PeaceWomen Across the Globe
FriedensFrauen Weltweit
نساء من أجل السلام عبر العالم
Femmes de Paix Autour du Monde
Женщины мира за мир на земле
Mujeres de Paz en el Mundo
Mulheres pela Paz ao redor do Mundo
Donne di Pace nel Mondo
ピースウーマン―国境を越え平和をつくる女たち
全球和平妇女

Exchanging with feminist peacebuilders

Reimagining peace in polarised times

14-15 December 2026
La Tour en Communs
Quai Ernest-Ansermet 20, Geneva

BIOGRAPHIES

Peace activists on the panels

Maï Elnow, Sudan

Maï Elnow is a feminist activist, women's rights defender, and journalist with over a decade of experience advancing the women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda in Sudan and the region. She is deeply engaged in grassroots and national-level initiatives supporting women's participation in peace processes, conflict resolution, and decision-making. Experienced in working with marginalized communities including refugees, internally displaced women, and survivors of gender-based violence, she combines advocacy, media, and research to amplify women's voices and influence policy and social change. She has a strong background in feminist organizing, community mobilization, and peacebuilding.

Susan Kathayat, Nepal

Susan Kathayat is a Senior Program Officer at Nagarik Aawaz, Nepal, working in the areas of gender, peacebuilding, and conflict transformation. Her work focuses on supporting conflict-affected women and children, particularly those whose lives and communities continue to be shaped by the legacies of the armed conflict in Nepal. She has been facilitating peace dialogues and Intergenerational Peace Tables, bringing together women, young people, conflict survivors, and different generations to share experiences, acknowledge the impacts of conflict, and collectively work towards healing, reconciliation, preventing cycles of violence, and building sustainable peace. She holds a master's degree in Conflict, Peace and Development Studies from Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

Fadwa Khawaja, Palestine

Fadwa Khawaja is head of the board of The Jerusalem Center for Women. She is a prominent Palestinian social and political activist with over 30 years of experience in NGO and political work. Her activism began after being arrested by Israeli forces, leading her to become a political leader focused on recognition of Palestine internationally and women's rights under military occupation.
In 1994, she co-founded the Jerusalem Center for Women, a non-profit organisation advocating for women's rights in East Jerusalem and serves as chairperson. Currently, she heads the Anna Lindh Foundation's Palestinian representation and the International Relations Department in the Higher Council for Youth and Sports. She is also active in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Palestine.
Her career includes significant contributions to the Palestine Liberation Organization, where she worked for over 20 years, and serving as General Director of NGOs and Public Affairs at the Palestinian Ministry of Interior in Ramallah. She has established numerous women's associations across the Occupied Palestinian Territories and participated in peace process initiatives.
She holds a bachelor's degree in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science, and a master's in international studies from Birzeit University. Her expertise spans gender issues, violence against women, peace and security, development, and strategic decision-making.

Kateryna Larina, Ukraine

Kateryna Larina is a 24-year-old Ukrainian activist, member of the NGO Smarta, and a student at Charles University in Prague. Having been displaced twice due to the war in Ukraine, she brings both personal experience of forced displacement and the perspective of the younger generation to her work in peacebuilding and civil society initiatives. She has been a core group member in several peacebuilding projects in cooperation with PeaceWomen Across the Globe over the past four years, contributing to project development and implementation. She also works as a translator, communication and media coordinator, facilitating cooperation across linguistic and cultural contexts. Through her activism and project work, she seeks to amplify young people's voices and contribute to inclusive, sustainable peacebuilding efforts.

Netta Loevy, Israel *(will participate via video link)*

Netta Loevy is co-director and an attorney and policy advocate at Itach-Ma'aki: Women Lawyers for Social Justice, an Israeli NGO focused on women's rights. Since 2015, she has led the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and

Security, working to ensure a diverse range of women participate in peace and security decision-making and to integrate gender perspectives into political discourse.

Her academic background includes a master's degree in law from the College of Management and Van Leer Institute's MUSA programme and a bachelor's degrees in law and in history and philosophy from Tel Aviv University. Earlier in her career, she worked in journalism across multiple platforms including the IDF radio station Galei Tzahal, Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper and Channel 10 TV news.

She is also an accomplished documentary filmmaker. Her film "Woman from the Bubble" (2007) explores deaf culture in Israel through a sign language interpreter's story. Her second documentary, "World Class Kids" (2010), examines diversity in an Israeli classroom, following students from Filipino, Chinese, Arab, and Jewish backgrounds. This film received international recognition, winning awards at the Jerusalem Film Festival and Korea International Festival of Documentary Films on Education.

