



Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
Ministro per le Pari Opportunità



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE G8

Rome, 9-10 September 2009





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Sala delle Conferenze Internazionali

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

9 September

OPENING SESSION

9:00

Welcome by H.E. Giorgio Napolitano,
President of the Republic of Italy

9:15

Welcome by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Franco Frattini

9:30

Opening Statement by the Italian Minister for Equal Opportunities
Hon. Maria Rosaria Carfagna

Greeting by the Nobel Prize and Lifelong Senator Rita Levi Montalcini

Statements by

Mrs. Asha Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations

Mrs. Chantal Compaoré, First Lady of Burkina Faso

Mrs. Manda Zand Ervin, Founder and Director of the Alliance of Iranian Women

FIRST SESSION: THE WITNESSES

10:00 -11:15

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence against women has gone unheeded for a long time. Firstly considered as a private issue, to be hidden, and be ashamed of, within domestic walls, it has only recently become part of the agenda for human rights, despite its diffusion. Nowadays, we know that domestic vio-

lence is a worldwide problem, which takes different forms and manifestations according to one's culture, traditions and notion of family itself.

The main objective of this panel is to discuss the different forms that domestic violence against women may take in various contexts, including honour crimes, forced weddings, physical, sexual, moral, psychological and economic discriminations and coercion, in order to highlight a pervasive phenomenon and the actions taken to eradicate it.

Chair: Fiamma Nirenstein, Vice President of the Lower House Foreign Affairs Commission, Journalist, Italy

Xue Xinran, Journalist, China

Marie-France Hirigoyen, Psychiatrist, Psychoanalyst, Psychotherapist, France

Giuseppe Losasso, President of the "Smile Again" Association, Italy

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Writer, Politician, Researcher at the American Enterprise Institute

Marzia Basel, Judge, Afghanistan

11:15 - 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30-12:45

RAPE, VIOLENCE, HARASSMENT and STALKING IN DAILY LIFE

Rape, harassment and persecutory behaviours are more and more widespread in everyday life and jeopardize the free development of women's personality and dignity. Next to acts of flagrant violence, women are victims of many forms of severe persecution and discrimination, often perpetrated underhandedly.

This panel aims at focusing on such complex and multifaceted issues, which are growing alarmingly all over the world, as well as discussing the most advanced legal systems put in place to protect women's physical integrity and dignity.

Chair: Bibiana Aido Almagro, Minister for Equality, Spain

Nouzha Skalli, Minister for Social Development, Family and Solidarity, Morocco

Fethi Benslama, Professor of Psychopathology, Dean of Training and Research Units, Clinical Human Sciences, University Paris-Diderot Paris7, France

Samar Al Mogren, Writer and Journalist, Saudi Arabia

Isoke Aikpitanyi, "Benin City Girls" Association

Mufuliat Fijabi, "BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights" an NGO based in Nigeria

12:45-13:45

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Two thirds out of 860 million illiterate adults in the world are women. Illiteracy goes hand in hand with poverty and underdevelopment, but also

with discrimination against girls and women. In some areas, women's education is not perceived as a priority, not only for economic but also for cultural and social reasons. This panel aims at addressing different aspects of this phenomenon which currently prevent women's empowerment and deprive women of their fundamental rights and freedoms, from the very early days of their lives. Successful examples of active policies aimed at promoting access to education will also be examined, together with their applicability in different contexts.

Chair: **Moushira Khattab**, Minister of State for Family and Population, Egypt

Barry Bibata, Minister of Women's Promotion and Child Protection, Niger
Zainab Al-Suwaij, Executive Director American Islamic Conference

Nasima Rahmani, Women's Rights Programme Coordinator for ACTIONAID, Afghanistan

Alessandra Necci, Advisor to the President of the Senate, Italy

Elisabetta Belloni, Director General for the Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

13:45-15:00

Buffet Lunch

SECOND SESSION: TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE

15:00-16:15

THE MULTICULTURAL FAMILY: WHO BEARS THE CONSEQUENCES?

As a result of multiethnic and multicultural societies, family patterns in which different cultures, religions and traditions coexist have become more frequent. In these new contexts the most vulnerable individuals, namely women, are those who bear the consequences of an often difficult integration process, owing to lack of mutual respect of freedoms and fundamental rights.

The purpose of the panel is to discuss these issues and to examine ways and means to guarantee, on the one hand, the respect of "difference" as a product of multiethnic and multicultural societies, and, on the other, the protection of women's fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Chair: **Maria Eagle**, Justice Minister and Deputy Minister for Women and Equality", United Kingdom

Esther Murugi Mathenge, Minister for Gender, Childhood and Social Development, Kenya

Carlo Panella, Journalist, Italy

Seyran Ates, Women's Rights Lawyer

Bruce Bawer, Writer

Joanne Sandler, Deputy Executive Director of UNIFEM

16:15-17:30

THE PILLARS OF INTEGRATION

The multiethnic society, crossroad of cultures, religions and traditions, cannot leave aside the recognition of some basic principles for successful integration.

