

Dialogue: COVID-19 Impacting Domestic Abuse

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 - 10:30AM to 12Noon Eastern Time



Tessy Antony de Nassau is a Social Entrepreneur, Business Woman, Philanthropist, UNAids Ambassador, Public Speaker, Activist, Medial Doctorate and PHD candidate and Mother. Tessy holds an MS in International Studies and Diplomacy and is working on her medical doctorate in alternative medicines. Tessy is the Founder of the Global consultancy “Finding Butterflies Consultancy Ltd’ which aims to be supporting governments, institutions and business leaders in Impact projects, educational campaigns, women inclusion, and conference attendance and organisation. Tessy is also an associate at LSEideas at the London School of Economics a global recognised educational institution in London. Her commitments to education can be seen in her Charity, Professors Without Borders where she holds the title as President and Co-Founder– that brings top-level educators and global experts to the doorsteps of students worldwide, in order to develop talent. Moreover, Tessy is an ambassador for

UNAIDS (Global Advocate for Young Women and Adolescent Girls) and is the patron to UNA-UK. In the past, she spent five years in the Luxembourg military, during which she was deployed in Kosovo as a peacekeeper and only woman of her draft. After a successful academic journey Tessy decided to put theory into practice. She actively promotes a number of issues, including global health and women’s rights. She is passionate about pushing her different agendas to benefit the Sustainable Development Goals and has committed her time and energy to furthering the work of organisations in which she believes in. Moreover, she is actively committed to strengthening basic human rights for all and empowering young women and adolescent girls around the world. She got bestowed the Dame Grand Cross of Order of Adolphe of Nassau from HRH Grand Duc Henri of Luxembourg. Moreover, she received the Woman of the Decade award from the Women Economic Forum in January 2017, the Humanities medal for spreading humanistic ideas worldwide and the Global Empowerment Award for her work in Africa. She was named “Leader of the Year 2019” by the Leadership Academy in Luxembourg and has been awarded the Freedom of the City of London, the oldest and most traditional recognition in the UK. Tessy received her Honorary Doctorate for her work in and around education globally by the Paris College of Arts in May 2019 and has been awarded other numerous distinctions and awards around the world.



Mandy Sanghera is an award winning philanthropist, community consultant and global campaigner often referred to as a global catalyst. As well as being an international human rights activist & motivational Tedx speaker from UK. Mandy has travelled all over the world empowering & motivating others. With over three decades of experience, Mandy is an expert in various development related fields. She has been driving innovation, building strategic partnerships, promoting advocacy and programming in the areas of human rights, gender equality, accountability and social justice globally. Mandy has helped hundreds of individuals and now reaches thousands through social media and her generous amount of worldwide TV appearances and public speaking engagements, last November she spoke at the US House of Representatives for the 3rd year in a row. This year she was at the World Economic Forum and spoke at a couple of side events.



Mary Muia is a Soroptimist International UN Rep, Nairobi. Kenya Public Health & Social Entrepreneur. Mary is a 2019 Evolution Business Council (EBC) Membership Award nominee as an emerging global leader and is the first EBC member in Africa. She lives in Nairobi, Kenya East Africa region. Mary is passionate about environment, climate change, gender equality, food security, water and sanitation. She champions for rights and access to adolescents and youth reproductive health, family planning, maternal neonatal child health and access to basic services and livelihoods for women and girls living in informal settlements and rural settings. Mary is a founder director of WEMA, a community-based organization working to transform the lives of adolescent girls and young women to access education, prevent gender-based violence, early child marriages, teenage pregnancies, female genital mutilation (FGM), and other harmful practices through social entrepreneurship and economic resiliency initiatives. My

vision is to influence as a speaker, trainer, and coach in leadership as a tool to empower those working with girls and young women in vulnerable environments in Africa. A soroptimist, wife and a mother, Mary is the Immediate past Chair and President who helped bring Soroptimist International Africa Federation (SIAF) to its inauguration in June 2020, following many years of its formation journey. Mary was recently appointed to serve as a director for Soroptimist International (SI) Board starting January 2021.



