



Preventing violence against women: Engaging men and boys, building alliances

Joint event of the Embassy of Canada and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

6 December 2016

17.30–19.30, followed by a reception

Generationenhaus, Bahnhofplatz 2, 3001 Bern



The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Embassy of Canada to Switzerland are pleased to present a panel discussion on strategies for preventing violence against women on the occasion of the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence”. Preventing violence against women has long been a top priority of the Swiss and Canadian governments, and has been given new impetus in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. A recently-published report on the SDC’s work on sexual and gender-based violence highlighted the crucial importance of engaging men and boys in this endeavour. The panel of experts and practitioners will discuss such questions as: What is the role of men and boys in preventing violence against women? What are their experiences as perpetrators as well as victims? And how can they be brought on board as allies?

Programme

17.30 Opening Remarks

Jennifer MacIntyre, Ambassador of Canada to Switzerland and Liechtenstein

Elisabeth von Capeller, Ambassador, Assistant Director General, Head of Department Cooperation with Eastern Europe and the CIS, SDC
Ann Blomberg, Policy Specialist, UN Women Geneva Liaison Office

18.00 Panel Discussion

Gurcharan Virdee, *medica mondiale*

The importance of engaging men and boys: findings from the SDC-report

Prof. Lana Wells, University of Calgary, Canada

Research on masculinities in Canada

Endrit Uligaj, Counseling Center for Perpetrators, Albania

Engaging men and boys for gender equality

Dr. Henri Myrntinen, International Alert

Masculinities in the context of war, fight and terrorism

Moderator: Sarah Koch, Gender Programme Officer SDC

19.00 Q & A

19.30 Reception



Jennifer MacIntyre has been Ambassador of Canada to Switzerland since 2013. During her time in Berne, the Embassy of Canada has prioritised women's rights and women's empowerment, holding events related to the Women, Peace, and Security agenda as well as the rights of girls. Prior to her assignment in Switzerland, Ambassador MacIntyre served in Ottawa as Director for Bilateral Relations and Operations in the Europe and Eurasia Bureau. She also served in the Embassy of Canada in Washington DC.



Elisabeth von Capeller, Ambassador, Assistant Director General of SDC, has been the SDC's Head of the department for Cooperation with Eastern Europe since December 2014. She was Head of Cooperation and Deputy Head of Mission from 2009 at the SDC cooperation office in Nepal. In 2011, she was appointed Head of the South Asia Division, Head of Conflict and Human Rights.



Ann Blomberg joined UN Women in 2014 to represent the organisation in Geneva. During her more than 20 years of professional career she has worked for international NGOs, the UN and as a Swedish diplomat, mainly in the fields of human rights, humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. Geneva has been her basis for the last 12 years. Ann Blomberg holds a LL.M. degree from the University of Stockholm, Sweden.



Gurcharan Virdee is a senior social development specialist with rule of law, gender equality, elimination of violence against women and girls programmes, sexualised/gender-based violence (SGBV), peace building, human rights and child protection experience in transitional, conflict and fragile regions. She has 30 years of work experience on gender equality programming in humanitarian and development context, child protection reform, prevention and protection programmes on SGBV.



Lana Wells is Associate Professor and the Brenda Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary where she is leading "Shift", the project to end domestic violence. The purpose of "Shift" is to enhance the capacity of policy makers, systems leaders, clinicians, service providers and the community at large, to significantly reduce the rates of domestic violence through primary prevention. She actively supervises graduate students within the Faculty of Social Work and the School of Public Policy.



Endrit Uligaj is project coordinator and counselor at the Counseling Center for Perpetrators in Shkoder, Albania. He established and developed the first service for perpetrators in the North of Albania. From 2009 to 2014, he worked as psychologist for the Organization "Gruaja tek Gruaja" (Woman to Woman) in Shkoder. Endrit Uligaj graduated in Clinical Psychology at the University "Luigj Gurakuqi" in 2013.



Henri Myrntinen is Head of the Gender Team at International Alert, an independent, non-governmental peacebuilding organisation. He has over 15 years of experience working on gender, conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding. He has worked extensively in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and has published numerous papers and chapters on various aspects of gender and peacebuilding, including integrating men and masculinities into peacebuilding.