

Women Leaders as Advocates for Equality and Inclusion of LGBTI Persons

CSW65 side event: Wednesday, March 24, 9:30 – 11 a.m. EDT

Speakers' Bios



H.E. Marie-Louise Koch Wegter, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in New York

H.E. Koch Wegter has previously served in a range of leading positions in the Danish Foreign Service, most recently as deputy in the Office of Humanitarian Action, Migration and Civil Society and as Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN in Geneva.



Ms. Petra Bayr, MP, Austria, and Board member of Parliamentarians for Global Action

Ms. Bayr has been a member of the Austrian Parliament for the Social Democratic Party of Austria since 2002. She serves as Chairwoman of the Development Policy Subcommittee. Ms. Bayr is a Board member of Parliamentarians for Global Action.



Ms. Lisa Peterson, Senior Official for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, and Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, United States Department of State

Ms. Peterson has previously served as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini from 2016 to 2020 and Director for the Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor from 2012 to 2015.



Hon. Valerie Woods, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Belize

Hon. Woods has served as Speaker of Belize's House of Representatives since December 2020. Previously, she was a Senator for the People's United Party between March 2016 and August 2019. Hon. Woods is a former member of the Board of Parliamentarians for Global Action.



Ms. Karen Ellemann, MP, Denmark

Ms. Ellemann has been a member of the Danish Parliament for the Venstre political party since 2007. She has served as Minister of Gender Equality, Nordic Cooperation and Fisheries, Minister of Interior and Social Affairs and Minister of Environment.



Hon. Esther Passaris, MP, Kenya

Hon. Passaris has been a member of Kenya's National Assembly for the Orange Democratic Movement since 2017, serving as the Nairobi County woman representative. She is the founder of the "One in a Million" campaign, aimed at fighting poverty in Kenya.



Dip. Lucía Riojas, MP, Mexico

Dip. Riojas has been an independent member of Mexico's Chamber of Deputies since September 2018. She serves as Secretary of the Youth and Sexual Diversity Committee and is a member of the Human Rights and Gender Equality Committees.



Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua, MP, Fiji

Hon. Qereqeretabua is an Opposition member of the Parliament of Fiji for the National Federation Party, elected in November 2018. She is a former broadcaster and public relations consultant.



Ms. Ulrike Lunacek, former Vice President of the European Parliament

Ms. Lunacek was a Member of the European Parliament from 2009 to 2017, serving as Vice President of the European Parliament and Co-president of the Intergroup on LGBTI Rights. Previously, she was a member of the Austrian Parliament (1999-2009) for the Green Party. She will be the Master of Ceremonies of Copenhagen 2021's Interparliamentary Plenary Assembly.



Ms. Alba Rueda, Undersecretary for Diversity Policies, Ministry of Women, Genders and Diversity, Argentina

Ms. Rueda is an activist for the rights of trans people. She is a researcher in the Department of Gender and Communications at the Floreal Gorini Cooperation Center and a member of the advisory council at the Observatory on Gender in Justice of the City of Buenos Aires.