Kirthi Jayakumaris is the Founder “The Gender Security Project” an initiative that works at the cross-section of gender, peace, transitional justice, and security, through research, reportage, and documentation. Kirthi is an activist, artist, entrepreneur and writer. She also coded an app for survivors of gender-based violence called Saahas, which works as a web and mobile app. She founded The Red Elephant Foundation, an initiative built on storytelling, civilian peace-building and activism for gender equality. She also founded **The Gender Security Project**, an initiative aimed at expanding the global understanding of gender at the policy, legal, and institutional levels. She also runs a podcast #FeminifestoPodcast



Dr. Amiera Sawas is a Senior Climate and Gender Justice Advisor at Action Aid UK. Amiera is a feminist researcher and advocate with a subject specialism in climate change, gender and security. She is experienced in developing and promoting multi-disciplinary research – through natural science, social science and participatory research, creating space for the voices of some of the world’s most marginalised people affected by climate change. Amiera completed her post-doc at the Grantham Institute for Climate Change, Imperial College London and her PhD in water governance and human rights at King’s College London Department of Geography. She has worked extensively in the global south, especially in Pakistan and Jordan.



Professor Geraldine Lee-Treweek is the Founder of the interdisciplinary field of Abuse Studies & designer of the first generic degrees globally in this area. Geraldine is a sociologist and transdisciplinary scholar with a keen interest in vulnerable groups and people who are defined as ‘out of place’ or who are excluded. A Romani woman and campaigner on the rights of marginalised groups such as Travellers and Gypsies. Geraldine is passionate about applied and community-engaged teaching of social science, bolstering employability and centring co-production of learning between students, tutors and communities. As a scholar activist with Romani heritage, Geraldine believes in the role of education to change lives, society and the world, through activities such as: civic engagement, participatory research, knowledge exchange, enterprise and widening participation to challenge power relationships.



Candice Shaw, M.A., PhD (ABD) is the Director of Violence Prevention & Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA People (MMIWG2S+) at the Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) an organization that enhances, promotes, and fosters the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women. As part of her role, she is representing NWAC on the Urban Sub-Working Group and the Data Sub-Working Group for the National Initiative to co-develop the MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan. Candice is also a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at McGill University. With a multidisciplinary background in social determinants of health, gender studies, and international development, she has over 10 years of experience in social policy and gender programming at both national and international levels. Her dissertation focuses on the social and economic consequences to shifts in gender roles and expectations facing displaced,

forced migrant Indigenous populations in Mexico. Recently, Candice’s professional work has focused on the policy ramifications and opportunities for positive change around the socio-economic, gender, and broader social issues facing Indigenous communities—with particular focus on women and gender-diverse people—from a distinction’s based, trauma informed, and strength-based approach in rural and urban contexts.



Margo LaZaro is the President - Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY. She is Co-Founder - CSO of the SDG Impact Awards Community. Margo is a Coordinating Partner of the UN2020. She is the Director of UN Relations for Global Family, and Chair of the Board of Advisors for Youth for a Better World/Montessori Model UN, Youth Impact! Forum and she represents the Huairou Commission at the UN. She is proud to be a Board member of Soroptimist International Metro New York Chapter and a Climate Reality Project Leader. She is a Designer/Artist & Activist who has been dedicated to impactful causes including the SDGs with over thirty years of experience at the United Nations and globally. She has worked within the UN Community as a Chief Developer of meetings, conferences and Special Events. She collaborates with all stakeholders in developing inclusive and impactful programs and projects that include the UN Sustainable Development Goals. She is the

Convener of the NGO Major Group Urban Thematic Cluster, as well as a member of the Women’s Major Group for the UN High Level Political Forum. Margo has been mainly focused on connecting all areas of the 17 SDGs. She passionately champions SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and she believes in the NGOCSD-NY motto: *“Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change.”* The NGOCSD-NY has been proud to be a Partner of the UN Secretary General’s UN75 Anniversary Dialogues and the UN Friends of World Ocean Day/Week initiative. Margo brings entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into United Nations discourse to foster support for the success of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, so we “Leave No One Behind.”

In Partnership: The Gender Security Project: <https://www.gendersecurityproject.com/>

Action Aid U.K.: <https://www.actionaid.org.uk/>

Finding Butterflies: <http://findingbutterflies.com/>

NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY: <https://www.ngocsd-ny.org/>

SDGIA Community: <https://www.sdqimpactawards.org/>

Soroptimist International: <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/>

Birmingham City University: <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/>

Native Women’s Association of Canada: <https://www.nwac.ca/>