

Speakers Bureau

Nobel Peace Laureates

Jody Williams

Nobel Peace Laureate, USA

Jody Williams was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for forging the first global treaty banning landmines. A disarmament expert, Jody regularly briefs government officials on the risks of drones and autonomous weapons. She is internationally published on the subjects of peace, women's rights, and sexual violence.

Topics: Disarmament / Impact of Armed Conflict on Women / Sexual Violence

Languages: English / Spanish



Leymah Gbowee

Nobel Peace Laureate, Liberia

Leymah Gbowee received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012 for leading the non-violent women's movement in Liberia that ended the Liberian civil war. Leymah is a trained trauma counsellor and outspoken activist against sexual violence as a tool of war—most recently in South Sudan. She is the recipient of several international peacebuilding awards.

Topics: Sexual Violence / Impact of Armed Conflict on Women in Liberia and South Sudan

Languages: English



Mairead Maguire

Nobel Peace Laureate, Northern Ireland

Mairead Maguire was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1976 for leading mass non-violent demonstrations for peace to end the political conflict in her native Northern Ireland. Mairead has taken her peacebuilding career to the international level. She regularly travels to Israel and Palestine to meet with groups using nonviolent solutions to the ongoing conflict.

Topics: Peacebuilding & Nonviolent Conflict Resolution in Northern Ireland, Israel and Palestine

Languages: English



Shirin Ebadi

Nobel Peace Laureate, Iran

Shirin Ebadi received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her pioneering work to promote democracy, women's rights, and justice in Iran. Shirin is the first Iranian to win the Prize, and one of the first female judges in Iran. She now lives in exile but continues to speak out against legal discrimination in Iran. Shirin is widely published on human rights in Iran.

Topics: Political Prisoners in Iran / Extremism in Iran / Human Rights

Languages: Farsi (English interpretation is available)





DEFENDING THE DEFENDERS!

Building Global Support for Women Human Rights Defenders
Santpoort-Noord, the Netherlands – April 24-26, 2015

Tawakkol Karman **Nobel Peace Laureate, Yemen**

Tawakkol Karman received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012 for her role to promote the safety and participation of women in peacebuilding processes in Yemen. Tawakkol is the first Arab woman to receive the Prize and is known as the “Mother of the Revolution” of the 2011 Yemeni uprising. In light of increasing violence in Yemen, Tawakkol now lives in exile. She continues to speak out against extremists and call for peace.

Topics: Nonviolent Resistance in Yemen / Extremism in Yemen

Languages: Arabic / English



Protecting Women Human Rights Defenders

Lisa VeneKlasen **JASS (Just Associates), USA**

Lisa VeneKlasen is Co-founder and Director of JASS, an international feminist organization working in 28 countries. Lisa has lead over 31 fact-finding missions of US opinion leaders and legislators to Central America to change US policy. She is an expert on equipping women’s movements for justice and equality, and is a published author on the topic.

Topics: Violence Against Women Human Rights Defenders

Languages: English / Spanish



Yifat Susskind **MADRE, USA**

Yifat Susskind is Executive Director of MADRE where she works with women activists from around the world. Yifat has written extensively on US foreign policy and women’s human rights. Her critical analysis has appeared in publications such as The New York Times and Foreign Policy. Yifat has been featured as a commentator on CNN, and BBC Radio.

Topics: Violence Against Women Human Rights Defenders

Languages: English

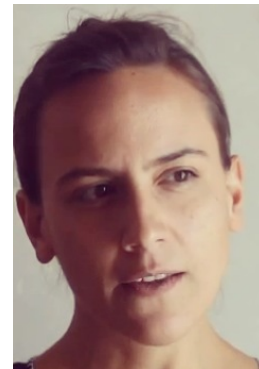


Cristina Hardaga Fernandez **JASS (Just Associates), Mexico**

Cristina Hardaga Fernandez is based in Mexico City and is a key organizer for the Women Human Rights Defender Initiative. She is an expert on supporting and protecting women human rights defenders in Mexico and Central America.

Topics: Sexual Violence in Mexico and Central America / Risks Against Women Human Rights Defenders

Languages: Spanish / English



Confronting Fundamentalism and Extremism

Sima Samar
Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Afghanistan

Dr. Sima Samar was appointed the inaugural chair of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission in June 2002. Dr. Samar has served on several bodies, including Minister of Women's Affairs in the post-Taliban Interim Administration of Afghanistan, and as the UN's Special Rapporteur on human rights in Sudan. She is the recipient of several prestigious awards.

