

WOMEN'S SPRING EVENT

“How long do we still have to go? How can we stop violence on women?”

Hilton Cyprus Hotel, Nicosia, Cyprus
13th May 2017

Speakers



Flaminia BAFFIGO is the Coordinator of the Institute of European Democrats. She graduated in theoretical Philosophy at the University of Rome and was the vice-director of the International Bookshop “Paesi Nuovi” in Rome from 1976 to 1987. Since 1987, Flaminia has been working in the departments of International relations in several center-left Italian parties, from the Democrazia Cristiana to the Partito Popolare Italiano, La Margherita and then the Partito Democratico, up to 2012. She has been involved in the foundation of the European Democratic Party (EDP) in 2004 and in the establishment and ruling of the Institute of European Democrats (IED) in 2007. Since 2001 she has been also active as a journalist.

Yiorgos LILLIKAS is a Cypriot politician and the President of the Citizens' Alliance. He previously served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus (2006-2007) and the Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism of Cyprus (2003-2006). He also acted as the government's spokesman. Before, he was the Member of the House of Representatives of Cyprus, Member of the Parliamentary Committees on Finance, Foreign and European Affairs, Education, and Trade and he chaired the Parliamentary Committee on the Environment. In past, he acted as the Head of the Cyprus Parliamentary Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Vice President of the Committee of Political Affairs and Security. He studied Political Science at the Institute of Political Science in Lyon and Grenoble in France.



Maria EPAMINONDA is the President of Cyprus Women Lobby that is the member of the European Women Lobby, a network that gathers a wide range of women associations and non-governmental organizations to work towards gender equality and promotion of women's human rights. She is also the Executive Director of the Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA), the leading non-governmental organization in Cyprus that is focused on sexual reproductive health and rights and that is a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). She has an extensive experience in leading advocacy strategies, in ensuring the relationships and strategic alliances with various governmental, non-governmental and other stakeholders at the local and European level, in the coordination and management of projects, and in providing guidance and inspiration to volunteers. She has a special interest in comprehensive sexuality education, violence against women and youth involvement and participation.

Georgia BOURI is a Social worker, Counsellor on Mental Health and the Head of the Department of Equality and Discrimination in the Municipality of Athens responsible for the refugees and family violence victims in Athens. She has 30-years long experience as a social worker and a counsellor in the Athens Municipality where she deals with domestic violence but also with other forms of violence. She studied social work and health at the University of Strathclyde Glasgow in the United Kingdom and the University of Aegean in Greece.



Androula CHRISTOFIDOU HENRIQUES is a Psychologist and the Honorary President and Founder of the anti-human trafficking network 'Cyprus STOP Trafficking', that is made up of people in the media, NGOs and the diplomatic corps who all raise money for trafficking victims and rescue women from the hands of traffickers. She has fought for years against the buying and selling of women, pushing for long-term institutional change by lobbying government officials at the highest levels to take action against trafficking and to increase protection for its victims. Beyond advocating for institutional change, she has generously used her personal resources to help trafficked women who choose to testify against their traffickers. She received a 2010 International Women of Courage Award. In 2012 she was appointed to the rank of Commander in the National Order of Merit by France's Ambassador to Cyprus, Jean-Luc Florent.

Luca ATTANASIO is an Italian journalist and author who collaborates with many reputable Italian newspapers including Vatican Insider, La Repubblica, Limes, Vatican Radio and various international magazines. He is an expert on human rights, migration, conflicts, Middle East and international politics. He teaches geopolitics at the Università Roma 3 and Pontificia Università Teologica San Bonaventura in Rome. He published 'Guerra e pace in Irlanda del Nord', Edizioni Associate, June 2001; 'Irlanda del Nord, le parole per conoscere', Editori Riuniti, April 2005; 'Se questa è una donna', 2014 Robin Edizioni, and various fiction stories for Giulio Perrone Editore. 'Il Bagaglio Migranti minori non accompagnati: il fenomeno in Italia, i numeri, le storie' an essay on the phenomenon of the unaccompanied minor migrants Jan.2016, Albeggi Edizioni; Libera Resistenza, Mincione Edizioni, marzo 2017.



Hauwa IBRAHIM is a Nigerian human rights lawyer, one of the top defenders of women's rights in Nigeria and the winner of the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for the Freedom of Thought in 2005 which honours individuals for their efforts on behalf of human rights and freedoms. She was especially cited for her pro bono work defending people condemned under the Islamic Sharia laws that are in force in the northern Nigerian provinces. In May 2014, President Good-luck Jonathan of Nigeria appointed her a member of the fact-finding commission regarding the 219 girls kidnapped by Boko Haram from Chibok. She has been a Visiting Professor at Saint Louis University School of Law and Stonehill College, a World Fellow at Yale University, a Radcliffe fellow, and a fellow at the Human Rights Program and the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard University in the USA. Ibrahim adopted an interdisciplinary approach to delve into the theoretical foundations of Shariah law and examine how they have influenced legal practice, which has, in turn, affected human rights of women in West Africa.