



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

8 MARCH 2012

PROGRAMME

6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

ROOM XX, THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS ROOM, PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

CAPITALIZING ON WOMEN'S POTENTIAL IN TIMES OF CRISIS

High-profile event hosted by the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Welcome remarks by the President of the Human Rights Council and Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Ms. Laura Dupuy Lasserre

Video: reading of the poem *Remember?* by Alice Walker

Interactive panel discussion moderated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay, with:

- Mr. Stephen Lewis (Canada), Co-Director of AIDS-Free World
- Ms. Maryam al-Khawaja (Bahrain), Head of Foreign Relations for the Bahrain Center for Human Rights
- Mr. Kumi Naidoo (South Africa), International Executive Director of Greenpeace
- Ms. Kim Phúc Phan Thi (Vietnam), UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

Part I: the impact of the global financial, food and climate crisis on women

Part II: role of women in promoting peace and human rights

Questions from the audience

Concluding remarks by the moderator

Live Webcast:

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/>
(channel 11 or 12)

Free access to accredited members of Human Rights Council and external participants upon registration.

Contact:

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2012 **SPEAKERS**



Moderator: Ms. Navi Pillay (South Africa) is the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights since September 2008. First woman to start a law practice in Natal, South Africa, in 1967, Ms. Pillay acted as a defense attorney for anti-apartheid activists or opponents of the Apartheid Government. Judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Court in the Hague, Ms. Pillay played a critical role in the groundbreaking jurisprudence on rape as genocide. She is the co-founder of Equality Now, an international women's rights organization.



Mr. Kumi Naidoo (South Africa) is the Executive Director of Greenpeace International and Chair of the civil society alliance 'Global Campaign for Climate Action' (GCCA). Mr. Naidoo played a prominent role in South Africa's liberation struggle and its democratic elections in 1994. He has held several leadership positions both in South Africa and internationally on a wide range of education, development, and social justice initiatives including CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO) and the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID).

Mr. Stephen Lewis (Canada) is the co-founder and co-director of AIDS-Free World, an international advocacy organization that works to promote more urgent and more effective global responses to HIV/AIDS. His work with the United Nations spanned more than two decades, including as United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. Mr. Lewis serves as the board chair of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, in Canada, a foundation that supports community-level organizations that are turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa since 2003.



Ms. Kim Phúc Phan Thi (Vietnam) is best known as the young girl in a Pulitzer Prize winning photograph, running from her Vietnamese village bombed with napalm and screaming from the burns on her skin during the Vietnam war in 1972. As a survivor of the atrocities of war she wants to be the bearer of messages of forgiveness, reconciliation and tolerance. As such, Ms. Phan Thi was nominated UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for the Culture of Peace in 1997. The same year, she established the Kim Foundation, which helps heal child victims of war and promotes peace and forgiveness.



Ms. Maryam al-Khawaja (Bahrain) is currently the Head of Foreign Relations for the Bahrain Center for Human Rights. In Bahrain, Ms. al-Khawaja played an instrumental role in the democratic protests of February 2011. Although Ms. al-Khawaja has since left Bahrain, she remains closely connected to the events in her country and has been very active in her advocacy efforts for human rights and political reform.



On video: Ms. Alice Walker (USA) is an internationally celebrated author, poet and activist. She is best known for *The Color Purple*, the 1983 novel for which she won the Pulitzer Prize and the US National Book Award. Ms. Walker is a staunch defender not only of human rights, but of the rights of all living beings. She is one of the world's most prolific writers, yet tirelessly continues to travel the world to literally stand on the side of the poor, and the economically, spiritually and politically oppressed.