

# Women Crossing Borders

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## Engaging Creativity for Empowerment

### Program

March 8, 2007 | George Washington University

7:00 pm **Exhibits & Silent Auction**

7:15 pm **Welcoming Remarks**

Deniz Özkan  
*TSA Graduate President, George Washington University*

Nil Şişmanyazıcı Navaie  
*Founder and President, Arts for Global Development*

Demet Cabbar  
*Co-founder of Kardelen Turkish Dance Ensemble & Vice President of ATA-DC*

**Panel Session :** “Women Crossing Borders and Engaging Creativity for Empowerment”

Moderator: Eda Elitok, *Partner of Elitok and Hartnett, LLC*

Panelists:

Ruth Freedom Pojman, *Senior Anti-trafficking Advisor, Europe and Eurasia (E&E) Bureau of USAID*  
Teresa Genta-Fons, *Lead Counsel, Latin American and Caribbean Practice Group, World Bank*  
Suzanne Jackson, *Professor of Law, the George Washington University*  
Laurel Victoria Gray, *Artistic Director, Silk Road Dance Company*  
Adyline Waafas Oforu-Amaah, *Sr. Gender Specialist, Gender and Development*  
Ricki Weisberg, *Strategic Initiatives Manager, Women for Women International*

**Q & A**

8: 30 pm **Reception**

*Performance by Cameroon Ensemble Drums of Joseph N'gwa*  
*Silent Auction of 'For Women By Women' Photographs & Arts and Crafts of Anatolian Artisans*

10:00 pm **Concluding Reception & Silent Auction**



**Turkish Student Association**  
of the George Washington University



We also would like to thank Acar Law Firm, Colonial Night Cap-GWU, and West Chester Restaurant for their contributions to the event.

Moderator:

**Eda Elitok**, holds a Juris Doctor degree from David A. Clarke School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia. During Law school in Community Development Clinic, Ms. Elitok assisted clients in creating profit and non-profit companies. She advised clients on developing company trademarks and complying with import and export regulations and statutes. Ms. Elitok worked for the Government Accountability Project (GAP) during her Legislative clinic. GAP is a leading national whistleblower rights organization. While there she represented employees who suffered retaliation from their bosses after exposing waste fraud or abuse in the workplace. Ms. Elitok also lobbied the member of Congress for stronger whistleblower protections in the Whistleblower Protection Act, the federal law that protects employees' right to blow the whistle.

Panelists:

**Ruth Freedom Pojman**, Senior Anti-trafficking Advisor for the Europe and Eurasia (E&E) Bureau of USAID, Washington DC — Since December 2002 she has worked to assist the E&E Bureau and missions in developing anti-trafficking programs and approaches, as well as conducting assessments in the field. For the past 14 years, she worked in the Eurasian region developing technical assistance and democracy/human rights programs. Prior to joining USAID, she worked in Central Asia for the International Organization for Migration, a Geneva based Inter-governmental Organization, for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, both in the Kyrgyz Republic, and for Mobil Oil in Kazakhstan. Ms. Pojman worked on issues such as migration policy, border control, trafficking in human beings, refugees, ethnic minorities, conflict prevention and media and public information. Prior to this, she worked on civil society and democratization issues throughout the former Soviet Union, including as a Program Officer for the World Learning PVO/NIS project in Moscow. Ms. Pojman received an M.A. from the School of International Studies at the American University in Washington D.C., and her B.A. from the University of Mississippi. She also received a certificate in documentary film at GWU, and made a documentary film on the US immigration debate. She is fluent in Russian.

