

Vienna+20: Women's rights at stake?! Voices of international women's rights activists

Tuesday, June 25 2013, 7 – 8:30 pm

**Office of the Federal Minister for Women and the Civil Service
Palais Dietrichstein Minoritenplatz 3, 1014 Vienna, Austria**

20 years ago, at the second UN Conference on Human Rights, for the first time the multiple forms of violence against women were broadly recognized as human rights violations. By signing the „Vienna Declaration and Program for Action“, 171 States stressed that „Gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudice and international trafficking, are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person, and must be eliminated.“ Since then, women and activists all over the world should be able to refer to these commitments.

We would like to take a look back, but also to look forward! At the occasion of „Vienna+20“ we kindly invite to a dialogue with activists who have been engaging in different ways and worldwide for women's human rights. What has changed over the last 20 years? What is inspiring and motivating? Which strategies and methods have proven to be useful? What is missing and needed in order to reach more gender justice?

Program

Address of welcome by Federal Minister **Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek**

Panel discussion

Charlotte Bunch, Founding Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University, Board of Governor's Distinguished Service Professor in Women's and Gender Studies, USA

Rosa Logar, Director of the Domestic Violence Intervention Centre Vienna, „Women's rights are human rights“ activist, Austria

Valerie N. Msoka, Director of the Tanzania Media Women Association, Tanzania

Seidy Salas Víquez, Colectiva por el Derecho a Decidir & Centro de Investigación y Estudios de la Mujer, Costa Rica

Wendy Harcourt, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy, ISS, Erasmus University, Italy/Australia

Discussion with the public, Q&A

Reception and time for informal exchange

Moderator: **Ursula Dullnig**, WIDE, Austria

Languages: German, English and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation

Organizers:

WIDE, Solidarity among Women and VIDC – Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Women and Civil Service and ÖH Vienna

Please register until June 18 at: thallmayer@wide-netzwerk.at; +43-1-3174031

Panelists



Charlotte Bunch, Founding Director and Senior Scholar of the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), Rutgers University, has been an activist, author and organizer in the women's, civil, and human rights movements for four decades. CWGL lobbied the United Nations to view women's rights as a human rights issue and to establish UN WOMEN in 2010. A Distinguished Professor in Women's and Gender Studies, Bunch founded Washington D.C. Women's Liberation, "The Furies and Quest: A Feminist Quarterly". Every chapter in her life is a chapter in the story of modern feminist activism and one out of many is her key role in the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993. Currently she is on the Board of the Global Fund for Women, the Advisory Committee for the Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch, and the Global Civil Society Advisory Group for UN Women. Bunch has written numerous influential essays and co-authored "Demanding Accountability: The Global Campaign and Vienna Tribunal for Women's Human Rights" (CWGL, UNIFEM 1994).



Rosa Logar is a national and international women's human rights activist, co-founder of the first Austrian women's shelter in 1978 and of the European network WAVE - Women against Violence Europe in 1994. She was a member of the Austrian inter-ministerial working group on the new Domestic Violence Act (1997) and other subsequent legislative changes. Rosa is the Director of the Domestic Violence Intervention Centre in Vienna and a lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences/Department of Social Work. She was active in the international Campaign "Women's Rights are Human Rights" and participated in the Human Rights conference 1993 in Vienna. From 2006-2008 she was a member of the Council of Europe *Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* and from 2008-2010 she represented Austria in the *Ad Hoc Committee on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CAHVIO)*, which drafted the new Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.



Valerie N. Msoka is a journalist and since 2012 the executive director of the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA). TAMWA is a women's and child rights advocacy organization that acts on a regional and international level. In this function Valerie produced a manual on reporting gender based violence to give an understanding of the issue to journalists in their writing of stories, articles and production of stories. For several years (2005 – 2012) she worked for the UN Public Information Office in Iraq and Sudan developing communication strategies and information campaigns. From 1992 until 2005 she also worked for BBC as a senior radio producer in London.



Seidy Salas Víquez is a radio activist and since 2010 working with the “Colectiva por el Derecho a Decidir” (Collective for the Right of Free Choice), a women’s organisation that deals with sexual and reproductive rights in Costa Rica. She works as a consultant for civic participation, gender equality and communication and as a trainer using radio drama to educate and raise awareness among civil society. Currently, she also works for the broadcast service of the Universidad de Costa Rica. For the last years she has worked on environment and development as well as on human rights of women, especially on sexual and reproductive rights.



Dr Wendy Harcourt joined the International Institute of Social Studies of the Erasmus University, The Hague, in November 2011 after 20 years at the Society for International Development, Rome as Editor and Director of Programmes. Her latest edited collection is “Women Reclaiming Sustainable Livelihoods, Spaces Lost Spaces Gained” (Palgrave 2012). Her monograph “Body Politics in Development: Critical Debates in Gender and Development” (2009) received the 2010 FWSA Book Prize. Her four other collections of books include “Women and the Politics of Place” with Arturo Escobar (Kumarian Press 2005). She is editor of two book series: “Gender and Environment” (Zed Books) and “Gender, Development and Social Change” (Palgrave). Her ongoing work includes an International Handbook on Gender and Development for Palgrave and another on Transnational Feminism for Oxford University Press America with Rawwida Baksh.