

Forward Global Women

Fifth Annual Convening
PROGRAM REPORT
July 2016



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Introduction

Forward Global Women (FGW) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that fosters and nurtures the development and growth of women leaders to become active peacemakers promoting co-existence. We envision a world where women are actively engaged in conflict-resolution and peacemaking. For more information, please visit our website at www.forwardglobalwomen.org.

Senator Sandy Pappas of St. Paul, Minnesota, Rina Bar Tal of R'anana, Israel, and Rula Quawas of Amman, Jordan founded the organization in 2011.

The fourth annual convening was held in Minneapolis in Minnesota, USA. The third convening was held in Berlin, Germany; the first two convenings were held in St. Paul Minnesota, USA.

Additional information is included in the attached Appendix:

1. Background, Goals, and Objectives
2. Current Projects
3. Convening Agenda
4. Public Events
5. Biographies

The Fifth Annual Convening

The fourth annual convening of Forward Global Women was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, July 25-29, 2016.

Objectives

- To create a space for women from the MENA Region and the US to have an inspiring convening of connections, conversations and relationship building through a dialogical engagement with old and new paradigms.
- To bring the perspectives of women to the peace table by ensuring that peace accords address demands for gender equality.
- To transform conflict into more sustainable, peaceful relationships that are based upon principles of justice and equality.
- To address the role of women in peacemaking, peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance and other activities and to address challenges that face women in building or rebuilding the structures of peace and security.
- To build support networks that cross geographical, political, and cultural boundaries and engage in lobbying with women's groups and others in civil society organizations.
- To facilitate new understandings and pursue solutions to political and social problems for which no answers currently exist.

Background information and goals statement for Forward Global Women can be found in the **Appendix, item 1**.

Leadership Team

Planning Team: Sandy Pappas, President, Minnesota Senate
Rina Bar-Tal, Former Chair, Israel Women's Network
Rula Quawas, Professor, University of Jordan

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Amal Hamidallah, Director of Middle East at Cordaid
Dr. Fatima Sadiqi, Professor at University of Fez
Anat Thon-Ashkenazy, Lawyer and former Project Director at Itach-Maaki

The Participants

We had returning participants and new participants join us Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and the United States.

Complete biographies for each participant can be found in the **Appendix, item 2**.

Convening Highlights

- 25 women attended the convening, including two new women from Tunisia and Palestine
- Opening reception at the U.S. Embassy in Cyprus, hosted by U. S. Ambassador Kathleen Doherty
- Keynote speech by Amal Hamidallah, Director of Middle East region at Cordaid; *Humanitarian Aid and Women's Plight in the Ongoing Tragedy of the MENA Region*
- Panel: Perspectives of Women Activists on the Frontlines in MENA: Ikram ben Said, Talia Sasson, Lamis Nasser
- Panel: Bridge-making with "Women Wage Peace" & the March for Hope: Huda Abuarquob, Michal Barak, Anat Thon
- Speech by Anat Thon, lawyer and civil society activist: *Promoting Women's Participation in Decision Making Processes, Preventing Violence Against Women and Advancing Peace*
- Updates on Security Research Project: Women and Human Security Focus Groups and review of country reports: Professor Fatima Sadiqi (Morocco), Pnina Steinberg (Israel) and Professor Rula Quawas (Jordan)
- Professor Fatima Sadiqi's speech: *Women's Movements in Post "Arab Spring" in North Africa*
- Voices of Cypriot Women Panel: Magda Zenon and Maria Hadjipavlou
- Dina Baslan's speech about refugees in Syria: *Reclaiming Narratives of Displacement: Understanding the Syrian Crisis through Personal Stories*

Visions for the Future

The participants set goals and visions for the future.

1. Cultivating a virtual, online conversation to happen ongoing, between each convening, to keep the momentum going. Topics to include:
 - a. Human and women's rights struggles
 - b. Education and violence against women
 - c. Get other activists, students, educators, politicians, etc. to join from other MENA countries
2. Keep a comparative study of lessons learned;
 - a. Decipher best practices
 - b. Women's movements in divided societies, such as:
 - i. Palestine/Israel
 - ii. Greek Cyprus/Turkish Cyprus
 - iii. East/West Germany
 - iv. Liberia/Muslim world
 - v. Bosnia/East Timor
 - c. Discuss successes of women's movements all over the world
3. Keep country reports on website, and include:
 - a. Status of women and UN Resolution 1325
4. Open channels of communication between pro-peace/pro-dialogue people:
 - a. Palestinians and Jordanians
 - b. De-exceptionalize the conflict
5. Draft a formal proposal to seek funding from the US/EU/Dutch to build a regional bloc in the MENA region to aid in the implementation of Resolution 1325. Activities could include:
 - a. Identify and recruit representatives engaged on 1325 in each MENA country to serve on the bloc
 - b. Collect implementation plans from other countries and serve as a clearing house for info on 1325
 - c. Build a network and promote it
 - d. Conduct research on the strategies employed by governments and civil society to integrate women into the implementation of 1325 and the peacemaking process
6. Need to highlight the role of young women—how can they be involved and what can they do?
 - a. Provide mentorship to young women
7. Need to include all women to convenings: disabled, marginalized, different sexualities, etc.
8. Present the new youth report from MENA countries at the 2017 convening

Convening Logistics

Convening Location

The 2016 convening was held at Hilton Park Nicosia.

