VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
Conference Overview

It is a tragic reality of the contemporary world that although the rhetoric of human rights has become the staple of politics, in virtually every region of the world a substantial percentage of women continue to be subjected to degrading and unacceptable levels of violence. Although the more egregious violence against women, such as the epidemic in the war environment of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) receives media attention, the more insidious violence committed daily by intimate partners or relatives against women is barely acknowledged or tackled as a priority public policy issue. This is despite the fact that violence is not secret; for a number of organizations, among them the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), have documented the horrifying extent of violence against women perpetrated daily by their intimate partners and strangers.

Of equal significance to the cold fact of the global epidemic of violence against women is the impact of the violence on society beyond the immediate harm caused. The 14th Annual UNESCO Conference on International Human Rights is convened to disclose the facts and raise social awareness and to discuss ways of preventing and eliminating this scourge that haunts the conscience of the world.

To help us understand and confront this plague, the Planning Committee of the UNESCO Chair in Comparative Human Rights has invited a range of distinguished international and national practitioners and scholars to address the issue from various regional perspectives and disciplinary approaches.

Please join us to learn, engage and act to expand the frontiers of human rights and to banish the cancer of violence against women, which diminishes their dignity and indeed their humanity.

The UNESCO Chair in
Comparative Human Rights at the
University of Connecticut
is guided by the theme of a
common humanity and is
informed by the principles of
reciprocal learning and respect.
The aim is to bridge the gap
between ideals and theories of
human rights practices and
to accomplish positive change
in human relations.
First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak up because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak up because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Communists, and I did not speak up, because I was not a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak up, because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for the Catholics, and I did not speak up, because I was Protestant.

Then they came for me, and by that time there was no one left to speak for me.

- Reverend Martin Niemöller (1892-1984)
“Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”

-Preamble,
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Hotel Accommodation:
Nathan Hale Inn and Conference Center
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UConn Campus
860.486.4991 Accessible Van Service
860.486.4700 Student Health Services
860.486.4800 UConn Police

UConn Co-Op:
The UConn Co-op Human Rights Book Sale
Student Union Theatre Lobby

Lunch Break 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM:
Chuck & Augies
Student Union Market Place
Program Schedule, October 22, 2013

Registration
8:15 AM  General Registration  
  Student Union Theatre Lobby
High School Registration  
  Student Union Ballroom

Morning Program
9:00 AM  Welcome by UNESCO Chair Student Ambassador for Human Rights and Introduction of Prof. Amii Omara-Otunnu
9:05 AM  Opening Remarks and Conference Overview on the Nature and Scope of Violence Against Women by Prof. Amii Omara-Otunnu, UNESCO Chair-holder and Executive Director
9:15 AM  Introduction of Prof. Abena P.A. Busia by Ms. Ashley Robinson, Residence Hall Director
9:20 AM  Poetry Reading by Prof. Abena P.A. Busia, Chair, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University
9:25 AM  Remarks and Introduction of Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura by Dr. Daniel Weiner, Vice Provost for Global Affairs
9:30 AM  Morning Keynote Address
  Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura, United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict
  Address followed by Q&A
10:15 AM  General Plenary Session: Moderated by Prof. Bandana Purkayastha
  Ms. Kathleen Holgerson, Women’s Center Director, UConn
  Dr. David Wolfe, RBC Chair in Children’s Mental Health, Canada
  Ms. Anuradha Kapoor, Founder and Managing Trustee, Swayam, India
11:15 AM  Break

Morning Program Continued
11:30 AM  Academic Plenary Session: Moderated by Prof. Rafael Perez-Escamilla
  Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, Co-Chair, Forum on the Prevention of Global Violence, United States
  Dr. Lee Ann De Reus, Co-Founder of Panzi Foundation, United States/Congo
  Dr. Nancy Lombard, Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy, United Kingdom
11:30 AM  Workshop for High School Students  
  Student Union Ballroom
  Facilitated by the UConn Women’s Center Violence Against Women Prevention Program

Afternoon Program
2:00 PM  Introduction of Dr. Rashida Manjoo by Mr. Mike Kurland, Director, Student Health Services
2:05 PM  Afternoon Keynote Address
  Dr. Rashida Manjoo, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Human Rights Council
  Address followed by Q&A
3:15 PM  Break
3:30 PM  Regional Plenary Session: Moderated by Prof. Abena P.A. Busia
  Advocate Hina Jilani, Pioneering Lawyer and Activist, Pakistan (Asia)
  Ms. Alexa Hassink, Programme Associate and Communications Officer, Promundo (Latin America and the Caribbean)
  Ms. Condencia Brade, Co-Founder and Executive Director, SCESA (United States)
5:00 PM  Conference Ends
Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura

Zainab Hawa Bangura of Sierra Leone assumed her position as Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict at the level of Under-Secretary-General on 4 September 2012. In this capacity, she serves as Chair of the interagency network, UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action).

