

The Fourth International Helvi Sipilä Seminar

Event ID 918 at UN CSW-53, 2009

Wednesday 4th March at 3 p.m to 5 p.m, Conference Room C



The International Helvi Sipilä Seminar Series was started in 2006 to honour Ms Sipilä's work and the work of women with the UN and the CSW and its bodies as well as in other international and national women's organisations.

She Says NO to Violence

INTRODUCTION TO THE SEMINAR

**Chair of the Seminar Leena-Maija Laurén, Finnish Federation of University Women,
Executive Board Member**

OPENING ADDRESS

Dr. Carolyn Hannan, Director, UN, Division of Advancement of Women

MEN, VIOLENCE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

**Minister Stefan Wallin, Minister of Culture and Sport,
responsible for Gender Equality**

KEY NOTE SPEECH -TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN IN THE OSCE REGION

**Eva Biaudet , Special Representative and Co-ordinator
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe**

COMMENTS TO THE KEY NOTE SPEECH

Kaburo Kobia, Communications Director, World YWCA

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN AFGANISTAN

Julia Evans, The National Committee for UNIFEM in Finland

CLOSING ADDRESS

Inés Alberdi, Executive Director, UNIFEM International

CLOSING of the SEMINAR

Chair of the Seminar Ms. Leena-Maija Laurén, FFUW, Executive Board Member

Major Speakers

OPENING ADDRESS

Dr Carolyn Hannan, Director, United Nations, Division of Advancement of Women

Carolyn Hannan was appointed as Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women from December, 2001. She was formerly the Senior Policy Advisor on Gender Equality in the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Chair of the OECD/DAC Working Party on Gender Equality. Ms Hannan worked for two years as the Principal Officer for Gender Mainstreaming in the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues at the United Nations in New York.

MEN, VIOLENCE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Minister Stefan Wallin, Minister of Culture and Sport, responsible for Gender Equality

Mr. Wallin is a Party Leader of the Swedish People's Party and a Member of Parliament in Finland. Minister Wallin is interested in gender equality policy at large but especially concerned and interested about reconciliation of work and family life, equal pay, men and gender equality, gender mainstreaming and violence against women.

KEY NOTE SPEECH: TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN IN THE OSCE REGION

Eva Biaudet, Special Representative and Co-ordinator, OSCE

Eva Biaudet became a Member of Parliament in Finland in 1991, where was member for 16 years. She was Minister of Health and Social Services responsible for gender equality, member of the Finnish Parliament and the Chairperson of her Parliamentary Fraction. Ms. Biaudet was appointed OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in October 2006.

COMMENTS TO THE KEY NOTE SPEECH

Kaburo Kobia, Communications Director, World YWCA

Kaburo Kobia is responsible for Communications at the World YWCA - a global movement of 25 million women and girls working for justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and the environment in 125 countries. The World YWCA's current priority advocacy areas are HIV and AIDS, eliminating violence against women and girls and promoting women's participation in peace building.

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN AFGANISTAN

Julia Evans, The National Committee for UNIFEM in Finland

Julia Evans works as a Coordinator at the National Committee for UNIFEM in Finland, and has been working closely with UNIFEM Afghanistan. She attended a project monitoring mission in Afghanistan in November 2008. The National Committee has been supporting development cooperation projects run UNIFEM Afghanistan since 2002.

CLOSING ADDRESS

Inés Alberdi, Executive Director, UNIFEM International

Ms. Inés Alberdi is the Executive Director of United Nations Development Fund for Women. She has worked for more than 25 years on gender issues and in politics. Ms. Alberdi is former Professor of Sociology at Madrid University where she taught Political Sociology and Sociology of Gender since 1993. She has published extensively on family and women's issues.

INTRODUCTION AND CLOSING OF THE SEMINAR

Chair of the Seminar Leena-Maija Laurén, Finnish Federation of University Women

Ms. Leena-Maija Laurén is the initiative taker for the creation of the International Helvi Sipilä Seminar series. Her professional and academic work at the Finland Futures Research Centre is located at the Turku School of Economics, University of Turku.

