

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**WOMEN AND JUSTICE**

A Multi-Regional Project

These visitors are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Their program is arranged by World Learning.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**Afghanistan****Ms. Freshta KARIMI**

Director, Da Qanoon Gshtunkay (DQG, a national NGO)

Albania**Ms. Fjoralba PRIFTI**

Chief Judge, Lezha District Court

Bahrain**Ms. Reem Husainain Abdulrasool KHALAF**

Lawyer and Legal Consultant, Reem Khalaf Law Firm

Bangladesh**Ms. Sharmin NIGAR**

Senior Research Officer (Joint District Judge), Law

Barbados**Ms. Liesel DAISLEY**

Chairman and Founder, SAVE Foundation

Honduras**Ms. Catherine Yamileth CHANG CARIAS**

Magistrate of the First Civil Court of Appeals

India**Ms. Umadevi SATISH MURTHI**

Attorney, Kerala High Court, Murti and Murti Advocates and Corporate Law Advisors

Mr. Parneet SINGH

Regional Passport Officer, Government of India Passport Office

Indonesia**Ms. Lulut HARDIYANI**

Administration Manager of Supervisory and Coordination Unit, Inter Agency Investigation of Directorate of Special Crime, Jakarta Raya Provincial Police

Jordan **Ms. Muna Fuad Rafail MAKHAMREH**
Lawyer, Makhmreh Law Firm

Moldova **Mrs. Daniella MISAIL-NICHITIN**
Executive Director of International Women's Rights Protection and
Promotion “La Strada”

Palestinian Territories **Ms. Ola N O HAJJAJ**
Project Coordinator, Catholic Relief Service

Ms. Najwa H M LUBBAD
Project Coordinator, UNRWA Gender Initiative

Philippines **Ms. Rainelda Hortaleza ESTACIO-MONTESA**
Municipal Trial Court Judge, Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 79,
Las Pinas City (National Capital Region), Supreme Court of the
Philippines

Russia **Ms. Natalia Igorevna GOLOSNOVA**
Chairperson, Women’s Lawyer (NGO), Yekaterinburg

South Sudan **Ms. Flora Angelo Lado WANI**
Legal Counsel, Department of Contracts, Ministry of Justice

Turkey **Ms. Zehra SEVINGEN**
Vice-President for Electoral Affairs, Istanbul Women's Branches,
AK Party (Justice and Development Party)

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Afghanistan

Name: **Ms. Freshta KARIMI**

Present Position: Director, Da Qanoon Gshtunkay (DQG), a national NGO

Previous Positions: Legal Coordinator, Medica Mondiale (international legal aid NGO for women and children)
Deputy Director, Women for Rehabilitation and Unity (WRU)

Education/Training: Law Faculty, Kabul University

Memberships: Legal Aid Providers' Committee, Working Group on Detentions

*Professional
Background:*

Freshta Karimi has already received international attention and awards for her commitment to women's rights and the rule of law and has also shown the ability to withstand threats and persevere. Although her organization's office in Kandahar was essentially forced to shut down by the local Talibs, despite calls to local and national leaders, the organization continues to work in the South of Afghanistan and to look for ways to re-enter these provinces. Ms. Karimi has demonstrated a remarkable insight in balancing safety with the urgency of doing gender and rule of law work.

Albania

Name:

Ms. Fjoralba PRIFTI

Present Position:

Chief Judge, Lezha District Court

Previous Positions:

Judge, Lezha District Court
Junior Judge, Tirana District Court, 2001

Education/Training:

Law degree, Faculty of Law, University of Tirana, 1999
Magistrate Judge, The Magistrate School, Tirana University, 2002

*Professional
Background:*

Chief Judge Prifti has been very receptive to new methods and tools that increase transparency, accountability and efficiency in her court in the interest of better services for citizens. In this respect, her personal efforts have been key to successful implementation of the digital audio recording system in Lezha District Court, which ensures verbatim records of judicial proceedings, a key element for a fair trial. As a result, her court was selected as the very first Albanian court to receive this new technology. Not only did she ensure its successful implementation, but she became a strong advocate of this new technology, which enhances transparency, accountability and efficiency in the judicial process.

