Patricia Viseur Sellers, an international criminal lawyer, participated in the Akayesu case that recognised sexual violence as constituting genocide. She is the Special Advisor to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and a Visiting Fellow at Kellogg College, Oxford University. Sellers is the former Legal Advisor for Gender and Acting Senior Trial Attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. She has lectured and published extensively on sexual violence under international criminal law.

Mara Marinaki

Prior to her current role as the EEAS Principal Adviser on Gender and on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, Ambassador Mara Marinaki was the Managing Director for Global and Multilateral Issues at the European External Action Service, responsible for EU foreign policy in the areas of international organizations, human rights, and security and non-proliferation of mass destruction weapons. She joined the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1980, and has served abroad in postings in Washington DC, Berlin, Vienna and Brussels. Ambassador Marinaki was the Permanent Representative of Greece to the OSCE 2007-2011. She holds an LL.M in International Law.

Dagmar Schumacher

Dagmar is the Director of the UN Women Brussels Office. The office is responsible for liaising with EU institutions on joint advocacy, policy dialogue, and joint programming. Prior to the joining UN Women, she worked at UN Volunteers as well as with UNDP and the UN in Latin America, Vietnam and New York.

The panel will be moderated by Fabio Graziosi

Responsible for UNRIC-Italy since 1 September 2004, Fabio served in the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Kosovo from October 1999 through August 2004. He gained three years’ previous experience with the UN office of the European Commission DG Relex, having begun his UN career at the Rome-based UN Information Centre. His degree is in Political Science from Rome University La Sapienza, with post-degree specialisation training in peacekeeping/electoral observations monitoring missions at Scuola Sant’Anna, Pisa.

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AND TWEET ABOUT TONIGHT’S EVENT USING THE HASHTAGS
#CINEONU, #endVAW, #16days, and #orangetheworld

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The price of no change is unacceptable.

- Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

One in three women around the world experience violence in their lifetime, often in the hands of someone they know, love and trust. Of all women who were victims of homicide globally in 2012, almost half were killed by intimate partners or family members. When world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, they recognised that ending violence against women and girls is a pre-requisite for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Goal 5 on gender equality includes a specific target to end all forms of violence against women and other forms of sexual violence and harmful practices.

Between 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and 10 December, Human Rights Day, are 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. This is a time to galvanise action to end violence against women and girls around the world, part of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign to increase political will and resources for preventing and ending all forms of violence against women and girls everywhere. Its goals are:

- Adoption and enforcement of national laws, implementation of adequately-resourced action plans
- Establishment of data collection and analysis systems on the prevalence of violence
- Establishment of national and/or local campaigns and the engagement of diverse civil society
- Systematic efforts to tackle sexual violence in conflict situations

...to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls. The campaign’s call in this time is ‘Orange the World: Raise Money to End Violence against Women and Girls’.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

Sexual violence in conflict is no longer seen as an inevitable by-product of war, but a crime that is preventable and punishable under international human rights law.

The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict is the United Nations’ political advocate on conflict-related sexual violence, and is the chair of the network UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. It works towards training on conflict-related sexual violence, development of early warning indicators, addressing conflict-related sexual violence in ceasefire and peace agreements, comprehensive strategies to combat sexual violence, funding, scaling up and improving access to services, and strengthening protection and prevention. Read more about these initiatives at www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict

‘Break the silence. When you witness violence against women and girls, do not sit back. Act.’

- Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General