

Item 6. Thematic session: Women in leadership and their full and equal participation in decision-making in the UNECE region

Biographies of moderator and panellists

Moderator: Dr. Nicole Ameline, Vice-Chair, United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)



Dr. Nicole Ameline is the Vice-Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and a French candidate for the 2020 term. As a leading expert on women's rights and empowerment, particularly in the areas of peace and security, she focuses on promoting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Ameline has a strong background in law and has served several terms as a member of the French National Assembly for the Republican party between 1991 and 2017. During her time in the National Assembly, she held Ministerial portfolios on gender and equality, maritime issues, and decentralization, and was a member of several parliamentary committees.

Dr. Ameline also served as the French representative to the International Labour Organisation and as Ambassador at large on globalization and social issues from 2005 to 2007. Additionally, she held the position of Chair of the Defence and Security Committee during her time as a representative to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, gaining extensive expertise in supporting women's access to politics.

Panellists:**Ms. Aina Calvo Sastre, State Secretary for Equality and for the Eradication of Violence against Women, Spain**

Ms. Aina Calvo has been serving as the Government Delegate in the Balearic Islands since February 2020. She has held various political positions throughout her career, including Director of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) from 2018 to 2020, Spokesperson for the Socialist Municipal Group in the Palma City Council from 2011 to 2015, Co-President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions in

2011, and Mayor of Palma from 2007 to 2011.

Ms. Calvo also served as the Deputy Director-General for Cooperation and Cultural Promotion Abroad in the Directorate-General for Cultural and Scientific Relations (MAEC-AECID) from 2004 to 2006 and as a Member of Parliament for the Socialist Parliamentary Group in the Parliament of the Balearic Islands from 2003 to 2004.

Born in Palma in 1969, Ms. Calvo holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and letters (1992) and a Ph.D. in Educational Sciences (1997). She has been a tenured professor at the Department of Applied Pedagogy and Educational Psychology of the University of the Balearic Islands since July 2000.

In October 2021, Ms. Calvo was awarded the Medal of the National Order of Merit of France in recognition of her contributions to international cooperation and development.

Ms. Isabelle Rome, Ambassador at Large for Human Rights, France



Ms. Isabelle Rome currently serves as the Ambassador at Large for Human Rights for France. Her extensive career in the judiciary and public service is marked by significant contributions to human rights and gender equality. Most recently, she was the Minister Delegate in charge of Equality between Women and Men, Diversity, and Equal Opportunities from May 2022 to July

2023. Prior to this, she was a senior official for gender equality at the Ministry of Justice in 2018. From 2012 to 2018, she served as an advisor to the Court of Appeal of Versailles and President of the Assize Courts of Nanterre, Versailles, Pontoise, and Chartres.

Ms. Rome's earlier roles include holding various positions in Amiens and Pontoise in 2002, serving as technical advisor in charge of judicial protection of youth, victim assistance and access to rights into Marylise Lebranchu's office, former French Minister of Justice from 2000 to 2002, and heading the crime prevention office at the Interministerial Delegation for the City in 1998. She also worked as an investigating judge from 1996 to 1998, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Lyon High Court from 1992 to 1995 and began her career as a sentencing judge in Lyon in 1987.

In addition to her professional achievements, Ms. Isabelle Lonvis-Rome has been actively involved in numerous associations supporting women victims of violence, refugees, asylum seekers, and people in detention. She is also an accomplished author and has written several books on the profession of judge ("Vous êtes naïve, Madame la juge"), on women in prison ("Dans une prison de femmes : une juge en immersion") as well as on domestic violence, in particular the hold that one person can have on the other in domestic violence situations ("L'emprise et les violences au sein du couple").

Dr. Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR Director's Alternate/First Deputy Director

Dr Tea Jaliashvili is the First Deputy Director (FDD)/ODIHR Director's Alternate. She has extensive experience in strategic policy development, and the management and administration of technical cooperation programmes in the fields of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law,

within international, national and non-governmental organizations. Before joining ODIHR, she served as the acting Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe. She previously worked as the Deputy Director at the Women's Information Center in Georgia, where she was deeply involved in strengthening the capacity of civil society to protect women's rights and advance gender equality. Ms. Jaliashvili has also worked for the UN, the Council of Europe, and EU joint initiatives in several regions. Throughout her career, she has worked toward achieving peace and a just society based on principles of good governance and the rule of law. Her contributions have been instrumental in legislative reforms, policy and institutional development, including strengthening and harmonizing the work of the judiciary and National Human Rights Institutions. She holds a master's degree in international human rights law, as well as doctorates in medicine and philosophy (MD-PhD). She is fluent in Georgian (native), English, Russian and French.

Ms. Mary Collins, Secretary General European Women's Lobby

Ms. Mary Collins is the current Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby (EWL). Prior to assuming this role, she served as the Senior Policy and Advocacy Coordinator at the EWL, focusing on socio-economic issues related to women's economic independence. In this capacity, she worked on various topics, including the gender pay gap, pensions, poverty gaps, work-life

balance, and the EU2020 Strategy/European Semester/economic governance framework from a gender perspective.

Ms. Collins also coordinated the EWL feminist economics working group and published the EWL Purple Pact, which advocates for a feminist approach to the economy. With over 25 years of professional experience, Ms. Collins has worked on a wide range of issues related to gender equality, including violence against women, EU asylum and human rights policies, the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, and the UN Convention on Persons with Disabilities. Her expertise spans policy development, capacity building, representation, campaigning, and advocacy.

Ms. Sarah Childs, Personal Chair of Politics and Gender, University of Edinburgh



Ms. Sarah Childs is the Chair of Politics & Gender at the University of Edinburgh. She previously held positions as Professor of Politics & Gender at Royal Holloway from 2020 to 2022, Birkbeck College from 2017 to 2020, and the University of Bristol from 2009 to 2014. Ms. Childs has authored four research monographs: "New Labour's Women MPs" in 2004, "Women and British Party Politics" in

2008, "Sex Gender and the Conservative Party" co-authored with Paul Webb in 2012, and her most recent award-winning book, "Feminist Democratic Representation" co-authored with Karen Celis in 2020.

Her upcoming book, "Designing and Building Feminist Institutions," draws on her experiences being seconded to the UK House of Commons in 2015-16, drafting "The Good Parliament Report," and conducting gender-sensitive parliaments research with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and UN Women. The book is set to be published next year.

Ms. Nabeelah Shabbir, Freelance journalist, and Deputy Director of Research International Center for Journalists



Ms. Nabeelah Shabbir is a British-Pakistani freelance journalist. She is currently Deputy Director of Research at the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ). From her base in Amsterdam (Netherlands), she collaborates with a team investigating topics such as: disinformation in newsrooms globally; the state of journalism after the pandemic; and online violence against women

journalists worldwide.

Ms. Shabbir is co-author of a series of reports at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford about digital-born news media; innovation in news media in the Global South; and the impact of the Panama Papers investigation three years on.

At The Guardian, Ms. Nabeelah Shabbir shared a British Journalism Award with the “Keep it in the Ground” team, which focused its reporting on fossil fuel divestment and climate change, in 2015. She was also a “European Young Journalist” of the year for her writing in Kosovo in 2008.