

# WOMEN IN POLITICS: WEAKER SEX OR STRONG ACTORS?

October 19th 2016

The Parliament of Estonia (Lossi plats 1a, Tallinn)

Seminar and discussions are moderated by Kadi Viik (Feministeerium)

## Participants of the seminar

### MODARATOR OF THE DAY:

**Kadi Viik** is a gender equality expert. She is one of the founders of Feministeerium, a feminist blog, and works at the Estonian Human Rights Centre. She grew up in Sweden and has graduated from Stockholm University and Karolinska Institute. Ms. Viik has previously worked for the Estonian government and the UN agencies UNFPA and UNDP with gender equality, equal treatment policies, family policies and reproductive and sexual health issues. She has also worked as an election observer for the European Union in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda and most recently Jordan.



### GUEST SPEAKERS:

**Maryan Abdulkarim** was born in 1982 in Mogadishu, Somalia. She came to Finland at the age of 7 as a refugee with her family and spent her childhood in Tampere. She has worked as a baker, expert on multiculturalism and journalist, and has graduated as Sosionom studies from Metropolia. She is a well-known feminist and has worked actively in Feminists Association Union. Last summer she was one of the founding members of a new feminist party in Finland which is still gathering support to become registered as a political party. The aim of the party is to bring the principles of anti-racism and anti-discrimination to the centre of politics.



**Eva Biaudet** is a Finnish politician and Member of Parliament of Finland in the Swedish parliamentary group. She is a former Minister of Social Services and Gender Equality (1999–2000 and 2002–2003) and served as the Ombudsman for Minorities and Non-Discrimination Ombudsman in 2010–2015. Eva Biaudet has done continued work against human trafficking for which she was credited by the former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2011. In 2012 Eva Biaudet was the Swedish People's Party candidate in the Finnish presidential election. She is also the Chairperson of Demo (Political Parties of Finland for Democracy), which is a co-operative organisation of all the eight Finnish parliamentary parties to enhance democracy in new and developing democracies.



**Helen Biin** holds an MA degree in Gender Studies from Central European University and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Tartu. She is continuing with doctoral studies, researching the gendered constructions of professional identities of Estonian politicians. Helen Biin's work focuses on equal opportunities, gender inequalities and gender mainstreaming. Her earlier experience includes research on the gendered aspects of political participation, educational inequalities and gender impact analysis. As an expert on gender issues, Helen has participated in various research and analysis projects for Estonian universities, governmental organisations and international organisations.



**Birgitta Ohlsson** is Member of Committee on Foreign Affairs in the Swedish Parliament. From 2010 to 2014 she served as Minister of European Union Affairs in the Swedish government. Ms. Ohlsson is member of the Liberals, formerly the Liberal People's Party, with a particular interest of feminism, EU, globalisation, human rights, free trade and democracy.



**Keit Pentus-Rosimannus** (Estonian MP, Foreign Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu)  
Ms Pentus-Rosimannus graduated from Tallinn Pedagogical University majoring in public administration and European Union relations. She is the vice-chairwoman of the biggest parliament party Reform Party and former chairwoman of its parliamentary faction. Ms Pentus-Rosimannus was the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Estonia from 2014 to 2015 having previously been the Minister of the Environment from 2011 to 2014. She is currently a member of the Estonian parliament, Foreign Affairs Committee and European Union Affairs Committee.



**Alexandra Rosén** is Senior Director at the Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP) where she is leading the foundation's policy and advocacy activities. In her continuous work to raise awareness about the importance of gender-balanced political leadership, she also manages WIP's global partnerships. Over the past years, she has led the policy preparations for WIP summits all over the world including Rwanda, Ethiopia, Mexico and Jordan. Alexandra Rosén has several years of experience working with Public Affairs in Brussels and previously headed the office of a European Commission Technology Platform. She holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Uppsala, Sweden, and conducted studies in Germany and Russia.



**Hanna Rummelhoff** has been working as a legal advisor at Legal Advice for Women – Juridisk rådgivning for kvinner (JURK) since April 2016. As a student she was a case worker at JURK in the field of labour law, pension and social aid law, as well as discrimination law.

**JURK** is a student run legal aid office that provides free legal aid for all persons defining themselves as women. JURK is a non-governmental, non-profit, politically independent organization working to improve women's rights and promote gender equality. JURK was founded in 1974 by female law students at the University of Oslo. From the beginning in 1974 up until today, JURK has given free legal aid to more than 50 000 women.



**Daniel Erik Schaer** is a graduate of the University of British Columbia in International Relations and a Master in European Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges. Daniel has worked at the Foreign Ministry since 2003. As of 2008, Daniel worked as Charge d'Affaires and head of the Estonian Special Mission to Afghanistan, and then at the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU in Brussels as the Estonian representative in the civilian crisis management committee. In 2011, Daniel served as the Special Representative of the Foreign Minister in Lebanon, and until September 2015, he worked at the EU Delegation in Rwanda, which has the highest number of women parliamentarians in the world. Daniel has engaged with women rights and empowerment questions while working in Afghanistan (health and education), Brussels (UN resolution 1325) and Rwanda.

