

ExCHANGE Participants US Delegation

Lora Berg

Senior Resident Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)

An innovator in the field of transatlantic and global diversity and inclusion, Lora Berg oversees the Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative of GMF's Transatlantic Leadership Initiatives team. In this capacity, she develops partnerships on the international stage to strengthen diversity and inclusion, and designs leadership programs such as the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network (TILN), which builds the capacity of rising diverse young leaders from both sides of the Atlantic who hold or plan to run for public office. Berg's areas of leadership include strategies and best practices that create economic, political, and social inclusion for transatlantic communities across race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, and other markers at a time of significant demographic shifts in the United States and Europe. She also examines impacts of the economic crisis on social cohesion and civic participation, and the leadership challenges and opportunities resulting from intergroup tensions and breakthroughs on both sides of the Atlantic. Her efforts led to the first "Mission Critical: Diversity and Inclusion Best Practices for Militaries" workshop and "Diversity, Inclusion and U.S. Foreign Policy," that brought together leaders across sectors, borders, and generations at the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of State. Most recently a senior Foreign Service officer specialized in public diplomacy, Berg served at the U.S. embassies in Tunis, Rabat, Jeddah, Riyadh, Bridgetown, Bratislava, Paris, and Brussels, as well as with the special representative to Muslim communities. She holds master's degrees in international relations and in poetry from Johns Hopkins University.



Kate Black

Vice President of Research, EMILY's List

Kate Black is the Vice President of Research at EMILY's List, where she works to provide critical information and insight on individual races, electoral trends, and federal and state policies impacting women and families. As Vice President of Research, she has conducted first-of-its kind research to measure the impact of having women in federal office. Prior to joining EMILY's List in 2011, Black worked as Research Director of Gragert Jones Research, a political consulting firm where she assisted congressional campaigns with their research needs. During the 2010 cycle, she worked as a member of the rapid response team at the Democratic National Committee and coordinated research and communications at the Service Employees International Union. In 2007 and 2008, she served as a member of the Research Department on the Hillary Clinton for President campaign. Black is also the Executive Director at American Women, an affiliated organization of EMILY's List. American Women works to amplify women's voices across the country. In this role, she leads the organization's strategic vision, research, and outreach with allies and partners. Since launching in September 2013, American Women has worked to establish itself as the research hub on economic security issues for women and families. Black currently serves as Director for the DC chapter of the Younger Women's Task Force, a group



that represents over 800 women in Washington, DC. She also works to help close the gender wage gap as a salary negotiation trainer. Black received her Master's degree in Women's Studies with a focus on Economics from George Washington University in Washington, DC and her Bachelor's degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Jessica Byrd
Founder and Principal Strategist, Three Point Strategies

Jessica Byrd is a highly organized, relationship driven political operative. Having spent nearly a decade working for and with Democratic candidates and progressive political organizations, Byrd knows the challenges we face in recruiting, electing, and engaging a reflective Democracy. With 90% of elected political power currently held by white people in a country comprised of 37% people of color -- we are overdue for a focused and intentional approach to changing the face of power. She has worked with hundreds of partner organizations and candidates across the country and has a deep knowledge of the progressive and social justice eco-systems. Byrd is an experienced and respected voice on candidate recruitment, electing diverse leaders, effective training programming, hiring, and racial, gender, and economic justice. Byrd proudly serves on the boards of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, My Black Feminist Future, and Inclusv, a progressive people of color vendor and operative platform. She is a native of Columbus, Ohio and a graduate of Chatham College for Women in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Nicole Carlsburg
Program Director, Barbara Lee Family Foundation

Nicole Carlsburg is the Program Director at the Barbara Lee Family Foundation and the Barbara Lee Political Office. At the Foundation, she manages strategic nonpartisan grant-making initiatives that expand women's participation in American politics and contributes to the Foundation's nonpartisan research. For nearly two decades, politicians, practitioners, and press have used Barbara Lee Family Foundation research to better understand the obstacles and opportunities facing women in politics. At the Political Office, Carlsburg directs political fundraising initiatives, coordinates a candidate training program, and manages political expenditures in support of Democratic pro-choice women candidates. Carlsburg came to these positions from the Family Equality Council, an organization working to ensure equality for LGBTQ-headed families. There, she managed the organization's grant seeking and donor communications, designed and implemented resources and programming for LGBTQ parents and their children, and advanced issue-advocacy campaigns such as California's marriage equality initiative and overturning Florida's LGBTQ adoption ban.



Glynda C. Carr
Co-Founder, Higher Heights

Activist and political strategist Glynda C. Carr is recognized for her innovative leadership style, commitment to expanding the civic participation of communities of color and advancing progressive public policies that build sustainable communities. Currently, Carr is a Principal at Liberty Street Capital, Inc., a New York based boutique



public affairs, community relations, and political strategy consulting firm that provides strategic services to corporations, non-profits, and candidates running for public office. In 2011, Carr co-founded Higher Heights for America, a national organization focused on inspiring black women to be change agents by harnessing their collective power and influence to eliminate the inequities in public education, health, and economic opportunities for black women, their families and communities across the United States. Carr is the former Executive Director of Education Voters of New York, a leading independent voice for school reform in the state. She joined Education Voters in 2008 where she became New York's youngest African-American woman to run a state-wide advocacy organization. Prior to Education Voters, Carr served as Chief of Staff to State Senator Kevin Parker (Brooklyn), and managed the Senator's key initiatives and shaped policy around youth development and economic development for the then newly created 21st senatorial district. Carr has held senior management positions with key national organizations including: Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. She is a frequent contributor to NAACP's The Brock Report and appears on Fox News Live and several other media outlets. She was named a "Rising Star" in The Capitol's 2009 40 under 40 edition.