The complete agenda for the convening can be found in the **Appendix item 3**.

Accommodations

Participants were provided with hotel rooms for the week, meals, and coffee breaks/snacks throughout the day. The hotel had three restaurants to eat at, a large pool, and spa facility.

Free evening

On Wednesday evening many participants ventured into the old city in Nicosia to explore historical buildings and sites, and to shop.

Program Management

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will continue to form valuable community connections to support the mission of FGW. They will set an agenda for the coming year, review the budget, and assist with special events throughout the year, including planning the 2017 convening.

Staff

The convening was managed by Patricia Davis and Justine Akbari, Program Manager. The team will work to transition program management to a new program manager for the 2017 convening with Rachel Carlson.

Budget

The board proposed a convening budget of about \$36,000. The convening total came out to **\$45,613.25**.

With a total income of \$80,238.77, and total expenses (including administrative, program management, and convening) of \$80,210.18, the balance for this year is currently at **-\$28.59**.

CORRECTION: Two overlooked expenses from the 2015 convening were corrected in this convening's expenses.

Support

The convening was sponsored by the Allianz foundation, and generous donations from Phyllis and Don Kahn, MN Best, Inc., and Beth Ford and Jill Schultz.

The U.S. Embassy in Cyprus sponsored our reception at the beginning of the convening with the U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus, Kathleen Dougherty.

Sherry Munyon provided her time and energy in recording convening speeches, photographing, and editing video footage from the convening.

Pat Davis provided substantial time and effort in helping coordinate convening logistics with the hotel including room and board, food, and ground transportation.

Appendix

Item 1: Background information and goals statement for Forward Global Women

Forward Global Women is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that convenes and trains women leaders in political and civic life from the MENA countries of Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Tunisia, Egypt, and Morocco along with USA women. Our mission is to promote the voices and perspectives of women leaders as agents of peace to help transform conflicts within the MENA region into sustainable peaceful relationships.

Forward Global Women fosters and nurtures the development and growth of women leaders to become active peacebuilders promoting co-existence, through their participation in annual convenings, research projects and coordinated actions and statements.

Vision

Forward Global Women envisions a world where women are actively engaged in conflict resolution and peacemaking.

Mission

Forward Global Women exists to foster the development and growth of nonviolent peacemakers by providing women leaders and activists from the MENA region with the opportunity to study peacemaking and co-existence and to put nonviolence into practice for the sake of the well-being of all.

Objectives

1. To create a space for women from the MENA (Middle East/North Africa) Region and the US to have an inspiring convening of connections, conversations and relationship-building through a dialogical engagement with old and new paradigms.
2. To transform conflict into more sustainable, peaceful relationships that are based upon principles of justice and equality to build support networks that cross geographic, political and cultural boundaries.
3. To facilitate new understandings of political and social problems through the lens of women leaders and to pursue potential solutions for which no answers or pathways currently exist.
4. To address the issue of women refugees and victims of war who reside in Jordan and surrounding countries.

5. To reconfigure a regional conceptualization of women's security needs.

Item 2: Individual biographies



Huda Abuarquob- Palestine; convening participant
Regional Director, Alliance for Middle East Peace-ALLMEP

Huda Abuarquob is ALLMEP's first on-the-ground regional director. She has years of experience in conflict resolution, NGO leadership, and social change education and activism, as well as a life-long commitment to building strong people-to-people Israeli-Palestinian relations. She is a well-known speaker on issues related to Middle East politics and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

After studying conflict transformation and peace studies as a Fulbright scholar, she worked as an executive director, a program director, and an NGO consultant to a number of organizations in the U.S., Israel, and Palestine. She is a co-founder of the Center for Transformative Education (CTE) and has taught and trained hundreds of students in Israel and the U.S. She has long been an active leader in grassroots Palestinian initiatives focused on women's empowerment and people-to-people diplomacy. Previously, Huda worked as a teacher, trainer, and consultant for the Palestinian Ministry of Education for fifteen years. She earned her M.A. in conflict transformation and peace studies from Eastern Mennonite University and her B.A. in education for social change from Al-Quds Open University in Jerusalem.



Justine Akbari—FGW Program Assistant
Strategic Communication Consulting Intern

Justine Akbari is a recent graduate from the University of Minnesota with degrees in Journalism and Global Studies with a concentration in human rights, the Middle East, and Political Science. She studied Arabic language and culture for three years and completed a study abroad semester in Fez, Morocco. Justine is currently in the midst of her 6th internship hoping to perfect her communication and writing skills, and explore future career options. She is a strong advocate for women's rights and particularly interested in foreign affairs in the Middle East. In college, she served on the board of the United Nations Student Association, and worked for a nonprofit assisting refugees from Burma. She is fascinated by globalization and the unifying capabilities of the internet.