About the Seminar

The International Helvi Sipilä Seminar series will annually address challenging issues affecting women and their lives globally and locally in the 21st century. At the fourth seminar in 2009, we are proud to offer several themes on the lines of the CSW-53:

There are no correct words to describe the global and most crucial issue facing the humankind today - violence. This long and devastating gendered tradition will have to be stopped now. As organisers and representatives of Finnish Women's Organizations, we declare, once again, universally that "She says NO to all kinds of violence and sexual exploitation of women and girls".

This main theme also indicates that there are other such gender-based concerns, unwanted and unhealthy, highly discriminating and cruel, that defy positive and permanent solutions, namely, human trafficking and sex tourism.

The current Finnish and international views on and experiences of the CSW-53 themes will be discussed, on the understanding that, ideally, both parents are required to contribute to the care of children to enable them to grow up healthy and successful in tomorrow's society. Finally, we shall have a presentation of one of the on-going projects of Unifem Finland on empowering women in Afghanistan.

Minister Helvi Sipilä - Her International Career

Helvi Sipilä took her Master of Laws degree in 1941 and is a barrister by profession. She ran her own lawyers' firm from 1943 to 1972. Private entrepreneurship enabled her to engage in extensive societal activity of her choice, including service as a member of governmental missions. They included such duties as membership of the UN Commission on the Status of Women from 1960 to 1968 and from 1971 to 1972, when she was President in 1967 and Vice President from 1962 to 1966, and membership of the UN delegation of Finland from 1966 to 1971, including Presidency of the Third Commission in 1971 and Vice Presidency in 1969. From 1968 to 1972 she was also appointed by the UN as a special rapporteur on issues dealing with family planning and the status of women.

Her profession and leadership positions in international organizations, together with the governmental duties mentioned above, were merits on the basis of which Helvi Sipilä – as the first woman in the world – was appointed in 1972 Assistant Secretary-General of the UN. She held this post until her retirement in 1980.

While Assistant Secretary-General, she was appointed Secretary-General of the 1975 IWY and the UN World Conference on Women, which was held in Mexico City. She continued to work as a consultant for the UN until 1981, in order to promote the UN Voluntary Fund for the Advancement of Women (now UNIFEM) launched in Mexico, and to put into effect the World Action Plan, adopted at the Conference, during the UN Decade of Women from 1976 to 1985.

The international organizations she has served in leadership positions are the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, International Federation of Women Lawyers, Zonta International, and the International Council of Women.

After her retirement from public duties, Helvi Sipilä was once again prepared to serve her country when she agreed, as the first woman in Finland, to run for the Presidency of Finland in 1982.

Women's Organizations In Finland



The Finnish Federation of University Women

FFUW is the central organization of Finnish female university graduates. FFUW was founded in 1922. It is a non-governmental organization with 1169 members and 20 local associations. For further information visit: www.akateemisetnaiset.fi



The Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations NYTKIS

The Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations NYTKIS is a co-operation forum that brings together women's associations from several key sectors of society, e.g. from the political and research sectors. The objectives of NYTKIS are to achieve equality between women and men and to end discrimination against women. For further information visit: www.nytkis.org.



Young Women's Christian Association of Finland

The YWCA of Finland is an ecumenical and multicultural women's organization promoting the well-being of girls and women and increasing their possibilities to exert influence in society. In addition to giving support in the everyday life YWCA's important forms of work are preventing violence against women and girls as well as multicultural work. For further information see www.ywca.fi.



NAISJÄRJESTÖJEN KESKUSLIITTO

KVINNOORGANISATIONERNAS CENTRALFÖRBUND ry

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF FINLAND

The National Council of Women of Finland

The National Council of Women of Finland, established 1911, has over sixty member organisations which altogether have nearly half a million individual members. The Council acts as a national link and a forum for discussion for its member organisations. The Council's objective is to promote equality, human rights and the status of women in the Finnish society. For further information visit: www.naisjarjestot.fi.



The National Committee for UNIFEM in Finland

The role of the National Committee is to represent UNIFEM in Finland, raise funds for programs, raise awareness of UNIFEM and women's issues in the world and lobby the Finnish government to support UNIFEM and gender issues in the Finnish development aid policy. Minister Helvi Sipilä, then Under Secretary-General of the UN, established Finland's UNIFEM, the first National Committee, in 1981. For further information visit: www.unifem.fi.