



2019

4R Women Empowerment Conference



**RENEW
YOUR MIND,
RESTATE
YOUR GOALS,
REBRAND
YOUR LIFE
AND RETELL
YOUR STORY.**

4R WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

LOCATION: AULA-B INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
SOCIAL STUDIES (ISS)

ADDRESS: KORTENAERKADE 12, 2518 AX DEN HAAG

DATE: 22nd MARCH, 2019 - TIME: 13:00 - 18:30

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CENTRE FOR AFRICAN
JUSTICE, PEACE AND
HUMAN RIGHTS

International
Institute of
Social Studies

Erasmus

**CENTRE FOR AFRICAN JUSTICE,
PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**



'4R Women Empowerment Conference'

*"Renew your Mind,
Restate your goals,
Rebrand your life,
and Retell your story"*

2019 Conference Report

Organized by the Centre for African Justice, Peace and Human Rights (CAJPHR) at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS).

Acknowledgments

A special thanks to the Chairperson of the Centre for African Justice, Peace and Human Rights, Barrister Sophia Ugwu, the Project Manager, Cynthia Ngozi Kamara-Njoku, Assistant Project Manager Philip Rolfe, Facilities/Project Officer Rachel Emegha, and the team members of the Women Empowerment Team who have organized the event in 2019. In addition, thanks to the Women Empowerment team members who have helped to draft this report.

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Stichting Centre for African Justice, Peace and Human rights is a Foundation that has its official seat in the municipality of The Hague, The Netherlands. We engage in promoting justice, peace, and human rights through education, awareness, campaign, training, outreach (Legal / Medical), and capacity building in Africa.

How best can people know their rights or claim the same except through awareness, education, and training? How best can people learn to maintain peace? How best can justice be promoted and applied? To an extent, the answer to these questions revolves around education, campaign, capacity building, training, and awareness, etc.

We have planned many events aimed at creating awareness, educating, and training people to know their rights and what help is available to them in the event of a violation of their rights. Our brilliant and enthusiastic Committee members help us in designing strategies for tackling common issues that hinder peace, justice, and human rights in Africa and around the world.

We lobby and collaborate with private individuals, non-governmental organizations, institutions, and governments to promote justice, peace, and human rights through different avenues.





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Introduction

This report is a summary of the results of the "4R Women Empowerment Conference: Renew your Mind, Restate your goals, Rebrand your life, and Retell your story(4R Conference)", held on 22 March 2019.

Background and Rationale

The women of African descent who migrated to Europe, often face challenges: cultural differences, language barrier, and economic hardships. These challenges hinder the full social integration of newly immigrated African women. Further, discrimination in the host country negatively impacts their self-esteem.

Lack of opportunity for education is one of the barriers that many young African migrant women encounter. They found it difficult to continue their education due to deriving from multiple aspects; a non-welcoming learning environment towards the education of migrants and a lack of support from educational institutions and society to help them overcome these challenges. These drawbacks often result in their loss of motivation for study, or dropout.

Conference Objectives

Against this background, the 4R women's conference was organized to empower women to achieve their full potential in life. To help women realize their full potential in life, the conference conveys four main messages: renew your mind, restate your goals, rebrand your life, and retell your story. By providing an opportunity to discuss women's rights, this occasion aims to encourage women to overcome their fear and setbacks imposed on them and become instruments of peace in society.

Our Women Empowerment Project as an instrument of Peace Building

This project also aims at grooming young women to become agents of peace in society. As Peace is the foundation of every society, we use our Women Empowerment Project as an avenue to empower young African women to become instruments/agents of peace in society while striving to achieve their highest potentials in life. At our events, women are trained to perform impressive roles as peacebuilders and peacekeepers for the benefit of their immediate society and the world at large.



Opening address by Ms. Sophia Ugwu, Founder Chairperson, CAJPHR

Ms. Ugwu started her remarks by sharing her experiences of encountering many young African women who migrated to Europe and struggled to settle in a host country. The challenges these women face are multi-faceted, inter alia, culture shock, language differences, weather, unstable residence rights, financial hardships, domestic abuses, and identity crisis. Lack of sufficient support for migrant women to overcome serious challenges is absent, further exacerbating the degrading situations and exposing them to trauma, depression, and sometimes severe consequences such as drug abuse or suicide.

She also pointed out that this conference serves to encourage all women to support each other in their everyday life. She stressed that every little help from one another, with kind words and a small gesture to listen to one's life struggles, can change someone's life.