Dr. Brenda Choresi Carter
Director, Reflective Democracy Campaign



The US Delegation is led by Brenda Choresi Carter, the Campaign Director for the Women Donor Network's strategic initiative focused on creating a reflective democracy, which seeks to build a democracy that truly reflects its population. She is an organizer and strategist with over a decade of experience in the labor movement, electoral politics, and policy. She earned a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University, where she led two strikes by teaching and research assistants, challenging poor working conditions and threats to academic freedom. In addition to her organizing work, Dr. Carter teaches courses on work, culture, and the economy at Brown University.

Chrissie Castro
Co-Founder, Advance Native Political Leadership



Chrissie Castro is a citizen of the Navajo Nation, and a social justice consultant working on national and international issues of diversity and equity for all peoples, including the self-determination of American Indian/Alaska Native communities. Castro is a seasoned leader with more than 15 years of community organizing and consulting experience. Currently, she is spearheading a research project, funded by the Women Donors Network, to address historical and contemporary reasons for Native Americans remaining grossly underrepresented in the local and state political landscape, as well as to propose viable strategies to increase representation. She also leads a national collaborative network of Native American families and organizations that mobilize through indigenous cultural values to inspire positive change in Native communities; is the vice-chairperson of the Los Angeles City-County Native American Indian Commission; and is an elected member of the Native American Caucus of the California Democratic Party.

Erin Loos Cutraro
Founder & CEO, She Should Run

Erin Loos Cutraro is Co-Founder & CEO of She Should Run, a social change organization working to dramatically increase the number of women and girls who see elected leadership as a possibility. She is based in New York City where she develops and manages She Should Run's strategic growth and business development. She Should Run was launched in 2011 to encourage more women to consider public office and to amplify the value of diverse voices in government. When women step up to run for office, they win at the same rate as men. Yet research shows they are not recruited and encouraged at the same rate as men. To date, She Should Run's "Ask a Woman to Run" program has encouraged over 100,000 women to consider public office. Prior to She Should Run, Cutraro worked at Women's Campaign Fund advising candidates at the national, state, and local level on a gendered-lens approach to running for public office. Cutraro has also designed and implemented a variety of strategic programs for companies, campaigns, and organizations that traverse the public policy, non-profit, and financial business arenas. She holds a bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Missouri, and a Master's degree in Communication from Saint Louis University. She lives in Maplewood, NJ with her husband and two daughters.



Stacie Walters Fujii
Founder & CEO, SWF Consulting LLC

Stacie Walters Fujii, a policy advocate and strategist, is the president and CEO of SWF Consulting LLC, a full service bipartisan government relations and political consulting firm based in Washington, DC. She served as counsel to US Representative Vic Snyder (D-AR), and further honed her advocacy skills as a lead Democratic advisor at the Livingston Group. Her portfolio includes democracy building, energy, homeland security, civil liberties, women in politics and the Middle East. Fujii lectures on the importance of coalition building, and female empowerment in politics. She has hosted democracy building exchanges for women from the Middle East and South East Asia. As an advocate for fair and transparent election processes, she assisted the Democratic National Committee with voter protection issues and worked with the Committee on House Administration as an election observer. As a public speaker, she lectures on the importance of coalition building, effective Capitol Hill advocacy, and female empowerment in politics. She is a mentor to young girls and seeks to create opportunities for young people from historically underrepresented communities. Fujii is the board president and a lifetime member of the American Council of Young Political Leaders and sits on the board of trustees for the historic Atlas Theatre. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, School of Law and holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.



Zoe Grotophorst
Senior Analyst, Lake Research Partners

Zoe Grotophorst joined Lake Research Partners (LRP) in 2016. She has extensive experience conducting quantitative and qualitative research for government, corporate, and non-profit organizations. Prior to joining LRP, Grotophorst worked for Government Executive Media Group, a division of Atlantic Media, as a Research



Analyst, Senior Research Analyst, Manager of Research & Strategic Insights, and finally as the Director of Research and Content Services. She holds a Master of Public Policy degree from George Mason University and B.A. in Public Policy from The College of William and Mary.

Jessica Huber

Senior Gender Specialist, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

Senior Gender Specialist Jessica Huber has 20 years of experience working in the fields of women's empowerment and gender equality, community peace building, human rights and governance. At IFES, she is responsible for the global gender program, which promotes political participation, justice and equal rights for women and men around the world. Prior to joining IFES, Huber spent significant time in Uganda, where she worked to empower women and girls recovering from conflict, and succeeded in incorporating gender and peace-building activities into economic security programs. She has successfully advocated for international human rights policies, including United Nations Security Council resolutions and has expertise in building the capacities of government institutions and civil society partners working on gender, conflict resolution and governance. She has a bachelor's degree in urban studies from Vassar College and a master's degree in peace studies from Trinity College, Dublin.



Reta Jo Lewis, Esq.

Director and Senior Resident Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)

The US Delegation is led by Reta Jo Lewis, GMF's director of Congressional Affairs. Lewis draws on her immense experience and GMF's intellectual resources and European networks to connect the U.S. Congress and GMF. Since beginning her tenure, GMF has been very active in engaging Congress through its Transatlantic Congressional Staff Salon Series, briefings on Capitol Hill, study tours, Congressional testimony from GMF experts, and engagement with European Parliamentarians. Previously, she served as the State Department's first-ever Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs, under Secretaries of State Hillary Clinton and John Kerry from 2010-13. She was the principal architect that led the global engagement of U.S. state and local government leaders' integration into and strategy regarding sustainability and climate change to RIO+20, COP-16, COP-17 and COP-18. In 2013, she was awarded the Secretary's Distinguished Service Award. Prior to the State Department, Lewis served in senior positions in the public and private sectors, including political appointments in the Clinton administration. She was the Director for Business Outreach for the Obama-Biden Transition Team. She served as the vice president and counselor at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and director of the Chamber's effort focused on small business and outreach to women and minority-owned businesses. Lewis was the Special Assistant to the President for Political Affairs in the Clinton White House from 1993-95 and the director of the Northeast and Southern Regions. She was of counsel at Edward Widman Palmer LLP prior to joining the Obama Administration, and a 2014 mayoral candidate in Washington, D.C. Lewis holds a bachelor's in political science from University of Georgia, a master's from American University, and a J.D. from Emory University School of Law.



