

I AM BELMAYA



Sue Carpenter - Director of 'I am Belmaya'

Sue Carpenter has been involved in Nepal and women's rights for 20 years. A journalist and photographer, she moved into filmmaking in 2013. Sue co-founded Asha Nepal, an NGO supporting trafficked women in Nepal, and in 2006-2007 lived in Pokhara, running the My World, My View photo project, where she met Belmaya. I Am Belmaya is her first feature-length film and has been selected for numerous international film festivals.



Martin Shearman - British Ambassador to Belgium

Martin Shearman was appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium in June 2019. Martin was previously posted to New York where he was responsible for the UK's engagement with the United Nations on development, humanitarian and human rights issues. Before that Martin served in Africa as British High Commissioner to Uganda and Deputy High Commissioner to Nigeria. He also led the Department of Trade and Industry's Japan Unit and worked at the Cabinet Office on a major review of HM Government's trade promotion structures.



Heidy Rombouts - Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Belgium FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

Since October 2021, Heidy Rombouts is the Belgian Director General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. She has 20 years of experience in the field of international cooperation and human rights. She started her career as academic researcher and policy advisor at the Institute of Development Policy and Management (University of Antwerp). Prior to her current position, she was the managing director for Plan International Belgium.



Dagmar Schumacher - Director of the UN Women Brussels Office

Dagmar is the Director of the Brussels office of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women). Ms. Schumacher previously worked at Headquarters of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, Bonn, as Chief of the Partnerships Section. From 1998 – 2002 she worked with UNDP in Hanoi, heading the Poverty and Social Development Unit; before which she worked with the UN in Latin America and New York.



Caroline Petit (moderator) - Director ai, UNRIC

Caroline Petit is currently in charge of the UN Regional Information Center. Ms Petit previously worked at United Nations HQ in New York as Chief of the Partnership Unit from 2001 to 2013. Before joining the UN, she worked for the Media Programme of the European Commission as Head of Marketing, as European Fundraiser at the National Film TV School in London and Head of the International Department at the European Film College in Denmark.

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16 Days of Activism

On 25th of November, the 16 Days of Activism against violence against women and girls (VAWG) kicked off, which lasts until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

In 2021, COVID-19 has exacerbated all the risk factors for VAWG, including unemployment and poverty, and reinforced many of the root causes such as gender stereotypes and harmful social norms, causing a shadow pandemic of gender-based violence. In addition to the impact of COVID-19, the global context of violent conflicts and humanitarian crises, including climate-related disasters, are affecting more people than ever before, with a disproportionate impact on women and girls, perpetuating all forms of VAWG.

This year's global campaign theme will focus on all forms of violence with the theme "Orange the World: END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOW!", to advocate and amplify the call to end violence against women and girls!



British Embassy in Brussels

Gender equality is at the heart of UK foreign policy and one of the top priorities for the Foreign Secretary. Our focus is on empowering more women and girls with the opportunity offered by quality education and employment, and ending the violence they suffer. We are committed to step up our work with women-led civil society to design solutions to advance gender equality and tackle violence against women and girls. We are determined to strengthen the international response to sexual violence in conflict, shattering the culture of impunity around the use of rape and sexual violence as weapons of war. We are exploring all options for further international action, including the possibility of a new international convention and have committed more than £20 million of new funding to help stop violence against women and girls around the world. We have also just launched our new flagship What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale Programme, which is investing £67.5 million in scaling up proven approaches to prevent violence against women and girls worldwide.



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