



MMM #RaiseAPen Campaign
High Level Virtual Panel Discussion
25th November 2020 – 16.00 – 17.00 CET

Together with mothers and girls in Afghanistan
#RaiseAPen
For their right to education

Bios of the panelists



H.E. Rangina Hamidi, Minister of Education of the R.I. of Afghanistan

Rangina Hamidi was born in Afghanistan, fled with her family to Pakistan during the Soviet occupation of her country, and eventually immigrated to the United States. She attended high school in the United States and received her B.A. degree with a double major in Religion and Gender Studies at the University of Virginia. She augmented her university education with participation in two entrepreneurship programs: Project Artemis at Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University and the Business Council for Peace’s “Silk Road Fashion Training” at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

In 2003, Rangina returned to Afghanistan to help rebuild her country after the fall of the Taliban and occupation by Allied forces. Using her leadership and management skills, she founded Kandahar Treasure in 2008, the first women-owned and women-run business in Kandahar Province. Kandahar Treasure grew to over 400 women who produce exquisite hand-embroidered textiles for apparel and home décor while working in a central workshop and their homes. The textiles feature Khamak embroidery, a textile art form unique to Kandahar and one of the world’s finest embroidery techniques.

Rangina has received numerous international awards and is an engaging speaker representing the voice of Afghan women on international platforms. She has also shared her story as a social entrepreneur through presentations at the Textile Society of America’s Biannual Symposium, the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, and the Clinton Global Initiative. Her co-authored book with Mary Littrell, *‘Embroidering within Boundaries: Afghan Women Creating a Future’* was published in 2017 by Thrums Press and received the 2018 Benjamin Franklin Silver Award for cultural books from the Independent Book Publishers Association.

In addition to her continuing involvement with Kandahar Treasure, Rangina Hamidi was Principal of the Mezan International School in Kabul, Afghanistan. She became acting Minister of Education in June 2020.



Ms. Stefania Giannini, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education

Stefania Giannini was appointed in May 2018, becoming the top UN official in the field. In this position, she provides strategic vision and leadership for UNESCO in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda, encapsulated in Sustainable Development Goal 4.

With an academic background in the Humanities, Ms. Giannini has served as Rector of the University for Foreigners of Perugia (2004 – 2012), being one of the first and youngest women to hold this position in Italy. As Senator of the Republic of Italy (2013 - 2018), and Minister of Education, Universities and Research (2014-2016), she developed and implemented a structural reform of the Italian education system, centered on social inclusion and cultural awareness. She has also been closely involved in an advisory capacity with the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation.



Ambassador Verveer is the Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security.

She also serves as the Special Representative on Gender Issues for the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office.

Amb. Verveer previously served as the first U.S. Ambassador for Global Women's Issues, a position to which she was nominated by President Obama in 2009. She coordinated foreign policy issues and activities relating to the political, economic and social advancement of women, traveling to nearly 60 countries. She worked to ensure that women's participation and rights are fully integrated into U.S. foreign policy, and she played a leadership role in the Administration's development of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. President Obama also appointed her to serve as the U.S. Representative to the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

From 2000-2008, she was the Chair and Co-CEO of Vital Voices Global Partnership, an international NGO that she co-founded to invest in emerging women leaders. During the Clinton administration, she served as Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady. She also led the effort to establish the President's Interagency Council on Women, and was instrumental in the adoption of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. She is the co-author of *Fast Forward: How Women Can Achieve Power and Purpose* (2015).

Ambassador Verveer has a B.S. and M.S. from Georgetown University and holds several honorary degrees. In 2013, she was the Humanitas Visiting Professor at the University of Cambridge and in 2017, she was selected to deliver the Tanner Lecture at Clare Hall College, Cambridge. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission, and she serves on the Boards of the National Endowment for Democracy, the Atlantic Council, as well as the World Bank Advisory Council on Gender and Development. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Secretary of State's Award for Distinguished Service. In 2008, the President of Ukraine awarded her the Order of Princess Olga.



Staffan de Mistura is an Italian Swedish diplomat, United Nations official and former member of the Italian government

After a 40-year career in various United Nations agencies, he was appointed Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and thereafter Deputy Foreign Minister in the Italian Cabinet headed by Mario Monti. In 2013, he was Director of Operations at the Foundation Villa San Michele in Anacapri. From 2014 to 2019 he was the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria.

De Mistura's previous UN posts have included that of Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Iraq (2007–2009) and Afghanistan (2010–2011), Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon (2001–2004), and Director of the UN Information Center in Rome (2000–2001).

His work has taken him to many of the world's most volatile trouble-spots including Afghanistan, Iraq, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and the former Yugoslavia.

Throughout these missions, Staffan de Mistura has encouraged political dialogue, led humanitarian assistance, development and reconstruction efforts, and supervised elections.

Since September 2019, Staffan de Mistura is Associate Professor at Sciences Po Paris, Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) and he is a distinguished Senior Visiting Fellow at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University.



H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Wali Naeemi, Minister Plenipotentiary/DPR Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to United Nations-New York.

Amb. Naeemi began his career as First Secretary at the Consulate General Afghanistan to Peshawar- Pakistan in the 90's and as Minister at the Consular Embassy of Afghanistan to Abu Dhabi –UAE (2003 – 2004).

