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## Gender-responsive recovery post COVID-19

### Second meeting of the series: Violence Against Women and Girls *Impact of COVID-19 on Violence against Women and Girls*

**14 April 2021**

8:00AM – 10:00AM (EST)

2:00 PM – 4:00PM (CET)

#### Biographies

#### MODERATOR:



**Paddy Torsney** is the Permanent Observer of Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United Nations. Until her appointment, Ms. Torsney, a national of Canada, was Vice-President of the Capital Hill Group, a national Government relations firm, since 2008. She served as Deputy Principal Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition between 2006 and 2008. In 2006, she was elected President of IPU's 12+ Group having served as President of the Union's Canadian Group from 2002 to 2006.

Ms. Torsney represented Burlington, Ontario, in Parliament from 1993 and 2006, during which time she was also Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment between 1998 and 2000, and to the Minister for International Cooperation from 2004 to 2006.

She holds a bachelor's degree in commerce from McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

#### PANELISTS:



**Khamsavath (Kham) Chanthavysouk** is a Policy Specialist with the Ending Violence against Women Section, UN Women HQ in New York. Kham has been working in the field of ending VAW over the past 12 years with the UN and NGOs. He once served as the coordinator for the regional learning community for transforming harmful masculinities for gender justice in East and Southeast Asia.



**Giovanna Lauro**, DPhil is the Vice President of Programs & Research at Promundo. She has worked for over fifteen years on the promotion of gender equality and the prevention of gender-based violence through gender-transformative approaches - including a focus on transforming masculinities by engaging men and boys in partnership with women, girls and individuals of all gender identities. Prior to joining Promundo, Giovanna worked at the United Nations Foundation as Associate Director of the Women and Population Programme. She also worked on issues of diversity, race, and ethnicity at the London School of Economics, and researched harmful traditional practices at the University of Oxford, where she attained her doctorate in Political Science. Her previous degrees include a Master's degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies with a focus on Public Health, and a BA from the University of Bologna.



Under-Secretary-General **Pramila Patten** was appointed as the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on 12 April 2017.

Prior to this appointment and since 2003, Ms. Patten served as a member of the [Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#). She was the Chairperson of the Working Group on General Recommendation No. 30 on “[Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post-Conflict situations](#)”. She has been a member of several High-Level Panels and Projects, including the High-Level Advisory Group for the [Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 \(2000\) on Women, Peace and Security](#), and the Advisory Panel for the [African Women's Rights Observatory \(AWRO\)](#) within the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). She previously was a Commissioner of the International Commission of Inquiry into the massacre in Guinea Conakry on 28 September 2009.

A national of Mauritius, she has been a practicing lawyer since 1982 and a member of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn.



**Dr. Dubravka Šimonović** is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Šimonović was a member of the CEDAW Committee between 2002 and 2014, and served as its Chairperson in 2007 and 2008, its follow-up Rapporteur from 2009 to 2011 and as the Chairperson of the Optional Protocol Working Group in 2011. Outside of the CEDAW Committee's work, Dr Šimonović has also served as Chairperson of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and was a member of the UNIFEM Consultative Committee.

At the regional level, in 2006 and 2007, she was the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council of Europe's Task Force to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, that proposed the adoption of the new Council of Europe Convention on violence against women. Between 2008 and 2010, she co-chaired the Ad hoc Committee (CAHVIO) that elaborated the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention).

Ms. Šimonović holds a PhD in family law from the University of Zagreb, is the author of several books and articles on women's rights and violence against women and has lectured at several academic institutions around the world.