Michal Barak-Israel; convening speaker
Executive Director, Center for the Study of Multiculturalism and Diversity, Hebrew University

Michal Barak is the co-founder of Women Wage Peace, a founding member of "Itach-Maa'ki": Women Lawyers for Social Justice, and founder of the NGO "A Different Lesson" which works with volunteers from various professions who teach enrichment classes in disadvantaged schools. Michal's career is dedicated to education for democracy and human rights. She has worked for the Gilo Center for Civic Education in the Hebrew University, The Center for Education and Technology at the Open University, and The Dov Lautman Forum for Education Policy. She has written curricula and books on civic education, trained teachers, and conducted research and wrote policy on municipal projects. In 2011 she was a founding team member of MindCET, eventually leading the teachers' program. After that she joined MOLAD:

The Center for the Renewal of Israeli Democracy as a researcher on education and the Arab Society. In 2015 she joined Professor Karayanni in founding the Center for the Study of Multiculturalism and Diversity at the Hebrew University where she currently resides as executive director.

Michal currently serves as a board member of “Merhavin for Shared Citizenship,” and “Sikkuy: The Association for the Advancement of Civic Engagement.” She holds a B.A. in Law from Hebrew University, an M.A. in linguistics from Rutgers University, and an M.A. in public policy from Tel Aviv University.



Dina Baslan- Jordan; convening speaker
Freelance researcher

Dina Baslan is a Jordanian freelance researcher working on topics pertaining to media, displacement and migration. A former aid worker, she worked as an information and communications specialist for three years and a half with the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) in the MENA regional office. Earlier, she has worked on research projects with UNESCO, Open

Society Foundations and BBC Media Action on media development in the region.

Most recently, she has worked with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and Fafo, a Norwegian research institute, on refugee-related issues in Jordan which included not only Syrian refugees, but ex-Gazan, Iraqi, Sudanese and Somali refugees in the country. In her work, Dina is invested in forming her understanding of the political, social & economic realities in the region through engaging in personal narratives, where she believes the essence of these realities lie. In September 2015, she joined her Syrian friend on his journey to asylum in Europe, traveling from Turkey to Germany. She blogs about the 44-day journey on her Medium blog medium.com/@dinabaslan. Dina believes in the power of animation and is especially a fan of Hayao Miyazaki’s anime work.



Rina Bar-Tal- Israel; convening organizer, participant, Vice-President, FGW
Former Chair & Present Board Member, Israel Women’s Network

Rina Bar-Tal received her BA in English Literature and Psychology from California State University and her MA in Public Administration from Clark University in Massachusetts, USA. She has lectured and facilitated at many forums around the world, including the Shadow Report to the UN on ‘Jump Start’ in Ethiopia, the Third International Forum of Women Presidents on Higher Education and the Fourth Asia Communication and

Media Forum, and the International Conference for Women Leaders in Hawaii, USA. Bar-Tal has also worked with government offices, defense forces, NGOs, and other conferences. Bar-Tal’s volunteer work includes many leadership roles on advisory committees and in organizations such as the Israel Women’s Network, which she chaired from 2000-2012. She was the Secretary-General of Naamat (Pioneer Women), Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Raanana, Project Manager and Developer for Ashalim in Elka, and Director for the School of Lay Leadership at the Joint Distribution Committee in Israel.



Ikram Ben Said-Tunisia; convening participant
Founder of Aswat Nissa, activist

Ikram Ben Said is a women’s rights advocate and founder of *Aswat Nissa* (Voices of Women), a Tunisian nonprofit promoting women’s

active participation in the political and policy-making spheres while fighting against all forms of discrimination and violence against women. Her latest initiative “Women’s Political Academy” was awarded the 2014 Madeleine Albright Award. Ikram is a former Senior Program Manager at Search for Common Ground (SFCG), a leading international nonprofit for peace building and conflict resolution, where she managed the youth, women, and dialogue departments at the Tunisian offices. Ikram was featured as the Next Generation Leader, first edition in Time Magazine, and chosen as a Female Role Model in 2014 by the Pixel Project “16 for 16” campaign.

In 2012 she joined the Women in Public Service Project at the Seven Sisters and Wellesley Universities in the U.S., a women leadership initiative by former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Not only a published author of numerous op-ed articles and recipient of several awards pertaining to female leadership for women’s rights, she is an experienced public figure speaking across Europe, the US, and MENA regions. Ikram holds a B.A. in Marketing from the Higher School of Economic Science and Commerce in Tunis. In 2016 she was a Fulbright Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota where she advanced her skills in areas pertaining to policy analysis on good governance and democracy, as well as gender equality.



Patricia Davis – United States; convening participant, Facilities Coordinator
Consultant/Communications Advisor

Patricia (Pat) Davis is a communications/campaign expert and writer with over 25 years of experience in the US and Middle East. A strong advocate for women’s empowerment, Pat has trained women in the US, Russia, Ukraine, Egypt and the Persian Gulf to run for public office and to advocate for social and political issues of concern to them. In 2011-12, she ran the Dubai office of a Washington-based NGO and was responsible for planning and implementing its Gulf programs, including leadership training for women in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Prior to this, Pat worked in Doha from 2004-09 on projects led by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar’s former First Lady and a global advocate for women and youth. In 1992, as Research Director at the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee in Washington, she worked with the eight Democratic women candidates for the US Senate in what was considered an historic “Year of the Woman.”