Dr. Anne Moses
Founder & President, IGNITE

Dr. Anne Moses has over 20 years of experience in social justice organizations with a career spanning non-profit, political, policy, and academic sectors, and a focus on women's and girls' issues. Alongside an extensive consulting practice, Dr. Moses has served as Chief Operating Officer for Emerge America, Majority Council Director for EMILY's List, and Executive Director of GirlSource. Dr. Moses is also adjunct faculty at Mills College in Oakland, CA. Dr. Moses holds a Ph.D. from U.C. Berkeley and an MSW from New York University.



Cynthia Terrell
Director, Representation2020

Cynthia Richie Terrell is a founder of Representation2020 and FairVote and has served as a board member of several charitable organizations and Quaker institutions including the American Friends Service Committee and Sandy Spring Friends School. Terrell has worked in the area of voting system reform in this country and abroad, traveling in 1993 to New Zealand to support that country's successful referendum to adopt a proportional voting system. Previously, Terrell worked extensively on political campaigns, working as campaign manager and field director for campaigns for the U.S. President, U.S. House and U.S. Senate, for governor and for state and city-wide initiative efforts, including a state equal rights amendment and a city campaign for fair representation voting. Terrell has been published in the Washington Post, The Nation, and The Christian Science Monitor and has appeared on C-SPAN's Washington Journal. She has three children and is active in the Quaker community and in civic affairs in Takoma Park, Maryland. She graduated with a B.A. in political science from Swarthmore College in 1986.



Gloria Totten
President and Founder, Public Leadership Institute

Gloria Totten is the Founder and President of the Public Leadership Institute (PLI). She has more than 20 years of experience in non-profit management, organizing, and advocacy and electoral campaign work at the federal, state and local levels. In 2011, Totten created PLI, now home to a national network of more than 13,000 progressive policymakers. PLI develops winning messages and state-of-the-art communications training for policymakers and coordinates multi-state policy and advocacy campaigns on a range of progressive issues. In 2001, Totten founded Progressive Majority, an organization dedicated to recruiting, training, and electing progressive champions from the school board to statewide levels. Progressive Majority recruited thousands of candidates in twelve states, with a special emphasis on recruiting women and people of color. Totten ran Progressive Majority until 2015, upon which she consolidated Progressive Majority's programming into Wellstone Action. Totten has served as Political Director for NARAL and Executive Director for Maryland NARAL. In her home state of Minnesota, she worked on a number of electoral and issue campaigns, as the Education Director for Pro-Choice Resources, President and Lobbyist for the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Media Chair for It's Time Minnesota! Totten serves on the board/advisory



board for Brave New Films, New American Leaders Initiative, PowerPAC+, Political Parity, Progress Now, Wellstone Action and the Women's Information Network. Totten is the co-author of *Voicing Our Values: A message guide for policymakers*.

Erin Vilardi
Founder & CEO, VoteRunLead

Erin Vilardi is the Founder and Executive Director of VoteRunLead, a US organization leveraging technology and training to accelerate the number of women in political leadership. She has served as a Leadership Development Consultant for a range of clients including Fortune 100 companies, global girls' initiatives, and the U.S. Department of State, reaching women leaders in a dozen international cities. Vilardi serves on the Advisory Board of Girl Meets World, Democracy.com, the New American Leaders Project, and is the New York Delegate for Vision2020, a 50-state initiative to increase women in leadership. She has appeared on CNN, BBC, and Fox News, and her work has appeared in *O, The Oprah Magazine*, and in numerous international and domestic publications on women, politics, and leadership.



Debbie Walsh
Director, Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University

Debbie Walsh is director of the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. CAWP is nationally recognized as the leading source of scholarly research and current data about American women's political participation. Its mission is to promote greater knowledge and understanding about women's participation in politics and government and to enhance women's influence and leadership in public life. Walsh joined the Center staff in 1981 and became the director in 2001. Walsh is frequently called upon by the media for information and comment, and she speaks to a variety of audiences across the country on topics related to women's political participation. She is a member of the Circle of Advisors to Rachel's Network and was named one of the 21 Leaders for the 21st Century by Women's eNews. She earned her bachelor's degree in political science from SUNY Binghamton and her M.A. in political science from Rutgers, where she was an Eagleton Fellow.



Susannah Wellford, Esq.
President & Founder, Running Start

Over the past 16 years, Susannah Wellford has founded two organizations designed to raise the political voice of young women in America. In spring 2007, Wellford founded Running Start to inspire young women and girls to political leadership. Running Start furthers the work begun by the Women Under Forty Political Action Committee (WUF PAC), which Wellford cofounded in 1999 and led for the first five years. WUF PAC is a national women's group dedicated to electing young women to political office. A nonpartisan organization, WUF PAC is the only political action committee in the United States devoted to helping young women of all parties run for elected office. Wellford speaks frequently to colleges, law schools, political groups, trade associations and nonprofits about the importance of involving more young





women in politics. She has also lectured about politics to many international groups, including women from Kuwait, Southeast Asia, Korea, Bahrain and Russia. She was invited to Kuwait by the Kuwaiti government in spring 2006 to meet Kuwait's first women candidates and to advise them on their campaigns, and has been sent by the State Department to speak in the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Israel, Belgium, and Moscow. After receiving her J.D. from the University from Virginia School of Law in 1998, she worked for several years at Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand, lobbying for state and local governments, foreign governments, corporate entities and trade associations before Congress and the Executive Branch. Prior to law school, Wellford worked for Hillary Clinton's Health Care Task Force in the Clinton White House. As a member of the Health Care War Room staff, she planned and executed grass-roots health care events for the President and First Lady and coordinated speaking events for Congressional Members and White House staff on health care reform issues. She is also a former Legislative Assistant for Senator Wyche Fowler from Georgia. Wellford is a 1990 graduate of Davidson College. She lives in Washington, DC with her twin sons, Ben and James.

