing together the theological, philosophical and economic and legal approaches to current challenges to the whole human family. Dr. Diop has lived in three continents. A truly cross-cultural person determined to respect and honor every person created in the image of God.



**Charlotte Bunch**, Founding Director and Senior Scholar, Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), Rutgers University, has been an activist, writer and organizer in feminist, LGBT, and human rights movements for 5 decades. A Distinguished Professor in Women's and Gender Studies, Bunch was previously a Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in DC. She has been involved in many civil society efforts at the UN, including advocating for women's rights as human rights and for the creation of UN Women. Her awards include the National Women's Hall of Fame, White House Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights, and being one the “1000 Women Peace Makers” nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. She has written numerous influential

essays, edited nine anthologies and authored *Passionate Politics: Feminist Theory in Action, and Demanding Accountability: The Global Campaign and Vienna Tribunal for Women's Human Rights*.



**Shahin Ashraf** is the Head of the Global Advocacy for Islamic Relief Worldwide, she leads the organisations pioneering work on faith, gender, research, thought leadership and advocacy. Shahin is a senior leader in her field and has over 25 years experience, in addressing issues of injustice and inequality from an intersectional perspective. Prior to this Shahin worked at senior level at a number of global humanitarian, women's rights and civil society organisations. Her recently published work highlights the convergence of gender development and Islam. Shahin is the current co-chair of the International Partnership for Religion and Sustainable Development gender working group and she also sits on various gender, development and faith networks. She holds political office within the Green Party UK and was recently elected as a non-portfolio holder for Green Party Women with a special focus on women's political access to leadership.



**Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner** is the former Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism. She was born in London and after her degree in Christianity, she moved to Jerusalem where she lived for 14 years. Laura worked in education in Israel, training Jews in leadership; working with Christians as the Director of the Centre for Christian Encounters and in training Israeli-Palestinian dialogue facilitators as part of the Oslo Peace Process. She was ordained in 2004 and was a congregational rabbi until she became the Senior Rabbi in 2011. She is a regular television and radio broadcaster including 'Thought for the Day' and The Big Questions.

### Session 3:

#### Gender Equality, Equity and Justice: Women advancing peace and security



**Ivy Koek** of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) is Program Coordinator for the SGI Office for UN Affairs in New York. Engaged in SGI's work at the United Nations in gender equality and women's empowerment and



the culture of peace mainly through its nonformal education approach since joining in 2013. She has served on the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY) Executive Committee since 2014; currently Vice Chair of the Committee and former Co-chair of the Young Professionals Subcommittee. Ivy's prior work has taken her to Venezuela, Boston, and Tokyo in the fields of education, study abroad, editing and translation. She has been involved in projects on issues such as young women's leadership, women peacebuilders, and child labor. Ivy holds a Master's degree in International and Intercultural Management with a concentration in Sustainable Development from the School for International Training and received her Bachelor's from the University of Georgia in Japanese with a Spanish minor.



**Nika Saeedi** is Team Leader - Prevention of Violent Extremism as part of the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Responsive Institutions (CPPRI) team. Nika leads UNDP workstream on hate Speech and serves as Religion and Development focal point, at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York.

Leveraging her educational background on Religion and Culture and with over 18 years of experience, Nika has identified opportunities to influence and articulate global policy and programme solutions and forge partnerships to attract resources across all aspects of the prevention agenda including PVE, peacebuilding, governance, and women, peace and security (WPS). In addition to her work at the global level, Nika has worked in a variety of country contexts.

Nika led development of the global study 'Invisible Women: Gendered Dimensions of Return, Reintegration and Rehabilitation', conducted in partnership with the International Civil Society Action Network to respond to a pressing need for action-oriented research that improves our understanding of women's roles in reintegration and rehabilitation processes, and the work of women-led organizations in supporting these processes.

Nika's support to Government of Afghanistan in reformulating the local governance structure led to a 25% increase in Afghan women's leadership in local governance. She guided an Afghanistan sub-national consultation process, promoting inclusion of women and minorities, and leading to a level of participation of women that exceeded the target set by the Ministry of Women's Affairs by 39% in 34 provinces.

Nika designed and managed a results-based family planning project to improve family planning practices throughout Afghanistan, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and in coordination with the Ministry of Women's Affairs. The project design was selected as the most successful family planning project in Afghanistan. As result the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate in 13 provinces increased from 9% to 40% in 2006.



**Mr. Victor Ochen** is the Founder and Executive Director for African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET). Born in northern Uganda, he spent 21 years as a refugee and transformed his experiences into leading the anti-child soldiers' recruitment campaign amidst the war in northern Uganda. He is one of the most important figures in Africa in the struggle for human rights and justice. Forbes Magazines named Ochen in 2015 as one of the 10 most powerful men in Africa, while Archbishop Desmond Tutu attested that "my heart swells with joy to see Ochen as one of the new hope for Africa".