A skilled manager, Pat has built and managed high-functioning teams and has facilitated discussions and strategic planning sessions with an emphasis on participation and outcomes. She has also organized and directed a wide variety of events in the US and internationally, from exclusive CEO briefings to major conferences and exhibitions. Prior to her work abroad, Pat served as a legislative counsel to the US Congress and as a senior advisor at the US Department of Education during the Clinton Administration. She also spent many years as a communications and public affairs consultant, helping clients build relationships with government and opinion leaders and advocate for policy change.

Pat is a lawyer and holds an MPA from Harvard University with a focus on conflict resolution and politics.



Karen Feste- United States; convening participant
Professor, Founder, Conflict Resolution Institute

Karen Feste is a Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver served as Associate Dean (1988-2000); Budget director (1997-1999); founder and director of the

Conflict Resolution Program at the University (1998 to the present), and director of the International Security master's program (2008-2011). She teaches graduate seminars on Conflict Resolution, Military Intervention, International Terrorism, and Quantitative Research Methods. She currently serves on the editorial board of *Global Governance*, and is an advisory board member of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights, and the Canadian Peace Research Association.

As an invited academic scholar, Dr. Feste has lectured on American Foreign Policy, the Middle East Peace Process, Arab Spring, US Responses to Terrorism, and Conflict Resolution in Austria, Chile, China, Germany, Israel, Hungary, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and in various venues throughout the United States.

She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Minnesota, has been listed in *Who's Who in American Women* and in 1980, was selected as an Outstanding Young Woman in America. She was a Fulbright Scholar to Vienna, Austria during 1986-87 and in 1993-94. In 2016, Feste received the Alumni Achievement award from Concordia College, her undergraduate alma mater. She has published several books.



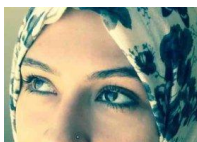
Maria Hadjipavlou- Cyprus; convening panelist
Professor of Social and Political Sciences, University of Cyprus

Maria Hadjipavlou is currently a Professor at the Social and Political Sciences Department of the University of Cyprus. She holds a PhD in Comparative Social and Political Change from Boston University. She has been a post-doctoral research associate of the Harvard Program in International Conflict Analysis and Resolution (PICAR). She represents Cyprus in COST Action IS0805: New Challenges of Peacekeeping and the European Union's Role in Multilateral Crisis Management. She is a well-known expert in conflict resolution and feminism. She has promoted peace across the divide in Cyprus for the last 25 years. She is a trainer in conflict resolution and gender-raising consciousness. She has published widely in the fields of conflict resolution, Cyprus and gender issues.



Amal Hamidallah- Netherlands; convening speaker
Lawyer, Regional Director Middle East, Cordaid

Amal Hamidallah is a lawyer and civil society analyst. She is an expert of the Middle East and North Africa with long-standing experience providing substantive contributions in the field of democratization, the Rule of Law, civil society development, transitional justice, peace and security, agency and participation, economic justice gender and human rights mainstreaming. Amal is the founder of the Gulf Foundation (former Bridging the Gulf Foundation) which specializes in civil society empowerment and development in the Arab world with particular focus on the Arab Gulf countries and women rights. Currently she is the regional director for the Middle East at Cordaid, an international humanitarian actor aiding the international community in bringing relief and support to the MENA region, especially in the Syrian Joint response and North Iraq joint response.



Sakina Kayed - Jordan; convening participant
Reporting Officer for Emergency Syrian Response, Cross Border, Freelance

Sakina Kayed is a freelance Arabic and English Interpreter, and ongoing reporting officer for Cross Borders' Emergency Syrian Response. She is also a former freelance editor and writer for numerous publications. Sakina holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Masters of Sustainable Development from the University of Jordan.



Ellen Kennedy – United States; convening participant
Executive Director, World Without Genocide (William Mitchell College of Law)

Ellen J. Kennedy, Ph.D., is the founder and Executive Director of World Without Genocide at William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul. The organization provides education about past and current conflicts and advocacy at the local, state, and national levels to protect innocent people, prevent genocide, prosecute perpetrators, and remember those affected by genocide.

Kennedy has received many awards for her work: Outstanding Citizen from the Anne Frank Center, Higher Education Leader of the Year from the National Society for Experiential Education, Outstanding Service Award from the Midwest Sociological Society, two awards from the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Women's Press Change-maker award.

World Without Genocide received a Certificate of Merit from the State of Minnesota, Office of the Governor, for efforts to seek justice and to eliminate genocide around the globe; and the 2014 Minnesota Ethical Leadership Award.