From 2005 to 2013, Amb. Naeemi moved to New-York (NY) and worked with the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the UN, as Consular in charge with Economic affairs, and as Minister Consular and Deputy Permanent Representative. Globally, he actively participated in 6 UN – General Assembly annual sessions, and was involved with the National Focal Points to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Palestine committee, Least Developed Country, and Landlocked Country issues, with concerns about the eradication of poverty and education, with G77 and ECOSOC.

In 2011, he acted as Reporter and Vice president of the UN-GA 4th (Special political) Committee, for UN-GA 66 and then became DG of the UN Directorate of International Organisations, Conferences and Cultures under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - (MoFA).

Amb. Naeemi broadened his experience in Europe (2013--2015) as Minister Consular in the Permanent Mission of the I.R. of Afghanistan in Brussels-Belgium, with particular involvement with NATO, at the 9th NATO North Atlantic Council, and Defense and Foreign Ministers' meetings. He went back to Afghanistan as Chief of staff of the Chairman of the High Peace Council and member of the negotiation committee with the Hezb-i-Islami Political party (HIG) in Kabul (2016 - 2017). Before his return to New York, he acted as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the (OIC) in Jeddah from 2017 to 2019.

Throughout his career, Amb. Naeemi's valuable and multiple experience and skills enabled him to chair numerous meetings at all levels and lead negotiating teams with successful outcomes in many occasions.



Mary Kaldor, Emeritus Professor of Global Governance and Director of the Conflict Research Programme in LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The Conflict Research Programme (CRP) is an international DFID-funded partnership investigating public authority, through a theoretical lens of the political marketplace and the concept of civiness, across a range of countries in Africa and the Middle East.

Professor Kaldor is highly regarded for her innovative work on democratisation, conflict, and globalisation. She was a founding member of European Nuclear Disarmament (END), a founder and Co-Chair of the Helsinki Citizen's Assembly and a member of the International Independent Commission to investigate the Kosovo Crisis, established by the Swedish Prime Minister.

Professor Kaldor pioneered the concept of new wars and global civil society and her work on the practical implementation of human security has directly influenced European and national politics. Her books include: *The Baroque Arsenal*, *New and Old Wars: Organised Violence in a Global Era*, *Global Civil Society: An Answer to War* and *Human Security: Reflections on Globalization and Intervention*. She is also the editor and co-author of the annual *Global Civil Society Yearbook*.

Her most recent books are *International Law and New Wars*, co-authored with Professor Christine Chinkin, (May 2017), *Global Security Cultures*, (May 2018) and *Cities at War: Global Insecurity and Urban Resistance*, co-edited with Professor Saskia Sassen and written alongside a team of international scholars, (March 2020).

At the request of Javier Solana, she was Convener for the Study Group on European Security Capabilities, which produced the influential Barcelona report, 'A Human Security Doctrine for Europe'.



Anne-Claire de Liedekerke, President of Make Mothers Matter.

She holds a Master Degree in Art History from UC Louvain Belgium and as an expatriate for 12 years, she had the opportunity of pursuing several experiences in the field of art and education in the United States and in Canada. After returning to Belgium in 1992, Anne-Claire worked in the *Société des expositions* of the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels and co-created a guide “Expats in Brussels”.

Anne-Claire's deep conviction that mothers have a crucial role in society and in its global development led her to join MMM. She became head of the MMM delegation at the EU in 2008 and involved MMM in two major EU- funded research programs. For the Family Platform, she conducted a major survey ‘What European mothers want’, reaching out to nearly 12 000 mothers in 16 EU countries. With the Dorian program which focused on maternal obesity, mothers and health became another of MMM’s major working lines. Since she became MMM president in 2014, she has been dedicated to reenforcing the thrust of MMM’s advocacy work and grounding it through collaboration with an expanding network of grassroots member associations and partners. She is the mother of 3 and grandmother of 8



Rahela Sidiqi is the Director and Founder of Farkhunda Trust, an Educational Trust for Afghan Women.

Ms Sidiqi was a Senior Advisor of Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission of Afghanistan (IARCSC), where she developed and led various reform policies across the country, such as civil service law, reform procedures and structural adjustment processes.

Rahela Sidiqi has been governance and reform advisor at senior levels of both government and International organisations, where she helped develop strategic policies, implementation plans, administrative reform, capacity building and the grassroots development for UN-Habitat, CIESVE, DFID, USAID, UNHCR and OXFAM, and Civil Service Commissions along with 47 ministerial agencies and several NGOs in the private sector.

Ms Sidiqi was instrumental in reviewing and editing the organisation and structure of each ministry and providing technical support to Civil Service management departments in order to develop a successful performance evaluation to meet the vision and missions of the organizations.

Rahela Sidiqi also led a team of technical advisors in the provision of technical analysis of pay and grading systems to the cabinets of Afghanistan, and in addition, she presented the IARCSC's ‘vision & mission’ legislation body to the government and other international donors.

With an MA in Social Development and Sustainable Livelihoods, Rahela Sidiqi was member of Technical Advisory Group for Transparency & Right to Information at The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and led initial Access to Information Law consultation in Afghanistan, with government and civil society organisations during 2009-2011.

She wrote on Afghanistan's progress on transparency and the right to information for the years 2010-2015.

Rahela Sidiqi has also written and contributed to several articles and academic research papers related to reform and capacity building.