

The United Nations and the European Commission present:

## The Daughter Tree

Directed by Rama Rau



**Chiara Adamo - European Commission, DG DEVCO, Head of Unit of Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance**

Chiara Adamo has almost 20 years of European Commission's experience and 10 years' experience as head of unit. Her unit manages the implementation of the European Instrument on Human Rights and Democracy, it provides quality support on democracy and electoral assistance programmes for developing countries and implements the rights-based approach to development. Before joining DG DEVCO, she spent 9 years as head of unit respectively of the "Union Citizenship and Free Movement" Unit and the "Fundamental Rights" unit in DG Justice.



**Sietske Steneker**

**Director of the Brussels Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

Sietske Steneker is the Director of the Brussels office of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. Ms. Steneker, a national of the Netherlands, has previously worked as UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation, Honduras and El Salvador. She holds Masters Degrees in International Law (from Leiden University) and Public Health in Developing Countries (from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK). UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, delivers a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



**Dagmar Schumacher**

**Director of the UN Women Brussels Office**

Dagmar Schumacher 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 the 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. She holds a Master Degree from Kiel University.



**Chris Cooter**

**Chargé d'affaires, Mission of Canada to the EU**

Christopher Cooter joined External Affairs and International Trade Canada in 1990. He served abroad as deputy permanent representative to the Joint Delegation of Canada to NATO, as political officer in the Canadian high commissions to India and Kenya and as high commissioner to Nigeria. Most recently, he finished in 2019 his assignment as Ambassador to Turkey. He served as director general responsible for the amalgamation of the Canadian International Development Agency and Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.



**Caroline Petit**

**Deputy Director the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC)**

Caroline Petit has worked in strategic communication and media partnership at international level for 25 years. She joined the UN in 2001 and, was posted first as Head of the Media Partnerships Unit at the United Nations Headquarters in New York before joining UNRIC in 2013. She started her career at the European Commission's Media Programme.

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# International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**, and runs until 10 December, **Human Rights Day**. It was started by activists at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and continues to be coordinated each year by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. In support of this civil society initiative, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General's **UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women campaign** (UNiTE campaign) calls for global actions to increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations.



The theme of this year's UNiTE campaign, which uses the **orange colour** to symbolize hope and a brighter future without violence against women, is: **"Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands against Rape!"**. While the names, times and contexts may differ, women and girls universally experience rape, sexual violence, and abuse, in times of peace or war.



UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, noted in her statement on this occasion that *"If I could have one wish granted, it might well be a total end to rape. That means a significant weapon of war gone from the arsenal of conflict, the absence of a daily risk assessment for girls and women in public and private spaces, the removal of a violent assertion of power, and a far-reaching shift for our society."*

## ICPD25

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) took place in Cairo in 1994. The conference resulted in 179 countries recognising reproductive health, women's empowerment and gender equality as a pathway to sustainable development. 25 years later, in November 2019, a conference was held in Nairobi to accelerate the promise while leaving no one behind and ensuring rights and choices for all. The Nairobi Summit, which was attended by more than 9,500 participants from over 170 countries, mobilized more than 1,200 commitments from around the world, including billions of dollars in pledges from public and private sector partners. *"Together, we will work to make the next 10 years, years of action and results for women and girls, in keeping with the decade of delivery on the SDGs," UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem said.*

## Spotlight Initiative

The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. It represents an unprecedented global effort to invest in gender equality and women's empowerment as a precondition and driver for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Spotlight Initiative is responding to all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation.

## Generation Equality

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 - endorsed by 189 governments at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China, and powered by the 21st century women's movement - is the most visionary agenda for the human rights of women and girls, everywhere. In 2020, it will be 25 years since the Beijing Platform for Action set out how to remove the systemic barriers that hold women back from equal participation in all areas of life, whether in public or in private. On the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, UN Women's "Generation Equality: Realizing women's rights for an equal future" campaign demands equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to sexual harassment and violence against women and girls, health care services that respond to their needs, and their equal participation in political life and in decision-making in all areas of life.

## European Commission

The European Commission is a key actor in Europe and outside of Europe fighting for gender equality and working to end violence against women. Combating gender-based violence in all its forms is a priority for the European Commission and remains high on the political agenda. Actions include legal measures, policy initiatives, awareness raising, data collection, and funding. The European Commission works with a variety of stakeholders and actors on raising awareness about the issues of violence against women, disseminating good practices and connecting stakeholders across borders.