



WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

## ***Women's Rights and Gender Equality Under Threat: Conflict and Authoritarianism, Closing Civic Space and COVID***

### **Women In International Security (WIIS) & The Embassy of Liechtenstein, Washington D.C. Policy Roundtable Event**

**September 22, 2021 | 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (EST)**

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#### **Keynote Speaker**



**H.E. Dominique Hasler,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Education and Sport of the  
Principality of Liechtenstein**

Since March 2021, Dominique Hasler is the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport of the Principality of Liechtenstein. She has been a member of the Liechtenstein Government since 2017 when she became Minister of Home Affairs,

Education and Environment. Minister Hasler grew up in Mauren, Liechtenstein. She studied teaching and special education at the Intercantonal College of Special Education in Zurich, Switzerland. She received her Master's degree in Business Administration in Entrepreneurial Management at the University of Liechtenstein.

Prior to becoming a Government Minister, Minister Hasler worked as a special needs teacher and was a member of the School Board of Management and Departmental Director at the Therapeutic Pedagogic Center in Liechtenstein and a member of the Board of Management at the Liechtenstein Foundation for the Care of the Elderly and Sick.

## Panelists



### **Zuhra Bahman**

Country Director, Search for Common Ground in Afghanistan

Zuhra has worked in the peacebuilding and human rights field for twenty years. She has been actively involved in the peace process in Afghanistan and was a youth delegate in the first Bonn Conference in 2001. Zuhra previously served as the Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Women, Peace and Security and prior to that worked with the UN Women Afghanistan office.



### **Jamille Bigio**

USAID Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Jamille Bigio serves as the Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, the acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Gender Equality, and the Director of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub.

Prior to joining USAID, Ms. Bigio served as a senior fellow on Women and Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, where she researched, lectured, and published widely on the relationship between gender equality, national security, and global prosperity.

She previously served as the director for human rights and gender on the White House National Security Council (NSC) staff and as the NSC representative on the White House Council on Women and Girls. At the State Department, Ms. Bigio served as senior advisor on national security and on sub-Saharan Africa to the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues and was detailed to the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy and to the U.S. Mission to the African Union. Ms. Bigio led the interagency launch of the U.S. government's first National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, an effort for which she was recognized with the U.S. Department of State Superior Honor Award and the U.S. Department of Defense Secretary of Defense Honor Award. She also worked at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in New York, Ethiopia, and Iraq (based in Jordan), and at the grassroots level for public health nongovernmental organizations.



**Megan Corrado**

Director for Policy and Advocacy, Alliance for Peacebuilding

Megan E. Corrado is an international lawyer and policy practitioner working to promote human rights, peacebuilding, gender mainstreaming, transitional justice, and post-conflict legal and governance reform. She has extensive experience in international development, grant implementation, advocacy, and political campaign management. Megan has worked on democracy- and peacebuilding programs and processes in conflict-affected and post-conflict states across the Middle East and North Africa region, Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Eastern Europe.

Before joining the Alliance for Peacebuilding, Megan served as the Director of Advocacy with Women for Afghan Women, as well as an attorney with Cohen, Milstein, Sellers, and Toll and Counsel and Program Director with the Public International Law and Policy Group. In addition, Megan worked in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Office of the General Counsel, United States (US) Department of Defense; the US House of Representatives; and the British House of Commons.

She currently serves as Co-Chair of the US Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security, as well as Vice President for Global Affairs with the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues and a member of the Global Gender Coalitions' Co-Chairs Working Group.

Megan earned her JD, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, from American University Washington College of Law; BA, summa cum laude, in Political Science and English from the University of Rhode Island; and studied public policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science and international law at the Asser Institute in The Hague. Proudly born and raised in New Jersey, Megan currently resides in Old Town Alexandria with her husband and yellow labrador, Pasquale, and can often be found running, hiking, and, stereotypically, listening to Bruce Springsteen.



**Dr. Sarah Taylor**

UN Women & Director, International Policy and Women, Peace and Security, Inclusive Peace

Sarah works on the Inclusive Peace women, peace and security portfolio, on the organisation's work in Latin America, and on international policy strategy, in particular at the UN in New York.

She is an internationally recognised expert and policy advisor on women, peace, and security, providing strategic advice on international accountability

frameworks on women's rights in conflict, and expert guidance for the global community on women, peace and security considerations in specific conflict situations. Sarah has authored numerous articles and chapters, including publications on women, peace and security in the UN Security Council, on the linkages between women's rights and peace, and on gender and UN peacekeeping operations. Her research specifically on women negotiators has focused on Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Myanmar.

From 2017 to 2020, Sarah developed and then led the Women, Peace and Security program at the International Peace Institute. Prior to this, she was the women, peace and security advocate in the women's rights division at Human Rights Watch, and previously the Executive Coordinator of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.

Sarah holds an MA from the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, and an MPhil and a PhD from the New School for Social Research in New York, all in Political Science.

Sarah Taylor is on leave from Inclusive Peace for a temporary appointment with UN Women until the end of November 2021.

## Moderator



### **Ariela Blätter**

President & CEO, Women In International Security  
WIIS

Ariela Blätter has more than 20 years of experience in the peace and security field as an international lawyer, grantmaker, social entrepreneur and nonprofit leader.

Most recently, Ariela served as a senior grantmaker on mass atrocity prevention and response for the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund. Here, she spearheaded new philanthropic investments in civilian protection, women peace & security, and launched a local action fund with conflict-affected community partners in Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Myanmar.

Ariela co-founded the consulting firm Strategy for Humanity, stewarding its growth to an 8-person staff serving over 30 public and private sector clients. Ariela's work included creating the inaugural research agenda for Georgetown's Institute for Women Peace & Security and strategically re-launching the George Washington University's Global Women's Institute. Ariela has held senior management roles at Amnesty International USA, Citizens for Global Solutions and Refugees International. She has twice served as an NGO Permanent Representative to the United Nations, working on the negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty and the International Criminal Court's Rome Treaty.

While at Amnesty, Ariela founded its award-winning global center for preventing and responding to human rights violations in armed conflict. Brokering a groundbreaking public-private partnership, she secured Amnesty's place as the first human rights organization to use commercial satellite technologies for preventative conflict and displacement monitoring. In recognition of this work, she was appointed by former Secretaries Madeleine Albright and William S. Cohen to serve on the U.S. Genocide Prevention Task Force, resulting in the establishment of the U.S. Government's Atrocities Prevention Board.

Ariela has served as adjunct faculty at the School of International Service at American University in Washington DC and has published peer-reviewed scholarly articles.

She holds a law degree from Trinity College (Dublin) and a Master of Laws from the London School of Economics and Political Science.