Kennedy is an adjunct professor of law at William Mitchell College of Law and is the Minnesota representative to AMICC, a national organization that advocates for the International Criminal Court. She also serves on the Human Rights and Relations Commission for the City of Edina, Minnesota.

Kennedy received her BA degree from the University of Michigan and doctorate degrees from the University of Minnesota.



Marianne Malak - Egypt; convening participant
Lawyer, Member of Parliament, and Member of National Council of Human Rights

Marianne Kamal Malak is the youngest Member of Parliament in Egyptian history. She currently serves as Deputy of the Minister of Immigration. She is also a member of the National Council of Human Rights and the International Parliament Union and serves on the Union's Committee for Women. MP Malak was also a member of the Constituent Assembly to write a new constitution for Egypt.



Mary Jo McGuire- United States; convening participant, FGW Board Chair
Commissioner, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire was elected to the Ramsey County Board in 2012. Prior to her election, she served in the Minnesota Senate (2010-2012) and the Minnesota House of Representatives (1989-2002). Commissioner McGuire has been involved with issue advocacy in such areas as civic education, human trafficking, violence prevention, and leadership. She has participated in diplomatic,

educational exchange programs to South Korea and the Philippines with the American Council of Young Political Leaders to experience firsthand the political and cultural dynamics of other countries. In 2002, she participated in the Foreign Policy Institute at the Center for Women Policy Studies in Washington D.C. and led a conference on human trafficking at St. Catherine University.

Commissioner McGuire is trained as a “qualified neutral” in dispute resolution cases. Over the years, Commissioner McGuire has served as a guest lecturer and adjunct professor at West Point Military Academy, the Center for the American Woman and Politics at Rutgers University, St. Catherine University, and Hamline University School of Law. She played a significant role in the establishment of the Global Women’s Leadership Convening at St. Catherine University in 2011.



Sherry Munyon-United States; convening photographer, FGW treasurer/secretary
Director at Capitol Access

Sherry Munyon is a small business owner and a government affairs specialist with nearly 30 years of lobbying experience with a concentration on the areas of public safety, transportation and education. In addition, she has served on numerous boards and organizations, including those that empower women in domestic abuse situations and victims of sexual violence. Whether in the political arena or other activities, her efforts are focused on achieving consensus whenever possible. Sherry continues to work assisting more women reach positions of influence and power, particularly in the political arena. Sherry is an officer on the board of directors of Forward Global Women.



Lamis Nasser – Jordan; convening participant
Independent consultant and researcher

Lamis Nasser is an independent consultant, researcher, and trainer in the fields of women’s rights, human rights, gender issues, CEDAW, CRC, women and child rights, and women development. In this capacity she has been a member of numerous research teams whose work ranges from reporting to CEDAW, the CRC, the EU, WFP, UNICEF, and other civil society organizations. She has extensive work experience in project coordination and advising, national and international reporting to UN treaty bodies, and conducting training workshops and seminars on women’s rights. Considered a gender expert in the MENA region by the UN Development Fund for Women, Lamis has years of experience in the field of gender and human rights. In 2004 she was awarded the annual “Human Rights Prize of the French Government for the year 2004”, an international award. She holds a B.A. in Psychology and Education from American University in Beirut, and an M.A. in Psychological Counseling and Guidance from Jordan University.



Sandy Pappas- United States; convening organizer, participant, President, FGW
President, Minnesota Senate

Senator Sandy Pappas was first elected to the Minnesota Legislature in 1984 and currently presides as President of the Senate. Throughout her legislative career, Senator Pappas has been a fervent and long-standing advocate for human rights, women’s empowerment, children, workers, refugees, immigrants, and other vulnerable groups. Over the years, she has passed legislation to prohibit sex trafficking and provide services to

victims; to curtail the investment of state funds in the Darfur region of Sudan; to provide emergency contraception for sexual assault victims; to allow children of undocumented parents to attend Minnesota state colleges and receive financial aid (MN Dream Act); to restrict state agencies from purchasing products made with “conflict minerals;” and passed into law the Women’s Economic Security Act. Senator Pappas is Vice President of the Women Legislators Lobby (WILL), is Vice Chair of the non-profit, World Without Genocide, serves on the board of the Senate Presidents’ Forum, was Treasurer of the World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association, and is on the board of the National Association of Jewish Legislators (NAJL). She has an MPA degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Sandy is married to Neal Gosman, has three daughters and 21 grandchildren- all living in Northern Israel.



Rula Quawas- Jordan; convening organizer, participant, Vice-President, FGW

Professor, University of Jordan

Rula Quawas is a professor of American literature and feminist theory at the University of Jordan. She was the founding Director of the Women’s Studies Center at the university, and she was also the Dean of the Faculty of Foreign Languages. Rula’s research focuses on feminist readings of American and Arabic texts written by women writers. She has written and published numerous essays in English on American and on Arab women writers. She has co-authored three language communication-skill textbooks, a book on Jordanian women short-story writers, a book on intercultural communication, a book on crossing borders through story-telling, and another on the voices of Jordanian women. She serves on many editorial boards such as Studies in Literature in English and the International Journal of Arabic-English Studies. Rula was honored as a distinguished international scholar, and she was also awarded the Meritorious Honor Award for Leadership and Dedication to the empowerment of Jordanian women. She was recently nominated for the International Women of Courage Award. Her dream is to forge new pathways and to see women fulfill their aspirations and become what they are capable of becoming. Rula Quawas strongly believes that dreams do come true.



