To mark International Women’s Day, the United Nations presents:

The Poetess

This screening will be followed by a panel discussion featuring:

Tiina Astola
Ms Astola is Director-General for Justice and Consumers at the European Commission, including fundamental rights, free movement contract and company law, criminal justice. As the former Permanent Secretary of the Finnish Ministry of Justice – responsible for both international and domestic law – Ms Astola has a background in civil law, European law and has also worked for the Finnish Ministry of Finance and Finnish Foreign Trade Association. Ms Astola was also been awarded an Honourary Doctorate by the Faculty of Law of the University of Helsinki in May 2017.

Dr Malika Hamidi
Malika Hamidi is an activist and a scholar, with a PhD in sociology from the School of Higher Studies in Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris. For over ten years, she has been researching Islamic feminism—and the emergence of European Muslim feminists movements. In 2017, she published her work in a book: “A Muslim feminism, why not?”; she is also co-author of the collective work “Islamic feminisms” (2012). She is a widely known expert on topics such as radicalization, islamophobia and Muslim feminism.

Sietske Steneker
Sietske Steneker is the Director of the Brussels Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). A national of the Netherlands, she has previously worked as UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation, Honduras and El Salvador. She holds a Masters Degree in International Law and Public Health in Developing Countries. UNFPA delivers a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Dagmar Schumacher
Ms. 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 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.

Deborah Seward
Deborah is Director of the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC) in Brussels. Prior to arriving in Brussels, she served as Director of the Department of Public Information’s Strategic Communications Division at UN Headquarters New York. Before joining the United Nations in 2011, Ms. Seward was an international journalist for nearly 25 years, with postings in Berlin, Bonn, Moscow, New York, Paris, Prague and Warsaw. She holds an honours degree in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Follow the discussion on Twitter and Facebook:

@CineONU #CineONU @unwomenEU @UNFPABrussels #ThePoetess #IWD2018 #TimeIsNow

@CineONU @UNWomen @UNFPA
This year’s theme captures the vibrant life of the women activists whose passion and commitment have won women’s rights over the generations, and successfully brought change. We celebrate an unprecedented global movement for women’s rights, equality, safety and justice, recognizing the tireless work of activists who have been central to this global push for gender equality.” — Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director, IWD 2018 Statement

"UNFPA will continue to work on achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, when girls and boys can equally dream attainable dreams, when all women and girls can go to a school or workplace with no fear, and when parents do not have to sell their girls to a married life of torture and untold suffering because they have no other choice.” — Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director, IWD 2018 Statement

Women activists around the world are changing narratives, laws and more importantly lives.