The Nomination and Election Process of the Next UN Secretary

*Thursday, February 11, 2016*

5:00-7:00 pm

#She4SG

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**Speaker Bios**

**Dr. Chantal de Jonge Oudraat**

Dr. Chantal de Jonge Oudraat is President of Women in International Security (WIIS). She has held this position since February 2013. She was also a Senior Advisor to the Center for Gender and Peacebuilding of the U.S. Institute of Peace and was the founding and executive director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) North America (2012-2014). Previous positions include: associate vice president and director of the U.S. Institute of Peace Jennings Randolph Fellowship Program; adjunct associate professor at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; and senior fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. She has also held senior positions at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, DC and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Geneva.
Dr. Jean Krasno

Jean Krasno is a member of the faculty in the Department of Political Science at the City College of New York’s Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. She is also a Lecturer and Associate Research Scientist at Yale University where she has taught courses on the United Nations, UN peacekeeping, and International Organization since 1995. She was Executive Director of the Academic Council on the United Nations System from 1998 to 2003 when the organization was housed at Yale. Dr. Krasno was authorized by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to organize his papers for publication, a five-volume set, published by Lynne Rienner Publishers in March 2012. Dr. Krasno received her Ph.D. from the City University of New York Graduate Center in 1994, where she wrote her doctoral dissertation on Brazilian politics.

Ms. Shazia Rafi

Shazia Z. Rafi is former Secretary-General of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) from 1996-2013 and was the first woman on the ballot and runner-up finalist for the Inter-Parliamentary Union Secretary-General election. Born in Lahore, Pakistan, she graduated from Bryn Mawr College and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. She lives in New York City and her website is www.shaziarafi.com. Shazia Rafi is a WMC SheSource expert on international security, arms control, international law, international treaties, international women’s rights, international human rights policy and violations, political Islam, Africa, Asia, diplomacy, environment, international issues, Middle East and North Africa, politics and religion.

Ms. Gillian Sorensen

Ms. Gillian Sorensen has served the United Nations as Assistant Secretary-General; Senior Advisor at the United Nations Foundation; and New York City Commissioner for the United Nations and Consular Corps. She is a graduate of Smith College and studied at the Sorbonne. She has twice been a Fellow at Harvard – in 2002 at the Kennedy School Institute of Politics and in 2014 as an Advanced Leadership Initiative Fellow. She is an experienced public speaker and advocate, mediator, and bridge builder. Ms. Sorensen serves on
the Board of the International Rescue Committee and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Women’s Forum and the Women’s Foreign Policy Group. She has been active in politics and was a delegate to three national Presidential conventions.

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**Dr. Aisling Swaine**

Dr. Swaine received her Ph.D. from the Transitional Justice Institute, School of Law at Ulster University, Northern Ireland and her B.A. and MSc. in Humanitarian Assistance from University College Dublin. Along with being a Visiting Fellow at the Transitional Justice Institute at Ulster University, Dr. Swaine teaches as an Associate Professor of Practice of International Affairs at George Washington University, and researches issues of violence against women related to armed conflict; the women, peace and security agenda; global gender equality policy; feminist legal theory and transitional justice.

Previously, Dr. Swaine spent over seven years managing humanitarian and development programmes in conflict-affected and fragile states in Africa and South East Asia for international NGOs and the United Nations. She has also worked since 2007 as an independent consultant and technical adviser to the United Nations, including UN Women, international donors and NGOs and continues to consult globally and engage in practice. She is a Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Fellow at the Human Rights Education Associates and is appointed as a Senior Gender Adviser on the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Action Gender Capacity Roster.
Organizers

Campaign to Elect a Woman UN Secretary-General

In February 2015, a group of like-minded women have come together to launch a campaign to elect a woman as UN Secretary-General when Ban Ki-moon steps down at the end of 2016. There have been eight male Secretaries-General but never a female even though women represent half the world’s population. The group represents women from academia and civil society with a long record of engagement with the United Nations. Through an initial series of discussions, we decided that the time had come for a woman to lead the Organization and we formed a core-planning group to enact a plan of action. We welcome others to join the campaign, both men and women, individuals and organizations alike. It’s time!

Global Gender Program, George Washington

The Global Gender Program (GGP) comprises Elliott School faculty, staff, students, alumni, and affiliated professionals who are dedicated to improving the health, education, rights and security (HERS) of women and girls internationally and to reducing gender-based exclusion, violence, and discrimination in these four areas. Founded in 2010, GGP pursues its mission through teaching, research, and policy/public engagement.

Women in International Security

Women In International Security (WIIS) is the premier organization in the world dedicated to advancing the leadership and professional development of women in the field of international peace and security. WIIS (pronounced “wise”) sponsors leadership training, mentoring, and networking programs as well as substantive events focused on current policy problems. WIIS also supports research projects and policy engagement initiatives on critical international security issues, including the nexus between gender and security.