



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media**

Gender Justice: Advancing Pluralism and Free Speech For All
13th July 2022, 2-5pm CEST
Ratsaal/blended

BIOS



Teresa Ribeiro

OSCE Representative on Freedom of
Expression

Teresa Ribeiro, of Portugal, is the fifth Representative on Freedom of the Media. She has vast political, diplomatic, human rights and media experience. Prior to this position, she was Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, while serving as President of the National Commission for Human Rights. She was also Secretary of State for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and Deputy Secretary General at the Union for the Mediterranean.

Throughout her career, Teresa Ribeiro has held different positions in media, both in Portugal and in multilateral organizations, such as President of the Institute of the Media of Portugal, President of the Steering Committee on Mass Media of the Council of Europe, and Co-founder and first elected President of the Executive Board of Obercom – Media Observatory.



Irene Khan

UN Special Rapporteur on the right to
freedom of expression

Irene Khan is the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression since August 2020. She is the first woman to hold this position since the establishment of the mandate in 1993. An internationally recognized advocate for human rights, gender equality and social justice, she teaches at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, and is co-author of *The Unheard Truth: Poverty and Human Rights*, which has been published in seven languages.

Irene Khan is a Bangladeshi lawyer who previously served as the seventh Secretary General of Amnesty International. She then was Director-General of the International Development Law Organization, an intergovernmental organization that works to promote the rule of law and sustainably development. Before that, she was Consulting Editor of *The Daily Star* in Bangladesh.



Sarah Macharia
General Secretary of the Global Alliance
on Media and Gender

Sarah Macharia is a feminist political economist engaged in the international media development sector for 15 years now. She serves as General Secretary of the Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG) initiated by UNESCO to follow up on the implementation of the media recommendations (Section J) of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women.

Sarah has co-authored several publications including *Setting the gender agenda for communication policy* (2019), *Who makes the news? The Global Media Monitoring Project 2010, 2015 and 2021 reports*, and Fojo Media Institute's *Global study: Gender equality and media regulation* (2022). Sarah holds a PhD in Political Science from York University in Toronto, Canada.



Lucina di Meo
Vice President, Room to Read and Co-
Founder, #ShePersisted

Lucina Di Meo is a senior gender expert. Born and raised in Italy, she's been promoting women's rights for the last twenty years, working with a wide range of international nonprofits, foundations, and UN agencies across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Lucina is the co-founder of #ShePersisted Global, a cross-national initiative that tackles gendered disinformation and abuse against women in public life through research and thought leadership, supporting women leaders, and advocating for safer digital platforms. Her groundbreaking study, [#ShePersisted. Women, Politics & Power in the New Media World](#). In 2016, Lucina joined Room to Read as Global Director of Girls' Education, where she leads a program helping thousands of girls in Asia and Africa stay in school longer and acquire the skills they need to make informed choices about their lives and realize their potential.



Dubravka Šimonović
Jurist and former UN Special Rapporteur
on Violence Against Women

Dr. Dubravka Šimonović has over 30 years of experience working on human rights at the national, regional and global level. She headed for a number of years the Human Rights Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia and she was also appointed as Ambassador to the OSCE and United Nations in Vienna, Austria. Dr Šimonović served as an expert of the UN CEDAW Committee for three term, and also in capacity as its Chairperson.

She was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences from 2015-2021. At a regional level, Ms Šimonović was Chair of the Council of Europe Task Force to combat Violence against Women and co-chaired the Ad hoc Committee that drafted the Istanbul Convention. She holds a PhD in family law from the University of Zagreb, and is a prolific writer on women's rights and prevention of violence against women.



Arzu Geybullayeva
Journalist

Arzu Geybulla, Azerbaijani columnist and writer, with a special focus on digital authoritarianism. Arzu has written for Al Jazeera, Eurasianet, CODA, Open Democracy, and Radio Free Europe, with a byline on CNN International. She is also a regional editor for South Caucasus and Turkey at Global Voices. In 2019, Arzu launched Azerbaijan Internet Watch, a platform that documents, and monitors information controls in Azerbaijan. Since 2015, she has been involved in various projects focusing on the safety of women journalists online. Arzu is based in Istanbul from where she continues her journalism work as well as her engagement in projects that continue to focus on the safety of women journalists online, platform accountability, and transparency.



Dr. Courtney Radsch

Fellow, UCLA Institute for Technology, Law & Policy and Senior Fellow, Center for International Governance Innovation

Courtney C. Radsch, PhD, is a journalist, scholar, and practitioner whose work focuses on the intersection of technology, media, and human rights. Currently, she is a fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles's Institute for Technology, Law & Policy and a senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation and the Center for Media, Data and Society.

Radsch spent seven years as advocacy director at the Committee to Protect Journalists, previously worked at UNESCO, and has led advocacy missions to more than a dozen countries. As a scholar-practitioner and former journalist in the Middle East, Radsch is deeply interested in the practical implications of her research. She is a founding member of the Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media, the Coalition Against Online Violence, the ACOS Alliance (A Culture of Safety), and the Christchurch Call Advisory Network. She holds a PhD in international relations from American University and is the author of *Cyberactivism and Citizen Journalism in Egypt: Digital Dissidence and Political Change*. Find her on Twitter @courtneyr and www.mediatedspeech.com.



Dr. Silvia Chocarro

Head of Protection of Journalists & Human Rights Defender, ARTICLE 19

Silvia Chocarro is a journalist and freedom of expression advocate. She is the Head of Protection at ARTICLE 19, sits on the Council of IFEX and is a member of specialist bodies at the University of Sheffield and the Central European University. For the last 20 years, her career has focused on promoting the human right to freedom of expression in various capacities, building a comprehensive and holistic approach on the issue.

She has worked for news outlets, civil society groups and intergovernmental organizations, such as UNESCO where she worked on the development of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. She has authored several publications on gender and media, and is the main author of the #SOFJO Resource Guide by the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.



Julia Haas

Office of the OSCE Representative on
Freedom of the Media

Julia Haas is an international law and human rights expert. In her work, she has focused on international relations, the intersection of technology and human rights, and the prevention of marginalization. At the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Julia particularly focuses on policy research and development in the field of internet governance and digital participation, with a focus on the impact of artificial intelligence on freedom of expression, digital and legal safety of journalists, gender and online pluralism.

Previously, she worked as legal officer and human rights adviser at the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Julia sits on the advisory board for the Vienna Forum for Democracy and Human Rights, holds a Master's degree in Law from the University of Vienna, an Information and Media Law LLM and is a PhD candidate on the impact of digital innovations on freedom of the media.