Fatima Sadiqi – Morocco; convening participant, speaker
Senior Professor, University of Fez

Fatima Sadiqi is Professor of Linguistics and Gender Studies (University of Fez, Morocco); her work focuses on women’s issues in modern North Africa, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean world. She is author and editor of numerous volumes and journal issues, Sadiqi is also a public speaker in many languages and a member of many national and international scholarly and policy-making boards.

She founded the first Moroccan Center for Studies and Research on Women in 1998, and the first graduate program on Gender Studies in 2000 at the University of Fez. In 2006 she founded ISIS Center for Women and Development and in 2009 she was elected President of the National Union of Women’s Associations, also co-founding the International Institute for Languages and Cultures. Currently Professor Sadiqi is a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center.



Talia Sasson – Israel; convening participant
Advocate, Attorney

Attorney Talia Sasson heads her own law firm, representing organizations in administrative and civil cases in court. She is a board member of the New Israel Fund (N.I.F.) and a Co- Chair of the

International Council of the N.I.F. and president elect of NIF. She is a board member of the Geneva Initiative's steering committee, and a counselor for some other NGO's in Israel. In 2009, she ran to the Knesset as representative of The New Movement & Meretz. From 2004 to 2010, Mrs. Sasson taught a course on "Defenses through law on Democracy in Israel" in the faculty of law at Tel-Aviv University. From August 2004 to March 2005, at the request of former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Mrs. Sasson served as a special legal advisor for the government and the author of the Sasson Report on illegal outposts in the West Bank and law enforcement on Israelis in the W.B. From 1979 to February 2004 she worked in the State Attorney's office. From 1989 to 1993 she headed the Civil Department in the Jerusalem district attorney. From 1996 to 2004, she headed the Special Tasks Division of the State Attorney's office. In that role she represented the government of Israel in the Supreme Court for 13 years in civil, criminal, constitutional and administrative cases and was involved also with different security and military issues.



Pnina Steinberg – Israel; Convening participant

PhD, Center for Advancement of Women in the Public Sphere(WIPS) and Alin, Beit Noam

Pina Steinberg is a social anthropologist who studies disabilities and gender relations. She focuses on the intertwining of structure and agency in the process of producing identities, social positions, and social change. In the recent years she has specialized in state feminism and gender mainstreaming.

Dr. Steinberg's involvement in current Israeli efforts of implementation of UNSCR 1325 include: a recent report on women in top decision making positions: representation and diversity, for The Center for Advancement of Women in the Public Sphere (WIPS), October 2014; a comparative report on strategies of UNSCR 1325 implementation in various countries, for The Center for Advancement of Women in the Public Sphere (WIPS), October 2014; a presentation of the Processes of Adoption and Implementation of National Action Plans following UNSCR 1325, at a special session of the Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality, November, 2013; and a television and radio interviews on the essence of UNSCR 1325 and its local and global implementations (throughout 2013-2014).



Thuraya "Mary" Sweis - Jordan; convening participant

Director, Women Helping Women Network - Jordan

Mary Sweis holds a Diploma in Elementary Education from Princess Alia Institute, Amman. She has worked as a human rights activist in many capacities, including as the Vice President of the Pioneers Society, Deputy Mayor of Al Fuhais Municipality, Vice President of the Jordanian Women Union, member of The General federation of Jordanian Women, Member of the coalition committee of UN Resolution 1325-Jordan, Member of the National Democratic Institute, and Director of Women

Helping Women Network in Jordan.

Sweis was a founding member of the Jordanian Parliament of Children, President of Al Fuhais Women Workers Society, member and trainer of the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, founding member of the Jordanian National Forum for Women, consultant and board member of Al Fuhais and Mahes District, media coordinator in Al Fuhais Festival, and a lecturer and speaker in several conferences and conventions. Sweis also ran as a candidate for parliamentary elections in 2006. She is an avid op-ed writer and columnist in various Jordanian newspapers, magazines and online media.



Anat Thon- Israel; convening speaker
Executive Director, Itach-Maaki

Anat Thon-Ashkenazy is the Executive Director of Itach-Maaki - Women Lawyers for Social Justice, an Arab-Jewish NGO in Israel working to promote the voices of diverse women in public discourse and decision making. Anat is a senior attorney, specializes in law, gender discrimination and mainstreaming gender perspectives in peace and security issues. During her years of work at Itach-Maaki, Anat piloted an initiative of more than 30 NGOs that aimed to advance a National Action Plan in Israel based on UN Security Council Resolution 1325. This work led to far greater awareness of the resolution and its values and, ultimately to a government decision to create a National Action Plan.