ExCHANGE Participants EU Delegation

Serap Altinisik

Programme Director, European Women's Lobby (EWL)

As Programme Director, Serap Altinisik is responsible for leading on EWL's Fundraising and programme strategy. Altinisik joined the EWL team in September 2011 as Fundraising Coordinator and Policy Officer. When she first joined the EWL team in 2011, she successfully led the EWL 50/50 Campaign "No Modern Democracy without Gender Equality" across Europe with the goal to achieve equal representation of women and men in decision-making and power positions within the EU institutions.

Another focus of her work in this field is lobbying for greater equality in terms of economic decision-making and power positions and championing transformative leadership at all levels of decision-making. Altinisik was previously responsible for the Campaign Unit at European Network against Racism (ENAR) in Brussels, and she spent several years as the Head of Domestic Violence Department and Head of Activists and City Groups for the largest women's rights organization TERRE DES FEMMES (TDF) in Germany.. Altinisik has published a book analyzing the effects of domestic violence, and led the ever first study in Germany into implementation of favorable workplace policies for those experiencing domestic violence. She has also published many articles in different books, periodicals and magazines on international women's rights, feminism, migration and racism. Altinisik started her professional career as a Process Consultant in Personnel and Organization Development at Führungsakademie Hannover (Germany). She holds a Magistra Artium Degree in Political Science, English literature, and Cultural Studies from the Leibniz Universität Hannover (Germany), as well as from the Master's Programme European Studies at John Moores University in Liverpool (UK).



Mieke Bakker-Mantjes

Sector Manager International, CSR Maritime, CSR Netherlands

Presently, Mieke Bakker-Mantjes is a Council Member for a social-liberal party in the City Council of her hometown in the Netherlands, Hellevoetsluis. The main issues of her party are sustainability, environment, inclusive participation, and health care. Hellevoetsluis is located in the port area of Rotterdam and has nearly 40.000 inhabitants. The number of female politicians is approximately equal to the male politicians in the Netherlands. Looking to the level of aldermen (City Council) or ministers (Lower House), the representation of men is significantly higher—just 20% of alderman are female. In Hellevoetsluis, the female political participation is comparatively low: 8 out of the 25 members and 1 out of 4 aldermen are women, although the Mayor is a woman. Aside from the Council, Bakker-Mantjes has worked in the maritime industry since the 90s in a number of functions and diverse organizations. Currently, she serves as Senior Manager Maritime for CSR Netherlands, a non-profit organization working on a sustainable and inclusive world by balancing the 3 P's: People, Planet, and Profit. The maritime industry is a traditional industry and male dominated. However it is also an industry with a lot of (technical) innovations. Bakker-Mantjes considers her challenge to be bringing in the human factor to these innovations, and she believes strongly in diversity. Women are important in changes and transition, both in her City Council and in her maritime industry.



Iliana Balabanova-Stoicheva

Activist and Founder, Bulgarian Platform of the EWL

Iliana Balabanova-Stoicheva has been active in the field of human rights and women's human rights since 1996. She is one of the founders and a coordinator of the Bulgarian Platform to the European Women's Lobby (EWL). She is also a member of a group of Bulgarian NGOs lobbying for passing new legislation against domestic violence, including the ratification of Istanbul Convention by Bulgaria, and for ensuring equality between women and men. Balabanova-Stoicheva has been the Project Coordinator and Project Manager of many national and regional project initiatives focused on effective protection and prevention of gender based violence and discrimination, as well as on achievement and effective implementation of real gender equality between women and men at the national and greater European levels. Balabanova-Stoicheva has been the Director of the International Relations Direction of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination in Bulgaria (2013), the Executive Director of the Alliance for Protection Against Gender Based Violence in Bulgaria (2014 – 2016); National Coordinator of the Bulgarian Platform to the EWL (2005 – 2012; 2013 – present); and a member of the Board of Administration of the EWL (2005 – 2011; 2013 – present). Since June 2016, Stoicheva has served as the Vice-President of the EWL. Her main areas of expertise are violence against women, including domestic violence; trafficking in women for sexual exploitation; political participation of women; portraying of women in media and advertisement; and multiple discrimination with a gender component.



Armelle Danet

Board Member, La Coordination Française pour le Lobby Européen des Femmes (the French Women's Lobby)

Armelle Danet serves as a board member for La Coordination Française pour le Lobby Européen des Femmes (CLEF)—the French Women's Lobby. She has been responsible for the CLEF Parity Commission since 2014. Danet is a Co-Chairman of Elles Aussi, a non-profit organization which promotes parity in elected assemblies. For more than twenty years, Elles Aussi, has been acting at two levels: at the national level to promote laws and practices that facilitate 50/50 representation in elected assemblies, and at the local level to promote women's access in elected assemblies and give more visibility to women in political decision-making positions. Before joining the Elles Aussi board in 2009, Danet was active in a women's organization that organized training sessions for candidates to local elections. She is an associated member of the Equality High Council (HCE), an organization under the Prime Minister's responsibility.



