



PATHWAYS TO PEACE: EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE



Ambassador at Large, Helga Maria Schmid

Key Note Speaker



Dr. Lara Scarpitta

Opening Remarks



Ambassador Thomas Greminger

Opening Remarks





WIN –
Women & Men Innovating &
Networking for Gender Equality



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Alisa Kockar

Panellist



Rita Berisha

Panellist



Heela Yoon

Panellist



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**Mr. Yama
Sukhanyar**

Moderator



**Loredana
Teodorescu**

Closing Remarks



Ambassador Schmid served as OSCE Secretary General from December 2020 to September 2024. She joined the German diplomatic service in 1990 as Personal Assistant to the Minister of State for Europe and has held several important positions throughout her career. Among other things, she was political advisor to Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, head of cabinet to Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and press officer at the embassy in Washington. Prior to her appointment as OSCE Secretary General, she was Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs from 2011 to 2016. Previously, she was Director of the Policy Unit of the High Representative for the CFSP at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union in Brussels. Ms. Schmid has been nominated by Germany as their candidate to serve as the President of the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly.



AMBASSADOR AT LARGE, HELGA MARIA SCHMID

President of the European Institute of Peace and Vice President of the Foundation Council of the Munich Security Conference.



Dr Lara Scarpitta is the OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues in the Office of the Secretary General. She is an expert on peace mediation and Women, Peace and Security (WPS) with over a decade of experience in promoting the role of women in conflict and post-conflict countries in South East Europe and in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Prior to joining the OSCE, she worked for over 15 years for the EU and served in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2008-2012), Turkey (2012-2017) and Brussels (2017-2019). From 2020 to 2022 she worked as Political Adviser on Peace, Mediation and Gender at the EU Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva, focusing on the MENA region. She was instrumental in the creation in 2018 of the Syrian Women Platform, an EU-supported initiative linking Syrian grassroots female activists with negotiators in the UN-led Syria Peace Process. Dr Scarpitta is a member of Women in International Security - Italy and since 2019 she has also been advising the Centre for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University on Gender and Women, Peace and Security. Born in Sanremo (Italy), she holds a PhD in Russian and East European Studies and an MA in European Studies from the University of Birmingham.



DR. LARA SCARPITTA

OSCE Senior Gender Adviser



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Ambassador Thomas Greminger is the Director of the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP) since 1 May 2021. Previously, he served as Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) from July 2017 until July 2020.

Ambassador Greminger served as Deputy Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs from 2015 to 2017 and as the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, the United Nations and the International Organizations in Vienna from 2010 to 2015.

From 2004 to 2010, he served as Head of the Human Security Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Greminger also served as Deputy Head of the Human Security Division from 2002 to 2004, and from 1999 to 2001 as Country Director at the Swiss Embassy in Maputo, Mozambique. From 1994 to 1998, he served in different posts in the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, including Head of the Policy and Research Unit.

Ambassador Greminger holds a PhD in history from the University of Zurich. He is Lieutenant Colonel GS (company and battalion commander of infantry unit of the Swiss Armed Forces; G6 and Deputy Chief of Staff of Infantry Brigade). He has authored numerous publications on military history, conflict management, peacekeeping, development and human rights.



AMBASSADOR THOMAS GREMINGER

Executive Director of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy

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Experienced Project Manager with a demonstrated history of working in non-profit organizations and communications, currently in charge of the international and regional cooperation at National Youth Council of Serbia. Results oriented professional and PhD student with a Master's degree in International Security at Faculty of Political Sciences, University in Belgrade. Member of local Assembly in Zrenjanin, Serbia in 2 mandates (2016-2020, 2024-ongoing) and Dialogue Academy Alumnae Network (DANA) since 2016.



ALISA KOCKAR

Programme Coordinator at National Youth Council of Serbia, member of Dialogue Academy Alumnae Network (DANA)



Rita is a feminist activist from Pristina, Kosovo, with a strong background in sociology and gender equality. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and a postgraduate degree in gender equality studies from the University of Iceland. In 2021, she participated in the Academy Dialogue for Young Women and earned a certification in Conflict Resolution and Mediation through the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, following TIDES training in Northern Ireland. Currently, Rita works with CARE International on a regional project that seeks to challenge toxic masculinity and promote gender equality among young men through interventions in the education system. Previously, she was a researcher at the Kosovo Women's Network, focusing on discrimination in the labor market, and served as a project coordinator, mentoring and monitoring grassroots feminist organizations across the country.



RITA BERISHA

Project Manager at the CARE International



Heela is the founder of Afghan Youth Ambassadors for Peace Organization (AYAPO), a grassroots NGO working in the eastern provinces of Afghanistan, focusing on UNSCR 1325 and 2250 and local peacebuilding. Through AYAPO, Heela has trained more than 100 young girls in Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kabul on gender equality, leadership, and being first responders to a humanitarian crisis. With her NGO, she has engaged with religious and tribal leaders through community peacebuilding dialogues in the Eastern Zone to advocate for Afghan girls' education. Heela has a bachelor's in political science from Kabul University and a Bachelor's in BBA from the American University of Afghanistan. She completed her master's in international Trade and Finance in UK as Chevening Scholar. She has worked as a Research Consultant with Amnesty International and as a trainee with Oxfam GB. She is currently working as Integration Officer with International Rescue Committee.



HEELA YOON

Founder of Afghan Youth Ambassadors for Peace

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Yama Sukhanyar is the Executive Director of the Youth Center for Dialogue and Peace (YCDP), an organization he founded in 2023. Yama is a passionate advocate for peace and strongly believes in the power of dialogue to bridge divides and foster understanding among young people. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, Yama has been a driving force in the realm of international relations for many years. Yama has a background rooted in diplomatic service, serving as an A&T Attaché with the Permanent Mission of the I.R of Afghanistan to the UN office in Geneva from 2012 to 2021. During this time, his dedication to multilateral diplomacy and human rights advocacy began to flourish. Mr. Sukhanyar has a master's degree in international relations and diplomacy from the esteemed Geneva School of Diplomacy, which has further enriched his expertise. His focus areas include Multilateral Diplomacy, Human Rights, and Regional Security policy.



MR. YAMA SUKHANYAR

Executive Director of the Youth Center for Dialogue and Peace



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Loredana Teodorescu is the President of Women in International Security (WIIS) Italy, affiliated to a global network of more than 50 associations, and the Head of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, launched by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2017. As an expert on EU policies and governance, particularly in the areas of immigration and foreign policy, and Women Peace and Security agenda, she is Head of the EU and International Affairs at Istituto Luigi Sturzo, Senior Fellow at Istituto Affari Internazionali and a member of numerous expert networks. She is a member of the President's Council of the European Movement Italy, Research Associate of the Martens Centre for European Studies in Brussels and WIIS Global in Washington DC, and author of the HerAndEU Podcast. Previously, she was Expert Advisor to the Senate Extraordinary Committee on Human Rights and worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the EU Presidency. After a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a master's degree in International Relations, she earned a Ph.D. in Political Science- European and International Studies at Roma Tre University, focusing on EU immigration policy & the link between foreign policy and internal security.



LOREDANA TEODORESCU

President of the Women in International Security (WIIS) Italy and Head of Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (MWMN)