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Canada

Breaking Barriers to Justice: Ending Violence against Women in the Americas

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

8:30 am-1:00pm

Hall of the Americas

Organization of American States

17th Street and Constitution Ave. NW

Washington, D.C.

In the framework of International Women's Day 2016, the Mission of the United States to the Organization of American States (OAS), the Mission of Canada to the OAS and the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the OAS have partnered to organize a round-table event with a view to raising awareness of the importance of approaching the issues of violence against women and access to justice from a perspective of diversity.

The forum will focus on identifying existing challenges and models in the region related to the protection of violence against women and girls, especially for those who are also members of the afro-descendant, indigenous, LGBTI, disabled and/or formerly incarcerated community.

AGENDA

- 8:30-9:00 **Registration and Breakfast**
- 9:00-9:30 **Opening remarks:**
Sarah Sewall, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, US Department of State
Nestor Mendez, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS
- 9:30-11:00 **Panel Session “Diversity and challenges to women’s access to justice”**
Moderator: Caroline Bettinger-Lopez, White House Advisor on Violence against Women
Judy Heumann, Special Advisor for International Disability Rights
Barbara Bailey, Expert of Jamaica to the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention
Rosa Celorio, Principal Specialist and Coordinator of Thematic Section, Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, OAS
Charo Mina Rojas, National Coordinator of Advocacy and Outreach for the Black Communities’ Process (Colombia)
Marissa Billowitz, Associate Director, Youth, Gender and Rights, International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region
- Question and answer session
- 11:00-12:30 **Panel Session “Voices from the field”**
Moderator: Wanda Jones, US Principal Delegate to CIM and Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Nicole Santamaria, Secretary of Asociación Colectivo Alejandria
Maria Liliana Mor, Director of Programs, The Trust for the Americas
Alma Gloria Temaj Morales, Project Coordinator, Mujb’ab’l Yol Association (Guatemala)
Iorraine Edmo, Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs, U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence against Women (OVW)
Dana Cryderman, First Secretary and Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada to the OAS
- Question and answer session
- 12:45-12:50 **Launch of the Contest “ICTs to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women”**
Oscar León, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), OAS
- 12:50-1:00 **Closing remarks:**
Jennifer Loten, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the OAS



Sarah Sewall is Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights at the US State Department. She is a longtime advocate for advancing civilian security and human rights around the world. She serves concurrently as the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues. Over the previous decade, Sewall taught at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where she served as Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy and directed the Program on National Security and Human Rights. Sewall has extensive experience partnering with the U.S. armed forces around civilian security. She was a member of the Defense Policy Board and served as the Minerva Chair at the Naval War College in 2012. Prior joining the executive branch, Dr. Sewall served as the Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to U.S. Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell and earned a Ph.D at Oxford University



Nestor Mendez is the OAS Assistant Secretary General, having assumed office on July 13, 2015. Prior to his election, he served as the Ambassador of Belize to the US, Permanent Representative of Belize to the OAS, and Non-Resident High Commissioner for Belize to Canada. As Ambassador of Belize to the United States, Mendez travelled throughout the country to engage with the Belizean Diaspora and to meet with prospective investors and companies interested in investing in Belize. Furthermore, Amb. Mendez chaired several Councils and Committees of the organization. He previously held diplomatic posts at the High Commission for Belize in London, and at the Embassy of Belize in Guatemala. He holds a Master’s Degree in International Policy and Practice from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., a Graduate Level Certificate in Diplomatic Studies from Oxford University and a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the University College of Belize in Belize City, Belize.



Caroline Bettinger-Lopez is the White House Advisor on Violence Against Women. Prior to joining the White House, Caroline was Associate Professor of Clinical Legal Education and Founder and Director of the Human Rights Clinic at the University of Miami School of Law, where her advocacy and scholarship focused on violence against women, gender and race discrimination, and immigrants’ rights. Prior to her legal career, Caroline engaged in social services advocacy and youth education centered on women and girls’ empowerment, as well as anti-violence programming. While serving in the White House, she coordinates efforts to reduce domestic violence, sexual assault, and gender violence issues. Caroline is a senior advisor to Vice President Biden and serves on the White House Council on Women and Girls. She is a graduate of Columbia Law School and the University of Michigan.