At Itach-Maaki, Anat has acted to promote the representation of diverse women in a variety of public decision-making bodies via groundbreaking petitions to The Israeli Supreme Court on behalf of dozens of NGOs. These petitions have become legal precedents and have significantly improved the representation of women in governmental bodies. Anat has published articles and op-eds regarding the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Israel and has appeared on television and radio news programs. Anat holds LLM and LLB with honors from Tel-Aviv University. Anat recently received the 'Nachshonit Award' for her pioneering activities as an advocate promoting gender equality in Israel. In 2011, the leading economic magazine, The Marker, selected Anat as one of the seven promising young lawyers in Israel.



Orit Zuaretz- Israel; convening participant
Former Member of the Israeli Knesset (Parliament), Israeli Group

Orit Zuaretz served as a member of the Israeli Parliament from 2009-2013, and has since served as the CEO of a company engaged in social and economic development in the former Soviet Union and Jordan. She has been a member of the Committee on the Status of Women, where she chaired the Subcommittee on Trafficking in Women and the Lobby for Including Women in Negotiations teams and implementation of UN Resolution 1325. Zuaretz is pursuing a Ph.D. in Middle East Studies from Haifa University, and received her MA in Middle East and Africa Studies from Tel-Aviv University. She has been involved with Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee and with Friends of Earth and Middle East. She was also the Israeli Knesset delegate to the Committee on Energy, Environment, and Water of the Parliamentary Assembly- Union for the Mediterranean. Zuaretz served three years in the Army's Intelligence Corps and speaks four languages.

Magda Zenon- Cyprus; convening panelist
Host of 'Kaleid'HER'scope' radio program, Founder, Hands Across the Divide



Magda Zenon has been a peace and human rights activist ever since she can remember and brings with her a perspective formed within the contexts of living in three countries: South Africa, where she grew up during the apartheid years and where she obtained her degree in International Relations and International Law from the University of the Witwatersrand; Greece, living in a marginal area during the years leading up to and including accession to the EU; and now Cyprus, that she moved to 16 years ago.

Since moving to Cyprus she has continued to be an active member of civil society within the peace and women's movement with a focus on women's participation and the integration of the gender perspective in the peace process. She is a founding and active member of Hands Across the Divide, the first island wide women's organization; of the Cyprus Women's Lobby, that represents the Republic of Cyprus at the European Women's Lobby and of the Gender Advisory Team, an ad hoc group of women that came together and developed specific proposals with a gender perspective on subjects such as citizenship and property that were passed on and discussed with the negotiators.

Finally, Magda is a great believer in the power of story-telling and to this end has hosted for over 3 years a radio program called 'kaleid'HER'scope' on an Internet based community radio - MYCYRadio. 'Kaleid'HER'scope' is a forum for women's voice that perhaps might not have access to the traditional media and she has had conversations about gender based violence, sexual and reproductive rights, women and peace and women's participation in decision-making.

Item 3: Convening agenda

Title of Convening: Women's Challenges for Security, Peace, Rights and Equality in the MENA Region: Reducing Vulnerability, Giving Voice to Women Refugees, and Moving Forward

*All meetings held in Dionysus meeting room unless otherwise specified.

Monday, July 25: Arrival of Participants

7:00—8:00 PM: Reception at US Embassy, hosted by Her Excellency the US Ambassador to Cyprus Kathleen A. Doherty

*Please gather in the lobby of the hotel by 6:30pm to board the bus to the reception. Dress is smart casual.

Tuesday, July 26: Facilitator: Sandy Pappas

8:00: Breakfast, Olympia Restaurant in the hotel

9:00: Registration outside Dionysus meeting room (each participant will get a folder, notebook, pen, tote bag and name tag)

9:30: Introductory Speech: Sandy Pappas: FGW in the Spotlight: Beginnings and Growths; introduction of first speaker

10:00-10:45: Opening Speech. Dr. Amal Hamidallah, Middle East Regional Director, Cordaid (based in Iraq); Director of the Gulf Foundation

Title of Speech: Humanitarian Aid and Women's Plight in the Ongoing Tragedy of the MENA Region

10:45-11:30: Q&A

11:30: Coffee Break

12:00-13:30: Panel One: Perspectives of Women Activists on the Frontline in the MENA

Panelists: Ikram Bin Said, Anissa Hassouna, Talia Sasson and Lamis Nasser

What are some of the vital roles of women that help to build an inclusive society based upon peace, equality and human rights? Are these roles supported by governmental institutions? By civil society organizations? Name some of the powers that are set against these women? How do these women challenge the odds against them? How do

they build up their resilience and reduce their vulnerability? How can gender justice be achieved? What are some strategies that can be employed? What are the stories of success?

13:30-14:00: Q&A

14:00-15:00: Lunch, Olympia Restaurant

15:30-16:30: Panel Two: Bridge Making with "Women Wage Peace"

(www.womenwagepeace.org): March for Hope

In this panel, we will highlight the work Women Wage Peace has done over the past two years. We will also address our collaborative efforts to make a ripple in peace making processes.

