



Organization of  
American States



# VIOLENCE, HEALTH, AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 19TH, 8:30 AM-2:00 PM  
HALL OF THE AMERICAS | ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
17<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND CONSTITUTION AVE. NW.  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20006



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## Violence, Health, and Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

8:30 am-2:00 pm

Hall of the Americas | Organization of American States

7:30-8:30

### **Breakfast and registration**

8:30-9:00

### **Opening session**

Karen Hanrahan, Chief Program Officer, Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR)

Francisco Becerra Posada, Assistant Director, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)

Jean-Claude Nolla, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of France to OAS

Luis Almagro Lemes, OAS Secretary General (TBC)

9:00-10:30

### **Panel 1: Violence and Reproductive Rights**

Caroline Bettinger-López, White House Advisor on Violence against Women

Gilda Rivera, Executive Coordinator of the Women's Rights Center in Honduras

Diana González, Principal Expert of Uruguay to the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI)

Alessandra Guedes, Regional Advisor on Family Violence, PAHO/WHO

Moderator: Luz Patricia Mejía, Technical Secretary of the MESECVI

10:45 – 12:30

### **Panel 2: Public Health and Reproductive Rights**

Leonel Briozzo, Regional Expert in women's health and sexual and reproductive rights and Professor, University of the Republic (Uruguay)

Javier Vasquez, Advisor on Human Rights and Law, PAHO

Ana Cristina González, Regional Expert on Health and Human Rights, Lead doctor, Global Doctors for Choice (Colombia)

Moderator: Mónica Arango, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, CRR

12:30-12:45

### **Closing**

Jacinth Lorna Henry-Martin, Chief of Staff of the OAS Secretary General

12:45 – 2:00

### **Lunch**



**Karen Hanrahan** is Chief Program Officer at the Center for Reproductive Rights. She oversees the Center’s legal and policy work in the U.S., Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe and at the U.N. to advance human rights with respect to reproductive rights, health, and justice. Karen served in the Obama administration as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy and Human Rights, where she provided vision to shape U.S. policy and programs for Africa and Asia—including policies on sexual and gender-based violence. She graduated from the University of Washington School of Law, holds a master’s degree in international politics from American University, and completed the advanced management program at the Harvard Business School.



**Francisco Becerra** is the Assistant Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Becerra has over 30 years of experience in public health, health research and development and has been an advocate for the strengthening of health research, with a focus on Latin American countries. Since November 2008, he has held various positions at the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) in Switzerland and in Mexico. Before COHRED, Becerra worked in Mexico as Director General of Health Services of Morelos; as Director General of Federal Hospitals of the Ministry of Health; and as Liaison Director responsible for the coordination of the National Institutes of Health.



**Jean-Claude Nolla** is the Permanent Observer of France to the OAS. Nolla is a diplomat who has held international positions in various fields. From 1991 to 1998, he served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Panama. He was then Counselor of Ankara and Deputy Press Spokesman in Paris. In 1999,

he worked in Brussels for the Center for Media in the office of the Secretary General of NATO. From 1999-2002, he worked in the office of the Permanent Representative of France to the European Union. He also served as Executive Assistant to the Department of Security in Paris and Head of Unit in the Department of Energy, Transport and Infrastructure. Nolla was also the Deputy Ambassador in Mission of France in Warsaw and Minister Counselor in Madrid.



**Luis Almagro Lemes** is the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS). An Uruguayan lawyer, diplomat and politician, he has extensive regional and international experience, including as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay from 2010 to 2015. Almagro Lemes was elected

Secretary General of the OAS on March 18, 2015. He was elected senator in Uruguay's national elections in October 2014. His leadership of the Uruguayan diplomacy was characterized by activism in defense of human and civil rights at the regional and global level, the insertion of Uruguay in non-traditional markets, diversification of the non-traditional markets, and strengthening the country's seal, as a democratic, just, tolerant, and diverse, with more and more rights for more Uruguayan society.



**Caroline Bettinger-López** is White House Advisor on Violence against Women. She is a Professor at the University of Miami. Her scholarship, advocacy, and teaching cover international human rights law and advocacy, violence against women, gender and race discrimination, immigrants' rights, and clinical

legal education. She focuses on the implementation of human rights norms at the domestic level, principally in the United States and Latin America. Professor Bettinger-López regularly litigates and engages in other forms of advocacy before the inter-American human rights system, the United Nations, and federal and state courts and legislative bodies.



