

AGENDA

A virtual seminar for women parliamentarians of the Americas and Caribbean on the Defence, Peace and Security agenda

“With All That’s Going on Right Now...”: The Challenge of Political Leadership During Crisis

 Virtual | Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Women parliamentarians remain underrepresented in committees and other leadership positions related to the security and defence sectors. Yet women are often well equipped to play active roles in dialogue and decision-making in these areas and to advocate for the need to assess conflict from a gender-responsive perspective, which is essential to sustainable peacebuilding.

This seminar occurs during a convergence of global security crises. Among them are the Israel-Hamas war and the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza, as well as the ongoing Russian-Ukraine war, that have had ramifications around the world. While occurring on soil outside of the Americas and the Caribbean, this region has strong economic, ethnic, religious and other ties to these areas facing conflict which are impacting diaspora communities in particular.

This session will facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing on big questions such as:

- What does it mean to be a leader right now?
- What are responsible and authentic ways to discuss divisive issues impacting our constituents?
- How can we visibilize the gender impacts of crises near and far, and the work of women peacebuilders?

Recognizing that women leaders often face gender-based obstacles and disproportionate levels of scrutiny in their work, this closed-door virtual seminar aims to provide a safe space for women parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean who wish to engage in constructive and authentic dialogue with peers on difficult issues.

Interpretation will be provided in Spanish, English, French and Portuguese.

This meeting is organized with the support of the Women Legislators in Defence, Security and Peace (WLID) global network project, for which the Parliamentary Centre serves as Secretariat.

A. 8:00 (UTC – 06:00)	B. 09:00 (UTC – 05:00)	C. 10:00 (UTC – 04:00)	D. 11:00 (UTC – 03:00)
Belize Costa Rica El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Mexico City, Mexico Nicaragua	The Bahamas Colombia Ecuador Jamaica Ottawa, Canada Panama Peru	Antigua and Barbuda Barbados Bolivia Dominica Dominican Republic Grenada Guyana	Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Trinidad and Tobago Argentina Brasilia, Brazil Santiago, Chile Paraguay Uruguay Suriname

Opening remarks

A. 08:00 - 8:10 (UTC – 06:00)	B. 09:00 - 9:10 (UTC – 05:00)	C. 10:00 - 10:10 (UTC – 04:00)	D. 11:00 - 11:10 (UTC – 03:00)
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- Member of Parliament **Anita Vandenbeld** (Canada)
- Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

Panel exchange: Promoting dialogue for peace and security

A. 8:10 - 09:10 (UTC – 06:00)	B. 9:10 - 10:10 (UTC – 05:00)	C. 10:10 - 11:10 (UTC – 04:00)	D. 11:10 - 12:40 (UTC – 03:00)
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This session will offer reflections on responsible leadership and political messaging about highly politicized current issues. It will stress the importance of embracing complexity while navigating personal bias and toxic media spaces.

Presenters:

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Margarita Stolbizer** (Argentina), Rapporteur to the 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Committee on Peace and International Security
- **Meredith Preston McGhie**, Secretary General, Global Centre for Pluralism

Time will be allocated for Q&A with the speakers, moderated by Former Parliamentarian **Guadalupe Valdez** (Dominican Republic).

Open dialogue among parliamentarians

A. 9:10 - 9:55 (UTC – 06:00)	B. 10:10 - 11:55 (UTC – 05:00)	C. 11:10 -11:55 (UTC – 04:00)	D. 12:10 - 12:55 (UTC – 03:00)
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Moderator: Former Parliamentarian **Guadalupe Valdez** (Dominican Republic)

Discussion questions:

- What are you hearing on the ground from your constituents with respect to the issues we have been discussing?
- What are some high-impact actions you can take at an individual level to combat xenophobia and religious intolerance in your spheres of influence?
- What lessons can we draw upon to advance unity and peacebuilding –whether on the global stage or locally– during periods of active conflict or multiple overlapping crises?

Closing

A. 9:55 - 10:00 (UTC – 06:00)	B. 10:55 - 11:00 (UTC – 05:00)	C. 11:55 - 12:00 (UTC – 04:00)	D. 12:55 - 13:00 (UTC – 03:00)
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- Member of Parliament **Stephanie Kusie** (Canada), Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality



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This activity is being undertaken with financial support from the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.