



**Side Event at the occasion of the
10th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
UN – Vienna October 15th 2020
2 p.m - 2.50 p.m., zoom meeting**

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89585189106?pwd=cWZvcmlPY2ZUOG5QVktEV-TRmZzBUdz09>

Meeting-ID: 895 8518 9106

Kenncode: 415733

Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work: ILO Convention No. 190 – a blueprint to ensure the right to equal treatment of trafficked persons, migrant and domestic workers

Violence in the world of work is a threat to the dignity, security, health and wellbeing of everyone. It has an impact not only on workers and employees, but also on their families, communities, economies and society as a whole. The new international labour standard aims to protect workers and employees, irrespective of their contractual status, and includes persons in training, interns and apprentices, workers whose employment has been terminated, volunteers, jobseekers and job applicants as well as individuals exercising the authority, duties or responsibilities of an employer. Certain categories of workers often find themselves in vulnerable situations and becoming victims of harassment, (i.e. migrant and domestic workers and persons from minority groups).

PANELISTS

Els van WINCKEL, former Principal Administrator in the Directorate General of Employment, European Commission, Brussels, ZONTA International UN Coordinator Geneva Biennium 2018 -2020

Ms Valentina BEGHINI, ILO, Senior Technical Officer in the Gender, Equality and Diversity & ILOAIDS Branch (GED/ILOAIDS) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva

Ms Chidi KING, Director Equality Department, International Trade Union Confederation, Bruxelles

Mr Matias Espinosa, IOE Adviser, Geneva

MODERATOR

BPW Vice President United Nations **Catherine Bosshart** will moderate the event, introduce the panelists and conclude after the panelists' interventions.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Biographies

Mrs. Catherine Bosshart, Vice President of BPW International for UN Matters

Catherine Bosshart is a Swiss historian of contemporary and modern history, linguist as well as a specialist of gender studies. She has been teaching from 1991 to 2013, first as a senior lecturer and then as a professor for contemporary history at the University of Fribourg. In 2012, she became the main representative of the NGO “International Federation of Business and Professional Women” at the UN in Geneva. Since 2012 she is chair of the taskforce “Archives” of BPW International. In 2015, she has been nominated as Executive Secretary and in 2017 elected as Vice President UN of BPW International.

Mrs. Els van WINCKEL, ZONTA International UN Coordinator Geneva (Biennium 2018 -2020) has a Master in Economics (magna cum laude) of the University of Leuven (KULeuven), Belgium. She studied International Politics at the KULeuven, at the IUI Luxembourg and at the “Collège d’Europe - Europacollege”, Bruges, Belgium. Els was an Assistant Professor in Economics at the KULeuven and joined the staff of the European Commission in Brussels in 1987. She worked as a Principal Administrator in the Employment Directorate General, dealing with gender equality and employment policy in the EU and was involved in ILO employment projects in Central Asia. Each year she represents ZONTA International at the ILO’s International Labour Conference (ILC) and in this capacity, she followed the negotiations on the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention C 190 in 2018-19 and witnessed its adoption at the ILC on 21 June 2019.

Mrs Valentina Beghini is a lawyer by training, with a Ph.D. on European and Comparative Legal Studies and over 10 years working experience at the national and international level – including with Governmental Agencies, UN, NGOs and private sector in Europe, Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. She has worked extensively on fundamental principles and rights at work, international labour standards, gender equality and children’s rights. She is currently working as Senior Technical Officer in the Gender, Equality and Diversity & ILOAIDS Branch (GED/ILOAIDS) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, coordinating the work on the promotion of the ratification and implementation of the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) and its accompanying Recommendation. She is one of the three authors of the latest ILO report on gender equality “A Quantum Leap for Gender Equality”.



Mrs Chidi KING, Director of the Equality Department at the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the umbrella organization for trade union national centres worldwide. Chidi has also worked on equality, employment rights and civil liberties issues with the UK Trade Union Congress, as the equality and rights officer with the Global Union Federation Public Services International, and as the senior lawyer with the UK public interest disclosure charity Public Concern at Work (now named Protect).

Mr Matias ESPINOSA, has a Master degree in European Law of the Global Studies of Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to joining the International Organisation of Employers in 2016, he contributed to the representation of NGOs and international organisations vis-a-vis UN institutions. In his role of IOE Adviser, Matias Espinosa is in charge of sectoral activities, ILO's internal processes and he also runs IOE company networks on industrial relations. In 2018 and 2019, he coordinated the Employers' Group engagement in the negotiation of C190 and R206 and continues to support IOE members in their implementation.

The organizers

Business and Professional Women International (BPWI) aims to unite business and professional women in all parts of the world to work for women's economic independence, equal opportunity and representation in economic, civic and political life, to encourage and support women and girls to develop their professional and leadership potential, to undertake lifelong education and training, to use their abilities for the benefit of others, locally, nationally and internationally. The organization advocates for the elimination of all discrimination against women and for human rights and the use of gender-sensitive perspectives. It has general consultative status at the UN since 1947.

ZONTA International and its members work at international, national and local level to realize the vision of a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential, where women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men, and where no woman lives in fear of violence. ZONTA International aims to empower women worldwide through service and advocacy. It has general consultative status at the UN since more than 60 years and celebrated its anniversary of 100 years in 2019. www.zonta.org.