



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
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la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للترية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

International Women's Day
Division for Gender Equality

Women in Culture and Science Symposium

Conference organized by the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Rights, University of
Copenhagen, Denmark

CONCEPT NOTE

This symposium is held in celebration of the International Women's Day. The program includes specialists in the fields of the right to culture and the right to science who will speak and gather in two panels to debate with the audience.

CONCEPT

Culture has been misused to justify restrictions to the full enjoyment of human rights and freedom of women and girls. Our first panel examines the position of women in scientific freedom and creativity, reflects on the importance of having women involved in scientific endeavours and explores the challenges preventing women and girls to access, participate in, and contribute to cultural life and science.

The second part of our day will focus on the latest developments in authoritative guidance; discuss the new General Comment on the Right to Science, the Status of Scientific Researchers, as well as the potential of blockchain to improve the scientific process and the independence of women.

Music and science are two ways of using a common set of tools for thinking. In true festivity spirit, artist Nukâka Coster-Waldau and four musicians from Greenland and Denmark will present us with live sessions at the beginning and at the end of the program.

"Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits", article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

OBJECTIVE AND KEY MESSAGES

As a result of this symposium, the organizers plan to develop a tool kit for companies and institutions on how to assess their impacts in relation to the right to culture and the right to science.

Key messages include:

- Technology and STEM disciplines, together with culture, have a great potential for social change in general, and to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in particular.
- The current situation in both culture and scientific fields does not favor women. Women are severely under-represented in both the culture and science sectors, particularly in key roles, research and decision-making positions.
- Businesses and institutions must consciously analyze their policies and internal practices to identify their adverse impacts in the lives of women. Without this conscious analysis, business and institutions are likely to perpetrate existing gender stereotypes.
- UNESCO Chairs help advance our thinking and find innovative solutions on issues pertaining to gender equality and women's empowerment. This symposium breaks new ground and promotes a better understanding on the numerous links between culture, creativity and science.

BACKGROUND

Students, representatives from civil society, businesses, international organisations and the scientific community have been invited to showcase the power of cross sector collaboration to advance the rights of women and girls to take part in scientific development and cultural life.

PROGRAMME

Paris, March 8 th , 2018 - International Women's Day	
Women in Culture and Science Symposium	
Venue: UNESCO, Paris. Room 4	
09:00	Registrations
09:10	Welcome – Helle Porsdam, Professor of Law and Humanities and UNESCO Chair in Cultural Rights, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
09:20	Opening remarks – Saniye Gülser Corat, UNESCO Director of the Division for Gender Equality
09:30	Music session and readings – Greenlandic artist Nukåka and band
09:50	Panel 1: Women, scientific freedom and creativity Facilitator: Helle Porsdam, Professor of Law and Humanities and UNESCO

	<p>Chair in Cultural Rights, University of Copenhagen, Denmark</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Farida Shaheed</td> <td>first UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, Executive Director of Shirkat Gah-Women's Resource Centre in Pakistan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karima Bennoune</td> <td>current UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, Professor of International Law at the University of California-Davis School of Law</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yvonne Donders</td> <td>Professor International Human Rights and Cultural Diversity and Head of the Department of International and European Public Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Amsterdam, member of the National Commission for UNESCO, member of the Human Rights Committee of the Advisory Council on International Affairs</td> </tr> </table>	Farida Shaheed	first UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, Executive Director of Shirkat Gah-Women's Resource Centre in Pakistan	Karima Bennoune	current UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, Professor of International Law at the University of California-Davis School of Law	Yvonne Donders	Professor International Human Rights and Cultural Diversity and Head of the Department of International and European Public Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Amsterdam, member of the National Commission for UNESCO, member of the Human Rights Committee of the Advisory Council on International Affairs
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11:10	Break						
11:30	<p>Panel 2:</p> <p>Where are we heading: significant developments</p> <p>Facilitator: Lyn Boyd-Judson – UNESCO Chair for Global Humanities and Ethics Education, director of the USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics and executive director of the Oxford Consortium for Human Rights</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Mikel Mancisidor</td> <td>UN Treaty Body Independent Expert (member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, CESCR), Adjunct Professor at the Washington College of Law, American University, and visiting professor at the University of Deusto and at the Institut International des Droits de l'Homme René Cassin, Strasbourg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sebastian Porsdam Mann</td> <td>Postdoc, Center for Bioethics, Harvard Medical School</td> </tr> </table>	Mikel Mancisidor	UN Treaty Body Independent Expert (member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, CESCR), Adjunct Professor at the Washington College of Law, American University, and visiting professor at the University of Deusto and at the Institut International des Droits de l'Homme René Cassin, Strasbourg	Sebastian Porsdam Mann	Postdoc, Center for Bioethics, Harvard Medical School		
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12:30	Music session and readings – Greenlandic artist Nukaka and band						
12:50	Last words – Helle Porsdam and Lyn Boyd Judson						
13:00	End of symposium						

Questions related to the event should be submitted to ana.villaca@jur.ku.dk