



Short Introduction of Conference Speakers

Ashwaaq Abdirahman

is CHANGE Agent for FSAN. was born in Somalia and grew up in the Netherlands. She has a professional degree as medical assistant from the Nova-College in Haarlem and has experiences in working in different health departments. Currently, she works at the Surgery Department in the Spaarne hospital. Moreover, she participated in the Replace Project (October 2010-April 2011) as a member of the partner team of the Federation of Somali Associations in the Netherlands and gained extensive knowledge on the subject of FGM and its impact. The main reason why Ashwaaq wants to be our Change Agent can be succinctly summarised as follows: she vehemently opposes FGM and due to her previous work for the Replace Project, she is convinced to be able to eradicate FGM and to promote behaviour change.

Landry Atakora

is CHANGE Agent for Plan International. He comes from Togo and moved to Germany in 2003. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Bremen and continued with a Master's Degree in Social Politics with a focus on Work and Social Security. In his past he was an intern at Unicef and AQtivus Hamburg and still continues to volunteer in his free time for non-governmental organisations like the PIEK (Pro integration and development cooperation). Also within the organisations Tchilabalo is a member of, the subject of FGM plays an important role. That's why he wants to contribute with his knowledge to our CHANGE project, promote behaviour change and push the development and integration of African people in Germany.

Gwladys Awo

has thorough experience of working with immigrants in Hamburg. She tackles delicate issues in regard to their social and professional integration. She will coordinate, execute the project activities and lead the training against FGM among the local immigrant communities in Hamburg.



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Dr. Daniela Bankier

has been working for the European Commission since 1999. After heading the legal unit for equal treatment and non-discrimination, she is now Head of Unit for equality between women and men in the Directorate-General Justice. She is presently also Acting Director for Equality.

From 1999-2004 she was a Member of the Cabinet of the German budget Commissioner Michael Schreyer and in 2005 became deputy head of cabinet of Vladimir Spidla, Commissioner responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

Dr. Daniela Bankier started her professional career in the Austrian Central Bank in 1991. She was the Head of the Austrian Central Bank's Representation office at the Austrian Permanent Representation from 1995 to 1999.

Dr. Daniela Bankier studied law in Vienna, Paris and at the University of Michigan, Law School (LL. M. 91) and obtained a PhD on the legal questions of the European Economic and Monetary Union in 2003.

Prof. Hazel Barret

(BA (hons), MA, PhD, CGeog) is Executive Director of the Centre for Communities and Social Justice at Coventry University in the UK. She is a social scientist who has been researching health and gender issues amongst African communities for the last 30 years and is a recognised international researcher on FGM. Since 2010 she has been leading the EC Daphne funded REPLACE projects (Researching Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Intervention Programmes Linked to African Communities in the EU). REPLACE represents a radical change to the way FGM is tackled by the EU. REPLACE has developed a new community-based approach to ending FGM, using a behavioural change approach. REPLACE2 is working with partners in five EU countries: Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and UK to develop intervention programmes that are appropriate to the readiness to end FGM of the various communities, are mindful of the belief systems that perpetuate FGM in these communities and that empower FGM-affected communities to challenge the social norm that supports the continuation of FGM. REPLACE has been adopted by other projects in the EU. For more information on REPLACE please visit www.replacefgm2.eu. Hazel was invited to speak the London Girl Summit 2014 on the REPLACE approach, and is a member of a number of UK committees, both national and local, which are working on policy to end FGM in the UK.



Daniela Colombo

is a development economist and a professional journalist with over 40 years of experience in working for women's and girls' rights and on gender issues. In 1981 she founded AIDOS, the Italian Association for Women in Development, of which she was the President until the beginning of 2015. She served as a consultant/expert for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission, Fao, Ifad, Ilo, In straw, Unifem and the World Bank. For several years she was member of the Italian National Commission for Equality and of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights. She lectures in Italian universities and abroad and is the author of essays, training manuals and TV programs on the condition of women in developing countries. She has been involved in activities for the abandonment of FGM since 1978, when she interviewed Awa Thiam, the author of "La parole aux negresses" for the feminist magazine EFFE.

Aurélie Desrumaux-Hamelin

has been a project officer at the French NGO Equilibres & Populations (EquiPop) since 2008. After a degree in political sciences, she graduated in international cooperation and public health. In 2007, she worked for 6 months in Senegal for a local NGO « Action et Développement » on maternal health issues. From 2008 to 2010, she ran EquiPop's West African office based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Since 2009, she has been managing the project « Protect the next generation », aiming at promoting the abandonment of female sexual mutilation in Mali and in France among the Malian community. She also works on projects related to eradicating obstetrical fistula, safe abortion, task shifting and family planning.

