



Speaker Biographies

H.E. Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda

Louise Mushikiwabo is the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, and a powerful advocate of rights for the empowerment of women, gender equality, reconciliation, and the furthering of the cause for women from developing nations worldwide.

Minister Mushikiwabo has direct and personal experience with the Rwandan Genocide of 1994. Her experiences have been written down in the socio-historical memoir “Rwanda Means the Universe”, co-authored by Mushikiwabo herself. She has also contributed many articles to newspapers and online magazines. She has given numerous televisions and radio talks on Rwandan issues, and collaborated on many award-winning documentary films.

H.E. Dr. Marty Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

Dr. Marty Natalegawa has served as foreign minister of Indonesia since 2009, and is a former Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Indonesia’s civil society and free press has grown stronger in recent years. The fact that Indonesia is one of the most populous countries in the world, and with a number of sub-cultures and minorities, makes it all the more remarkable that the country has managed to take such long strides into democracy. Indonesia and Norway has for more than 10 years cooperated closely on these issues through our bilateral Human Rights Dialogue.

Mr. Frank La Rue, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression

Mr. Frank La Rue assumed his position in 2008. As a university professor, human rights investigator, lawyer, and activist, Frank has been involved in the promotion of human rights for more than 25 years. His achievements include the foundation of the Center for Legal Action for Human Rights, a Guatemalan NGO, which presented the first Guatemalan human rights case before the Inter-American Court for Human Rights. He also brought the first case of genocide against the military dictatorship in Guatemala. In 2004, Frank was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. La Rue is also the owner of a radio station and as such he has first-hand experience with exercising the freedom of speech and executing the responsibilities related to journalism in general and editing in particular. In 2012, Mr. La Rue’s report to the UN General Assembly focused on how hate speech can be prevented and combated while at the same time protecting the freedom of speech.

Ms. Sarah Wynn-Williams, Head of Global Public Policy, Facebook

Sarah Wynn-Williams is Manager of Global Public Policy at Facebook, where she focuses on international governance, international policy and trade issues. Sarah has managed many global initiatives for Facebook including Facebook’s organ donation initiative and disaster

relief program. Prior to joining Facebook Sarah was a diplomat for a decade with the New Zealand Foreign Service serving at the United Nations and managing Political and Congressional Affairs at the New Zealand Embassy in Washington DC. Before entering a career in Foreign Relations Sarah worked as a lawyer at Australian Law Firm Mallesons Stephen Jacques. Sarah holds Law and Political Science degrees from Canterbury University.

Mr. Aidan White, Director of the Ethical Journalism Network

Aidan White is the Director of the Ethical Journalism Network, a global campaign promoting good governance and ethical conduct in the media. He is the former General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), which he led for 24 years until 2011. Before joining the IFJ, Aidan worked as a journalist for almost 20 years, including working with The Guardian, The Financial Times, the Sunday Times and others. Aidan is passionate about the rights of journalists worldwide and has written extensively on the social and professional conditions of journalism. He is also an active campaigner for journalist's rights and the founder of global networks of media organizations and press freedom groups dealing with free expression and safety in news reporting.

Ms. Caroline Criado-Perez, The Women's Room

Caroline Criado-Perez is co-founder of The Women's Room, an organization and database that campaigns for more women experts in the media, and this summer she led the campaign to keep women on UK banknotes. She has most recently been at the center of the Twitter abuse storm, receiving rape and death threats for over two weeks, and campaigning for better support for victims of abuse on social media. She has a degree in English Language and Literature from Keble College, Oxford and is completing an MSc in Gender at LSE.

Special Guest:

Mr. Victor Mukasa, LGBT activist, human rights Defender, and independent consultant

Victor Mukasa is a Ugandan human rights defender and an independent consultant working with capacity building in support of human rights defenders, movement building and documentation of human rights violations. Victor has previously worked as Project Coordinator at the Coalition of African Lesbians' Human Rights Defenders Project, and at the Africa Regional Program of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

From 2004 to 2007, Victor was the Executive Director of Sexual Minorities Uganda. Viktor is also the co-founder of several Ugandan and regional rights groups. As a human rights defender and an LGBT person from Uganda, Victor has experienced, witnessed and advocated against hate speech and hate crime directed towards LGBT persons in Uganda and beyond.