

## **The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative high-level event: Progress and perspectives on eliminating violence against women and girls**

**Date:** 26 September 2019 (4:30 – 6:30 p.m.)

**Venue:** ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Secretariat, New York

The high-level event will take place on the margins of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, with the participation of heads of state, the United Nations (UN) Deputy-Secretary General, the European Union (EU) High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU, leaders from the EU, UN, civil society and eminent persons.

### **Objectives**

The event will have four main objectives for its participants and global audience (online).

1. Illustrate early results and achievements of Spotlight Initiative programmes to eliminate violence against women and girls, using concrete examples from around the world.
2. Demonstrate the value of continued EU-UN partnerships and investments in gender equality, women and girls empowerment, sexual and reproductive health and rights and on ending violence against women and girls, in line with the mandate of the EU Commission.
3. Showcase the strong partnerships between Spotlight Initiative and civil society, national governments, regional institutions on achieving gender equality and ending violence against women and girls.
4. Provide a platform for public support of the Spotlight Initiative from donors, governments and eminent persons.

### **Participants**

The high-level event will feature statements and remarks from the following personalities.

**All names below are subject to confirmation, except otherwise stated.**

#### **UN and EU representatives :**

- **Amina J. Mohammed**, UN Deputy-Secretary General (*confirmed*)
- **Federica Mogherini**, EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission (*confirmed*)
- **Neven Mimica**, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development (*confirmed*)
- **Mr. Ville Skinnari**, Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade of Finland (*confirmed*)
- **Dr. Natalia Kanem**, UNFPA Executive Director (*confirmed*)

#### **Governments of Spotlight countries and regional partners:**

##### **Africa:**

- **H.E. George Manneh Weah**, President of Liberia
- **H.E. Arthur Peter Mutharika**, President of Malawi

- **H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi**, President of Mozambique
- **H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou**, President of Niger
- **H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission
  
- **H.E. Patrick Ignatius Gomes**, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group Secretariat.

***Caribbean:***

- **H.E. Andrew Michael Holness**, Prime Minister of Jamaica

***Pacific:***

- **H.E. James Marape**, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

***Latin America:***

- **H.E. Mauricio Macri**, President of Argentina
- **H.E. Andrés Manuel López Obrador**, President of Mexico

***Asia:***

- **H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi**, Secretary-General of ASEAN

**Spotlight Initiative Champions and Advocates**

- **Jaha Dukureh**, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador, Spotlight Initiative Champion (*confirmed*)
- **Ashley Judd**, UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador (*confirmed*)
- **Cecilia Suarez**, Spotlight Initiative Champion (*confirmed*)
- **Emma Bonino**, Senator of the Italian Republic, FGM activist, Founder of No Peace without Justice. (*confirmed*)

**Civil Society:**

- **Dr. Alaa Murabit**, UN SDG Advocate, Member of Spotlight Initiative Global Civil Society Reference Group (*confirmed*)
- **Novelita Palisoc**, President of the Domestic Workers Union of the Philippines (*confirmed*)
- **Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen**, CEO Plan International (*confirmed*)
- **Gladis Villalba**, Coordinator of Argentinian human rights and gender NGO Razonar.



## **Statements from the Floor: Financial Pledges, Commitments, Statements of Support**

- Limited time is foreseen for financial pledges, commitments, and statements of support from other UN member states, public and private institutions. Parties intending to make a financial pledge are invited to contact the event organizers.

### **Moderator:**

- **Folly Bah Thibault**, Principal Host, Al Jazeera (*confirmed*)

## **Background**

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread and devastating human rights violations globally. It exists in all countries and communities across generations and socio-economic strata and is a major obstacle to achieving gender equality and sustainable development, as articulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In September 2017, the EU and the UN launched the Spotlight Initiative, a €500 million global, multi-year initiative aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative is deploying targeted, large-scale investments in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific and the Caribbean, aimed at achieving significant improvements in the lives of women and girls.

The Initiative is responding to all forms of violence against women and girls, with a focus on sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, domestic and family violence, femicide, trafficking of human beings and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation.

As of September 2019, more than €300 million of the total envelope has been committed to country and regional programmes in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Country programmes will commence in the Pacific, Caribbean and Central Asian regions in 2020.

## **Event contacts:**

### **United Nations**

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