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25th WAVE Conference

October 16–17, 2023 | Madrid, Spain

‘Institutional violence and its impact on women’s human rights across Europe’

Speakers



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE
WAVE Network and European Info Centre against Violence



Reem Alsalem was appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences in July 2021 by the UN Human Rights Council for a three-year tenure. She started her tenure on 1 August 2021. Reem Alsalem is an independent consultant on gender issues, the rights of refugees and migrants, transitional justice and humanitarian response. She has consulted extensively for United Nations departments, agencies and programmes such as UN Women, OHCHR, UNICEF and IOM, as well as for non-governmental organisations, think tanks and academia. Previously, she worked as an international civil servant, serving with the UNHCR in thirteen countries. During her service, she planned, implemented, and monitored programmes that served to protect persons that were survivors of gender-based violence, particularly women and girls.

Biljana Brankovic teaches, as a guest lecturer, at the Master’s programme on human rights, implemented jointly by the University of Bologna (Italy) and the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina). As international Consultant–Researcher, she has worked for many UN agencies and international actors (UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNTF, Council of Europe, UN Special Rapporteur for VAW, European Parliament, European Commission, USAID, OSCE, etc.) throughout Europe and Central Asia, often conducting cross-cultural/comparative studies. She was a member of GREVIO in the period 2015–2023 and participated in developing GREVIO recommendation No.1 on the digital dimension of VAW, and CoE Recommendation on sexism.

María Marcela Lagarde y de los Ríos is a Mexican feminist anthropologist, mother, grandmother, researcher, academic activist, and legislator. She is the author of numerous articles and books on gender studies, feminism, human development and democracy, power and autonomy of women. In her work as a social scientist, she has carried out various research projects, has written numerous chapters and more than a hundred articles as well as various books. Throughout her vast career she received numerous prizes, mentions, awards and medals. Among these the "Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz" medal, awarded by the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico in 2020. To this day she is an educator, researcher and theorist in feminist epistemology and women’s human rights. She is a strong supporter of the feminist cause for the empowerment of women and girls, and for the eradication of oppression, alienation, discrimination and harm to people and communities.

Ana Peláez Nerváez is the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). She has served as an expert on the CEDAW Committee since 2019 and was Vice– Chair of the Committee for 2021–2022. She is now the Secretary General of the European Disability Forum and chair of its Women’s Committee. In addition, she is the Executive Vice–President at CERMI Women’s Foundation, the umbrella organisation for women with disabilities in Spain. She also has roles at the ONCE (Spanish National Organisation of the Blind) as High Commissioner for Solidarity and International Co–operation.

Susana Chiarotti Boero is an Argentine feminist lawyer with a postgraduate degree in Family Law. She is Member of the Advisory Council of CLADEM (Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights). She teaches postgraduate courses at the National University of Rosario and the FLACSO Diploma in Gender and Justice. She is a member of the OAS Committee of Experts on Violence against Women (CEVI–MESECVI) and was a member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Group for the World Study on Violence against Women. She has published on human rights and the rights of women and girls.

Lucy Polo Castillo is responsible for the work around tackling violence against women at RedLatinas. She holds a degree in Psychology, a Master's degree in Child Psychology, and a Diploma in Immigration and Law from the University of Valencia. She is the founder of the Por Ti Mujer Association, where she combines her role as a president with the work on prevention, care and intervention work with migrant women in the Valencian Community. She has carried out numerous studies and research projects on gender–based violence, especially the violence suffered by migrant women in Spain.

The RED de Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe – Red Latinas is made up of 16 associations and collectives of migrant women and individual women, feminists, anti–racists – of Latin American origin – in Spain, who ‘have decided to network so that our struggles are lighter, we support each other so that our voice travels through time and reaches other bodies, other minds, other voices’. We work on political advocacy, as well as strategic alliances against male violence, participation and citizenship, decent work, among other intersectional issues for our access to a life free of violence’.

The ‘**Red de Madres Protectoras**’ is a network of women criminalised and persecuted for denouncing male sexual violence against their children. Spanish institutions, through the so-called Parental Alienation Syndrome (SAP), violate the human rights of children and their mothers who protect them. Among other international organisations, Reem Alsalem, Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, denounced this institutional torture before the UN Human Rights Council in April of 2023.

Virginia Gil Portolés is a social worker and anthropologist specialising in gender-based violence. She has provided technical assistance and research on public policies against violence against women both nationally and internationally in Europe, Latin America and Australia. She is currently the Director of Fundación Aspacia in Spain.

The ASPACIA Foundation is a non-governmental organisation that fights for the eradication of violence against women, especially sexual violence from a feminist perspective and a gender, human rights and intersectional approach, through services for prevention, comprehensive and specialised care for women survivors of violence, and the development of research for action and advocacy.



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This conference has been made possible with the generous support of:



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and Consumer Protection

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