Luba Maksymovych, Ukraine

Luba Maksymovych is the director of the Centre Women's Perspectives, one of the leading non-governmental organizations in Ukraine in the field of women's rights and gender equality. She is the coordinator of the coalition 1325 Women, Peace Security in the Lviv region. The coalition unites 55 representatives of women's organizations, gender experts, social services and law enforcement organizations. She is also a consultant to the National Democratic Institute on women's participation in politics and gender budgeting.

She was elected to office in the Verkhovna Rada (Ukraine Parliament) and local governments. During her 25 years of public activity, she actively supported the participation of women in all spheres of public life and promoted the introduction of gender approaches to local and regional policy in Ukraine. Additionally, she worked as a member of the working group "Empowerment of Women in the Economic Sphere" at the Inter-Factional Association of Women Deputies of the Verkhovna Rada. Luba Maksymovych was honored in November 2022 by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, as a major actor in a network of Ukrainian women NGO leaders serving Ukraine’s internally displaced persons. In 2018, she was recognized by the UN Office for Europe and Central Asia as a changemaker working to empower women in Europe and Central Asia.

Beverley Orozco, Philippines

As a program director of the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute, Beverly’s work spans program development and management, advocacy, education and training, research, and coalition building, with a consistent focus on engaging marginalized communities, particularly youth, indigenous peoples and women in peacebuilding. She has been pivotal in shaping

campaigns and advocacy on peace, disarmament, and human rights while engaging with government agencies and stakeholders. She also serves as the National Coordinator of Generation Peace Youth Network (GenPeace Network). The network leads civil society organisations' advocacy on Youth, Peace and Security (UN Security Council Resolution 2250) and is engaged in advocacy for Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325). In her leadership role, she spearheads the network's strategy on youth, peace, and security, develops financial capacity, manages national coordination, and provides technical support to GenPeace member and partner organizations. She is deeply engaged in work on disarmament of small arms and light weapons, landmines and cluster munitions. She has more than 20 years of experience in research, developing training programs for women and youth on peace and security, human rights and democracy, facilitation, and communications and campaign development.

Shilpi Shabdita, India

Shilpi Shabdita is assistant director of the pioneering South Asian NGO Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP), an initiative of the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. She is a peacebuilding practitioner with 14 years of experience in areas of conflict transformation, youth and peace education, and gender justice. She has co-authored "Navigating the Terrain of Gender Justice: A Handbook for Gender Audits at Higher Education Institutes in India" (2022). Previously, she worked in Uganda at Justice and Reconciliation Project, where she collated a community memory book documenting war memories and justice needs of former combatants and survivors of war as a tool of community-led memorialization and advocacy. She has also worked at Heartland Alliance, USA, on youth and forced migration, and consulted with Afghans for Progressive Thinking, Afghanistan on youth-led programs. Shilpi holds a master's degree in international Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame, USA. She also holds a diploma in Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding from the Aung San Suu Kyi Centre for Peace; Lady Shri Ram College, India; a diploma in Mindfulness-Based Listening. She is currently training as a library educator with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Bookworm Library.

Nida Shoughry, Israel

Dr. Shoughry is co-director of the Center for Women, Peace and Security at Itach-Ma'aki: Women Lawyers for Social Justice. She works at the intersection of academia and activism, bringing a wealth of experience to her work on peace and conflict resolution in the Middle East. As a co-director of the Women Peace and Security Center at Itach-Ma'aki, she champions the crucial role of women in peace and security initiatives. Her academic credentials, including a PhD from the Aberystwyth University, Wales and a master's degree from Emerson College, USA, underpin her expertise in international politics and journalism.

Her book, Israeli-Arab Political Mobilization: Between Acquiescence, Participation, and Resistance, reflects her deep understanding of the complex dynamics within Israeli society. As both a scholar and former journalist, Dr. Shoughry brings a unique perspective to her analysis of social movements and political discourse in the region. Her research spans various critical areas, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, media studies and social movement theory.

Dr. Shoughry's participation in prestigious programmes such as the Fulbright and the Mandel Program for Social Leadership has further enhanced her capacity to bridge theoretical knowledge with practical application. Her commitment to promoting human rights and cultural diversity is evident in both her academic work and her ongoing efforts to foster dialogue and understanding in challenging political contexts.