Matilda Flemming

Policy and Campaigns Officer, European Women's Lobby (EWL)

Matilda Flemming is a Policy and Campaigns Officer for the European Women's Lobby (EWL), and leads EWL's Women in Decision-making campaigns—aiming to put women at the heart of decision making in politics and business. Together with EWL members she works on designing EWL's campaign for the 2019 European Parliament Elections. Before joining EWL, Flemming led the successful civil society



campaign for UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace, and Security. Flemming holds an MA in Development Studies with a specialization in feminist economics from the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague. She is originally Finnish, but have spent the last seven years in the Netherlands.

Ilona Graenitz

Former EWL Board Member, Austrian Women Ring

Since her early youth, Ilona Graenitz has been an activist in the Austrian Social-Democratic Party and held various positions internally before, during, and after the time she was an elected parliamentarian. In women's political organizations, as well as in umbrella organizations of women's organizations, cross party organizations, and professional women's groups, the question of "How to promote and support women as candidates and get them elected" is a most important item. All her life, Graenitz has been in many discussions and working groups concerning quota, first in women's groups, then with men. She has also worked on other obligatory measures to raise the number of women in elected bodies and within political parties' administrations. She was a mentor in mentoring programs and promotes young women by finding opportunities for them to speak or present publicly so that they can become confident in themselves and known to people.



Jason-Louise Graham

Advisor, EU Panel Watch

Jason-Louise Graham received her BA in EU Studies and her LLM in EU Law at the University of Maastricht. She completed her traineeship at the European Commission's Directorate-General Justice in the summer of 2016. She currently works as an Advisor to EU Panel Watch (EUPW), an organization which publicly brings attention to all male (and gender unequal) expert panels in Brussels. For EUPW, Graham acts as a watch-dog for diversity on expert panels, helps to organize top events, and obtains speaking opportunities for the group itself on Brussels panels in order to bring visibility to the diversity discourse. She is also a Policy Officer at the ACP Young Professionals Network, for which she writes public consultations for the European Commission - in particular on the EU Social Pillar. Through her work she aims to bring awareness of unconscious bias regarding ethnicity (and gender) in the labor market and the policies which shape it.



Corinna Hörst

Deputy Director, Brussels Office, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)

Corinna Hörst is deputy director at the Brussels office of (GMF) supporting the executive director in all aspects of strategic planning, operations, personnel, management and communication. In this capacity, she plays a central role in program planning, networking and relationship building with stakeholders from government, media, business, as well as non-governmental and think tank communities. She is also managing the day-to-day operations of the Transatlantic Foundation, a project in support of GMF's transatlantic activities with European partners. She monitors and frequently comments on



transatlantic relations and European Union affairs and is engaged in various women leadership development activities. She is president of the Brussels chapter of Women in International Security (WIIS) and also founded the European Network of Female Policy Experts in Brussels. Before coming to GMF in 1999, she was a teaching associate at Miami University, teaching American and World history and worked as assistant project manager at a publishing company in Germany. Hörst has a Ph.D. and master's degree in history and studied at Miami University, Ohio, US, the University of Heidelberg, Germany and St. Andrews University, Scotland.

Dina Loghin,
Vice President, Romanian Women's Lobby

Dina Loghin is the founder of the "Sanse Egale pentru Femei" Foundation, established in 1995 to promote democracy, good governance, and human rights from the gender equality perspective. As a project leader in the Stability Pact Gender Task Force she won the Gender and ICT Award for the Women Mayors Link project (2003). She started a new career in 1994 by volunteering for and coordinating the "222 Group" (the first parity initiative in elections in Romania) in Moldova. Until then, Loghin had worked as an Engineer and as an Associate Professor for The Technical University in Iasi. Now, she holds a Master's degree in Gender Studies (2001) from the Faculty of Political Studies at SNSPA, Bucharest. Loghin is active particularly as a trainer for the political empowerment of women, leadership, and democracy. Born and raised in Sibiu, Romania in 1951, Loghin currently resides in Iasi, Romania and is a widow with one daughter.



Sonja Lokar
Executive Director, CEE Network for Gender Issues

Sonja Lokar is a Slovenian sociologist by education and a professional politician. She served as party secretary general in 1989-1990, initiator and leader of the WF in her SD party from 1990-2000, MP from 1986-1992, and as an NGO leader. Since 1998, Lokar has been the Executive Director of the regional NGO named CEE Network for Gender Issues, and was one of the initiators and Chair of the Stability Pact Gender Task Force, which has been an official gender mainstreaming mechanism of global governmental cooperation for restoration of peace, democracy, and prosperity in the Balkans (1999-2009). She is a strategist and analyst in the process of engendering 56 parliamentary political parties from all sides of political spectrum in 18 former socialist transition countries—5 of which, in the Western Balkan region, are still striving to become EU member states. Lokar is the co-author of "Women Can do It II" and a number of mentoring training manuals for women activists in political parties.



Pirkko Mahlamäki
Secretary General, Finnish Disability Forum

Pirkko Mahlamäki, MA, BLL, is the Secretary General of the Finnish Disability Forum since 2000, a former policy officer, and a current board member of the European



Disability Forum (EDF), representing EDF in the board of European Women's Lobby 2016-2018. A member of the Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal of Finland, she was an advisor member of the Finnish delegation to the UN ad hoc committee preparing the International Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. She continues to work for the mainstreaming of disability and of gender issues and promoting rights of persons with disabilities and gender equality in national, Nordic, European, and international networks, and for joint civil society activism in promotion of human rights and fundamental freedom. She has worked in projects to improve situation of women with disabilities, violence prevention, victim support and increasing awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights issues for girls and women with disabilities. She has worked to promote independent living solutions for persons with disabilities. In 2009, she was awarded the Cross of Merit of the Order of the White Rose of Finland, and the Human Rights Award by the Finnish Institution of Human Rights.