She reiterated that one of the core goals of CAJPHR is women empowerment, and the conference is organized in line with CAHPHR's effort to achieve this goal. She mentioned that the organization continues to support women's empowerment by developing various activities, such as mentorship programs. The women empowerment conference focussed on the 4R theme "*Renew your mind, Restate your goals, Rebrand your life and Retell your story*" and its main aim was to provide participants with opportunities to build knowledge, skills, and behaviors to identify and remove barriers that often prevent migrant young women (especially students and young professionals) from being everything they were created to be. We wanted to create a platform for young women to connect with their peers and successful women within the community in order to facilitate mentorship, life-lifting conversations, and relationships. When selecting the speakers for the conference, Centre for African Justice decided to go for successful female professionals most of whom migrated to the Netherlands. This is because we wanted to inspire the younger ones with their success stories. We wanted to establish concrete measures that would enable young female migrants to overcome obstacles to achieving their potentials while living abroad. Luckily, the dynamic and powerful speakers all came with the enthusiasm required to help our young women move forward towards achieving their goals.



Ms. Ugwu then introduced the speakers of the conference, made up of successful female professionals who were delighted to share their knowledge and experiences.

She stressed that in addition to the conference, CAJPHR brought together institutions that are willing to support young migrant women, by providing assistance and tools to help them achieve their full potential in life. Some of these included Taaltijd, an independent Dutch language school located in The Hague, She Matters, a recruitment agency that specializes in connecting organizations with diverse talent and highly competent female newcomers with occupations, and Gilde Samenspraak, a language and integration project that unites Dutch and non-native speakers to exchange the Dutch language and culture.

She concluded her address by wishing that the conference will help all women to be reminded of four key messages in life: renew your mind, restate your goals, rebrand your life, and retell your story, which will enable them to become instruments for peace in our community.



Introduction of Speakers

Ms Nenita La Rose is a chairperson of Dutch Women's Council (NVR-Nederlandse Vrouwen Raden) and City councillor for the PvdA Amsterdam. After completing her study in Law at the University of Amsterdam, she served in the Amsterdam municipality for 20 years. Until 2015, she served as a director of the international secretariat in Amsterdam of the Child Helpline International for 8 years, a global network of child care lines and children's phones. Ms. La Rose now works as a legal mediator and independent consultant.

Professor Alanna O'Malley holds a chair of the United Nations Studies and Peace and Justice at Leiden University and The Hague University of Applied Sciences. She is a historian focusing on the history of the United Nations, the decolonization of Africa, Congo, the Cold War, and Internationalism. She completed her PhD degree at the European University Institute from Florence from 2007 to 2012. In 2009, she was a Visiting Scholar at New York University, in Spring 2017 a Kathleen Fitzpatrick Visiting Fellow at the Laureate Research Program in International History at the University of Sydney and from August 2017-February 2018 she was a Fulbright Research Scholar at the History Department of George Washington University in Washington D.C.

Ms. Christina Moreno is the founder and CEO of She Matters. An international lawyer and communications professional by training, she works toward the social and economic empowerment of refugee and migrant women and girls, offering them the support they need to inform their own solutions and drive their own development. Christina believes in the power of empowering women and girls to transform our world. Christina was selected as a Thomson Reuter's Foundation Trust Conference Scholar for her work on women's empowerment and was named among the top ten 'Persons to Watch in 2018 for Justice Innovation' by HiiL's Innovating Justice Accelerator.

Ms. Veena Joseph is a multifaceted professional with experience in Training, Consulting, and Process management. Experience in service-oriented Industries (Finance, Education, and Non-profit organizations) for 7 plus years in India and the Netherlands. She started her career as a banker after completing her MBA. She then Lectured to Business management students in India where she successfully ran projects to develop young women, guided them with career choices and entrepreneurial workshops. She founded her own firm, Forerunners Consulting and Coaching last year and has a great passion for women empowerment and youth development. She also owns a handmade soap and skincare business, NaturallyU.



Main Session

Speech 1 | By Ms. Nenita La Rose

The Importance of Women Empowerment and the Most Efficient Tools for Empowerment

Ms. La Rose started her speech by reiterating the conference's title: to renew your mind, restate your goals, rebrand your life and retell your story. She emphasized that women's empowerment, until today, is still perceived as an essential principle, which she believes is why women have to empower one another and strive to be role models for each other.

