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International Day of **Women**
in **Multilateralism**



ONLINE GENDERED DISINFORMATION

What are the
solutions?

PROGRAMME • 25 January 2023

UNESCO Headquarters, Room I, 10.00 • 13.00




International Day of **Women** in **Multilateralism**

In 2021, UNESCO's General Conference adopted Resolution 41C/57 declaring 25th January as the International Day of Women in Multilateralism. The purpose of this Day is to advocate for increased representation of women in key decision-making positions that shape and implement multilateral agendas and to ensure that multilateralism works for women and girls through gender transformative actions and agreements. It also provides a global platform for an intergenerational dialogue between women leaders within the multilateral system and a new generation of women as future leaders in global governance.

The 2023 edition of UNESCO's International Day of Women in Multilateralism will examine the pressing global issue of social media content governance to counter gendered disinformation, hate speech and harassment.

Fueled by powerful technology and algorithmic business models that amplify its proliferation, online gendered disinformation has diverse and serious impacts on women's lives, affecting their mental and physical health, and in extreme cases escalates to physical violence. Moreover, it is increasingly used to deter women from participating in the public sphere and to silence specific points of view, reducing diversity in societal, political, cultural and economic discussions and decisions.

Online gendered disinformation has become the most pervasive and pernicious form of gendered censorship and the predominant threat tactic of online gender-based violence. Women journalists, artists and human rights defenders are particularly targeted. UNESCO's latest study shows that 73% of the women journalists surveyed have experienced online violence and one out of five have been attacked or abused offline in connection with online violence.



30% of the women journalists surveyed answered that they self-censor on social media and 20% withdrew from all online interaction due to harassment and threats. Online gendered disinformation is therefore not only a threat to gender equality and human rights but also to freedom of expression and diversity in public debates. This is a global problem that necessitates a global solution with multistakeholder action.

The aim of this global dialogue is to contribute to the design of multi-lateral solutions to provide safe on-line spaces, free of gender-stereotypes, disinformation and harassment for all. It brings together policy makers, digital platforms, researchers and civil society organisations and will hear testimonies from journalists, artists and streamers who have been the target of online gendered disinformation.

The results of the debates will contribute to the elaboration of regulatory principles for digital platforms to be examined at the UNESCO Conference, *Internet for Trust* (February 2023). They will also contribute to the UN Secretary General's global reflection on the future of multilateralism to ensure that women and girls participate in the creation of a new multilateral system, to the creation of a Global Digital Compact and the UN Futures Summit (2024).



The International Day of Women in Multilateralism is a day of commitment and mobilization. It is a day to raise the alarm against a scourge that knows no borders: online gendered disinformation, hate speech and harassment. Its effects are detrimental and may result in a huge loss for gender equality for years to come.



Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO



AGENDA

10.00 •
10.20

Opening

- **Audrey Azoulay**, Director-General, UNESCO
- **H.E. Michaël Moussa-Adamo**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Gabon

10.20 •
10.30

Keynote Speech

- **Irene Khan**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

10.30 •
11.40

Panel 1: Multilateral action for tackling online gendered disinformation

This panel will highlight the main issues and challenges that require the development of a gender-responsive model regulatory framework for digital platforms

- **Nanjala Nyabola**, writer and member of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism
- **Dhanaraj Thakur**, Research Director, Center for Democracy and Technology and Member of the Advisory board of #Shepersisted
- **Jawaher Abdelhamid**, Public Policy Expert in Digital Platform and Technology Regulation
- **Javiera Olivares Mardones**, Chief of Communication and Information Programmatic Content, Ministry General Secretariat of the Government of Chile

*Video Testimony from **Deeyah Khan** (artist)*

11.40 •
12.50

Panel 2: The way forward for a gender responsive regulatory framework for digital platforms

This panel will address key issues of transparency, content governance and moderation, context-related responses, safety and reporting tools to ensure that online spaces are safe for all women and free from gendered disinformation and gender bias while protecting freedom of expression.

- **Andrew Puddephatt**, Chair, Internet Watch Foundation
- **Rumman Chowdhury**, former Director of META at Twitter, Member of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development
- **Nihat Dad**, member of the Facebook Oversight Board and founder of the Digital Rights Foundation

*Video Testimony from **Lixiviatio** (streamer)*

12.50 •
13.00

Concluding Remarks

- **H.E. Tamara Rastovac Siamashvili**, Chairperson of UNESCO's Executive Board
- **Tawfik Jelassi**, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO

Moderator: **Nadia Massih**, Broadcast Journalist, France24

Interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

OPENING



H.E. Michaël Moussa-Adamo is Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Gabonese Republic. After holding several positions in the Gabonese administration, he quickly distinguished himself by holding high positions in his country. Thus, he was, among others, appointed Ambassador of Gabon in Washington, then Minister of National Defence before occupying the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs since March 2022. The Minister holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in International Relations and Communications from Boston University. He is the recipient of several honours.