Bahrain

Name:

Ms. Reem Husainain Abdulrasool KHALAF

Present Position:

Lawyer and Legal Consultant, Reem Khalaf Law Firm

Previous Positions:

Trainee lawyer, Mahdi Al-Sayegh Law Office, 2011
Trainee lawyer, Abdul Shaheed Khalaf Law Office, 2010
Trainee lawyer, Abdulla Ahmed Al Sakran Law Office, 2009

Education/Training:

B.Sc., Law, Applied Science University, Jordan, 2008
Several workshops and training courses on independent judiciary, the death penalty, women in the 21st century, freedom of expression, arbitration, advocacy, oral and written pleadings, drafting contracts, politics

Memberships:

Bahrain Bar Association
National Democratic Action Society, Bahrain
Bahrain Young Ladies Association
Representative, Bahrain Women Society

*Professional
Background:*

Reem Khalaf is a well-known defense attorney who has gained recognition and praise for her work defending Bahrainis accused of crimes related to the civil unrest of 2011. As part of some of the reforms that may take place in the Bahrain judicial process, there is a longstanding and unresolved issue regarding the need for a codified family law for Bahraini Shi'a that would serve to protect Shi'a women's rights. Ms. Khalaf's ability to advocate for change is strengthened by the credibility she has gained through her work as a human rights lawyer.

Bangladesh

Name: **Ms. Sharmin NIGAR**

Present Position: Senior Research Officer (Joint District Judge), Law Commission

Concurrent Position: Advocate, Dhaka Bar Association, since 1995

Previous Positions: Joint District Judge, entered into Government service in 1998
Project Manager, Concern, 1997-1998
Assistant Director, Sampreeti, 1996-1997

Education/Training: LLM, (Master of Law), Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 2007
Several in-service training courses on administrative and judicial functions, environment and gender

Memberships: Bangladesh Law Association
Bangladesh Women Judges Association
International Association of Women Judges
Monash University and Dhaka University Alumni Association

Professional Background: Ms. Nigar is a Joint District Judge and has been in the judiciary since 1998. Since 2009, she has been working as a Senior Research Officer at the Law Commission. She is also a member of the Bangladesh Women Judges Association and is poised to play an important role in a new rule of law program to improve the Bangladesh Government's legal aid providing mechanism and to promote judicial self- governance.

Barbados

Name: **Ms. Liesel DAISLEY**

Present Position: Chairman and Founder, SAVE Foundation (NGO)

Education/Training: University of the West Indies, February, December, 2012
Certificate in Management, St. Mary's University, Canada, 1998
Springer Memorial Secondary School, 1991

Professional Background: Ms. Daisley is an advocate against gender based violence in Barbados and heads an NGO called SAVE Foundation. She is active in community outreach programs that highlight this societal scourge. In addition, SAVE Foundation operates a victims' hotline and promotes women's rights through telecommunications and media outlets, and partners with the Bureau of Gender Affairs to render necessary assistance. Ms. Daisley develops and implements programs; raises funds; manages the hotline; does bookkeeping; provides counseling; attends training workshops and meetings; collaborates with government and other agencies to combat domestic violence; is involved with the day-to-day running of organization; organizes monthly meetings; and plans and implements activities.

Honduras

Name: **Ms. Catherine Yamileth CHANG CARIAS**

Present Position: Magistrate of the First Civil Court of Appeals

Previous Positions: Judge, Domestic Violence Court
President, First Civil Court of Francisco Morazan

Education/Training: Lawyer and Notary Public Degree extended by the Supreme Court, 2009

Memberships: Honduran Association of Judges and Magistrates

Professional Background: Catherine Chang Carias is currently a Judge in a Civil Appellate Court in Tegucigalpa. In her court, she is responsible for decisions pertaining to cases of violations against women's rights and domestic violence, among many other types of civil cases. Judge Chang Carias has significant experience in the Honduran judicial system where she has served in several positions prior to becoming a Judge.