Ms. Bangura has over 20 years of policy, diplomatic and practical experience in the field of governance, conflict resolution and reconciliation in Africa. She served most recently as Minister of Health and Sanitation for the Government of Sierra Leone, and was previously Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the second woman in Sierra Leone to occupy this position. She was also Chief Adviser and Spokesperson of the President on bilateral and international issues.

Ms. Bangura has been instrumental in developing national programmes on affordable health, advocating for the elimination of genital mutilation, managing the country’s Peace Building Commission and contributing to the multilateral and bilateral relations with the international community. She has deep experience engaging with State and non-State actors on issues relevant to sexual violence, including engaging with rebel groups.

Ms. Bangura has on-the-ground experience with peacekeeping operations from within the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), where she managed the largest civilian component of the Mission, promoting capacity-building of government institutions and community reconciliation. She is an experienced and results-driven civil society, human and women’s rights campaigner and democracy activist, fighting corruption and impunity, notably as Executive Director of the National Accountability Group, Chair and Co-founder of the Movement for Progress Party of Sierra Leone, as well as Coordinator and Co-founder of the Campaign for Good Governance.

She has received numerous national and international awards, including the Africa International Award of Merit for Leadership, the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship, the Bayard Rustin Humanitarian Award, the Human Rights Award from the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, the National Endowment for Democracy’s Democracy Award, and the African American Institute’s Distinguished Alumna Award.

Ms. Bangura is a former fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute of London, with Diplomas in Insurance Management from the City University Business School of London and Nottingham University. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

Ms. Condencia Brade

Condencia Brade is the co-founder and Executive Director for the National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA). SCESA is an advocacy organization of Women of Color dedicated to working with our communities to create a just society in which all Women of Color are able to live healthy lives free of violence. Prior to founding SCESA, Condencia worked at a statewide sexual assault coalition where she was instrumental in the creation and management of a statewide Spanish Hotline, created a statewide Campus Consortium, a statewide Youth group to address sexual assault, and a statewide team on Rural issues. Condencia has a strong history working with Communities of Color, Children, Teens, and College Students. She has focused on issues such as leadership, immigration, economics, disability and health. She has also served on national committees to address systemic responses to sexual assault victims.

Dr. Abena P.A. Busia

Professor Abena P.A. Busia is Chair of the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. She is co-director of the groundbreaking Women Writing Africa Project, a multi-volume anthology. As Professor Busia points out, "history is located in multiple places." This collection is designed to recognize the cultural legacy in that assortment of voices by gathering together the original "cultural production" of African and women for the first time. She is also associate editor of Women Writing Africa: West Africa and the Sahel (2005) and The Northern Region (2009).

In addition to the Women Writing Africa Project, Professor Busia is also the editor of Theorizing Black Feminisms (1993) as well as many articles and book chapters on topics including black women’s writing, black feminist criticism, and African literature. Her scholarship keeps her actively connected to her native Ghana, where a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Grant enabled Professor Busia and two historians to lead an interdisciplinary program on "Teaching the History of the Slave Trade Routes of Ghana and Benin." She is now at work on a book called Song in a Strange Land: Narrative and Rituals of Remembrance in the Novels of Black Women of Africa and the African Diaspora.

Professor Busia is also the author of the poetry collections, Testimonies of Exile and Traces of a Life. She serves on the advisory board of the Ghana Education Project, as well as the board chair of the African Women's Development Fund-USA. The African Women's Development Fund is the first and only pan-African funding source for women-centered programs and organizations. She teaches courses in African American and African Diaspora literature.
Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell

Professor Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN, Anna D. Wolf Chair "The primary goal of my work has been to ensure that women get the help that they need to improve their safety, health, and well-being."

Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell is a national leader in research and advocacy in the field of domestic violence or intimate partner violence (IPV). Her studies paved the way for a growing body of interdisciplinary investigations by researchers in the disciplines of nursing, medicine, and public health. Her expertise is frequently sought by national and international policy makers in exploring IPV and its health effects on families and communities. As a nurse educator and mentor, Dr. Campbell leads by example in inspiring new generations of nurse researchers at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Her BSN, MSN, and PhD are from Duke University, Wright State University and the University of Rochester. Dr. Campbell has been the PI of 12 major NIH, NIJ or CDC research grants and published more than 220 articles and seven books on this subject, including the textbook Family Violence and Nursing Practice with Janice Humphreys. She teaches an undergraduate and MSN elective in Family Violence as well as in the PhD program and is the PI of an NIH funded (T32) fellowship that provides funding for pre and post doctoral fellows in violence research. Elected to the Institute of Medicine in 2000, Dr. Campbell also was the Institute of Medicine/American Academy of Nursing/American Nurses' Foundation Senior Scholar in Residence and currently serves as Co-Chair of the IOM Forum on the Prevention of Global Violence. Other honors include the Pathfinder Distinguished Researcher by the Friends of the National Institute of Health National Institute for Nursing Research, Outstanding Alumna and Distinguished Contributions to Nursing Science Awards, Duke University School of Nursing, the American Society of Criminology Vollmer Award, and being named one of the inaugural 17 Gilman Scholars at Johns Hopkins University. She is the current Chair of the Board of Directors for the Futures without Violence and has served on the board for the House of Ruth Battered Women's Shelter and four other shelters. She was also a member of the congressionally appointed U.S. Department of Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence. Areas of Scholarly Expertise and Interest include: Intimate partner violence and health outcomes, abuse during pregnancy, health inequities related to IPV, dating violence, workplace violence and intimate partner homicide.

Dr. Lee Ann De Reus

Lee Ann De Reus is an Associate Professor of Human Development & Family Studies and Women Studies at Pennsylvania State University-Altoona and the co-founder/assistant executive director of Panzi Foundation USA (www.panzifoundation.org). As a scholar-activist, she travels regularly to Panzi Hospital in eastern DR Congo to conduct research, develop programs for rape survivors, and inform her advocacy work in the U.S. She leads an annual field experience for PSU students to Rwanda and cofounded Beza Kids (www.bezakids.org) in support of vulnerable women and children there. Dr. De Reus is a 2009 Carl Wilkens Fellow and the recipient of numerous awards from Penn State University including the prestigious George W. Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Spirit of Internationalization Award given in honor of her commitment to global service and outreach. She leads the Genocide Relief Project, a local community-based anti-genocide advocacy, education and aid organization and she is a featured activist in John Prendergast’s book, The Enough Moment: Fighting to End Africa’s Worst Human Rights Crimes. A frequent guest blogger for Women Under Siege (www.womenundersiegeproject) and speaker about the crisis in the DRC, her 2013 presentations include TEDxPSU, Daring to Make a Difference for Congo (www.tedxpsu.com) and the Oslo Freedom Forum, A Different Kind of Warfare (www.oslofreedomforum.com). For more information, visit www.leeandereus.com or follow her on Twitter at @LADeReus or @PanziUSA.

“That since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.”

- Preamble, UNESCO Constitution
Promundo's work engages women, girls, boys and men; strives to transform gender norms and power relations within key institutions; and is based on building local and international partnerships. It is an applied research institute that works to test, evaluate and advocate for policies and programs that transform masculinities.

Founded in 1997, Promundo was born out of frustration with the prevailing discourses about gender equality and efforts to put those discourses into action, practice and policy. The institute has concentrated on developing evaluated interventions and advocacy strategies to achieve gender equality with a focus on engaging men and boys in changing inequitable and violent forms of masculinities.

Promundo works locally, nationally, and internationally to conduct research to build the knowledge base on masculinities and gender equality; to develop, evaluate and scale up gender transformative interventions and policies; and to carry out national and international advocacy to achieve gender equality and social justice.

Promundo designs, implements, and evaluates its research and evidence-based programs in close partnership with local, not-for-profit Civil Society Organizations. In recent years, Promundo has been increasingly recognized for promoting the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality. Most recently, Promundo expanded its presence to Washington, DC, to support the organization’s international communication, advocacy and technical assistance, which include the coordination of the MenEngage Alliance, a global network of NGOs and UN partners working to engage men and boys in gender equality, of which Promundo was a co-founder.

