

CEDAW event participants ~ Short Biographies



Elizabeth Evatt practised law in Australia and in England. She has held a number of official appointments in Australia, including that of Chief Judge of the Family Court of Australia from 1976 to 1988 and President of the Australian Law Reform Commission from 1988 to 1993. She was a part time Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission from 1995 - 1998. Other appointments she has held include Chancellor of the University of Newcastle from 1988 to 1994. From 1984 to 1992, she was a member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and chaired that Committee from 1989 - 1991. From 1993 to 2000 she was a member of the UN Human Rights Committee. From 1998 to 2006, she was a Judge of the World Bank Administrative Tribunal. Currently she is a Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists, based in Geneva.



Ghida Fakhry has more than 10 years of political journalism experience in both television and print media. Prior to joining Al Jazeera English, Ghida was the New York bureau chief of the pan-Arab daily Al-sharq Al-Awsat, and from 2002 to 2004 was lead presenter for the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation-Al Hayat joint venture's Evening News. Since joining Al Jazeera English, Ghida has interviewed numerous key international figures including the Israeli President Shimon Peres, Bolivian President Evo Morales, US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, US Secretary of State Colin Powell, late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the former head of the UN weapons inspection team in Iraq, Hans Blix in addition to covering the events leading up to the invasion of Iraq in March 2003 from LBC's headquarters in Beirut. Ghida was New York Bureau Chief for Al Jazeera Arabic from 2000 through 2001.



Maria Regina Tavares da Silva, member of CEDAW from 2000 to 2008, has authored numerous studies and articles on women's rights, gender equality, feminism and women in political life, and has taught at Portugal and Cambridge University. She is a former president of the governmental machinery for equality in Portugal — the Commission for Equality and Women's Rights, under the Prime Minister. She has participated as a national delegate to the 1975 UN World Conferences on Women, co-ordinated national preparation for the IV World Conference, Beijing 1995 and EU coordination in Beijing+5; and she was president of the Committee for Equality between Women and Men of the Council of Europe and of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the European Commission. She was awarded Medal of Merit by the President of the Republic in 1995.



Naela Gabr Mohamed Gabr Ali is the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Multilateral Affairs; Personal Representative of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the International Organization of the Francophonie; and member and Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). She holds two Master Degrees – in International Relations (University of Cairo) and in French Literature (University of Brno, Czechoslovakia), and a Bachelors of Art in Economics and Political Science (University of Cairo). She has participated and presented relevant papers, as UN expert, in several panels and workshops on human rights and women’s rights, including numerous seminars on trafficking in human beings and CEDAW.



Nouzha Guessous Idrissi is a medical biologist, parasitologist, Honorary Professor at Hassan II University of Casablanca, Morocco, and researcher and consultant in human rights and bioethics. She has published several papers in Moroccan and International Scientific and Medical Journals. Born in Morocco and educated in Morocco and France, she has been extensively involved in various committees on bioethics and was named by French President Sarkozy as a “*Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur*” in November 2008. She was a founding member of the Moroccan Organization of Human Rights and acts as consultant to women rights organizations. Nominated by His Majesty King Mohamed the VIth as a member of the Royal Advisory Commission for the Revision of the Personal Status Code - Moudawana , she actively contributed to the new Moroccan Family Code, and was awarded a “*Wissam du Mérite National du grade de Commandant*” in 2003.



Rosa Logar is the director of the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program Vienna, a victim/survivor service that has been established with the new Domestic Violence Act. She studied social work, is a trained supervisor, and University lecturer. Rosa was a member of the Austrian inter-ministerial working group on the new Domestic Violence Act, that came into force in 1997. She is one of the founders of the first Austrian women’s refuge and of the European Network WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe), was a member of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (2006-2008), and has been a member of the UN Expert Group Meeting Good practices in legislation on violence against women In Vienna since 2008 currently she is a member of the Council of Europe Ad Hoc Committee on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CAHVIO) preparing a legally binding instrument to prevent violence against women in Europe.



Sarah Jones is a Tony Award® winning playwright and performer. Her multi-character, one-person show *Bridge & Tunnel* was originally produced by Meryl Streep and became a critically acclaimed, long running hit on Broadway. Sarah is also a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, performing internationally as a Spokesperson on Violence Against Children. Most recently, she was invited by First Lady Michelle Obama to perform at The White House in celebration of Women's History Month. Sarah is currently at work on a commission for Lincoln Center Theater and a television project based on her characters.



Sujata Manohar is a retired judge from the Supreme Court of India, and retired member of the National Human Rights Commission, having acted as Focal Point on Trafficking and Women's issues as well as on HIV/AIDS. She graduated with honours in Philosophy from Elphinstone College, Bombay; has a Masters in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University; and holds Honorary positions at other universities in the UK and India. She was elevated as a Judge of the Bombay High Court in 1978, became the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court in 1994, and transferred as Chief Justice of the Kerala High court — the first women in these positions at these High Courts. She has acted as Chairperson of various committees, associations and advisory boards.