**Gilda Rivera**, a psychologist by profession and founder and Executive Coordinator of the Women's Rights Center in Honduras, has been a champion in the fight for women's rights for more than twenty years. Her past work has included public politics and gender studies. She has been a member of *Feministas en Resistencia (FER)* since the

Honduran coup d'état in 2009. Her work with the Women's Rights Center focuses on the specific challenges that the post-coup d'état political and cultural milieu poses for Honduran women. Gilda states that it is the "violence in and militarization of Honduran society [which] creates an environment that fosters all types of violations of women's human rights".



**Diana Gonzalez Perrett** is the Principal Expert of Uruguay to the Committee of Experts of the Follow-Up Mechanism

to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI). Since 1986, she has worked in the promotion and defense of the rights of women,

children and adolescents deprived of family care, subjected to sexual violence, abuse, harassment or exploitation, transgendered people discriminated against because of their sexual identity and other forms of gender-based violence. Among her major publications are: “Gender, Age and Scenarios of Sexual Violence” and “Mercosur guide to the attention of women in trafficking and sexual exploitation situations”. She holds in Phd in Law and Social Sciences and graduated from the University of the Republic (Uruguay).



**Alessandra Guedes** is the Regional Advisor on Family Violence at the WHO Regional Office for the Americas /Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington, DC. She has worked in public health since 1994, always in cutting edge reproductive health issues, such as adolescent reproductive health, safe abortion, violence against women and emergency contraception. She

has worked intensively in the area of violence against women since 1999. She holds an MSc in Public Health for Developing Countries from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and an MA in Art Therapy from the George Washington University. She currently sits on the Coordinating Group of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (based in South Africa) and was vice-president of the board of Promundo.



**Luz Patricia Mejía** is the Technical Secretary of the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), which manages the strategic and administrative operation of the Mechanism. Mejía is part of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), a specialized agency of the OAS for the promotion and protection of women's rights and gender equality. She has served as Commissioner and Rapporteur for Women's Rights with the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR). Previously, she worked as Director of the Legal Office of the Public Ministry, and with the Office of the Ombudsperson in Venezuela.



**Leonel Briozzo** is a gynecologist, expert on women's health, bioethics and sexual and reproductive rights. He is Professor at Clínica Ginecotológica, Faculty of Medicine, University of the Republic (Uruguay) and former Deputy Minister of Health of Uruguay. He is the founder of Iniciativas Sanitarias, an organization of health professionals who specialize in sexual and reproductive health, which he led from 2001 to 2010. Dr. Briozzo also served as President of the fourth Latin American and first Uruguayan Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Congresses. In 2008, the National Academy of Medicine awarded him the National Grand Prize of Medicine.

**Javier Vasquez** is the Human Rights Law Advisor with the



WHO Regional Office for the Americas /Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). For more than 15 years, Javier Vazquez has practiced international human rights law with particular emphasis on reproductive rights, the rights of indigenous peoples and disability rights, among others.

He advises PAHO Member States, civil society, universities and international/regional treaty bodies on human rights issues and strategies to promote and protect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health. He also advises on the formulation/review of national laws, policies, programs, services and plans in a manner consistent with international and regional human rights instruments.



**Ana Cristina González** is an expert and recognized leader in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights. A former National Director of the Public Health Division of the Ministry of Health in Colombia, for more than a decade González has been a consultant of several United Nations agencies, including UNFPA UNDP, UNWomen

and ECLAC. Her work includes participation as an expert and senior adviser to WHO on reproductive health issues, participation in different international UN conferences on women, population and development, and on the boards of different organizations such as Global Doctors for Choice (founder) and the Latin American Center on Sexuality.



**Mónica Arango** is the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Center for Reproductive Rights, and formerly served as Legal Adviser. She has focused her work on advancing reproductive rights through international litigation and advocacy. Mónica has litigated several cases for the Center before international human rights bodies, and helped open the Center's Regional Office in Bogota. Prior to joining the Center, Mónica was a Legal Adviser with the Colombian Constitutional Court, worked with Women's Link Worldwide, and conducted research for the CIJUS at Los Andes University. Mónica received her law degree from Universidad de Los Andes in Bogota, Colombia, and completed her LL.M. at Harvard Law School in 2010.



**Jacinth Lorna Henry-Martin** is the Chief of Staff of the OAS Secretary General. She became Ambassador of St. Kitts and Nevis to the United States on Feb. 23, 2011, with concurrent accreditation as Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States in Washington. Henry-Martin most recently served as director of U.S. operations for the St. Kitts Tourism Authority. She also previously served as director of culture and parliamentary secretary for culture in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Environment; federal minister of government, an elected position with portfolio responsibilities in information, culture, youth and sport; and as the deputy high commissioner of St. Kitts and Nevis in the United Kingdom.





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