Tracy Edwards
Maiden's Skipper MBE
Tracy Edwards, MBE, is a British sailor. In 1989 she skippered the first all-female crew in the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race, becoming the first woman to receive the Yachtsman of the Year Trophy and was awarded an MBE honour. Tracy now has 30 years experience creating and running sailing projects and currently oversees the Maiden Factor project. Tracy continues to change the narrative of what girls can achieve.

Nora Bednarski
Member of the Cabinet of Helena Dalli, EU Commissioner for Equality
Nora Bednarski joined the European Commission in 2005 and has worked on equality, transport, competition and energy policies. She started her career in Brussels working on issues of equality and non-discrimination in an NGO. She was also a bronze medallist in swimming at the Paralympic Games in Barcelona.

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 with the rank of Ambassador. Before that Martin served in Africa as British High Commissioner to Uganda and Deputy High Commissioner to Nigeria.

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 and has previously worked as a 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).

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. 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
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 as Head of the Media Partnerships Unit in New York, before joining UNRIC in 2013.

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@CineONU #CineONU @unwomenEU @UNFPABrussels @EU_Justice #IWD2020 #GenerationEquality
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UN Women’s theme for International Women’s Day is, “I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights”. The Generation Equality campaign is bringing together people of every gender, age, ethnicity, race, religion and country, to drive actions that will create the gender-equal world we all deserve. As noted by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director, in her statement for IWD, “We don’t have an equal world at the moment and women are angry and concerned about the future […] Though we are radically impatient, we are not giving up and we are hopeful […] Lessons learnt in the last 25 years have shown us what is needed to accelerate action for equality. Generation Equality is one of our answers and together, we are that generation.”

The European Commission

The European Commission is fighting for gender equality in Europe and beyond under the motto “We should not be shy about being proud of where we are or ambitious about where we want to go”. Helena Dalli, the first Commissioner for Equality, has a vision of a future where everyone is free from gender-based violence and restrictive stereotypes, where everybody can thrive and build the life they want and where all have the opportunity to lead.

UNFPA

UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. Its mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled. UNFPA supports reproductive health care for women and youth in more than 150 countries, reliable access to modern contraceptives sufficient to benefit 20 million women a year, and prevention of gender-based violence, which affects 1 in 3 women.

British Embassy to Belgium

The British Embassy to Belgium develop and sustain the important and longstanding relationship between the UK and Belgium. The Embassy deal with a wide range of political, commercial, security and economic questions of interest to our two countries. Part of this work is about our shared values on women’s rights, preventing sexual violence in conflict and the Girls Education initiative. In the spirit of International Women’s Day, staff at the British Embassy have made personal pledges, published on our Instagram account (@UKinBelgium)