

*At the occasion of the Commission on the Status of Women*  
**the International Federation of University Women**  
*presents Panel Discussion:*



**Centres for Excellence in Gender and Governance  
and their contribution to equal opportunity  
for women and men in decision making**

**6 March 2009- 4:00 PM**  
**Grum Room, 8th Floor, Church Centre, New York**

The International Federation of University Women invites you to attend the parallel event/ Panel on Centres for Excellence in Gender and Governance and their contribution to equal opportunity for women and men in decision making that will be held during the 53rd session of the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) in the Grum Room on the 8th floor of the Church Centre at 4pm on 6 March.

This event will be composed of a panel of experts involved in Gender and Governance centres or faculties who will share experiences, positive and negative about the contribution of such centres to leadership and decision making. What is their agenda, who provides support, what circumstances have led to their success and recognition?

Panelists from iKNOW Politics and from associations of university women in Rwanda and Bangladesh, will describe known centres, agenda, support and success in contributing to leadership and decision making, and lessons to be learned. Panelists will advocate for strengthening the need for such centres, proposing best practice on the issue.

The floor will be open for participants to share their own experiences of such centres and suggest the way forward to achieving equal opportunity for women and men in decision making.

## **Description**

This event will be composed of a panel of experts involved in Gender and Governance centres or faculties who will share experiences, positive and negative about the contribution of such centres to leadership and decision making. What is their agenda, who provides support, what circumstances have led to their success and recognition?

## **Chairperson**

**Dr Shirley Randell AM**, Consultant, Gender and Governance for Empowerment, Rwanda; Vice President International Federation for University Women, Convener for International Relations, Rwanda Association of University Women (RAUW)

## **Panel members**

**Justine Mbabazi, Esq**, Senior Legal Advisor, USAID, Afghanistan; Convener Scholarships and Awards Committee, Rwanda Association of University Women

*"The need for a Centre for Excellence: Why Rwanda needs a centre and how it may serve as an empowerment harbour for the East African Community"*

**Ms Piyoo Kochar**, Network Coordinator, iKNOW Politics, *iKNOW Politics as a center for excellence in governance and gender*

**Dr Nazmunnessa Mahtab**, Chairperson Department of Women's Studies, University of Dhaka; member, Bangladesh Federation of University Women

## **Process**

Panel members will each speak for up to 7 minutes on exploring one or two of the following issues/questions.

- Description of any known centres, agenda, support, success in contributing to leadership and decision making, and lessons to be learned
- Strengthening the need and advocating for such centres
- Proposing best practice on the issue.

The floor will be open for participants to share experiences, suggest the way forward in achieving equal opportunity for women and men in decision making.