“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”

- Mohandas Gandhi
Advocate Hina Jilani

Pioneering lawyer and pro-democracy campaigner Hina Jilani is a leading activist in Pakistan’s women’s movement and international champion of human rights.

A renowned lawyer and civil society activist, Hina Jilani has dedicated her life to fighting for human rights and democracy in Pakistan and around the world. Her father, a politician, was an outspoken critic of Pakistan’s military dictatorship and spent long spells in prison. “We were growing up in an environment in which we saw injustices happen and our home taught us never to turn away when we saw it,” she says. This early exposure to injustice sparked a lifelong commitment to agitating for social change, whether out on the streets or inside the courtroom.

After qualifying as a lawyer, Hina Jilani established Pakistan’s first all-women law firm in 1980, followed by Pakistan’s first legal aid centre in 1986. She has conducted many landmark cases setting new standards for human rights in Pakistan, with a particular focus on the rights of the most vulnerable sections of society, such as women, minorities, children, and prisoners – including political prisoners. She was appointed Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 1992.

In 1980 Hina Jilani founded the Women’s Action Forum, a pressure group set up to campaign for women’s rights and challenge Pakistan’s discriminatory laws. Although the group’s members have suffered harassment, beatings and arrests as a result of their activism, they have been at the heart of the democracy movement in Pakistan. Ms Jilani was also among the founders of Dastak, a shelter providing free legal counsel and support to victims of gender-based violence. A vital refuge for women fleeing abusive marriages, child marriages and ‘honour killings’, the organisation has worked to raise awareness on human rights and the protection of women since its establishment in 1990.

Hina Jilani’s work in Pakistan has made her a target of hostile propaganda, arrests and abuse. Yet despite repeated threats and intimidation, she continues to live in Lahore, working tirelessly to mobilise civil society and promote human rights.

Hina Jilani was one of the founders of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. Established in 1986, the Commission has branches throughout the country and is now the most important national body for the monitoring of rights violations.

In 2000 she became the first Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders, and for the next eight years worked to empower and protect rights defenders worldwide. During her tenure she identified common themes in the treatment of human rights defenders, including the culture of impunity; intimidation and lack of security; restrictions on freedom of assembly, expression, and association; and death threats against defenders who seek justice for past crimes. Ms. Jilani continues to serve on many international commissions.

Ms. Anuradha Kapoor

Anuradha Kapoor is the Founder and Director of Swayam, a Kolkata based women’s rights organization dedicated to addressing gender inequality and ending violence against women.

Swayam’s multi-faceted approach to addressing gender inequality and violence includes direct support to women in crisis; emphasis on empowering women, men and youth to address violence in their communities; broad campaigns to shift social and cultural norms that perpetuate gender based violence; and work at the state and national level with government and judicial bodies to influence policy and practices.

Anuradha is both an Ashoka Fellow and an Eisenhower Fellow and has also been nominated as a member of the Civil Society Advisory Group for India, set up by UN Women.

She is actively involved in legal advocacy and was keenly engaged in advocating for the introduction of The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005), and continues to work on ensuring its effective implementation at the State and National levels. She also contributes towards numerous other legal and policy initiatives to address violence against women.

She is invited to speak on women’s rights issues and violence against women at conferences, seminars and discussions conducted by organisations, institutions, universities and the media in India and abroad.

She is also a trainer and conducts trainings on gender, violence against women and women’s human rights for judges, lawyers, the police, government officials, corporates, educational institutions and social organisations in India and abroad. She was involved in judicial training in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as part of the Asia Pacific Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues for 12 years.

She initiated the setting up of AMAN Global Voices for Peace in the Home, an international network of organisations working on Domestic Violence and has been involved in planning and executing numerous campaigns on violence against women at the State and National levels.
The worth of the individual human being is the most unique and precious of all our assets and must be the beginning and end of all our efforts. Governments, systems, ideologies and institutions come and go, but humanity remains.”

