

## PRESS RELEASE

### WHY INCLUDING MORE WOMEN IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

### COULD CHANGE THE COURSE OF CONFLICTS?

Could lasting peace also require better representation of women at negotiation tables? This is the powerful message delivered during an international press conference held at the Geneva Press Club, focused on the role of women in diplomatic processes and how quotas can be a lever for action.

As armed conflicts multiply around the world, one observation is widely shared: women remain largely absent from peace negotiations, despite playing a central role in war-affected societies and more than two decades of international commitments.

Among the speakers, Mr. Bruno Fuchs, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly, emphasized the importance of governments turning their commitments into concrete actions, particularly to promote gender equality in decision-making bodies.

A major figure in international diplomacy, Ms. Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, the principal architect of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, stressed that excluding women from negotiations undermines the strength of peace agreements. According to her, involving women is not symbolic — it is a key factor in the effectiveness and sustainability of those agreements.

Ms. Nanette Lafond-Dufour, President of the Women's Forum for the Economy and Society, highlighted the need to build alliances between political, economic, and societal spheres to evolve practices at the international level.

Ms. Aurora Martin, Vice President of the International Institute for Human Security and Global Chair of G100, reminded the audience that security cannot be conceived only through a military lens. Women's rights and their participation in decision-making lie at the heart of a holistic approach to human security.

Ms. Corinne Lepage, former French Minister of the Environment, underscored the close links between peace, governance, the environment, and equality — all of which are inseparable issues for building more stable societies.

Ms. Mette Laursen, CEO of LinKS in Denmark, specialized in creating alliances between policymakers, scientists, businesses, and civil society, shared her insights on the importance of structured frameworks to promote women's inclusion in decision-making processes.

The conference concluded with a speech by Ms. Carolyn Handschin, Vice President of the Women's Federation for World Peace International and Director of the WFWPI UN Office worldwide. Also Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women at the United Nations in Geneva, she emphasized the essential role of civil society in advancing equality on the international stage.

One clear message emerged from these discussions: achieving lasting peace requires giving women a full place in diplomatic negotiations. Though still debated, quotas are increasingly seen as a practical tool to speed up a change that remains too slow given today's global challenges.

2025, a milestone year for Guila Clara Kessous:

Awarded "Peace Woman of the Year 2025" by the Mayor of Athens

Recipient of the "Woman of the Decade" prize presented by the First Lady of Italy

Director of the International Forum Femina Vox (website)

Founder of the International Accords for Women in Diplomacy (website)

About Guila Clara Kessous

Her role model: Simone Veil — a woman of intellectual battles, just like her.

Her mission: to promote peace through education and work.

Her motto: "To a valiant heart, nothing is impossible."

About the Geneva Press Club – Club suisse de la presse

The club's mission is to welcome and support journalists passing through Geneva and to foster exchanges between Swiss and international sectors — including economy, politics, culture, and science — and the Swiss and foreign press based in French-speaking Switzerland and nearby France.