KEYNOTE



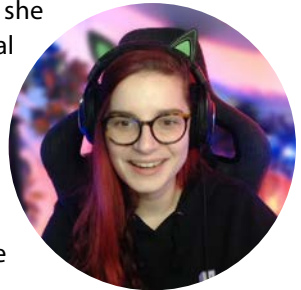
Irene Khan, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression since 2020, is the first woman to hold this position since the establishment of the mandate in 1993. She is an internationally recognized advocate for human rights, gender equality and social justice and teaches at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. Irene Khan studied at Manchester University and Harvard Law School and was Secretary General of Amnesty International from 2001 to 2009 and head of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) from 2010 and 2019. She also served for more than 20 years the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in various positions. In 2021, she published a landmark report on gender justice and the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which she presented to the UN General Assembly.

TESTIMONIES

Deeyah Khan, Film maker and musician, has received two Emmys, a BAFTA, an RTS and two Peabody Awards for her films, which address some of today's most important issues, including extremism, violence against women, inequality and racism. Deeyah Khan has filmed with jihadis, armed militia groups, terrorists and white supremacists, often with surprising results and sometimes even transforming mindsets. Born in Norway to immigrant parents, her experience of the beauty and the challenges of living between different cultures shapes her creative vision, informing the emotional honesty and humanity which characterizes her films. In 2016, she was appointed UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Artistic Freedom and Creativity.



Lixiviatio, as a streamer on the streaming platform Twitch, she is very involved in the fight against gender-based and sexual violence, including online gender-based harassment, of which she has been a victim. In response to these issues, in 2021 she created a feminist charity event, which raised a total of 67.000€ in two editions, for the fight against gender-based violence and harassment online. The last edition of the event, under the name #EtTaCause2022, took place live from 29 April to 1 May 2022.



SPEAKERS • Panel 1



Nanjala Nyabola is Member of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, writer, political analyst and activist. She writes extensively about African society and politics, technology, international law and feminism for academic and non-academic publications. Her first book *Digital Democracy, Analogue Politics: How the Internet Era is Transforming Kenya* (Zed Books, 2018) was described as "a must read for all researchers and journalists writing about Kenya today". Nyabola has been a research associate at the Centre for International Cooperation, the Overseas Development Institute and the Oxford Internet Institute, and has held numerous fellowships. Nanjala is a founding member of the Africa Digital Rights Network and sits on the board of Access Now and The Africa Policy Research Institute.



Dhanaraj Thakur is Research Director at the Center for Democracy and Technology. He leads research advancing human rights and civil liberties online. This includes research on how to address gendered disinformation, online gender based violence, and how to improve algorithmic transparency on social media. In much of his work, he employs an intersectional and gender equity approach. During the last 15 years, he has significantly informed tech policy and improved the way public policy is framed. Former Fulbright scholar, Inter-American Development Bank scholar, and ISOC Ambassador, he led research at the World Wide Web Foundation and the Alliance for Affordable Internet. Currently he is a member of the advisory board of #SHEPERSISTED, a platform leveraging the voices of women leaders globally and making sure they are part of crucial conversations on digital platform reform.



Jawaher Abdelhamid, Public Policy Expert in Digital Platform and Technology Regulation, is actively engaging in key dialogues on internet openness, algorithmic transparency, and online safety. Most recently, she led policy, government and philanthropy efforts at Twitter as Head of Public Policy for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan (MENAP).

She is an impassioned advocate of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Arab world, frequently leading campaigns of global coverage such as #TheMissingPeace, which reached 93 million people in three days. Jawaher holds a Master's in International Law and Diplomacy from Sorbonne University, as well as a Master's in Management from Harvard.

Javiera Olivares Mardones is in charge of programmatic content in communication and information in the Ministry General Secretariat of the Government of Chile. She was a Professor at the University of Chile and coordinator of its Freedom of Expression and Citizenship Programme, as well as President of the Chilean Association of Journalists between 2014 and 2017. A journalist by training, she holds a PhD in Education and Communication from the University of Malaga, Spain, a Master's degree in Latin American Social and Political Studies and a Bachelor's degree in Social Communication.