Judith Heumann is the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights at the U.S. Department of State. Heumann is an internationally recognized leader in the disability community and a lifelong civil rights advocate for disadvantaged people. She previously served as the Director for the Department on Disability Services for the District of Columbia. From June 2002- 2006, Heumann served as the World Bank's first Adviser on Disability and Development. From 1993 to 2001, she served in

the Clinton Administration as the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the Department of Education. Heumann has been involved on the international front working with disabled people's organizations and governments around the world to advance the human rights of disabled people. Heumann has a Masters in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley.



Barbara Bailey is the Expert of Jamaica to the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI). She was the first regional coordinator of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, the UWI, between 1995 and 2010. Prior to that she was the Specialist Lecturer in Curriculum Studies in the School of Education, Mona. Her teaching and research focused on gender and education, with particular emphasis on gender issues in education and the relationship of educational outputs to

outcomes in the economic, social and political spheres for either sex. Bailey has been part of the international women's movement since the 1980's. Over the period 2000 to 2003 Professor Bailey was the Government of Jamaica's representative on the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Consultative Committee. She is the recipient of several awards including the Order of Jamaica (2008) and the ninth CARICOM Triennial Award for Women (2008). In 2008 she was appointed as the Jamaica's representative to the CEDAW Committee to 2012.



Rosa Celorio has worked as a Principal Human Rights Specialist and Attorney for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights since December of 2004. In this capacity, she acts as the Coordinator of the thematic monitoring section of the Commission, overseeing the legal work of its specialized Rapporteurships, and has supervised the execution of the work plan of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women for more than 10 years. Rosa has worked in the field of human rights,

discrimination, and gender issues for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM-currently UN Women) and acted as an advisor for several global initiatives implemented by various United Nations Special Procedures. She currently works as an Adjunct Law Professor for George Washington University Law School and taught between 2013 and 2014 the Human Rights Fact Finding Practicum at Georgetown University Law School.



Charo Mina-Rojas is the National Coordinator of Advocacy and Outreach for the Black Communities' Process (Colombia). She is an Afro-Colombian human rights defender with more than two decades of activism at the national and international levels. Charo is member of the Black Communities' Process in Colombia (PCN). Her work focuses on the defense of the collective human rights of Afro-descendant people and Black/Afro-descendant women, centered on the right to be different

but equal (the right to BE), the defense and protection of the Afro-descendant ancestral territories, and the right to self-determination. Charo has played an instrumental role exposing gross crimes and human rights violations against Afro-descendant women to make the Colombian government and those responsible accountable, and provide attention and protection for Afro-descendant women leaders and human rights defenders.



Marissa Billowitz is the Associate Director for International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR Youth, Gender, and Rights Initiatives). Previously, she was the Senior Program Officer for the organization's Youth work. Marissa has extensive experience in sexual and reproductive health, particularly with regard to gender, sexuality, education and training, and program management. Prior to joining IPPF/WHR, Marissa served as Director of Emergency

Contraception Education and Outreach at Planned Parenthood of New York City. She previously coordinated initiatives addressing HIV/AIDS in Latin America and Latino men's health in the United States at Columbia University's Heilbrunn Center. She also served as Program Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Margaret Sanger Center International. Marissa holds a Masters in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from New York University and a Bachelor of Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh.



Wanda K. Jones is the Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Health in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health in OASH, appointed to that position in November 2009. Jones is currently on loan to the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Office of Policy and Planning, to assist with implementation of critical policies recently assigned to that office. Her international experience includes consultation on data and gender analyses with Canadian health officials; gender technical working group activities with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the U.S. Global Health Initiative; and numerous interactions with international non-governmental organizations. Having joined HHS in 1987, Jones has been recognized for her leadership in and contributions to the Federal and state public health communities.



Nicole Santamaría is the Secretary of Asociación Colectivo Alejandría, a collective of transgender and intersex people seeking to promote awareness, provide training and education, and advocate for their community. Nicole is also a member of the Salvadoran Network of Defenders of Women's Human Rights and a facilitator of varying workshops. Nicole is an artist, designer, facilitator, and therapist who has transformed her "artistic skills into tools for social design." Nicole has dedicated her life working towards an El Salvador free from violence. Nicole views the iLEAP program as an opportunity to gain tangible skills to bring back to her communities in El Salvador and to connect with the diverse group of fellows.