Ms. La Rose recognized that trying to find a way in life as a young woman could be very challenging, full of personal struggles and insecurities surrounding her. Moreover, institutional obstacles impose greater challenges on women's lives. For example, there is systemic gender discrimination despite the existing laws against discrimination against women, i.e., the glass ceiling, which plays a barrier for women to achieve a professionally high position and pervasive male dominance in a professional environment. In the Netherlands, the Dutch government made attempts to introduce a gender quota policy to hire more professional women, but the policy has not been adopted until now. There are also several networking organizations that help to tackle the obstacles that women face in Dutch society. Such communities can be a useful platform that many young women can benefit from by proactively combining forces and supporting each other. Ms. La Rose shared her engagement in a discussion led by the social-economic council, which dealt with the issue of barriers that women encounter on the way to the top. One of the outcomes of the discussion was how important it is for women to organize events whereby professional women share experiences and provide young women opportunities for mentoring or sponsorship.





Dutch Council of Women(NVR)

Ms. La Rose further stressed the importance of women's network by saying that she benefited from several memberships that she has been involved in during her own life. Dutch Council of Women(NVR), which is an organization with a mission to ensure equal rights and full participation of women in all areas. NVR has 55 member organizations, which reaches an estimated over 1 million women in the Netherlands. The members of this network come from a wide variety of organizations that involve professionals from various industries. NVR carries out a wide range of activities to achieve its mission, including lobbying with politicians, networking, and connecting the member women through knowledge and information sharing. NVR also strives to break barriers imposed on professional women by providing leadership training and advocating women's rights. NVR also spreads awareness of the causes of violence against women and organizes events to promote voting for female members.

With the experience of NVR, Ms. La Rose strongly believes in the power of networking, which derives from connecting the right people who can support each other.

"We All Have a Story to Tell"

Ms. La Rose stressed that the driving force of empowerment comes from oneself, who has an ambition and desire to grow. This is the reason why each individual's story is authentic and worth sharing. This 'suitcase of experience' can become a great source to motivate other women.

Ms. La Rose believed the challenges she experienced during her professional journey, greatly made her build her strength and achieve the 4R: to renew your mind, restate your goals, rebrand your life, and retell your story. Four years ago, Whilst serving pressing family duties, she obtained legal-mediation training and was in the process of launching her career as a legal mediator. When she came across the NVR and the Child Helpline International(CHI) work, an organization that supports over 14 million around the world, she decided to take up a new position in the NVR and share her 'suitcase of experience.'





Speech 2 | By Professor Alanna O'Malley The Role of Women in Peace

Professor O'Malley showed her appreciation for the opportunity to give her speech at the conference. Professor O'Malley began her speech by introducing the 'bubble' or non-inclusive 'vacuum' that exists in contemporary academia. Professor O'Malley said she wants to challenge the discriminatory nature of academia with her presentation in two ways: by sharing her journey of being part of the academic world and sharing her knowledge of women's role in peace.

As a point of departure, Professor O'Malley brought the title 'women as an instrument of peace' to attend, saying it comes from the idea in society that women have a particular agency, a special capacity to make peace more long-lasting. Stories demonstrate how all women are in a peace process in many dimensions: peace with society, peace with the past, peace with our potential for the future, peace with ourselves.

Professor O'Malley pointed out that when people see one's achievements; they often overlook many challenges during the process. She explained in her professional life as an academic, and there were challenges she had to overcome. Universities are still in many ways dominated by men, including the Netherlands. A couple of years ago, the Dutch government conducted a survey on the gender balance of senior positions in Dutch Universities. At her workplace, Leiden University, only 27 percent of women held a senior position. However, the statistics were not acknowledged as a problem and it affected many women in University who want to sustain their careers. Professor O'Malley stressed that this story illustrates one symptom of a broader problem and it is critical to acknowledge the problems that need to change.





Professor O'Malley then introduced significant women figures in the international field. First, Samantha Power, a former US ambassador to the UN, led many discussions on peace and justice. Including her book 'a problem from hell', in which she talked about genocide. She also introduced many other women, including Federica Mogherini (High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy), Kristalina Georgieva (Head of International Monetary Fund), Madeleine K. Albright (the first woman to serve as Secretary of State), and Mary Robinson (the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights). By pointing out the fact that the aforementioned figures are white women and relatively had a well-off upbringing, Professor O'Malley was compared to those from the developing nations.