India

Name:

Ms. Umadevi SATISH MURTHI

Present Position:

Attorney, Kerala High Court, Murti and Murti Advocates and Corporate Law Advisors

Concurrent Position:

Member, Federation of Women Lawyers
Member, Kerala High Court Advocates Association
Member, Amrita Kripa Neethi Prathishtan (a legal aid NGO)

Previous Positions:

President, Indian Youth Association, Women's Wing, 1991-92

Education/Training:

LLB, Government Law College, Kozhikode, 1993
Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kozhikode, 1992
B.A., English Literature, Providence Women's College, Kozhikode, 1990

Professional Background:

Uma Murthi is a lawyer at the Kerala High Court, Kochi. Before setting up her law practice with her husband, she was a television journalist, which prompted her to focus on women's rights and gender justice. In her years in the High Courts and Supreme Court of India, she has provided legal assistance to women from all walks of life, seeking gender justice and respectability. She has conducted classes on empowerment of women in a range of educational institutions. She has strived to help women who face domestic violence or those who strive for survival against abuse by alcoholic male members of the family. As part of an interventionist program, she has been part of an alternative dispute resolution program to expedite pending cases. She has also coordinated with police to provide assistance to female professionals and entrepreneurs to enable them to carry on their work without fear from anti-social elements.

India

Name:

Mr. Parneet SINGH

Present Position:

Regional Passport Officer, Government of India Passport Office

Previous Positions:

Joint Controller of Defense Accounts, Southwestern Command (Army), Jaipur, 2007-2010

Financial Advisor, Ordnance Cable Factory, Chandigarh, 2004-2005

Deputy Financial Advisors, Western Command (Army), Chandigarh, 2004

Deputy Controller of Defense Accounts, Border Roads Organization, Leh-Ladakh, 2002-2004

Assistant Controller of Defense Accounts, Western Command (Army), Chandigarh, 2001-2002

Assistant Controller of Finance and Accounts, Field Gun Factory, Kanpur, 2000-2001

Training at National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad, 1999-2000

Education/Training:

MBA, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, India, 2007

Bachelor of Arts, SD College, Chandigarh, India, 1995

Professional Background:

Regional Passport Officer Parneet Singh shows how one man can make a difference within the giant web of Indian government bureaucracy. Mr. Singh has taken it upon himself to provide the best customer service to the hundreds of passport applicants per day in one of the busiest Passport Offices in Punjab. But most importantly, Mr. Singh has made it his calling to improve the lot of women and girls in his district, both women who have been abandoned by husbands residing overseas and girls who are too young to legally marry. Non-resident Indians (NRIs) return to India to marry and then abandon their spouses, and sometimes children, when they leave India and return to their lives abroad. The left-behind women often have no legal recourse and suffer in silence without financial or emotional support. To combat this, Mr. Singh started a "Women's Grievance Cell," finding legal justification for his actions in a little-known portion of the Indian Civil Code. Following his actions, NRI husbands in his district have had their Indian passports impounded, unable to leave the country until they have resolved their wife's claim; they have been refused passports abroad, effectively leading to deportation from their countries of residence; and NRIs applying for passports to travel abroad have been unable to leave India.

Indonesia

Name:

Ms. Lulut HARDIYANI

Present Position:

Administration Manager of Supervisory and Coordination Unit,
Inter Agency Investigation of Directorate of Special Crime, Jakarta
Raya Provincial Police

Previous Positions:

Investigator, Directorate of General Crime, Criminal Investigation
Division, Indonesian National Police Head Quarters, 2010-2011
Head of Women and Children Protection, Criminal Investigation
Division, Tangerang Police District, 2009-2010
First Officer, Jakarta Raya Provincial Police, 2008-2009

Education/Training:

School for Middle Management Police Officers, 2008
Bachelor's degree, Public Administration, 2007
Training courses:
People Smuggling and Human Trafficking Courses, Jakarta Center
for Law Enforcement Cooperation, 2010 and 2009

Professional Background:

Ms. Lulut Hardiyani is an officer in the Indonesian National Police (INP) with extensive experience regarding women's and children's issues, particularly in the conduct of investigations into cases involving violence against women and children, people smuggling and human trafficking. Her most significant experience related to the protection of women was during her tenure as the Head of the Women and Children Protection Unit in Tangerang Police Precinct. During this investigation Ms. Hardiyani successfully saved a child from violence after the child's mother escaped from their home after numerous incidents of domestic violence were committed against her by her husband. Ms. Hardiyani has also conducted a significant number of people smuggling investigations during her tenure with the People Smuggling Task Force of Criminal Investigation Division, INP Headquarters. In her current position in the Special Crimes Directorate of Polda Metro Jaya, Jakarta she supervises, coordinates and provides guidance and direction in investigations for various Indonesian Government agencies such as Immigration, Indonesian Ministry of Labor, Customs, and the Tax Office.