Donatella Martini **Co-Founder and President, Associazione DonneinQuota**

Donatella Martini is the co-founder and President of the feminist association DonneinQuota, founded in 2006 with the specific aims of improving women's participation in politics and changing women's representation in the media. She is also the co-founder of WECAMS, Women's European Coalition Against Media Sexism, and a member (and Alternate) of the EWL Italian Coordination. In 2010, the association appealed to the Court (TAR Lombardia) against the Lombardian Government as they did not respect a regional statute on the composition of the regional Council (there was only one woman councilor among 14 members) and, after a long fight, she won. When the new regional Council was elected in 2014, 7 women and 7 men were nominated. In 2012, she once again appealed to the Court regarding two small towns near Milan (Cassano Magnago and Opera). The association lost the appeal for Cassano, and is still waiting on judgement for Opera. During the 2016 municipal elections, together with 6 other associations, DonneinQuota organized a project called "Gender Question Time." To educate politicians on gender issues, the association first interviewed all mayor candidates and then organized two events in which all mayor candidates discussed the most pressing issues. As a member of the Italian organization "Accordo di Azione Comune per la Democrazia Paritaria," uniting more than 50 women's groups, DonneinQuota fights for equality in Italian institutions.



Deirdre Mortell **Board Director, Women for Election; CEO, Social Innovation Fund Ireland**

Deirdre Mortell has twenty years of experience in changing the world one step at a time. Sometimes by leading and sometimes by contributing in a team setting to delivering high growth or a step change in impact in Ireland's leading non-profit organizations. She currently serves as the Board Director of Women for Election,

which works to inspire and equip women to succeed in politics, and as the CEO for Social Innovation Fund Ireland, a non-profit growth capital fund for social innovations that tackle Ireland's critical social issues. Mortell has been CEO of One Foundation, held senior roles in fundraising & communications in Oxfam and Barnardos, and held multiple Board directorships. Uniting all this is Mortell's passionate for social change, both globally and locally in Ireland, and the power both of philanthropy and the ordinary citizen to change things—often faster than we think. She especially loves doing start-ups, having done 7



in the last ten years. The rest of the time she loves travelling, and recently learned to ride a horse, and joined a women's choir!

Markéta Mottlová

Project Manager and Lecturer, Fórum 50%

Markéta Mottlová is a PhD student at Department of Political Science in the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts at Charles University in Prague. During her studies, she has focused on gender quotas as a possible way to obtain equal representation of women in political decision-making positions. Since 2012, she has worked as a project manager and lecturer in the NGO Fórum 50% (a member organization of the Czech Women's Lobby), which strives for a more balanced representation of women and men in politics since 2004. Recently, she has been responsible for a pilot international political mentoring program between Danish, Norwegian, and Czech women politicians. Fórum 50% also provides training programs for women politicians and those women who aspire to become elected. The organization leads campaigns focusing on the promotion of women candidates and cooperates with stakeholders (political parties, state institutions, municipalities) to achieve gender equality in politics and public life.



Michelle O'Donnell Keating

Co-Founder & Chair, Women for Election

Michelle O'Donnell Keating is the Co-Founder & Chair of Women for Election. Prior to Women for Election, Keating spent over 17 years in the Financial Services sector focusing primarily in the area of multinational project management and change management, leading and implementing organizational change for blue-chip organizations in Ireland, the UK, and Australia, while combining this with political interests in her spare time. Keating has built up extensive political campaign experience at local and national level elections, while also having established and led a number of national referenda campaigns on the Treaty of Nice and the Treaty of Lisbon. She was a member of the Board of Directors for the European Movement Ireland and is now an Advisory Board Member. Keating is also a committee member for Women on Air. She is currently a Teaching Fellow at DCU lecturing in International Relations and International Political Economy at undergraduate and post-graduate levels and in 2014 won the DCU President's award for Civic Engagement. She holds a BSc in Business from University Central England, an MA in International Relations from DCU, and is currently a PhD candidate in DCU examining the impact of IMF policy upon women. Most importantly, she is wife to Adam and mother to Isaac and loves baking!



Réka Sáfrány

Policy Officer, Hungarian Women's Lobby

Réka Sáfrány is currently a Policy Officer at the Hungarian Women's Lobby (HWL) and worked previously as Program Coordinator at MONA Foundation for the



Women of Hungary from 2004 to 2012. She holds an MA degree in Gender Studies from Central European University, Budapest. She has experience in conducting research on policy issues from a gender aspect, women's political participation, gender and media, and policy responses to violence against women. From 2006 to 2010, she was member of the government-initiated Working Group on Women in Politics. At the HWL, she contributes to policy reports on the status of gender equality in Hungary and assists the preparation and implementation of public and professional capacity building activities. She contributed to the HWL's alternative reports to the CEDAW Committee on the issue of women in political decision-making, and co-authored the HWL's policy recommendations entitled "Women's political representation and the gender equality institutional machinery."

Tiina Rosberg

Representative to EWL, NYTKIS

Tiina Rosberg has been working with issues related to women in decision-making ever since she became politically active in the 1990's. First as a member of the national Green Women's Association (Finland), later as an Executive board member and vice chair on several occasions, and presently as the acting Secretary General of the Association. Rosberg has also been active at the regional and local level as chairperson of the Green Women's member organizations as well as in the NYTKIS cross-party activities. At present, she is a member of the national NYTKIS board and an EWL Board alternate where she constantly makes statements and campaigns to promote women's equal participation in the society. She also has many years of experience in political decision-making on the Green Party Executive Board from 2001-2007 and as Municipal councillor 2005-2008. She has served on various municipal boards and committees (Education & Culture, Technical) and is presently a member of the Revision Board of the Kotka City Council.



