

## Invitation – May 20, 2016 - Oslo

Norad, UNFPA and Norwegian faith-based actors  
coordinated by the Council for Religious and Life Stance Communities and the Christian Council of  
Norway, in cooperation with Norwegian Church Aid and Digni

invites you to a conference on

# Religion and Development: Dialogue on Gender, Rights, and Sensitive Issues

The background for the conference is two parallel realities. Firstly, gender based and sexual violence is a leading cause of death and disability for women and girls in all their diversity, and one in three women experience gender based violence during their lifetime. Pregnancy and childbirth is a leading cause of death for young women aged 15 to 19 years (WHO). This affects women and girls in all areas of life, including their ability to participate in social, economic and political spheres of society. Secondly, religious actors play an important role in development. Religion is an important source of values, which influence people's attitudes and actions. Because of this, religion can influence politics and acts as both a driver of and an impediment to development.

The conference will provide an arena to critically examine the role of religion and diverse religious/faith-based actors in promoting gender equality and the rights of girls and women.

**Time and venue:** May 20, 2016, 09:00 – 15:00, at Norad, Bygdøy allé 2 in Oslo.

**Program:** See preliminary program below.

**Registration:** Please register no later than May 8, sending your name, title, affiliation/organization to Mr. Tor Kristian Birkeland, [tkb@norkr.no](mailto:tkb@norkr.no). The number of participants will be limited, and registrations will happen on a first come, first served basis (although organizers reserve the right to ensure diverse participation).



# Religion and Development: Dialogue on Gender, Rights, and Sensitive Issues

Oslo, May 20, 2016

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

### 08:30 Coffee and registration

09:00 **Welcome** Jon Lomøy, Director, Norad; Azza Karam, Senior Advisor, Culture, UNFPA; (Norwegian faith voice – tbc); and (Norwegian government voice – tbc)

09:30 **Report Launch** Joint NORAD-UNFPA Discussion Paper: **Religion, Women’s Health and Rights: Points of Contention and Paths of Opportunities** – by Katherine Marshall, Professor of the Practice of Development, Conflict, and Religion, Georgetown University

Panel Discussion

Panelists (5-minute introductions):

- Fulata L. Moyo, Programme Executive, World Council of Churches
- Meera Khanna, Writer and Activist; Trustee of the Guild for Service; Co-Founder for the Women’s Initiative for Peace in South Asia (tbc)
- Marwa Sharafeldin, Musawah Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family (tbc)
- Anne Sender, Former Chair of the Jewish Community of Oslo

Moderator: Shereen El Feki, Senior Fellow, Promundo

Closing comments: Julio Murray, Bishop, Anglican Church in Panama (tbc)

### Q & A

### 11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Parallel Sessions** **Session A** (auditorium): **Faith, Sexuality and Rights.**

Book Launch: WCC, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance: Dignity, Freedom and Grace: Christian Perspectives on HIV, AIDS and Human Rights

Presenters:

- Gillian Paterson, Research Fellow, Heythrop College, University of London.
- Hendrica Okondo, Programme Manager HIV & SRHR, World YWCA
- JP Mokgethi-Heath, Policy Advisor on HIV and Theology, Church of Sweden

Moderator: Sally Smith, Senior Adviser, UNAIDS (tbc)

**Session B** (meeting room 1): **Family Values and Reproductive Rights**

Presenters:

- Fatima Sadeet, Lecturer and Co-ordinator, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal
- Alexander Golding, Caritas Norway
- Kidist Bealynah, Program Manager, Norwegian Church Aid Ethiopia

Moderator: Ingrid Vik, Head of Analysis and Research, Forum for Women and Development - FOKUS

**Session C (meeting room 2): Gender Justice: Challenging Gender Roles and Fighting Gender-Based Violence**

Presenters:

- Patrick Godana, Government and Media Liaison, Sonke Gender Justice
- Elaine Neuenfeldt, Women in Church and Society Secretary, Department for Theology and Public Witness, The Lutheran World Federation
- Sivananthi Thanenthiran, Director, Arrow

Moderator: Gina Lende, Advisor, Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relation

**12:45 Messages from Parallel Sessions (auditorium). One main message, one challenge.**

**13:00 Lunch**

**13:45 Challenges to Religious Communities and Development Actors**

Atle Sommerfeldt, Bishop, Church of Norway

**14:00 Panel Discussion The Need for New Development Partnerships in Addressing Women's Rights**

Panelists:

- Jon Lomøy, Director, Norad (tbc)
- Azza Karam, Senior Advisor, Culture, UNFPA
- Ulrich Nitschke, Head of Sector Program Values, Religion and Development, Head of PaRD Secretariat, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Margareta Grape, Senior Adviser, Church of Sweden

Moderator: Anne Skjelmerud, Senior Adviser, Norad

**Q & A**

**14:45 Closing Remarks**

**15:00 End**

Moderator: Ingrid Rosendorf Joys, Executive Chair, The Council of Religious and Lifestance Communities in Norway.

## LOGISTICS AND ACCOMMODATION

We ask the participants to take care of accommodation themselves. Please have a look at this google map:

<https://www.google.no/maps/search/Hoteller/@59.9150841,10.7064707,15z/data=!4m11!2m10!3m6!1sHoteller!2zQnlInZMO4eSBhbGzDqSAyLCAwMjU3IE9zbG8!3s0x46416dd4ac5d8637:0xcb78cb5a3b2ce91d!4m2!1d10.7152254!2d59.9150611!5m2!5m1!1s2016-05-19>

The conference venue is the grey pin (address Bygdøy allé 2) close to where Bygdøy allé and Henrik Ibsens gate meet. All of the hotels in the map are within walking distance (maximum 15 minutes) from the venue. The three closest ones are, as you can see, Scandic Solli, Carlton Oslo Hotel Guldsmeden and Clarion Collection Hotel Gabelshus.

When travelling from Oslo Airport Gardermoen, we recommend taking the train Flytoget to Nationaltheatret station, which is 4-5 blocks east of the Scandic Solli hotel. Note that most, but not all departures go all the way to Nationaltheatret. Be aware that taxis are generally expensive in Oslo – the minimum price between 06:00 and 17:00 is NOK 109 and above, depending on the taxi company.