Jordan

Name:

Ms. Muna Fuad Rafail MAKHAMREH

Present Position:

Lawyer, Makhmreh Law Firm, Amman, Jordan

Concurrent Position:

Volunteer trainer for several organizations involved in citizenship and law enforcement, media legal aid, the Geneva Conventions for journalists, and leadership training for university students, as well as other human rights and justice related topics

Previous Positions:

Legal Consultant, Jordan Gulf Bank Amman, Jordan, 2001-2002
Jordan Radio Paging J.R.P legal consultant, Amman, Jordan, 2000-2001

Education/Training:

B.A., Legal Mediation and Conflict Resolution, Arab University for Non-Violence and Human Rights, Beirut, currently enrolled
Legal Trainee, Amman, Jordan, 1994-1996
Bachelor of Law, Damascus University, Damascus, Syria, 1989-1994

Memberships:

Arab Non Violence Network Committee
Jordan Bar Association
Jordan Forum for Youth and Culture NFYC
Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

Professional Background:

Confronting many factors including the male-dominant mind-set and tribalism, Ms. Makhamreh ran for the 2010 parliamentary election on the Quota seat for Christians at Al-Balqa' district, but did not win due to the many challenges she encountered. She is the third elected member of the Young Women Leaders in the Middle East by the Millennium Development Goal (MDG). Ms. Makhamreh has been a strong advocate for women's rights and worked as a volunteer and consultant with the National Council for Family Affairs on the "Dignity" project, which included preparing a comparative study on violence against women in law. She also worked with Freedom House on producing a handbook for women on the family law status. She helped evaluate information and confirm actual facts on violence against women in Jordanian law, reporting this in the Shadow Report presented to the CEDAW Committee by Jordanian NGOs.

Moldova

- Name:* **Mrs. Daniella MISAIL-NICHITIN**
- Present Position:* Executive Director of International Women's Rights Protection and Promotion "La Strada"
- Previous Positions:* Executive Director, International Center "La Strada," 2011-2012
Deputy Executive Director, International Center "La Strada," 2003-2012
Resource Center Manager, International Center "La Strada," 2001-2003
- Education/Training:* Economic Law, Department International Business, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, 2005
Master in Advocacy and Social Change, Resource Center of Moldovan Human Rights NGOs (CReDO), 2004
2002 -2003, Master of Non-profit Administration Program organized by the Resource Center of Moldovan Human Rights NGOs (CReDO)
Family Doctor residency, Municipal Hospital no. 5, Chisinau, 1999-2002
Training course:
Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings, 2 week course, organized by MCTC, MASHAV program, Haifa, Israel, May 2010
- Memberships:* International Center "La Strada" is part of International La Strada Association
National Council for Child Rights Protection
Coordination Council on Prevention and combating Family Violence
- Professional Background:* Moldova's law enforcement and judicial systems remain under-funded, poorly trained, and corrupt, and therefore lack public support and legitimacy. As the co-founder and executive director of the NGO La Strada since 2012, Ms. Daniela Misail-Nichitin is regarded as the leading expert in the field of human trafficking prevention. She has worked in this area for over ten years, and her contributions to the legal system and interventions in working with the law-enforcement agencies in Moldova to prevent trafficking and assist women victims of domestic abuse are invaluable. Since 2003, she became the Deputy Executive Director of the International Centre "La Strada" and under her leadership and because of her expertise, it quickly became the most active and strongest advocate for implementing counter-trafficking efforts in Moldova. Mrs. Misail-Nichitin is in charge of conceptualizing,

coordinating and monitoring the prevention, outreach, and the hot-line for trafficking prevention and coordinates La Strada's efforts to facilitate access of trafficked persons to adequate assistance. She also oversees the assistance efforts to women victims of domestic violence. She is a recognized international and national trainer on issues related to trafficking and domestic violence and author of eight publications addressing the issue of trafficking, domestic violence and child sexual abuse. Her work is focused on the prevention of human trafficking, domestic violence and the sexual commercial exploitation of children, and promoting online safety.