Alexandra Rosén

Senior Director, Women in Parliament (WIP)

Alexandra Rosén is the Senior Director at the Women in Parliament's Global Forum, where she is leading the foundation's policy activities. In her continuous work to raise awareness about the importance of gender-balanced political leadership, she also supports WIP's global partnerships. Over the past years, she has led the policy preparations for WIP summits all over the world including in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Mexico, and Jordan. Rosén has several years of experience working in public affairs in Brussels, and previously headed the office of the European Commission Technology Platform. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Uppsala, Sweden, and conducted studies in Germany and Russia.



Lorraine Spiteri

Chairperson, Malta Confederation of Women's Organizations (MCWO)

Lorraine Spiteri is the Chairperson of the Malta Confederation of Women's Organizations. She has been an activist in the women's movement in Malta since 1978. Spiteri graduated from the University of Malta with a Diploma in Social Studies (Women & Development) and completed her Master's (Phil) from the University of



Manchester (MBS). Spiteri's work related to women in politics includes the following: in 2016. As a key expert for the European Commission, she presented a paper on Women in Political Decision-Making in Malta. In 2014, she presented a paper on the role of civil society and media in advocating for increased women's political participation, during a conference organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights held at the Parliament of Malta. Also in 2014, as a national expert, Spiteri conducted research for EIGE "Women in Power and Decision-Making" with an overview of Malta's situation concerning women in political, economic and social decision-making and presenting best practices. As Chairperson of MCWO, she organized a seminar to campaign for gender parity in Democracy for the European Parliament Elections at the European Parliament Office in Malta. In 2012, as a key expert for the European Commission, she presented a position paper on Malta and quotas giving a brief assessment of the country's policy context, economic circumstances, and institutional background. In 2012, she addressed the Malta Labour Party Congress on Equality and Civil Liberties (Women) about issues of Mandatory quotas at and EU and local level

Sally Lisa Starcken

Member of the Federal Executive Committee, Arbeitsgemeinschaft sozial-demokratischer Frauen in der SPD

Sally Lisa Starcken began her political activity with the young members of the SPD 3 years ago. From there, she quickly found her way to the women's group of SPD, where her main focus was the work with female refugees. While there, she originated the development of a house that would only be for female refugees under the age of 18, with particular attention to protection of the women. Starcken set up a feminist network in Bielefeld that repeatedly addressed pressing women's issues, and in February, 2016, she became chairperson of the AsF Bielefeld. In summer 2016, she was elected to the Federal Executive Committee of the working group of Social Democratic Women in the SPD in Germany. Her main focuses are the conditions of female refugees, as well as gender based violence and the fight against right-wing extremism. At the moment, she is working on the problem of inspiring women by politics. To that end, she recently attended a congress in Singapore to discuss the issue, where she gained very valuable impressions for her work in Germany.



Kristina Wilfore

Principal, Karakoyun Strategies

Kristina Wilfore is Principal of Karakoyun Strategies, an international political consulting firm based in Istanbul. She regularly trains, speaks, and writes about issues that impact women's participation in politics, parties and parliament across the globe. She has worked with political leaders, insurgent political parties and civil society

organizations in over 20 countries throughout Europe and the Middle East. Over the last year she organized several study trips with Western European political parties to learn from the US election, and understand the role of women voters and strategies to support women candidates in particular. Wilfore is working on a large scale project to support the political development of Syrian women forced to flee as the result of war. She also oversees a donor fund that provides grants to Turkish women's leadership and economic development projects and is an advisor to the longest standing organization focused on bringing more women to politics in Turkey. From 2002 to 2009 she was the Executive Director of the Washington, DC-based Ballot Initiative Strategy Center which was awarded "The Most Valuable Think Tank" by The Nation magazine. During this time she worked on hundreds of referendum campaigns dealing with education and





children's issues, economic security and reproductive choice. She recently co-founded RISE Global Strategies, to teach women the tools of fundraising in the Middle East and Europe, www.globalrises.com. Wilfore is a board member of the International Association of Political Consultants and Vice President of the European Association of Political Consultants. She is a Political Fellow with the Truman National Security Project and is listed in the Women's Media Center's online brain trust of female experts around the world, www.SheSource.org.

Magda Zenon **Cyprus Women's Lobby**

Magda Zenon is a human rights activist that brings with her a perspective formed within the contexts of living in South Africa, Greece, and Cyprus. Since moving to Cyprus in 2000, she has continued to be an active member of civil society within the peace and women's movement with a focus on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and women's participation and the integration of the gender perspective in the ongoing peace process. Zenon is a founding member of the Gender Advisory Team, an ad hoc group of women that came together in 2009 and developed specific proposals with a gender perspective on subjects such as citizenship and property that were also discussed with the negotiators. She is also a founding and active member of the Cyprus Women's Lobby, that represents Cyprus at the EWL, and as such has been involved in amongst others, the implementation of the EWL's 50/50 Campaign in Cyprus and the #ICommit campaign requesting candidates in this year's Republic of Cyprus parliamentary elections to commit to putting gender equality high on their agenda for their term of office.



ExCHANGE Speakers and Guests

Joanna Maycock

Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby (EWL)

Joanna Maycock has served as the EWL's Secretary General since May 2014, and has 20 years of professional experience in senior leadership and governance positions in the European and International Development NGO sector. For the past 12 years, she has worked in Brussels for ActionAid—a global federation working for a world free from poverty and injustice. Her most recent role at ActionAid was as Director for Country Coordination, and Head of Europe. She is a long-time board member and former President of CONCORD, the European Confederation of Development NGOs. Maycock also has extensive experience working for migrant women's rights at the International Organization for Migration.