Through his initiative of societal healing and social transformation, he has provided reconstructive medical rehabilitation to 21,000+ war victims. Ochen's life, work and his worldview are based on these principles of peace, morality and common humanity. He was appointed as the United Nations Goodwill Ambassadors for Peace and Justice representing SDG Goal 16. Ochen is also a member to the Global Advisory group to the UNHCR on Gender, Forced Displacement and Protection. He is the first Ugandan and the youngest ever African nominated for Nobel Peace Prize 2015.



**Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls** is a second-generation Fiji Island feminist working on the intersection of gender, media, communications and peace. She is currently a Technical Adviser to the [Shifting the Power Coalition](#), the Board Chair of GPPAC (prn: G-Pak) and Co-chair of the Board of Directors of the Global Fund for Women. She has been working on the localisation of UNSCR1325 since its adoption on October 31, 2000 and contributed to the development and adoption of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. She served on the UN's high level advisory group on to the Global Study on UNSCR1325 and contributed to the successful inclusion of "climate change" in UNSCR2242 adopted that year. As Gender Liaison of the International Steering Group of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict since 2009, she has successfully contributed to the adoption of a Gender Transformative approach to the application of WPS in conflict prevention and human security action across the global network and establishment of a global network of gender focal points across the 15 regions of G-PAC. Sharon continues to work on progressing the peace-development-humanitarian nexus approach in her advocacy work at regional and global level. She is presently a task force member of the Generation Equality Forum WPS and Humanitarian Action Compact. Sharon began her Feminist journey through the YWCA. In November 2020 she was elected as the National Vice President of the Fiji YWCA which she says is an opportunity to demonstrate faith and feminism in practice.



**Dwi Rubiyanti Kholifah** is the Secretary General of Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) and Country Representative of AMAN in Indonesia, with the role to expand peace initiatives across nations and generation, especially to bring leadership of women into the decision-making process relating to peacebuilding, facilitate inter and intra faiths, and strengthen collaborations across Muslim communities in Asia.

Formal education:

- Master of Arts in Health and Social Science, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, Mahidol University, Thailand 2003-2005
- Bachelor of English department, Faculty of literature, State University of Jember 1994-1999

Consultancy experience:

- Facilitator of Strategic Planning of non-profit organisations both national and international
- Reviewer of Proposal of partners for some donors
- Strategic Planning for joint program of KOMNAS Perempuan and Ministry of Religious Affairs (Kemendagri)

#### Session 4: Gender Equality, Equity and Justice: Multilateralism, Human Rights and Intersectionalities

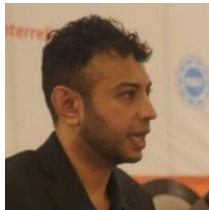


**Rev. Dr. Liberato “Levi” C. Bautista** is Assistant General Secretary for United Nations and International Affairs of the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS), the international public policy and social justice agency of The United Methodist Church. Bautista serves as GBCS main representative to the United Nations worldwide. Bautista is also the President of CoNGO—The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations. Bautista also served as president of the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations (CRNGO@UN, 2015-2017) and as Chair of the Council of Organizations in New York of the United Nations Association of the USA. His NGO-related activities total 46 years, dating back to 1974, working entirely up to now in non-governmental and ecumenical organizations. Bautista studied political science, history, international studies, religion and social and political ethics. He teaches, writes and lectures and is published in a variety of fields, including international affairs; social and political ethics; theology and religion; ecumenism; human rights; forced migration; indigeneity and indigenous peoples; and

peace, justice and social transformation. He occasionally teaches international politics and the practice of civil society at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Korea. He previously taught at Saint Andrews {Episcopal} Theological Seminary and John Wesley College in the Philippines.



**Ibrahim Salama** is a diplomat for 40 years with predominantly multilateral inter-governmental experience. He also served as independent expert within human rights mechanisms and chaired the UN working group on the Right to Development. As chief of the Human Rights Treaties Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights since 2007 (OHCHR), Mr. Salama is managing the ten treaty bodies of independent experts monitoring states compliance with their human rights obligations. After chairing the UN Secretariat of the Durban review Conference in 2009, he coordinated an OHCHR initiative on the prohibition of incitement to hatred. It led to the Rabat Plan of Action that defined the threshold distinguishing hate speech from free speech. Mr. Salama is spearheading the OHCHR Faith for Rights initiative. This framework and its implementation toolkit define the human rights responsibilities of faith actors and brings together theistic, non-theistic and atheistic believers sharing a common platform of concrete human rights commitments.



**Dr. Junaid S. Ahmad** has a Juris Doctor (law) degree from the College of William and Mary, USA, and a PhD in Islam and Decolonial Thought from the University of Leeds, UK. He is currently Professor of Religion and Global Politics and also the Director of the Center for Islam and Decoloniality in Islamabad, Pakistan. In addition, he is a Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA) - Istanbul, as well as Secretary-General of the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), based in Kuala Lumpur. He has been teaching law, religion, and politics at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and the University of Management and Technology (UMT) since 2009.