She argued that to challenge the stereotype of internationally successful women in leadership, it is important to recognize women in diversity, who had contributed to creating the system of peace and avenue for other women to participate in the process. As an example, she introduced Dambisa Moyo (Economist, author of 'Dead Aid'). Professor O'Malley said Dambisa Moyo's argument that western aid to African countries is not a solution for development challenged the white-prevalent academic in the field of international development.



Navay Pillay was introduced as another inspiring woman from a developing nation. As a former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, she effectively mobilized efforts towards protecting human rights within the UN and human rights associations and groups, especially for women's rights. Her contribution to the fortifying system to protect women's rights and create UNWOMEN is highly instrumental. The executive director of UN WOMEN, Phumzile Mlambo-NGCUKA, leads the organization with a series of discourses around women's rights across the world. Professor O'Malley found that Ms. Mlambo-NGCUKA's initiative to engage youth delegation to induce discussion on women's rights is very insightful, as it sends a signal that everybody can be involved in a discussion and be a changemaker.



Lastly, Professor O'Malley highlighted that the appointment of Ms. Pramila Patten, UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict is a message of the UN that an issue such as sexual violence and conflict deserves its own representation needs inclusive dialogue. It is also relevant to multiple agendas across the world, including human rights and economic development.

With the examples she shared, professor O'Malley suggested the change of perspective is two-fold. The first is to change the general impression of successful women in international fora, especially in the field of women's rights. The second concept to change is the notion we have for an inclusive dialogue on an international level. She pointed out we often feel a great distance from the discussion happening around the UN conferences, even though society stresses the importance of being part of the 'international community.'

Professor O'Malley further points out that this is precisely the reason why the occasions like 4R women empowerment conference are significant, as a mode of channeling the message we would like to pursue, and that above all, all of us are the active participants of the discussion.

She argued that the issues with women were greatly misunderstood as the discussion has been mostly led by men, making the connection through active discussions is imperative. With active participation in such occasions, all can become part of the peace process, not only the UN representatives or state officials. This way, she said everybody can have their voice heard and encourage the representatives to speak truly for women.

Professor O'Malley further introduced important statistics in relation to women's role in peace. In 2001, the United Nations passed resolution 1325, which stated that women have a particular role to play, not only in creating peace but also in maintaining peace processes. She resonated this statement with her experience in Ireland, in which the peace process played a very successful role. While it is still being discussed what role women can play during peace processes, there have been several findings. Firstly, a group of women is largely under-represented, making up 2 percent of mediators, 5 percent of witnesses, and 8 percent of negotiators. She pointed out that given the famous fact that most warring parties consist of men, it does not come as a surprise that negotiation is mostly led by men. Yet, she highlighted that peace agreements are 35 percent more likely to succeed when women are included in the process.



Why do the peace processes with women involved turn out to be more successful? Professor O'Malley argued that it is because women bring legitimacy. For example, when women embrace these processes, they legitimise the rightness of peace. She put forward another argument that women are the actual head of the household, particularly in conflict situations. When women take a leadership role, it may seem not as impactful in the beginning. However, she argued that by actively taking part in educating children and taking care of the household in the situations where the men are absent, they set the agenda and form dynamics for the community. In this way, women's role by bringing a community together results in changing the power imbalance in war. Women providing leadership in the community directly affect the social norms by changing the narrative of women in conflicts, from the victims in a war to changemakers. Professor O'Malley argued that these two examples clearly indicate that the women from the Global South lead innovative roles in peace, both in pre-conflict and post-conflict. In Rwanda, 70 percent of judges of the Gacaca local court were women. Women judges in Guachaca played a significant role in representing women's interest when passing judgements. Professor O'Malley raised the fact that Rwanda is the only country in the world where women in the Parliament outnumbered men in 2019 reflecting the impact of active female representation at a local level. Professor O'Malley brought the exemplary case of 'Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo' in Argentina, which evolved from the historical view of women in conflicts as 'track II' negotiators and informal agents. In Argentina, the 'Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo' held mass campaigns to demand the truth about the Argentinians disappeared by the Argentinian military force during the conflict. By leading active negotiations, they later became a part of formal dialogues and demonstrated how informal agents could lead social activism.

Professor O'Malley highlighted that women are agents of change and have been playing invisible roles. This role is being played not only in the peace process but also in many other areas, which is helpful to break down the barriers of access to all kinds of opportunities. She stressed, with the statistics that globally, only 24 percent of Parliamentarians are women and only 11 heads of states are women, that removing all discriminatory systems and structures in society and achieving gender equality is an on-going process. Furthermore, she mentions that more initiative needs to be made both internationally and domestically and highlighted that all can participate in the process with a full capacity of becoming change agents.