Palestinian Territories

- Name:* **Ms. Ola N O HAJJAJ**
- Present Position:* Project Coordinator, Catholic Relief Service
- Previous Positions:* Field Monitoring Officer and Activities Coordinator, Gender Initiative “Quality in Action” Project, United Nation Relief and Work Agency (UNWRA), 2010-2011
- Education/Training:* Master’s of Business Administration (currently enrolled), Islamic University of Gaza
Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, Islamic University of Gaza, 2008
Two Management programs, jointly sponsored by ANERA Foundation and the Islamic University of Gaza, 2007
Other training courses
- Professional Background:* Ola Hajjaj is the coordinator of the Disaster Risk Reduction Project at Catholic Relief Services in Gaza. She is responsible for training project staff and partners on the best ways to reduce risk. She also volunteers to train women on defending their rights and to increase their awareness in this field. She works in the Shejaya neighborhood of Gaza City, which is considered one of the most conservative areas in Gaza, especially in regard to women's issues. Her work includes assisting in identifying local partner and project sites; collaborating with the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) unit in developing a M&E binder and system; supporting the senior technical advisor for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in conducting training of project staff and partners; assisting in organizing the project launch; informing beneficiary selection criteria; and supporting partners in community meeting to introduce and explain the Gaza Risk Reduction and Mitigation (GRRAM) project .
- G. Supervise and support partner working with communities to conduct vulnerability and capacity (VCA) and develop (DRR) plan.
 - H. Ensure VCA and DRR plans are documented and retained by CRS and community.
 - I. Assist partner in providing technical assistance to DRR groups in developing small grants proposals
 - J. Monitor DRR plans implementation.
Facilitate learning based on GRRAM implementation:
 - K. Support GRRAM Facebook in order to share key documents and facilitate linkages between DRR groups.
 - L. Support GRRAM project evaluation
 - M. Support drafting and revising DRR guide

N. Assist in organizing dissemination events such as recognition ceremonies and DRR guide lunch.

Manage GRRAM grants:

O. Review partner liquidation documents and payment requests

P. Prepare monthly narrative reports.

Palestinian Territories

Name: **Ms. Najwa H M LUBBAD**

Present Position: Project Coordinator, UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency)
Gender Initiative

Previous Positions: Communication Officer, Gender Resource Center, 2010

Education/Training: BA, Media Broadcasting and Political Science, Birzeit University, 2000
EDCL four-month training course, Gaza Training Center, 2003-2004

Memberships: Palestinian Working Women Society for Development, since 2009

Professional Background: Ms. Lubbad works as a project coordinator in the UNRWA Gender initiative (UGI), which is a relatively young program established in 2008. Gaza is going through rapid social, economic and ethical transformations; clear and new guidelines in handling the community changes will be helpful. Ms. Lubbad's work in women's issues is likely to have an impact on women in Gaza to overcome their difficulties and improve their lives.

Philippines

Name: **Ms. Rainelda Hortaleza ESTACIO-MONTESA**

Present Position: Municipal Trial Court Judge, Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 79, Las Pinas City (National Capital Region), Supreme Court of the Philippines

Previous Positions: Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court Branch, Supreme Court of the Philippines, 2002-2006
Associate, de Leon Law Office, 2000-2002

Education/Training: Bachelor of Laws, Arellano University School of Law, 1998
Bachelor of Arts, Economics, University of Santo Tomas, 1992

Memberships: Integrated Bar of the Philippines
Philippine Trial Judges League, Inc.
Philippine Women Judges Association
Las Pinas City Judges Association

Professional Background: Judge Estacio-Montesa has been the presiding judge of the municipal trial court in Alubjid, Misamis Oriental (Mindanao, Southern Philippines), since 2006, while concurrently assisting the municipal trial courts of Cavite and Las Pinas. Due to her performance, particularly in unclogging trial court dockets, she has been nominated for a regional trial court judgeship in Metro Manila. She pays special attention to child abuse, adoption, juvenile and domestic relations cases, she currently serves as the secretary of the Las Pinas Judges Association, and she is a member of the Supreme Court's Committee on the Decongestion of Provincial, City and Municipal Jails and the Philippine Women Judges Association.

