

Key note Speakers:

Opening speech

by Bert Koenders, Minister for Development Co-operation, the Netherlands.

Key note: The rights-based approach in international development

By Prof. B. de Gaay Fortman Professor of Political Economy of Human Rights at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.

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Key note: Making Rights Real: The example of Mexico City

By Nancy Northup, President of the Center for Reproductive Rights, USA.

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Key note: Let's Get Real about Rights: The implementation and realities of a rights-based approach in the context of sexual and reproductive health and rights

By Radhika Chandiramani, Executive Director of TARSHI (Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues), India.

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Conference Chair Febe Deug *(see page 4)*

Opening speech

by Bert Koenders, Minister for Development Co-operation, the Netherlands.

Biography



Bert Koenders is appointed Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands on 22 February 2007.

Bert Koenders previously was a Member of Parliament for the Labour Party (PvdA) from 1997 to 2007. He was the spokesman for international and European affairs of his party and held positions on the boards of several Parliamentary organisations.

Prior to joining Parliament he worked as consultant and European director of Parliamentarians for Global Action in New York. From 1993 to 1994 he was European staff member and political advisor to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN working in Mozambique, South Africa and Mexico. He was subsequently principal administrator of the policy planning staff of the Directorate-General for external

relations, conflict prevention and European Union enlargement at the European Commission in Brussels until 1997.

<http://www.minbuza.nl/en/ministry/ministers/Minister-Koenders.html#a2>

Key note: The rights-based approach in international development

By Prof. de Gaay Fortman, Professor of Political Economy of Human Rights at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Biography



Prof. de Gaay Fortman has had an notable career in Dutch politics as well as in academia. He holds the Chair in Political Economy of Human Rights at the Utrecht School of Law. He is associated with the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague as Emeritus professor of political economy.

Professor de Gaay Fortman was leader of a party represented in the Dutch government in the 1970s. For a period of twenty years he served as a member of the States-General (the Netherlands parliament), first in the lower house (1971-1977) and then in the Senate (1977-1991). He has been spokesperson for development cooperation, justice, defense and foreign affairs. From 1972-2002 he held the Chair in Political Economy at the Institute of Social Studies. He has frequently been appointed as a visiting professor, predominantly in the field of development and human rights. He is currently Chair of the Working Programme States, Societies, Conflict of the Netherlands Research School for Development Studies.

www.law.uu.nl/sim/

Making Rights Real: The example of Mexico City

By Nancy Northup, President of the Center for Reproductive Rights, USA.

Biography



Nancy Northup is the President of the Center for Reproductive Rights, a global human rights organization that uses constitutional and international law to secure women's reproductive freedom. The Center has brought groundbreaking cases before national courts, U.N. committees, and regional human rights bodies, and has built the legal capacity of women's rights advocates in over 45 countries.

Ms. Northup joined the Center in 2003 with a rich mix of experience as a constitutional litigator, federal prosecutor, and women's rights advocate, and a reputation for intelligence, passion, and creativity. Since then, Ms. Northup has pursued that vision at the Center with bold, new strategies. Under her leadership, the Center has aggressively expanded its international program, including the launch of an international litigation campaign that has included the first abortion case decided by the U.N. Human Rights Committee and the first case to frame preventable maternal deaths as a human rights violation. Building on its established reputation as first-rate litigators, the Center has also taken the human rights framework into its work in the U.S. It is now documenting U.S. rights violations through fact-finding reports and holding the U.S. accountable before U.N. bodies that monitor compliance with international treaty obligations. In 2008, Ms. Northup led the Center to establish the Law School Initiative to promote legal scholarship and teaching on reproductive health and human rights, an emerging body of transnational law not yet widely taught in U.S. law schools. This ground-breaking effort will shape the thinking of the next generation of lawyers, judges, and policymakers through fellowships for recent law school graduates, a visiting scholars' program, curriculum development, conferences, and publications.

Before coming to the Center, Ms. Northup was the founding director of the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. From 1989 to 1996, she served as a prosecutor and Deputy Chief of Appeals in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

Ms. Northup graduated from Brown University and Columbia Law School, where she was a Kent Scholar and Managing Editor of the Columbia Law Review. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Alvin B. Rubin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans. Ms. Northup holds adjunct appointments at NYU Law School and Columbia Law School where she has taught courses in constitutional and human rights law.

<http://www.reproductiverights.org/>

Let's Get Real about Rights: The implementation and realities of a rights-based approach in the context of sexual and reproductive health and rights

By Radhika Chandiramani (India) Executive Director, TARSHI (Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues).

Biography



Radhika Chandiramani is a clinical psychologist, and works and writes on issues of sexuality, sexual and reproductive health and rights. Based in New Delhi, she is Executive Director of TARSHI, the South and Southeast Asia Resource Centre on Sexuality, and the co-Director of The Sexuality and Rights Institute. She has received the MacArthur Fellowship for Leadership Development and the Soros Reproductive Health and Rights Fellowship. She co-edited *Sexuality, Gender and Rights: Exploring Theory and Practice in South and Southeast Asia* (2005, SAGE), edits a quarterly magazine *In Plainspeak*, writes a column on sexuality for *Prevention* magazine and has recently written *Good Times for Everyone: Sexuality Questions, Feminist Answers* (2008, Women Unlimited).

<http://www.tarshi.net/>

Conference Chair



Febe Deug (1958) is working as a consultant and trainer with De Beuk since 1990. After graduating for her studies in (non-western) sociology in 1984 and completing a postdoctoral course as Trainer Intercultural Communications in 1989, she worked as a lecturer in Women's Studies at the University of Amsterdam, also as a trainer/researcher in the specific area of support to women. In 1999 she completed her postdoctoral studies as a Master of Management Consultancy at the Free University in Amsterdam and in 2007 a Masters Course Integration and Migration at the Erasmus University Rotterdam.

With her active interventions during a working process Febe connects people with each other, facilitating their arrival at shared conclusions and results, often despite the very different needs and interests of those involved. She combines this skill as a moderator with her specific expertise as an organizational advisor and consultant. She has gained much experience over the years in the role of facilitator or chair and knows how to involve and activate large groups, getting them involved in worthwhile discussions. She has access to and knowledge of a large network in the politic realm, including social support networks, diversity and multi-cultural organisations, development cooperation and the media in general. She especially likes an assignment where by applying professional approaches she can help translate social ideals into creating concrete results and impact.