Marie Christine Marghem

Minister of Energy, Environment, and Sustainable Development

Born in 1963, Marie-Christine Marghem holds a degree in Law from the Université de Liège. Afterwards, she took a one year class at the third degree in Law from the K.U.Leuven. Active for 20 years in municipal politics and for 11 years as a representative in the Chamber, Marghem is a lawyer. In her empathy and willingness for change, she found her political vocation. She is animated by general interest and her ideal of justice. She is driven to fight for gender equality. At the Federal Parliament she was the lead investor of sensible topics, such as sexual abuse in the Church, the banking crisis, the support of the self-employed and the reform of Justice. Since 2006, she has been the most popular political personality of Tournai, a town of 70.000 inhabitants (highest personal score in a vote of preference ever registered in the municipal elections of Tournai). Besides politics, she loves dramatic art, which she practiced at the conservatory. She also loves music, a passion she shares with her companion, an orchestra conductor.



Renate Nikolay

Head of Cabinet of European Commissioner Vera Jourova

Renate Nikolay is Head of Cabinet of Vera Jourova, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers, and Gender Equality. She led the Unit of Interinstitutional and International Relations in DG Justice between 2011 and 2014, dealing with legislative files and international negotiations such as the ones on data protection with the US. Prior to that, she was advisor in the Cabinet of the first High Representative/Vice President Cathy Ashton, where she led on the relations with the European Parliament in setting up the European External Action Service and on relations with Asia, in particular with China. From 2004-2009, she was a member of the Cabinet of the Trade Commissioners Peter Mandelson and Baroness Cathy Ashton, where she followed the trade talks in the multilateral trade round of the World Trade Organization (the Doha Round) and the EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement which was finalized in 2009. She started her career





in the European Commission in the Directorate General for Trade in November, 2003, dealing with the accession negotiations of Vietnam to the World Trade Organization and the Trade Policy Committee with the Member States. Prior to that, she was a diplomat in the German Permanent Representation in Brussels and worked as private Secretary to the German G8 Sherpa in the German Ministry of Economics. She holds a law degree (Erstes und Zweites Staatsexamen) from the Free University in Berlin and a Master's as a Fulbright Scholar in Washington DC. She was also an Erasmus Scholar in France/Grenoble.

GMF's Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network Delegation

Tracy Bibo-Tansia (Belgium)

Associate to Senator and MP Brigitte Grouwels

Tracy Bibo-Tansia is an associate with Senator and MP of the Brussels Parliament Brigitte Grouwels, former Minister of Mobility and Equality of Chances. She provides counsel on: equal opportunity, international politics (with a focus on the former Belgian Colonies), welfare, and environment. She studied at Ghent University and earned her master's degree in international politics—currently she is working towards her second master's degree in Economics. During her studies she was twice a candidate for the elections for the CD&V (the Flemish Christian and Democratic Party). Bibo-Tansia is also assigned as a board member for 'Woman and Society' (Vrouw & Maatschappij) for her party.



Assita Kanko (Belgium)

Author, Columnist, Politician

Assita Kanko is an elected Belgian politician, author, columnist, public speaker and working mother. Born in Burkina Faso (1980), Assita Kanko later immigrated to Belgium where she worked in various jobs, improving her skills until breaking into a career in the private sector. After working for International Paper Europe, PwC, the Flemish liberal group in the Brussels Parliament, and BNP Paribas bank, she joined the corporate finance team of a Belgian company active on the international market of equipment for quarry, mining, public works, port solutions, and recycling. In the meantime, she ran for the Liberal Party MR and was elected town councilor in Ixelles, one of the largest districts of Brussels, since 2012. She also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Belgian development agency and columnist for the renowned Belgian newspaper De Standaard. In her writing, political, and business life, Kanko argues forcefully for a policy of integration and empowerment, and equal opportunities for men and women. Fluent in French, Dutch, and English, Kanko maintains good political contacts on either side of Belgium's linguistic groups. She is a popular author and commentator regularly invited to speak in Belgium, France, and The Netherlands. Her first book, "Parce que tu es une fille, histoire d'une vie excisée" (Because you are a girl, story of a circumcised life- ed. RL 2014), is a story of a personal and intellectual journey to freedom as a woman. In October 2015, she published "La deuxième moitié, plaidoyer pour un nouveau féminisme ed. Lannoo" in Dutch and French about the position of women worldwide. In the second half, Kanko mixes testimonies from her own environment with data and facts about the role of women in our society. Her overriding message: women, half of humanity, are still in second position and not estimated at value. Kanko touches many themes, from the glass ceiling to domestic violence, as well as female genital mutilation, which she herself underwent at age 5. The result is a call for change that will leave no one.



Abena Oppong-Asare (United Kingdom)
City Council Member, Erith Ward, Bexley

Councillor Abena Oppong-Asare was elected to Erith Ward, Bexley in May, 2014. She is the first Black woman to hold the position of Deputy Labour Leader and Shadow Cabinet Spokesperson for Education. She works as a researcher at the Greater London Authority and focuses on equalities for the London Assembly Labour Group. Prior to this, she worked in Parliament gaining political insight with high profile politicians including Diane Abbott MP and Rt Hon Dame Joan Ruddock MP. She also campaigned for Barack Obama’s Presidential Election 2008. Oppong-Asare is the first black woman to be elected on to the first cohort of the Fabian Women’s Network Executive Committee in 2013. She is passionate about issues relating to female and BME participation in politics. She is also committed to getting more people, particularly young people, involved in politics.



Reena Ranger (United Kingdom)
City Council Member, Moor Park, Eastbury, Three Rivers

Reena Ranger was elected Councillor of Moor Park and Eastbury and Three Rivers in 2014, where she serves on the Planning Committee, the General Public Services and Community Safety Committee, and the Youth Council. Ranger is the Founder and Chairwoman of Women Empowered, a grassroots social initiative that aims to inspire and help women and men to reach their full potential, and was the chairwoman for the Harrow West Conservative Women’s Organization. In 2012, she worked closely with the Women’s India Association to help coordinate events to raise money for the vital work of supporting women and children in India.



Biography forthcoming: Maryam Jamshid

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