She concluded by sharing a few ways to participate, such as joining support networks(i.e. Women in International Law, Women in Academic Support Network) or joining the hashtag campaign for gender equality (i.e. #balanceforbetter).



Benefits and Achievements

The main objective of the conference was to empower women and increase their confidence to lead meaningful and purposeful life. This in turn would then remove their dependence on others which would make them individuals in their own rights. One of the advantages of the conference was the fact that we have helped women by informing them on women empowerment and how they could reach their full potential in life by Renewing their minds, Restating their goals, Rebranding their lives, and Retelling their stories (the 4Rs). The target women for this conference were of African descent in The Netherlands and around Europe between the ages of 16-40 years old. Moreover, the women were grouped in different categories such as African female students, professionals, non-professionals, and female migrants and refugees who are battling different challenges arising from their status as refugees and from migration in general. We were aiming at helping African young ladies abroad who have become school dropouts, jobless, homeless, victims of sexual violence, domestic violence, victims of broken homes, and broken relationships. By organizing such a conference, we would help and support these women by giving them access to the right information and motivation to succeed in the part of the world they have relocated to.

The conference has achieved to re-ignite the spirit of excellence in the minds of such women through motivation, coaching, information, education, and training. Through these means, we have hoped to pull up women who have low self-esteem, inferiority complex, depression, fear, and are generally helpless in their present location outside their home countries. Moreover, the conference was aimed at supporting women in need of support by creating a platform where they are reminded that there are always grounds for hope. This conference was organized to provide opportunities for the women to enable them to become exposed to diverse information and tools aimed at helping them to achieve their highest potentials in life, despite their previous or present circumstances. Through this women empowerment project, we have used our platforms to share the experiences of fellow women that would help these women find their passion and motivation to become instruments of peace in their personal lives and in their society as they strive to achieve their highest potential. We have informed and educated women on how to perform impressive roles as peacebuilders and peacekeepers for the benefit of the immediate society they live in and the world at large.



Lastly, the long-term goal of this conference was for us to promote women's economic empowerment by increasing women's access to economic and financial resources and social protection systems, increasing women's participation in decision-making. Moreover, we aimed to improve access to education, vocational training, health, and psychological services for women and girls, as part of an overall push to re-energize women's social and economic empowerment.

With the information that was provided during the event and working with a variety of partners, our program promotes women's ability to secure decent jobs, accumulate assets, influence institutions, and public policies determining growth and development.

With this, we aimed at providing the women with the most essential information for them to receive higher incomes, better access to and control over resources, and greater security, including protection from violence.



Closing Remarks | By Dr Sumaiya Musharaf Farooq

Dr. Sumaiya Musharaf Farooq thanked the participants for coming, and thanked all members who were involved in the making of this event, and asked everyone to follow the Centre's Social Media platforms for upcoming updates.

Outcomes and Results

The 4R Women Empowerment Conference increased women's confidence in their ability to lead meaningful and purposeful lives. It informed women on how to remove their dependence on others and how to make them individuals in their own right. Having stated this, the goals and objectives of this 4R Women Empowerment Conference were the following:



- To rekindle the spirit of excellence in the minds of such women through motivation, coaching, information, education, and training. Through these means, we hope to pull up women who have low self-esteem, inferiority complex, depression, fear, and are generally helpless in their present location outside their home countries.



- Bearing in mind that these discouraged women need our support, we created platforms where they are reminded that no matter what they have been through in life, there is always light at the end of the tunnel. We organized an event and created opportunities to enable women to become exposed to diverse information and tools aimed at helping them to achieve their highest potentials in life, despite their previous or present circumstances.



- We reached out to women through the use of women to empower women. We believed that there were many reasons why women are in a better position to empower, motivate and lift up other women. Based on this, we used very successful and influential African women as tools for motivating and coaching younger ones to keep focus and achieve their dreams and aspirations.