- U Thant, UN Secretary-General (1961-1971)
Dr. Raphael Pérez-Escamilla

Dr. Rafael Pérez-Escamilla is Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health and Director, Office of Community Health, Yale School of Public Health. He is also Director and PI of the Connecticut NIH EXPORT Center of Excellence for Eliminating Health Disparities among Latinos (CEHDL). His public health nutrition and food security research has led to improvements in breastfeeding promotion, iron deficiency anemia among infants (by delaying the clamping of the umbilical cord after birth), household food security measurement and outcomes, and community nutrition education programs worldwide. His health disparities research involves assessing the impact of community health workers at improving behavioral and metabolic outcomes among Latinos with type 2 diabetes. He has published over 100 research articles and over 300 conference abstracts, book chapters, and technical reports.

Dr. Bandana Purkayastha

Dr. Purkayastha, Professor of Sociology and Asian American Studies and Interim Department Head of Sociology at the University of Connecticut, was educated in India (Presidency College) and the US. She has published more than twenty-five peer reviewed journal articles and chapters over the last six years. These have appeared in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, and India and deal with issues of race, gender, class and human rights.

Her recent books include “Human Rights in Our Own Backyard” (co-edited with William T. Armaline and Davita Silfen Glasberg), “The Power of Women’s Informal Networks: Lessons in Social Change in South Asia and West Africa” (co-edited with Mangala Subramaniam), “Negotiating Ethnicity: Second-Generation South Asian Americans Traverse a Transnational World,” “Living Our Religions: Hindu and Muslim South Asian American women narrate their experiences” (with Anjana Narayan); and “Armed Conflict and Conflict Resolution: Sociological Perspectives” (co-edited with Giuseppe Caforio and Gerhard Kuemmel). She has served on a number of community organizations on issues of domestic violence, and immigrant issues as well as the Connecticut Racial Health Disparities Project Advisory Board for the State of Connecticut. She currently serves on the Executive Board of Research Committee-1 on armed forces and conflict resolution, as well as RC-32 on Women in Society of the International Sociological Association. She is the Deputy Editor of Gender & Society, the leading journal for gender scholarship in sociology.

Dr. David Wolfe

Dr. Wolfe, PH.D., ABPP, C.PSYCH. holds the inaugural RBC Chair in Children's Mental Health at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and heads the CAMH Centre for Prevention Science. He is also Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of Toronto. Since 2007 he has served as Editor-in-Chief of Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal. He is a fellow of the American Psychological Association, past President of Division 37 (Child, Youth, and Family Services), and received a Diplomate in Clinical Psychology from the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). He has provided extensive assessment and consultation to child protective services, schools, and the court with respect to issues of child abuse and violence.

Dr. Wolfe recently received the Donald O. Hebb Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology as a Science from the Canadian Psychological Association, and the Blanche L. Ittleson Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Delivery of Childrens Services and the Promotion of Childrens Mental Health from the American Orthopsychiatric Association. His recent books include Adolescent Risk Behaviors: Why teens experiment and strategies to keep them safe (with P. Jaffe & C. Crooks; Yale University Press, 2006); Abnormal Child Psychology, 5th edition (with E. Mash; Wadsworth, 2012), and Growing Up with Domestic Violence: Assessment, Intervention & Prevention Strategies for Children & Adolescents (with P. Jaffe and M. Campbell; Hogrefe & Huber, 2011).

Dr. Wolfe has broad research and clinical interests in abnormal child and adolescent psychology, with a special focus on child abuse, domestic violence, and developmental psychopathology. He has authored numerous articles on these topics, especially in relation to the impact of early childhood trauma on later development in childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood. His interests in violence prevention have culminated into a comprehensive school-based initiative for reducing adolescent violence and related risk behaviors, known as the Fourth R. The Fourth R is currently used in over 800 high schools throughout Canada. It was recently identified as a top evidence-based program for school-based violence prevention by the New Jersey-based Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, where it is being implemented in several US sites as part of their national violence-prevention initiative.
Mission

The UNESCO Chair & Institute of Comparative Human Rights are committed to:

Promoting reciprocal learning on issues of human rights
Raising moral consciousness around the ideals of human rights
Facilitating the preservation and writing of history related to human rights
Contributing to educational efforts that lay the foundation for harmonious human relations
Fostering mutual understanding and cooperation between people of different backgrounds
Developing strategies for peaceful resolution of conflicts

Special Thanks to the Conference Planning Committee:

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Our deep gratitude and appreciation to the following supporters:

Ms. Kelsey Ballard
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Conference is co-sponsored by:

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