

TOWARDS A MEANINGFUL CHANGE: GENDERED FOREIGN POLICY IN PRACTICE

The Czech Republic embraces international gender norms, but the path from formal approval to gender sensitive foreign policy is rather complex and complicated. This conference focuses on "the day after", namely on the everyday and institutional aspects of advancing gender norms in practice, while it is also reflecting on the contemporary challenges of the global backlash on women's rights and the gendered impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. What mechanisms, setups, or procedures can contribute towards a meaningful and visible change in the practice of foreign policy? The conference will be launched with a series of high-level political and scholarly interventions. In the following panel discussions, distinguished speakers from around the world will offer diverse perspectives on the issues of the advancement of the women, peace and security agenda, women's empowerment and gender equality in development cooperation, and the international dimension of tackling gender-based violence and supporting sexual and reproductive rights. Far from treating gender and women's rights as a nuisance, we invite you to register to the conference and submit your written or video enquiry to our distinguished quests.

AN ONLINE CONFERENCE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
CZECH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOMÁŠ PETŘÍČEK

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4TH 2020

— INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS PRAGUE



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic



Evropská unie
Evropský sociální fond
Operační program Zaměstnanost

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOMÁŠ PETŘÍČEK

ONLINE CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 4TH 2020

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PROGRAMME

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4. 12. 2020

TOWARDS A MEANINGFUL CHANGE: GENDERED FOREIGN POLICY IN PRACTICE

🕒 10:00 – 10:15

OPENING REMARKS

Speakers
Tomáš Petříček
Michelle Müntefering
Tomáš Dopita

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany
Senior Researcher, IIR Prague

🕒 10:15 – 10:45

KEYNOTE SPEECH GENDER PATTERNS IN MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: AN UPHILL BATTLE

Ann Towns

Professor of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg

● PANEL DISCUSSIONS

🕒 10:45 – 12.00

ADVANCING THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA

The UN SC Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, led to an unprecedented global spread of gender equality policies in the area of peace and security involving a total of 86 National Action Plans (NAPs) worldwide, including the Czech one. Yet, the 20th anniversary of the resolution is being overshadowed by a global backlash on women's rights and the continuous lack of implementation of the resolution as well as the gendered implications of the global Covid-19 pandemics. This international panel brings together policy makers, academics and members of civil society with various backgrounds and experiences to debate the possible pathways for advancing the WPS agenda towards meaningful changes on the ground.

- What concrete steps can be made in foreign and domestic policies through NAPs and other instruments?
- How to strengthen the long-term conflict prevention, the most neglected WPS pillar, yet the key one for sustainable peace?
- How to address the socioeconomic inequalities that often undermine peacebuilding efforts?
- How can foreign policy practice tackle the multiple aspects of gendered insecurities, including the social, economic, health and environmental threats?

Moderator
Mila O'Sullivan

Speakers
Jacqueline O'Neill
Eva Tabbasam
Lena Kvarving

Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security, Canada
Policy, Advocacy & Communications Coordinator, Gender Action for Peace and Security, UK
seconded expert in the OSCE, Lt Colonel in the Norwegian Armed Forces and member of the Nordic Women's Mediators Network
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Ukraine
Director, Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy, Germany

Nina Potarska
Nina Bernarding

🕒 13:00 – 14.15

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE PRACTICE OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: WHO DOES WHAT AND HOW DO WE MEASURE IT?

Gender equality and women's empowerment have long been established as norms of international development cooperation. While it is relatively easy to embrace these norms in official documents, it is not nearly as easy to put these norms into practice. This panel will inquire into what it means to work towards women's empowerment and gender equality in the complex environment of contemporary international development.

- How do we ensure that the ideals of women's empowerment and gender equality do not wither away during the planning and implementation of development projects and programmes? How do we measure progress in this area?

- What is the most desirable division of tasks, funds, and responsibilities between the donors (e.g. Czechia), international organisations, non-governmental development organisations, partner countries, and receiving communities?
- How do you perceive the donor landscape in terms of fulfilment of gender norms? Who is the best actor in this regard? And how about the Czech Republic or other Central European donors?
- How does the COVID-19 pandemic change the landscape of development cooperation?

Moderator
Tomáš Dopita

Speakers
Paloma Duran y Lalaguna Head of Division, Global Partnerships & Policies, Directorate for Development Cooperation, OECD
Maxi Ussar Strategic Planning and Gender Specialist, Director of JustImpact Consulting
Vanda Mauftras Černohorská Sociologist in the Czech Women's Lobby and former development practitioner
Michaela Marksová-Tominová Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

🕒 14:30 – 15.45

FROM EMPOWERMENT TO DEVELOPMENT: EXPLORING THE LINK BETWEEN THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, SUPPORT FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, HEALTH, AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION IN FOREIGN POLICY

The viral spread of the #MeToo movement has helped to break the silence over gender-based violence and empower women and girls to affirm the respect for their bodies. Yet at the same time there is a global backlash on sexual and reproductive rights with profound consequences not only for women's freedom, but also for the health and well-being of entire populations worldwide, which are further exacerbated by the pandemic. Indeed, there is an undeniable, yet controversial nexus between population growth and poor performance on other development indicators. This panel will explore the full length of this link between women's empowerment and sustainable development.

- What is the link between women's and girls' empowerment and people's well-being with a particular focus on the Middle East and Africa?
- How should we tackle sexual and reproductive health and rights in sensitive political and religious contexts?
- What holistic vision can we bring forward for the Czech foreign and development policies to promote sexual and reproductive rights worldwide?

Moderator
Ondřej Horký-Hlucháň

Speakers
Johanna Nejedlová Co-founder of Konsent, a Prague-based CSO dedicated to preventing rape and sexual harassment
Avni Amin Scientist in the Human Reproduction Programme, World Health Organisation, Geneva
Jana Hybášková Special envoy at the Czech MFA and former EU ambassador in Iraq and Namibia

Side events of
the conference

GENDER IN FOREIGN POLICY

11.12. 2020 Workshop „Mainstreaming sexual and reproductive health in development cooperation and foreign policy“ with Dr. Avni Amin. For more information please contact Dr. Ondřej Horký-Hlucháň at horky@iir.cz.

8.1. 2021 Workshop on Academic Writing with Ann Towns.