Before that, he was a lecturer and researcher at the University of Cape Town in the Dept. of Religious Studies. He served as president of the US-based National Muslim Law Students Association (NMLSA), and is on the Board of Peace for Life (PFL), a global interfaith liberation theology network of religious-leaders and faith-based public intellectuals for social justice and peace. He is a member of a number of academic associations, including the American Academy of Religion (AAR), the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS), the National Association of Muslim Lawyers (NAML), the South Asian Muslim Studies Association (SAMSA), the American Council of the Study of Islamic Societies (ACSIS), and so on. Junaid's research interests include Islamophobia, gender and Islam, Islamic revivalist



## Moving from the Symposium: Partnership and Commitments to Achieve Gender Equality, Equity and Justice:



**Lopa Banerjee** is the Director of the Civil Society Division at UN Women. She leads UN Women's strategic engagement and partnership development with civil society organizations to influence global action on gender equality, in particular related to standard setting, policy discussion and stakeholder accountability. Lopa is also the Executive Coordinator of the Generation Equality Forum at UN Women, the global, multi-stakeholder partnership initiative launched to accelerate the achievement of gender equality commitments, on the occasion of the twenty fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for gender equality. Lopa has worked for well over 3 decades across Asia, Africa and the USA, on international development, advocacy and communication and partnership building. She has one daughter and lives in New York City.



**Dr. Nafissatou (Nafy) Jocelyne Diop** serves as the Chief of the Gender and Human Rights Branch at UNFPA. Before that she worked with the Technical Division since 2009 as a Senior Adviser and the Global Coordinator of the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change, the largest global programme promoting the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation within a generation.

She brings more than 20 years of rewarding experience advocating for international health services, human rights and gender equality. Alongside her expertise in leading, designing, coordinating, implementing and managing complex programs and establishing multi-partnerships, she provides leadership and technical support globally, especially to African countries, and the Middle East.

Nafy leads programs to change entrenched social norms on harmful practices, accessibility to adolescent sexual and reproductive rights services, family planning, reproductive health, maternal and neonatal health, STIs and HIV/AIDS and post-abortion care. She is adept at leading operations research, using data to improve efficacy of sexual and reproductive health and rights services. Prior to joining UNFPA, Nafy worked as Representative of Population Council Operation Research Programme (Frontiers) in West Africa conducting several operation research to testing and evaluating SRHR programs. Nafy has a Ph.D in Demography from the University of



Montreal, a Master's in Socioeconomics of Development from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, and a Master's in Sociology from the University of Nanterre, Paris, France.



**Alison Kelly** is currently serving as the ACT Alliance Representative to the United Nations, with a focus on promoting faith engagement for gender justice through building partnerships across UN, interfaith, civil society and other organisations, and working with ACT members globally to develop strategic national and global advocacy initiatives on gender issues.

She has over 25 years experience in international development, humanitarian response and global policy affairs. Prior to moving to New York in 2017, she served as Head of Global Advocacy and Policy at Christian Aid (London, UK) responsible for a global team engaged in policy research and global advocacy in areas including gender and inequality, climate change, tax and fiscal justice, and conflict and peace building. Alison has also served on the boards of a number of national organisations engaged in human rights and development issues, and led community based initiatives in SW England engaged in local environment and sustainability issues and youth work.

Educated at the College of William and Mary (VA USA) and Université Paul Valéry (Montpellier France), and MPhil in Modern Middle Eastern Studies from St Antony's College, Oxford University (UK), she worked for many years specialising in the Middle East. This included running the Middle East program for the British Quakers, incorporating both community-based peace building projects in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, and surrounding countries and high level off the record dialogues amongst protagonists in the region's conflicts. She subsequently moved to Christian Aid, as head of the department engaged in development programming and humanitarian responses throughout the Middle East, Balkans, Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics. Through her various roles, Alison has strong experiences in working ecumenically and in building interfaith relations for both project delivery and advocacy.

### Symposium Planning Group

Alison Kelly - ACT Alliance  
 Liberato Bautista- The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church  
 Quinn Wonderling- General Board of Church and Society, United Nations and International Affairs  
 Ganoune Diop- The General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists  
 Monica Willard - The United Religions Initiative  
 May Hassoon- Islamic Relief USA  
 Shahin Asharaf – Islamic Relief Worldwide  
 Ryan D. Smith - World Council of Churches.  
 Donna Gail Bollinger- World Council of Churches  
 Meltem Agduk- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
 Chuqiu Peng – United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
 Ritah Muyambo- UN Women  
 Ivy Koek - Soka Gakkai International (SGI)

Communications: Marcelo Schneider - World Council of Churches