Russia

Name:

Ms. Natalia Igorevna GOLOSNOVA

Present Position:

Chairperson, Women's Lawyer (NGO), Yekaterinburg

Previous Positions:

Lawyer, Women's Lawyer
Director, Ratio LLC

Education/Training:

Law Department, Ural Finance and Law Institute

Professional Background:

Natalia Golosnova is head of the Urals' regional NGO Women's Lawyer, founded in 1998. The organization provides legal services, consultations, and psychological counseling to women in crisis situations, including victims of domestic violence and domestic conflicts. An active member of the Urals' human rights community, in 2012 Ms. Golosnova helped organize an annual "Summer School on Human Rights" in Sverdlovsk Oblast. Due in part to her efforts, the project gained international attention: in addition to Russian participants, several human rights activists from elsewhere in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) took part in the training. Ms. Golosnova has become a recognized women's rights expert, not only in the Urals region but throughout Russia. A pioneer in the field, she began providing free of charge legal consultations to women in crisis over a dozen years ago. Owing to her experience, she is a regular guest speaker on regional TV programs and is often invited to speak as a human rights expert. Given the growing demand for free-of-charge consultations for women in crisis, Ms. Golosnova is now developing a network of public assistance centers throughout Sverdlovsk Oblast. She also plans to organize an internet-based assistance center. Her video-blog, aimed at raising popular awareness of human rights, is set to be launched in February 2013. She is also considering the organization of an annual all-Russia summer school on women's rights in Sverdlovsk Oblast.

South Sudan

Name:

Ms. Flora Angelo Lado WANI

Present Position:

Legal Counsel, Department of Contracts, Ministry of Justice

Education/Training:

LLB, University of Khartoum

*Professional
Background:*

Ms. Angelo is on the forefront of the fight to advance Women's rights in South Sudan. She is an activist, both as a journalist and as an attorney. As a journalist she created a series of radio programs (with radio as the only form of general communication in the country) addressing women's rights and informing women of their rights under the new Bill of Rights in the Interim Constitution. She is also active in the newly formed Southern Sudan Women Lawyers Association, leading the committee on Women's Rights and the Law. She is working to develop local language materials to distribute to women throughout the country, advising them of their rights. She is also pursuing funding to develop alternate ways of bringing the message of women's rights to those who live far outside the urban centers and who may not be literate.

Turkey

Name: **Ms. Zehra SEVINGEN**

Present Position: Vice-President for Electoral Affairs, Istanbul Women's Branches, AK Party (Justice and Development Party)

Memberships: Istanbul Bar Association

*Professional
Background:*

Mrs. Zehra Sevingen Sagir is a ruling party (AKP) leader and lawyer. She advocates for women's issues and has been active in politics since 2003. She is Vice-President for Electoral Affairs of Istanbul's Women's Branches and leads her own law firm specializing in telecommunications and satellite technology issues. Her broad political, legal and business experiences caught the attention of AKP's top leadership, and she was nominated to the party's list of possible Parliamentarians. While her present obligations kept her from serving as a Parliamentarian during the 2011 elections, she expects to be appointed as a Parliamentarian after the 2015 elections. In 2011, she led the drafting of a booklet on women's legal rights in Turkey, written to educate a broad spectrum of female Turkish voters, many with very little education. A legal counselor to the AKP governed Atasehir Municipality, she volunteers to visit voters to discuss their concerns and needs, and understand the municipality's voters' expectations. Also active in civil society, she is the Legal Committee chair and board member of the Istanbul Women Research Center of Eurasian Industrialists and Businesspersons Association (ASIAD). She led an international woman's conference in Istanbul in 2010 and also attended the United Nations' 55th Commission on the Status of Women meeting in 2011.