Linda Ederberg

is the Project Coordinator of the CHANGE Project at TERRE DES FEMMES.

Mahasin El-Hasan

is CHANGE Agent for FORWARD. Mahasin was born in Sudan. She is working as a Librarian and volunteers in her community by filling forms, interpreting or making necessary phone calls.



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Dr. Mehari Gebre-Medhin

is CHANGE Agent for RISK. He was born 1937 and brought in Addis Abbeba, studying and researching at different universities such as the Lund University in Sweden, the Harvard University in U.S., a PhD at the Uppsala University and currently professor at Uppsala University Hospital; is Mehari Gebre-Medhin a multifarious, experienced person with specialisation on various professional disciplines in Human Nutrition. Not to mention his formally memberships in WHO and UNICEF Expert Committees and current organizations such as the Expert Advisory Group to China Disabled Persons' Federation in Beijing.

Besides all his current work, Mehari still finds the time and space for hobbies and being an active member within his community. He is the chairman on Swedish-Eritrean Friendship Association to work on different topics and issues.

Mirjam Gehrke

works currently as project manager for Ecuador in the Media Development department of DW Akademie. She has been working for DW since 1996. Prior to her current role, Ms. Gehrke worked as a radio and online reporter, initially in the Spanish-language Latin America service and subsequently as a Latin American expert at the German desk. Ms. Gehrke also regularly moderates podium discussions, seminars and conferences on development issues and peace and arms policy. She speaks German, Spanish, English and French.

Rebecka Goldschmidt

is CHANGE Agent for RISK. She was born 1984 in Ethiopia and came in 1985 to Sweden. First Rebecka make a profession as a nurse in Health Care and graduated in 2009 from a College in the United States in English, Maths and Business. Currently she works as an immigrant coach, helping people to find work. Besides she is also a senior caretaker.

As Rebecka wrote in her motivation, her wish is “for all women on the face of this earth to be able to reach their fullest potential” and “to be kept safe, preserved and healthy”. “That’s all the motivation that is needed to go all the way and changing the world.”

Fana Habteab

has been a chairperson for RISK from 1996-2007. After 11 years she decided to offer her post to the younger generation and is now working as the cashier and contact person for the work outside of Sweden, representing the organisation and providing information on FGM. Moreover, she is one of the founders of RISK and of EuroNet-FGM. She was a partner for the Daphne Programme from 2000-2003 and the National Action Plan in Sweden between 2007 and 2008. Fana has many years of experience working towards the eradication of FGM and serves as RISK'S Project Manager for the CHANGE project.



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Aladin Hamad

is CHANGE Agent for FSAN. He comes from Sudan and moved to the Netherlands 14 years ago. He got his post-doctoral degree in public law at the Khartoum University in Sudan and worked at the law firm Ghazi Suleimann in Khartoum in 1998. He is now employed at the Royal Library in The Hague. Besides his work he is volunteering since 2000 for protecting women and children's rights at the Soedani Association in Amsterdam.

Due to his experiences in his home country and his family, Aladin feels responsible to do something against the female circumcision. In the past Aladin was already able to attend trainings and became a key-professional, which makes him a person with much knowledge and abilities concerning FGM. He sees his role as a Change Agent as a way to help women and girls at risk and wants to inform about the issues of FGM in his own and other communities.

Marie Christine Hanne

is CHANGE Agent for Plan International. She was born 1960 in Mali, Marie moved to Germany over 30 years ago. Marie is very involved with her fellow countrymen and is the president of the women's association "Balimaya Ton Hamburg". She wants to participate in this program because "I want to help my fellow countrymen. We have got to help ourselves. Wrong education and bad cultural beliefs are endangering our children in Africa. I want to help to achieve that behaviour change rather sooner than later."

Nina Hoss

Known for her extensive career in both theatre and film, Nina Hoss won the Silver Bear at the 2007 Berlinale for her performance in Christian Petzold's 'Yella' and returned to the festival in 2011 as one of their jurors. A year later she collaborated with Petzold again in the multi-award winning film 'Barbara', a role for which she received international acclaim. In 2014 she returned to Schaubühne Berlin and was on screen in Anton Corbijn's 'A Most Wanted Man' with Philip Seymour Hoffman and Christian Petzold's 'Phoenix'. Recently, she starred in the US hit series 'Homeland', which will soon be aired in Germany. Nina Hoss lives in Berlin.