Maria Liliana Mor, Director of Programs at The Trust for the Americas, oversees the implementation of citizen security, governance, and economic opportunity programs in 17 countries of the Western hemisphere. In addition, she leads an institutional effort, especially in the POETA YouthSpark Program, to adapt and include a gender perspective to all technology programs, as well as measuring the "girl effect" through monitoring and evaluation strategies. She is also in charge of "New Paths," a project that aims to improve access and quality of reintegration services, technical training, as well as psychological services for female juvenile remandees and offenders of correctional facilities in Jamaica. Mor's previous experiences include the

Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and the Pan-American Health Organization. She holds a B.A in Government and Foreign Affairs from Universidad Externado de Colombia and a M.A. in Public Administration and International Development Management from American University.



Alma Gloria Temaj Morales is the Project Coordinator of Mujb'ab'l Yol - Expression Encounter (Encuentro de Expresiones), responsible for the development of workshops with community communicators and implementation of the Diploma "Communication, Development and Democracy". She is a representative of the Association for the Radio Community Movement in Guatemala. She worked at the Community Health Services Association and as Coordinator of various projects on citizen participation and promotion of women's rights. She collaborates in Community Radio Doble Vía and works as a consultant on alternative media strategies. She is an expert in alternate media communication strategies and issues related to indigenous women in the media. She has a master's degree in Social Anthropology from Centro Universitario de Occidente and a Bachelor's in Social Communication from the Mesoamerican University of Quetzaltenango.



Lorraine Edmo currently serves as Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs in the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence against Women (OVW). In this capacity, she supports the Director in all matters relating to the Safety of Indian Women, pursuant to Title IX of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005). She directs OVW's Tribal unit that manages the Grants to Tribal Governments Program and the Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program. Edmo has more than 30 years of experience working on behalf of American Indian and Alaska Native people. Her career includes positions at the U.S. Department of Interior; the U.S. Department of Education where she worked on implementing Executive Order 13096 on American Indian and Alaska Native Education; and the U.S. Department of Health Services where she managed grants for the Administration for Native Americans. Ms. Edmo directed two national non-profit Indian organizations, including the American Indian Graduate Center in Albuquerque, NM and the National Indian Education Association in Alexandria, VA. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Montana and her Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from the University of New Mexico.



Dana Cryderman is First Secretary and Alternate Representative of Canada to the OAS since 2014. Prior to joining the mission in Washington, she worked as a trade and environment negotiator for Canada in negotiations with various countries and trade blocs, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership. She also spent two years as Media Spokeswoman for Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, following a posting in Venezuela from 2005-2007. Dana has a Master's Degree in Human Rights and

Democratisation and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Latin American Studies.



Oscar León is the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) since September 2015. He is an electronic engineer with more than 18 years of experience in the ICT sector and extensive experience in project management and implementation of new business and appropriation of new technologies. He was Director of Projects at Solutions Providers of MICROSOFT. León worked in the Colombian telecommunications regulator. He served as Regulation

Manager for CLARO (America Móvil in Colombia). He was Advisor to three Ministers of communications. León was Director-General of Espectro National Agency in Colombia for almost 5 years. He was appointed by the International Telecommunications Union for the Americas Region as Vice President of the Group 5 - environment and climate change. Leon has a post graduate degree in Telecommunications Project Management and a Master's degree in business administration.



Jennifer Loten is Canada's Ambassador and Permanent Representative at the Organization of American States. She joined the Department of Global Affairs in 1997 where she served as Acting Country Director for CUSO Ghana, in Accra Ghana; Programme officer for Global violence against Women at MATCH International, in Canada; Gender and development Research Officer at the International Development Research Centre and on Canada's Royal Commission on new Reproductive Technologies. Since joining Canada's Department of

Foreign Affairs, she has served in a variety of capacities. Her assignments have included Deputy Director for Canada US policy and Coordinator for Canada's preparations for the IV Summit of the Americas. She holds a Master of Philosophy in Social Anthropology from the University of Cambridge, and a BA in Anthropology from Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario.

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