Annexes

Annex 1 | Event Programme

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
13:00- 13:30	Registration and Networking	The doors will officially open for registration of attendees at 13:00 and close at 13:30
13:30- 13:40	Introduction of Anchors Ms. Shruthi Laya Subramanian Ms. Lesan Hamed	Anchor to introduce themselves and explain the course of the day.
13:40- 14:00	Opening Address	Opening Address to be given by Ms. Sophia Ugwu, Chair & Founder of CAJPHR.
14:00- 14:30	Speaker 1 (Ms. Nenita La Rose)	First speaker to speak on: <i>The importance of women empowerment and the most efficient tools for empowerment.</i>
14:30- 15:00	Speaker 2 (Prof. Alanna O'Malley)	Second speaker to speak on: <i>The role of women as peace instruments. The need to re-state their goals and work hard towards achieving your set goals</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Speaker 3 (Ms. Christina Moreno)	Third speaker to speak on: <i>“How migrant Women can be engaged in Community Decision-Making Processes and what measures to take in empowering women”.</i>
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee break	During this break, guests will have the chance to visit the lavatory, and to enjoy some refreshments/ coffee before heading back to the hall for the continuation of the event.
15:45- 16:10	Speaker 4 (Ms. Veena Joseph)	Fourth speaker to speak on: <i>“Reinventing yourself and living in your purpose”.</i>
16:10 – 16:50	Panel Discussion / Q & A	Panel Discussion to be held in which previous speakers discuss certain statements and create



		room for the audience to pose questions to the members of the panel.
16:50 - 17:00	KAHOOT GAME	Some online Quiz in order to engage the audience in a fun learning environment. The winner leaves with a prize.
17:00 -17:10	Award Distribution	Founder Ms. Sophia Ugwu to present the awards.
17:10 – 17:20	Closing remarks	Closing remarks by Dr. Sumaiya Musharaf Farooqui
17:20 - 18:30	Networking & Special Dinner!!!	<p>Networking with vocational, academic institutions and other institutions present at the conference. As well as networking with peers.</p> <p>Special dinner will be served.</p> <p>The event will close at 18:30, with all attendees and participants having vacated by 19:00</p>



Annex 2 | Speaker's Brochure



MS. NENITA LA ROSE

Ms. Nenita La Rose is the new chair-person of the Dutch Women's Council (NVR- Nederlandse Vrouwen Raden). She is currently the city councillor for the PvdA in Amsterdam.

After studying Law at the University of Amsterdam, Nenita La Rose worked for 20 years at the municipality of Amsterdam, including at the Cabinet of the Mayor and then as a member of the Management Team of the district of Zuidoost. Until mid-2015, she was more than eight years director of Child Helpline International, a global network of child care lines and children's phones with the International secretariat in Amsterdam. Now she is, after being trained as Legal Mediator, independent consultant, supervisor, mediator and coach.

PROF. ALANNA O'MALLEY.

Professor Alanna O'Malley holds the Chair in United Nations Studies in Peace and Justice at Leiden University/The Hague University of Applied Sciences. She is a historian focusing on the history of the United Nations, decolonization in Africa, Congo, the Cold War and internationalism.

She completed her PhD at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence from 2007-2012. She has been a Visiting Scholar at New York University, a Kathleen Fitzpatrick Visiting Fellow at the Laureate Research Programme in International History at the University of Sydney and a Fulbright Research Scholar at the History Department of George Washington University in Washington D.C.

MS. CHRISTINA MORENO

Ms. Christina is the founder and CEO of She Matters. An international lawyer and communications professional by training, she works toward the social and economic empowerment of refugee and migrant women and girls, offering them the support they need to inform their own solutions and drive their own development.

Christina believes in the power of empowering women and girls to transform our world. Christina was selected as a Thomson Reuter's Foundation Trust Conference Scholar for her work on women's empowerment, and was named among the top ten 'Persons to Watch in 2018 for Justice Innovation' by HiIL's Innovating Justice Accelerator.

MS. VEENA JOSEPH

Ms. Veena Joseph is a Multi-faceted professional with experience in Training, Consulting and Process management. Experience in Service oriented Industries (Finance, Education and Non-profit organisations) for 7 plus years in India and Netherlands.

She started her career as a banker after completing her MBA. She then Lectured to Business management students in India where she successfully ran projects to develop young women, guided them with career choices and entrepreneurial workshops. She founded her own firm, Forerunners Consulting and Coaching last year and has great passion for Women empowerment and Youth development. She also owns a handmade soap and skin care business, NaturallyU.











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Annex 3 | Organizations Participating in Networking Session

Gildesamenspraak - Leiden	
Women's Federation for World's Peace-Den Haag (WFWP)	
Taaltijd – Den Haag	
UnikBlends	
Forerunners Consulting and Coaching	
She Matters	
Umbrella of Hope Foundation	
Divine Women of Destiny Foundation	
Mollynn Cares	
WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform	

Annex 4 | Photos