Khady Koita

is a French-Senegalese activist for Human Rights and a key figure in the international fight against FGM. She is the co-founder of GAMS France, an association to abolish sexual mutilations. In the following years, she became a prominent spokeswoman against FGM, being a consultant for the human rights organisation No Peace Without Justice and the co-founder of Euronet-FGM. Her autobiography "Mutilée" has been published in 2006 and translated into 22 languages. She further is a member of the association Respect-ev and co-founder and president of La Palabre. Since 1996 she lives in Belgium.



Katharina Kunze

is Section Manager of Female Genital Mutilation at TERRE DES FEMMES. Her main activities and responsibilities are public relations concerning FGM, awareness raising, lobbying and fundraising as well as the implementation of international campaigns in the field of FGM.

Dr. Tobe Levin

Freifrau von Gleichen, Ph.D., Project Manager for the CHANGE Project, served as Secretary for Euro-Net FGM from 2002-2004 and has been interim secretary again since 2009. She is presently president (and co-founder) of FORWARD - Germany. In both of her positions she is taking action to eradicate FGM. Tobe Levin Freifrau von Gleichen is an Associate at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and American Research at the Harvard University and a Professor at the University of Maryland UC in Europe. In 2009, she founded UnCUT/VOICES Press to publish books on and against FGM and, with Diana Kuring, managed the DAPHNE funded National Action Plan against FGM event in 2008 in the Bundestag, Berlin.

Caren Marks

is Member of the German Bundestag since 2002 and currently assumes the position of Parliamentary Secretary of State to the Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Ms Marks is also a member of the SPD, and has participated on a volunteer basis in several associations dedicated to promoting civil rights.

Zahra Naleie

is the Senior FGM Project Manager and is working with FSAN since 1994. She is responsible for training courses for women, the material production, the curriculum, staff development and research and feasibility studies. Moreover, Zahra has got working experience in Mogadishu/ Somalia as Head of Training and Curriculum for the Institute of Women's Education/Ministry of Education. Zahra Naleie also published a number of articles about FGM and is one of the founding-members of EuroNet-FGM. Zahra is FSAN's Project Manager for the Change Project.



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Toks Okeniyi

is the Head of Programmes and Operations at FORWARD UK. Toks holds a degree in English language from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, LLB Law from University of Buckingham UK, a post graduate diploma in Legal Practice and professional qualifications in teaching and Project management.

Her past roles include: Director of Services and Acting Chief Executive at the Royal Court of Justice Advice Bureau, UK. She has worked with many community organisations as a management consultant and She is a fellow of the Chattered Management Institute UK. Her professional roles have involved liaising with senior managers and key stakeholders, working to achieve desired outcomes by being a catalyst for change with a commitment to improve efficiencies and deliver value for money.

She is committed to ensuring that individuals who are vulnerable or discriminated against are able to avail themselves of their rights.

Christian Papaleontiou

is head of the Interpersonal Violence at the Home Office. He leads co-ordination of the cross-government strategy to end violence against women and girls, leading policy on domestic violence and abuse, sexual violence, stalking, prostitution, sex offender management, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. Christian played a key role in the UK government's Girl Summit held in July 2014, which brought together international and domestic governments, communities and professionals to set out a comprehensive package of measures to eradicate FGM within a generation.

Christian has previously worked on a range of crime and policing issues including international policing, police reform, crime strategy and public order policing.

Jurgita Peciuriene

is a gender expert on gender-based violence. Since 2010 has been working at the European Institute for Gender Equality, where she works in the area of gender-based violence. Since 1995 she is active in promoting gender equality in Lithuania as an activist and researcher, after obtaining Masters degree in sociology at Vilnius University, Lithuania. She has an in-depth knowledge on violence against women, trafficking in human beings and gender mainstreaming. She was the cofounder of the Women's Issues Information Centre in Lithuania, and a board member of the European Women's Lobby (2004-2010), and a member of the Governmental Commission on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (2007-2010).



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Elise Petitpas

joined the End FGM European Network (END FGM) in January 2015 to coordinate its work towards a strong and sustainable European movement to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). Prior to that, Elise was advocacy officer at the END FGM European Campaign of Amnesty International, which ended in December 2014 and from which END FGM originates. For more than four years, she monitored and influenced developments of the EU agenda on gender-based violence and FGM. In this position, she authored several policy and research papers on the issue, including a Guide on the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women as a tool to end FGM that was co-published with the Council of Europe in November 2014.

Elise holds a Masters degree in Human Rights Law from the University of Strasbourg (dissertation on Sexual Rights). She has worked with the Brussels office of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Prior to that, she spent some time in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where she worked on the implementation of new legislation on gender equality as an external collaborator for the French Embassy.