Arlene B. Tickner, Colombia

Arlene B. Tickner is an independent scholar with over three decades of teaching, research, mentoring and consulting experience in the field of International Relations. She holds a Ph.D. in International Studies from the University of Miami and an M.A. in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University. She has been a professor at Universidad de los Andes (1991-1995; 1997-2016), Universidad Nacional de Colombia (1999-2008) and Universidad del Rosario (2016-2024) in Bogotá, Colombia. During the government of Gustavo Petro (2022-2026), she served as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations in New York and Ambassador at-Large for Gender Issues and Feminist Global Policy. Her areas of expertise include Colombian foreign policy, Latin American security, Women, Peace and Security, Global South world politics, and critical approaches to international relations, among which feminist, postcolonial, decolonial, indigenous and Afro-descendent thinking, figure prominently. She has authored and co-authored approximately 100 books, edited volumes, book chapters, journal articles and working papers.

In addition to her academic work, Tickner is recognized for her media activities, including as a weekly columnist for the Colombian daily, *El Espectador* (2010-2022) and an expert analyst for diverse international and national radio and television outlets.

July Andrea Torres Pulido, Colombia

July Torres is a Colombian feminist peacebuilder. She has accompanied peace efforts in Colombia that promote political participation, reconciliation and collective reparation for girls, adolescents, and women – including rural and indigenous women as well as female ex-combatants in the process of reintegration. She is a member of Ruta Pacifica de las Mujeres and has a strong background in feminist organizing, community mobilization, and peacebuilding. For many years, she has marched across her country alongside hundreds of

women, demanding a negotiated end to the armed conflicts, raising awareness of the differential impacts of war on women's lives and bodies, and calling for the demilitarization of civilian life. July is a staff member in PeaceWomen Across the Globe's Bogotá office.

Peace activists attending the conference

Manal Al-Awal, Sudan

Manal Al-Awal is a Sudanese political leader and a member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Revolutionary Democratic Current. She is responsible for gender and citizenship issues and the non-discrimination office. She is also an active member of several feminist groups and member of the executive board of the Sudanese Women's Network.

Manal Al-Awal is an advocate for human rights, specifically the rights of Sudanese women to participate in political processes, including peacebuilding efforts. She has contributed to peace talks and agreements in Sudan, having participated as a negotiator in the Transitional Constitution talks and the Juba negotiations (via track 2), and the Geneva negotiations in 2024 (via track 1.5).

Yali Hashash, Israel

Dr. Yali Hashash is a Mizrahi queer feminist academic and organizer. She has a PhD in Jewish History. Her research interests include social history of 19th and 20th century Palestine and the Middle East on poverty, gender, nationalism, ethnicity and reproduction. Her book Whose Daughter Are You? The Roots of Mizrahi Feminism was published in Hebrew in 2022 by Hakibutz ha-Meuhad and will be published in English by Wayne State University in 2027. She is currently serving as the community organizer in the Isha L'isha Haifa Feminist center. There, together with fellow feminists, she promotes anti-war activism, social justice issues, feminist political education and the struggle against Christian nationalism's involvement in Israel/Palestine.

Daryna Rozvadovska, Ukraine

Daryna Rozvadovska is a communications strategist, human rights advocate and media expert with extensive experience leading impactful public awareness campaigns across the non-governmental sector in Ukraine. Her path in civil society began with the founding a non-governmental organization dedicated to supporting women navigating grief and loss. Building on this foundation of community care and advocacy, Daryna expanded her focus into investigative storytelling and human rights protection as a journalist and advocate with the

Educational Human Rights House. She subsequently served as a war crimes documentarian, conducting field investigations to collect evidence of human rights violations for international accountability efforts. Daryna further advanced public health advocacy and structural inclusion as a communications specialist at NGO Convictus Ukraine, where she led messaging around HIV prevention, addiction recovery programs, and rights protection for the LGBTQ+ community. Currently, Daryna serves as the Head of Communications at the NGO Centre “Women's Perspectives”.

Nadira Abu Dubey-Saadi, Palestine

Nadira Abu Dubey-Saadi is a journalist, political feminist activist, and gender and women’s rights professional from Nazareth, with more than 20 years of experience working with Palestinian women and civil society organizations. She is currently Projects Coordinator at the Women Against Violence Organization (WAVO), where she leads programmes on Arab women’s employment, economic empowerment, and political participation. She is also a Training of Trainers facilitator for Women Human Rights Defenders. She holds master’s degrees in Gender Studies and Communications Studies.

Other panellists

Pälvi Pulli, Switzerland

Deputy State Secretary for Security Policy (2024-2026).

Béatrice Godefroy, Switzerland

Deputy director, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance DECAF.