Speaker: Michal Barak, Executive Director, Center for the Study of Multiculturalism and Diversity, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Title of Speech: Mobilizing Women Activism

Panelists: Rina Bar Tal and Orit Zuretz

16:30-17:30: Deliberation: A discussion will be opened about cooperation around the March of Hope.

17:30-18:30: Roundtable Discussions: Things in Common between Our Countries: Creating a Third Space for Dialogue and Engagement

18:30-19:00: Debriefing

19:30: Dinner, Olympia Restaurant

Wednesday, July 27: Facilitator: Dr. Rula Quawas

8:00: Breakfast, Olympia Restaurant

9:00-9:45: Speaker: Anat Thon, lawyer and civil society activist

Title of Speech: Promoting Women's Participation in Decision-Making Processes, Preventing Violence Against Women and Advancing Peace

9:45-10:30: Q&A

10:30-11:00: Coffee break

11:00-12:00: Research Project: Women and Human Security

Dr. Pnina Steinberg, Dr. Fatima Sadiqi, and Dr. Rula Quawas will run THREE separate focus groups with the conveners collecting and co-creating stories of human security and trying to construct a working definition for human security as it pertains to women in the MENA Region.

12:00-13:00: Research Project: Country Reports from Israel, Jordan and Morocco
Pnina, Fatima, and Rula will give each a 15-minute presentation on their country reports

13:00-14:00: Q&A

14:00-15:00: Lunch, Olympia Restaurant

15:00-16:00: Research Project: Readings and Reviews of Country Reports

Reviewer: Dr. Karen Feste will comment on the country reports and discuss the various conceptions of security that are highlighted.

16:00-17:00: Women and Security: Toward an Understanding of a Regional Conceptualization of Women's Security Needs
17:00: 17:30 Debriefing
19:00 Meet in hotel lobby to go to offsite dinner
19:30: Dinner

Thursday, July 28: Facilitator: Rina Bar Tal

Launch of Dr. Fatima Sadiqi's book: Women's Movements in Post-"Arab Spring" North Africa (2016). The book will be available for purchase. It will be gracefully signed by the editor and author herself.

9:00-9:45: Opening Speech: Dr. Fatima Sadiqi, author and Senior Professor of Linguistics and Gender Studies, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University in Fez
Title of Speech: Women's Movements in Post-"Arab Spring" North Africa

9:45-10:30: Q&A

10:30-11:00: Coffee Break

11:00-12:00 Panel One: Voices of Cypriot Women: What They Do and How They Do it: Challenges and Successes

1. Dr. Maria Hadjipavlou is currently a Professor at the Social and Political Sciences Department of the University of Cyprus. She holds a PhD in Comparative Social and Political Change from Boston University. She has been a post-doctoral research associate of the Harvard Program in International Conflict Analysis and Resolution (PICAR). She represents Cyprus in COST Action IS0805: New Challenges of Peacekeeping and the European Union's Role in Multilateral Crisis Management. She is a well-known expert in conflict resolution and feminism. She has promoted peace across the divide in Cyprus for the last 25 years. She is a trainer in conflict resolution and gender-raising consciousness. She has published widely in the fields of conflict resolution, Cyprus and gender issues.

2. Magda Zenon, Cypriot peace and gender activist, has been involved in multiple bi-communal projects aimed at building peace over Cyprus' dividing Green Line for decades. She has a weekly radio program that highlights women's issues and is a member of pioneering groups such as Hands Across the Divide, WinPeace, the Gender Advisory Team and the Cyprus Dialogue Forum—all of which have focused in part on increasing women's participation in the peace process. She is a regular speaker on issues related to the role of women in war and peace.

12:00-12:30: Q&A

12:30-13:30: Roundtable Discussions: Reflecting on Potential Joint Initiatives and Projects

For one hour, we will discuss openly and creatively in three roundtable discussions possible projects or initiatives that we can engage in next year. We have embarked on two big projects so far and the end results are very good. It would be beneficial at this stage to dwell on convergences which will solidify our sincere efforts to make a difference in the world in which we live.

13:30-14:00: Lunch, Olympia Restaurant

14:00-15:30: Reclaiming Narratives of Displacement: Understanding the Syrian Crisis Through Personal Stories

It is the individual rather than the world or nature that tells stories. Dina Baslan will open the floor for a session to share stories of displacement that FGW conveners and their families may have experienced. Our goal is to arrive at a common place where we can better understand the plight of refugees worldwide and of women in exile, among them our Syrian sisters, through the recollection of our own stories of displacement.

15:30-16:00: A Documentary on Syrian Refugees (22-minute film)

16:00-16:30: Q&A

16:30-17:00: Debriefing

17:00: Free Evening

Friday, July 29: Facilitators: Sandy, Rina and Rula

“Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence.” - Sheryl Sandberg

8:00 Breakfast, Olympia Restaurant

9:00-10:00: Evaluation

Presentation of Certificates and Photos

10:00-11:30: Visionary Perspectives: What the Future Holds

Checkout Points: What was important to me? My takeaway?

11:30-12:00: Light Lunch and Goodbyes

12:00: Hotel Checkout

12:15: Planning Team Debriefing over Lunch