

**Respondent Bios**  
**Celebrating Five Years of ILO Convention 190: Addressing Violence and Harassment in the**  
**Word of Work**  
**June 20, Thursday, 8:00-9:15 AM EDT**

**Moderator:**

Krishanti Dharmaraj, Transnational Lead, Feminist Alliance for Rights (FAR)

<https://gcny.edu/krishanti-dhamaraj/>

Krishanti Dharmaraj is a human rights advocate and a practitioner dedicated to realizing safety, equity, and wellbeing within communities, institutions, cities and the wider world. She works at the intersection of rights, leadership, and identity to achieve her purpose. She has three decades of experience advocating to advance women’s human rights at local, national, regional, and global levels.

Ms. Dharmaraj is the founder and principal of the Dignity Index, a rights-based methodology and process to ensure sustainable inclusion, equity, and safety in communities and institutions. Ms. Dharmaraj was also the executive director of center for Women’s Global Leadership at Rutgers University where she set strategy and developed a 10-year trajectory to advance women’s rights at the intersection of human rights, labor and safety, through the eradication of gender-based discrimination and violence. As the founding executive director of Women’s Institute for Leadership Development for Human Rights, Ms. Dharmaraj co-founded the US Human Rights Network to ensure US government’s accountability to human rights standards within US borders and with her leadership, San Francisco became the first city in the U.S. to pass legislation implementing an international human rights treaty. Currently Ms. Dharmaraj is a Trustee of THIRST (The International Roundtable for Sustainable Tea), Executive Committee member of Feminist Alliance for Rights (FAR) and represents the civil society global reference group at the Governing Board of the Spotlight Initiative, a partnership fund to end violence against women.

**Respondents:**

- **Fatime Christiane Ndiaye, Senior Gender Specialist, ILO Decent Work Team, Dakar**  
Mme Fatime Christiane N’Diaye est la Spécialiste Technique Principale Genre pour l’Afrique francophone au Bureau Régional de l’OIT pour l’Afrique. Juriste de formation, elle a une expérience de 20 ans au Bureau international du Travail (BIT). Avant de rejoindre le Bureau Régional, elle a occupé diverses fonctions dans la coopération technique du BIT en Afrique dont la coordination de projets sous-régionaux de lutte contre la pauvreté par la promotion d’emplois décents et l’égalité entre les femmes et les hommes.

Ms Fatime Christiane Ndiaye is the Senior Gender Specialist for French Speaking Africa at the ILO's regional office for Africa. A lawyer by training, she has more than 20 years of experience at the ILO. Before joining the regional office, she held various positions in technical cooperation in Africa for the ILO, including coordinating sub-regional projects to combat poverty through the promotion of decent work and equality between women and men.

- **Laura Nyirinkindi, Vice-Chair, UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-women-and-girls/members>

Laura Nyirinkindi assumed her functions as member of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls on 1 November 2023. Ms. Nyirinkindi holds a master's degree in international human rights Law from the University of Oxford, United Kingdom and a Law Degree from Makerere University, Uganda. She is a Senior Managing Consultant of Pro Initiatives Agency, a human rights firm based in Uganda. Ms. Nyirinkindi assumed leadership positions in civil society organisations in Africa, Europe and America as a means to mainstream women's rights in the human rights movement. She served on the African Development Bank's Civil Society Committee where she advocated for gender inclusive socio-economic development on the continent. She is currently the Africa Regional Vice President of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (Federación Internacional de Abogadas), promoting transboundary advocacy and common action around shared values and objectives on the rights of women and girls globally. Ms. Nyirinkindi specialises in women's rights, gender equality, governance, and the rule of law. Her earlier career activities focused on grassroots legal education and aid, and strategic litigation for vulnerable women, girls and marginalised and disadvantaged groups. Over 17 years she has dedicated her efforts to promoting social justice through advocating for enabling policies and laws, research, documentation, training and capacitating states and communities around key actions on women's and girl's rights, access to justice, gender-inclusive democratic governance, women, peace and security, gender-based violence, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, and rights-based approaches to development. She has worked in 36 countries, collaborating with African Union institutions like the Africa Peer Review Mechanism and United Nations agencies such as UN Women, UNICEF, UNHCR, OHCHR and national human rights commissions. Ms. Nyirinkindi taught international human rights law at the university level in Uganda and has published several articles on the rights of women in Africa.

- **Tomoya Obokata, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-slavery/prof-tomoya-obokata>

Prof. Tomoya Obokata (Japan) was appointed as the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences in March 2020. He is a Japanese scholar of international law and human rights, specialising in transnational organised crime, human trafficking and modern slavery. Prof. Obokata

currently serves as Professor of International Human Rights Law at York Law School, and previously taught at Keele University, Queen's University Belfast and Dundee University (all in the United Kingdom Great Britain and Northern Ireland). He has extensive experience of working on the issues of transnational crime, human trafficking and modern slavery with relevant stakeholders, including the UK Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, the Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group on Human Trafficking, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, the International Organisation for Migration and the European Union. Mr. Obokata also worked as a legal clerk for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Japan. He has published widely on the topics mentioned.

**Closing Remarks:**

**Lopa Banerjee, Director, Civil Society Division, UN Women**

[https://unwomenusa.org/files/Banerjee\\_bio.pdf](https://unwomenusa.org/files/Banerjee_bio.pdf)

Lopa Banerjee helms UN-Women's strategic engagement with civil society and gender equality activists and advocates, to promote partnerships for gender equality. Her work focuses on strengthening intergenerational allyship with diverse stakeholders to expand civic space and influence global action for gender equality.

Lopa led the development of the Generation Equality Forum, the global, multi-stakeholder partnership initiative launched to accelerate the achievement of gender equality commitments. She supports UN Women's convening role in this initiative and beyond.

A gender and rights thematic expert, Lopa's long career in international development has focused on advocacy and partnership building in support of gender equality. Prior to joining the United Nations, she worked with the private sector in India in advertising and the media.

She has lived in India, South Africa, Iran, Bangladesh and the United States of America. Lopa's areas of specialization include strategic advocacy and inclusive partnership engagement. She has one daughter and lives in New York City.