Topics: Extremism in Afghanistan

Languages: English / Farsi



Yanar Mohammed
Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq, Iraq

Yanar Mohammed is one of the most prominent women's rights campaigners in Iraq. She is co-founder and Director of the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq whose work includes advocating against honor killings and child marriages. Yanar has received several prestigious awards for her work and is currently based in Iraq.

Topics: Extremism in Iraq / Violence Against Women Human Rights Defenders

Languages: English / Arabic



Mansoureh Shojaee
One Million Signatures Campaign, Iran

Mansoureh Shojaee is a leading Iranian women's rights activist and writer. Mansoureh is one of the initiators of the One Million Signatures Campaign, which led to her arrest several times, causing her to go in to exile. Mansoureh opened public spaces for women in Iran, and established a women's museum and cultural centre alongside Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi.

Topics: Extremism in Iran / Violence Against Women Human Rights Defenders

Languages: Farsi / English

Sussan Tahmasebi
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), Iran

Sussan Tahmasebi is the co-founder of the International Civil Society Action Network and currently serves as the Director of ICAN's Middle East regional program. Sussan has ten years of experience as a women's rights and civil society activist. She has been honoured for her work, including receiving several prestigious awards.

Topics: Extremism in Iran / Violence Against Women Human Rights Defenders

Languages: English / Farsi



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Survivors and Sexual Violence in Conflict

Jineth Bedoya Lima
Journalist, Colombia

Jineth Bedoya Lima is an accomplished Colombian journalist. In 2000, Colombian paramilitaries kidnapped and brutally raped Jineth for her efforts to report on the war. In 2009 she created the 'It Is Not Time To Be Silent' campaign that supports survivors of sexual violence in Colombia. She is the recipient of many prestigious awards for her courage.

Topics: Sexual Violence in Colombia

Languages: Spanish (English interpretation is available)



Julienne Lusenge
Female Solidarity for Integrated Peace and Development (SOFEPADI)
Democratic Republic of Congo

Julienne Lusenge leads a coalition of 40 women's organizations in eastern Congo that work to defend and protect women's rights and support survivors of sexual violence. She speaks regularly to global audiences about the needs of women in the Congo. Her work is featured in the new multimedia exhibit, *Beauty in the Middle: Women of Congo Speak Out*.

Topics: Sexual Violence in DRC / Impact of Armed Conflict on Women in DRC

Languages: French (English interpretation is available)



Susannah Sirkin
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), USA

Susannah Sirkin is Director of International Policy and Partnerships at Physicians for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization that uses medicine and science to stop human rights violations. She has organized health and human rights investigations in dozens of countries to document genocide, rape and violations of international humanitarian law.

Topics: Documenting & Reporting Sexual Violence

Languages: English / French / Spanish



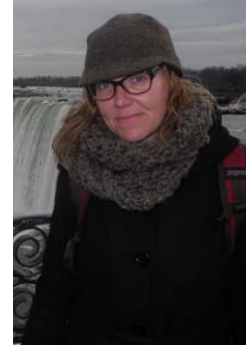
Defending Land and Indigenous Rights

Jen Moore
MiningWatch, Canada

Jen Moore is the Latin America Program Coordinator for MiningWatch Canada, and a regional expert on the impacts of large-scale mining operations on indigenous populations. She regularly presents critical analysis of Canada's mining operations to national and international policy makers, officials, and advocacy groups.

Topics: Resource Extraction / Violence Against Women Human Rights Defenders

Languages: English / Spanish



Leila Salazar-Lopez
Amazon Watch, USA

Leila Salazar-Lopez is the Executive Director at Amazon Watch where she defends the Amazon and supports Amazonian Indigenous women to defend their rights and territories. Leila is an expert on the environmental and social impacts of resource extraction in the Amazon, with over two decades of environmental advocacy experience.

Topics: Resource Extraction / Violence Against Women Human Rights Defenders in the Amazon

Languages: English / Spanish



Melina Laboucan-Massimo
Greenpeace Canada, Canada

Melina Laboucan-Massimo is a Climate & Energy Campaigner with Greenpeace Canada and a powerful youth advocate against tar sands expansion in Canada. Melina is a member of the Lubicon Cree First Nation in Northern Alberta, Canada, and is actively seeking justice in the case of her sister's unsolved death.

Topics: Resource Extraction / Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada

Languages: English



Miriam Pixtun Monroy
Tzununija, Guatemala

Miriam Pixtun Monroy is a Maya Kaqchikel woman and leader of the peaceful resistance in La Puya, Guatemala where she defends indigenous and human rights against large-scale mining operations. Miriam focuses specifically on defending women's rights and land rights, and supporting women defenders in the region.

Topics: Resource Extraction / Violence Against Women Human Rights Defenders

Languages: Spanish (English interpretation is available)