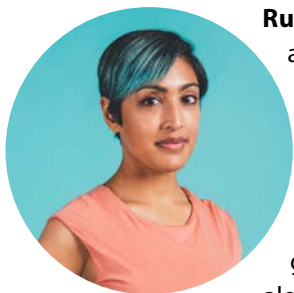


SPEAKERS • Panel 2

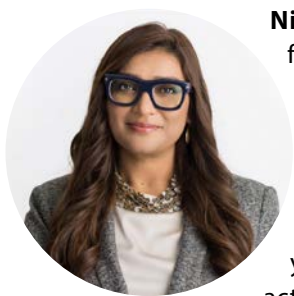
Andrew Puddephatt is founding Director of Cedar Partners, a network of individuals working to improve life for all, as well as founding Director of Adapt, a social purpose company that helps organizations manage their users' data ethically. He is also Chair of the Internet Watch Foundation, a charity registered in the UK that works with the internet industry to remove child sex abuse images online, and of Global Partners Digital, focused on human rights implications of internet policy. He has been an expert member of both the Council of Europe and the Commonwealth Expert working groups on freedom of information and freedom of expression and is an advisor to UNESCO on media and internet policy. He is the Chair of International Media Support, a Danish-based NGO which provides emergency support to journalists in conflict areas and an Executive Board member of the European Council on Foreign Relations. In 2003, he was awarded an OBE for his services to human rights.



Online gendered disinformation



Rumman Chowdhury is the former Director of META at Twitter and Member of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development. A pioneer in the field of applied algorithmic ethics, creating cutting-edge socio-technical solutions for ethical, explainable and transparent AI, her passion lies at the intersection of artificial intelligence and humanity. She leads Parity Consulting, where she works with governments and regulatory bodies to develop and implement algorithmic audit standards and methodologies. She is also the co-founder of Bias Bounty AI, a program to meaningfully engage impacted communities in algorithmic assessments. She was previously CEO and founder of Parity, an enterprise algorithmic audit platform company and led the Twitter team of applied researchers and engineers to identify and mitigate algorithmic harms on the platform. Previously, she served as Global Lead for Responsible AI at Accenture Applied Intelligence. She was named one of BBC's 100 Women and as one of Five People Building Our AI Future by Forbes USA. She was also honored with an induction to the British Royal Society of the Arts.



Nighat Dad, Member of the Facebook Oversight Board and founder of the Digital Rights Foundation, is an accomplished lawyer, human rights activist and one of the pioneers who have been advocating for access to open internet in Pakistan as well as globally. She set up Pakistan's first cyber harassment helpline, offering support to women who face serious threats online and has been at the forefront of the young feminist movement in the country. She has been actively campaigning and engaging at a policy level on issues related to internet freedom, women and technology, digital security and women's empowerment. Recently included in Next Generation Leaders List by TIME's magazine, she was recognized for her work on helping women fight online harassment.



CONCLUDING REMARKS

H.E. Tamara Rastovac Siamashvili is Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to UNESCO and current Chairperson of UNESCO's Executive Board. She started her diplomatic career in 1999 as an Attaché in the Directorate General for Multilateral Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2001, she took up the position of third Secretary in the Permanent Mission of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro to the United Nations (New York). Thereafter, she rose through the ranks to the position of First Secretary/Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the Council of Europe (Strasbourg) in 2007 and served in various capacities with Serbian foreign missions in Europe. She returned to Serbia in 2017 when she was appointed Deputy Assistant Minister for Bilateral Relations before becoming Permanent Representative to UNESCO in 2019.



Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information at UNESCO since 2021, is responsible for UNESCO's programs on fostering freedom of expression, leading digital transformation, strategizing the role of ICT in education, and building inclusive knowledge societies. He holds a Ph.D. in Management Information Systems from New York University and postgraduate diplomas from the University of Paris Dauphine. Former Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Information & Communication Technologies in Tunisia as well as Dean and Professor, he has extensive international experience in higher education, scientific research, and digital technologies.

**MODERATOR**

Nadia Massih is a broadcast journalist at France 24. With over a decade of experience in television and print, she has reported on major news stories across the world from Ukraine to Sudan, Mali, Israel and Iraq. Nadia currently anchors the daily news show 'Live From Paris' at France24, covering breaking news as it happens. Prior to Paris, Nadia was based in Beirut for more than five years. There she primarily covered the fallout from the war in Syria and Lebanese socio-political issues. She has particular interests in the Middle East and women's rights.





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Multilateral action to promote gender equality is a global priority for UNESCO

UNESCO's actions have resulted in a global coalition to promote girls' universal and equitable access to quality education as well as the adoption of the first Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence with specific articles to address gender bias and stereotypes in AI software. As a global platform, UNESCO also works to empower women in the management of natural and cultural resources for climate action. It addresses economic and social inequalities by advocating for and supporting the inclusion of women scientists, researchers and cultural professionals in decision-making bodies and positions where their inputs and innovations contribute to global solutions. UNESCO is monitoring and providing safe and independent spaces for women journalists and artists who are the target of gender-based violence, discrimination or hate speech.

**Join UNESCO on
this International
Day of Women in
Multilateralism**

Learn more
about this
International Day



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en/gender-equality](http://www.unesco.org/en/gender-equality)