Yvette Robbin-Coker

(nee Phillott) holds an Honours degree in English language and Literature, a Diploma in Education from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, an MA in Language and Linguistics in Education from the University of Southampton, UK and a certificate in Teaching English to Adults (CELTA) from Cambridge University, UK. Mrs Robbin-Coker has vast experience in the field of education and was the Vice Principal of the Gambia College in Banjul The Gambia an institution she served for over twenty years contributing to the extension of the teacher training programme. On her retirement Yvette went into development work sharing her expertise in organisations such as Forum for African Women's Educationalist, Gambia Chapter, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA, Banjul) and The African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) all based in Banjul The Gambia. Currently, Mrs Robbin- Coker works in the UK as The Training and Development Coordinator for the Foundation for African Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD) and has been instrumental in developing accredited courses from Open College Network London (OCNL) for professionals and other frontline staff on responding to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) She is also a management committee member of the Lewisham Multi- Lingual Advisory Services (LMLAS) based in Catford where she resides.



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Sibylle Schreiber

studied Social Science in Göttingen and Belfast, having also stayed in Southeast Asia in order to collect research material for her master thesis. In 2005, she joined TERRE DES FEMMES as a staff member and coordinated the campaign „NEIN zu Verbrechen im Namen der Ehre“ (NO to honour crimes) until 2007. Since 2010, she is division manager and heading the content of TERRE DES FEMMES' core areas.

Dr. Silke Steinhilber

is a consultant for evidence-based strategic policy advice on social justice, women's empowerment and gender equality in national and international policies since 1999. Her consultancy firm "Research, Evaluation and Capacity Development for Gender Equality, genderconsulting.com" develops projects and conducts evaluations of country-level and multi-country projects and programmes promoting gender equality and equal treatment of women and men.

Silke is an experienced trainer and developer of capacity building programmes on gender mainstreaming, women's rights and gender equality. She has developed numerous trainings on gender and social policy, on social security, maternity protection and gender-sensitive evaluations.

Her clients include international organizations (e.g. UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, ILO, European Union, World Bank, Council of Europe), as well as trade unions and women's organizations or other civil society organizations. Silke has extensive working experience in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as in the European Union, and Latin America.

Christa Stolle

is one of the founders and the Executive Director of TERRE DES FEMMES, an organisation specialising in women's rights. She studied Anthropology, Ethnic Studies, Geography and Empirical Cultural Studies in Tübingen and Bonn and holds a Master's degree in Anthropology. During her studies she spent time abroad in various countries, among them France, China, Tibet, South Korea and Burma.

Ms Stolle is the author of various publications in the main areas of TERRE DES FEMMES namely, domestic violence and sexual violence, honour crimes and forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and trafficking in women. Through public relations, international networking, counselling and the promotion of specific projects TERRE DES FEMMES raises public awareness about the specific maltreatment and discrimination of women and lobbies for best practices and changes in legislation.

For her commitment to promote girls' and women's rights around the world, Ms Stolle has been given the Women of Courage Award on the 9th April 2012. Furthermore, in 2013 she was honoured with the Federal Cross of Merit for her engagement for the rights of girls and women.



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Christoph Strässer

is German Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid since January 2014. Having practiced law with offices in Münster, Wittenberg, Leipzig and Berlin, he became a member of the Bundestag for the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) in 2002. He has been engaged in several working groups on human right issues and was a member of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid and the Committee on Legal Affairs until 2014. Since 2010, he is also head of the Africa discussion group of the SPD Parliamentary Group.

Dr. Anja Stuckert

started to work as Senior Advisor for Gender in Plan in 2006. The abandonment of female genital mutilation is one of her areas of work. She has been responsible for leading two Plan studies on the issue and is active in lobby and advocacy work in Germany and the EU on the issue. She is the contact person in Plan for the Daphne project and will work closely with Gwladys Plesch to coordinate the activities.

Dr. med. Christoph Zerm

is a specialist in Gynaecology and Obstetrics and an expert on health issues connected to FGM. He lectures at the University Witten/Herdecke and continuously gives medical training for young doctors in Germany, but also abroad, i.e. St. Petersburg, Buenos Aires, Tbilisi and EU-countries. Being a member of INTEGRA, he has published a manual on „Female Genital Mutilation – handling of concerned individuals and prevention: German recommendations for health professionals and other potentially involved professions“ in 2006/07. Consequently, he engages in FGM-prevention endeavours and is an expert consultant on FGM-associated problems since 2005, paying also annual visits to Eritrea. On the topic of FGM, he has published several medical papers.

Solomon Zewolde

is CHANGE Agent for FORWARD. Solomon Zewolde grew up in Ethiopia. He has a Master Degree and is working as a teacher at Barnet Refugee Service.