



PROGRESS AND IMPERATIVES: AN INTERNATIONAL TOWN HALL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

SPONSORED BY:

MAYOR MATTEO RENZI
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, LA PIETRA POLICY DIALOGUES
VITAL VOICES GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

FLORENCE, 2 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 5:00 PM
PALAZZO VECCHIO, SALONE DE' CINQUECENTO

SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Legendary journalist **Tina Brown** (former editor of *Tatler*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker* and most recently founder & editor of *The Daily Beast*) will moderate a panel discussion and open town hall forum with global leaders in the promotion of women to discuss the progress that has been made and enduring challenges that remain in international women's issues.

Panelists include:

Emma Bonino, Vice President of the Italian Senate; champion of civil rights, human rights, and women's rights in Europe and developing countries, notably the promotion of female entrepreneurship and the campaign against female genital mutilation.

Melanne Vermeer, U.S. State Department Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues; served as Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady in the Clinton White House, supporting global initiatives on women's rights as human rights and the education of women and girls; led the establishment of the President's Interagency Council on Women.

Sohini Chakraborty, Founder of India's Kolkata Sarved, an organization that has innovated the use of Dance Movement therapy as a tool to support the recovery of women forced into prostitution and other victims of violence and trafficking.

Sadiqa Basiri Saleem, Co-founder of the Oruj Learning Center, the only local organization operating in the Wardak province of eastern Afghanistan, just three hours from Kabul, that works to provide education and to combat violence against women.

Maria Pacheco, General Manager & Owner of Keij de los Bosques (Protectors of the Forest) where she oversees a program that helps indigenous Guatemalan women create small business enterprises and links them to local and international markets; National Program Designer for Guatemala's Economic Development for Rural Communities Program.

Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize winning Bangladeshi banker and economist who developed the concept of microcredit; Founder of the Grameen Bank and member of the Board of Directors of the United Nations Foundation.

Laura Alonso, Argentinean Congresswoman representing Buenos Aires and Executive Director of Citizen Power, a government watchdog organization that has worked to educate and empower voters and to monitor judicial corruption, elections, and government influence over the media.

Alyse Nelson, President of the Vital Voices Global Partnership; worked to promote the advancement of women as a U.S. foreign policy goal, first with Former First Lady Hillary Clinton and then in the President's Interagency Council on Women in the Clinton White House; advisor to the U.S. Delegation to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women.

Kakenya Ntaiya, Founder of The Kakenya Center for Excellence, a primary boarding school that serves vulnerable and underprivileged girls in Kenya and focuses on academic excellence, female empowerment, leadership and community development; first youth advisor to the United Nations Population Fund.

Luis CdeBaca, U.S. Department of Justice Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; investigated and prosecuted human trafficking cases in which victims were held for prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, farm labor, domestic service, and factory work.

The discussion will be joined by other prominent leaders from civil society, business, media, government and academia in Florence to participate in the Vital Voices Global Working Session to commemorate the 15-Year Anniversary of the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in 1995.

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