This panel aims at contributing to the international debate on different models of integration, in which the value and the respect of human dignity per se are effectively promoted and protected, while respecting the principles regulating hosting societies. The panel will take into consideration the specific situation of women's vulnerability, but also their unique contribution to the integration process.

Chair: **Alfredo Mantovano**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Interior, Italy

Ndiuro Ndiaye, President of "Alliance for Migration, Leadership and Development", former Deputy Director-General of the International Organization for Migration

Suad Sbaj, Member of the Parliament, Italy

Zeyno Baran, Director of the Hudson Institute Center for Eurasian Policy, Washington

Mons. Vittorio Nozza, Director of Caritas, Italy

Gail Hareven, Journalist and Writer, Israel

17:30-17:45

Coffee Break

17:45-19:00

THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

The purpose of this panel is to review the unique role played by international organizations and by international law itself, as instruments of advocacy, enhancement and implementation of women's fundamental human rights and freedoms. In fact, it cannot be disputed that the importance, complexity and proportions of the issue of violence against women require, regardless of how and where they occur, strong international commitment and determination, with a view to coordinating common policies and strengthening specific and targeted actions. The role of international organizations and international law in keeping violence against women at the core of the international agenda will also be examined.

Chair: **Selma Aliye Kavaf**, State Minister in charge of Women and Family Affairs, Turkey

Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser to the Secretary General of the United Nations on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

Niccolò Figà-Talamanca, Secretary General of the NGO "No Peace without Justice"

Irwin Cotler, Member of the Parliament, Former Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Law Professor at McGill University, Canada

Simonetta Matone, Judge and Chief of Cabinet of the Minister for Equal Opportunities, Italy

Valentina Colombo, Professor of Geopolitics of the Islamic World, European University, Rome - Senior Fellow, European Foundation for Democracy, Bruxelles

10 September

THIRD SESSION: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

9:30-10:45

GIRL: A CHILDHOOD DENIED

On a hypothetical scale of importance, violence against girls represents the most unacceptable and hideous form of violation and deprivation of human rights, in so far as perpetrated against innocent and defenceless human beings. Girls are victims of social and cultural discriminations and violence, even before their birth. The international community must do more to ensure that all girls in the world have an opportunity to fully enjoy the essence of fundamental human rights: being a free human being. Violence against children such as forced prostitution, trafficking, forced labour, denial of education, discrimination inside society and the family cannot be tolerated any more. The purpose of this panel is to assess the efforts accomplished by the international community so far and to identify new and more effective tools for action.

Chair: **Rashida Manjoo**, Special Rapporteur of UN Human Rights Council on Violence Against Women

Shada Nasser, Lawyer, Yemen

Najat M'jid Maala, Special Rapporteur of the UN Council for Human Rights on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

Maud de Boer Buquicchio, Acting Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Eugenia Maria Roccella, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policy, Italy

Phyllis Chesler, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Department of Women Studies, City University of New York, USA

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

11:45-13:00

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

This panel will focus on the phenomenon of female genital mutilations (FGM) in a constructive and unbiased manner. FGM is a widespread and complex phenomenon affecting not only countries where it is traditional practice, but also hosting countries. FGM must be considered as a gross violation of women's and girls' human rights and, as such, it must be eradicated. This would contribute to the achievement of three different Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): MDG 3 on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women; MDG 4 on the reduction of children mortality; MDG 5 on the improvement of maternal health. This panel also intends to deal with the nature and dynamics of FGM as a social rule and with the introduction of the concept of universal human rights meant as a "propeller" of a transformative process leading to the abandonment of the practice.

Chair: **Emma Bonino**, Vice President of the Senate, Italy

Khady Koita, President of the Association "La Palabre"

Elham Manea, Political Scientist and Writer

Aldo Morrone, Professor and Director of the National Institute for the Advancement of the Health of Migrant Populations, Italy

Margherita Boniver, Member of the Parliament, Special Envoy for Humanitarian Emergencies and Vulnerable Situations, Italy

Molly Melching, Director of NGO Tostan

13:00-14:15

Buffet Lunch

14:15-15:45

HIGH LEVEL ROUND TABLE

Chair: **Elisabetta Belloni**, Director General for the Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

15:45-16:00

FAMILY PHOTO

16:00-16:15

CONCLUSIONS OF THE G8 PRESIDENCY

Minister **Maria Rosaria Carfagna** reads Conclusions and closes the Conference

16:15-16:45

PRESS CONFERENCE