**Teresa Genta-Fons** Obtained legal education in native country Uruguay and abroad Prior to coming to the World Bank she worked in her country as Practicing Attorney in two local law -firms and in the health and education government systems: General Director and Legal Department Unit Head, University System and Legal Adviser to the Medical Union and in Dallas Texas as a legal and foreign consultant in a series of cases involving litigation in Latin America jurisdictions and related to U.S. investments in Latin America. Through her 21 years as Operational Lawyer at the World Bank she has worked in the Latin America and the Caribbean Practice Group (since 1998), where she is now a Lead Counsel; Senior Counsel, East Asia and Pacific Division (1994 - 1998) and Africa Division (1989 - 1994) and Counsel, Africa Division (1987-1989), West Africa Division (1986 - 1987). She developed specialized knowledge, organized and designed Project work and capacity building initiatives related to "Engendering legal and judicial systems". She managed legal analytical work aimed at raising awareness of the legal aspects of gender-based violence and the international framework governing women's human rights. She is also actively involved in legal reform across regions, including sector and project related work and the promotion of access to justice for disadvantaged populations.

**Suzanne Jackson**, Professor of Law, the George Washington University — After graduating from Wellesley College with a degree in economics, and then Harvard Law School, Professor Jackson entered Georgetown's Women, Law and Public Policy Fellowship program as a policy associate at the Older Women's League. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Gladys Kessler at the D.C. Superior Court, and then as staff and managing attorney at Ayuda, representing immigrant and refugee women in actions for protective orders against domestic violence, as well as other domestic relations and immigration remedies. She has received awards for her public interest work, including the D.C. Superior Court's Hispanic Heritage Committee's Legal Community Award, and Ayuda's Milagros Beanfield Award. While at Ayuda, she was invited by a group of South Asian activists and attorneys to participate in a Freedom House program on trafficking in women and child labor. As part of this program she went to Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh to learn about a variety of efforts to combat exploitation of women and children. After seven years of practice, and five more years teaching in domestic violence and family law legal clinics, Professor Jackson now teaches the Health Rights Law Clinic at George Washington Law School.

**Laurel Victoria Gray**, Artistic Director of Silk Road Dance Company — is an internationally acclaimed dancer, scholar, instructor, and choreographer who has taught and performed throughout Europe, Central Asia, Australia, the United States and Canada. She is the recipient of the 1999 International Academy of Middle Eastern Dance Award for Ethnic Dancer. Ms. Gray's articles have appeared in many publications including the Oxford University Press International Encyclopedia of Dance, the World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theater and the Encyclopedia of Modern Asia and Dance magazine as well as journals in Germany and Australia. She has lectured for the Middle East Institute and Humanities West and the Assembly of Turkish American Associations. While enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the University of Washington, she assisted in hosting a delegation of dancers from Uzbekistan and first became exposed to this rare, intricate form. She has traveled to Uzbekistan ten times, living there for two years and appearing on television dance programs over a dozen times. Ms. Gray is also the founder and president of the Uzbek Dance and Culture Society, and has photographs on display in the Museum of Peace and Solidarity in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. She has given instruction in traditional Persian dance at the Iranian Community School in Vienna, Virginia; presented a course of dances of the Islamic world at George Washington University; and created the concept, choreography, and costume design for 'Remembering the Legends: Women of the Silk Road' project which was performed by the Silk Road Dance Company on the John F. Kennedy Center Millennium Stage. She currently teaches at the Joy of Motion Dance Center in Washington, DC.

**Adyline Waafas Ofosu-Amaah**, Sr. Gender Specialist, Gender and Development, World Bank— A Ghanaian national, Ms. Ofosu-Amaah joined the World Bank in 2000 as a Senior Gender Specialist with the Gender and Development Anchor. Her responsibilities include promoting and analyzing the policy, legal, gender, and social dimensions of development. Her thematic areas of expertise include mainstreaming gender issues into key Bank policies and operational and analytical work. She plays a lead role in integrating gender issues into emerging areas, especially HIV/AIDS and governance. Ms. Ofosu-Amaah has a Masters degree in law from London University (Queen Mary College) and an MBA from the University of Maryland.

**Ricki Weisberg**, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Women for Women International — has worked at Women for Women International since 2002 starting first as an intern and then working as the Office Manager. She has been Zainab Salbi's Executive Assistant for the past three years. During these five years Ms. Weisberg has traveled with Women for Women to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ms. Weisberg graduated from George Washington University in 2002 with a double major in psychology and women's studies.

*Did you know?*

Although women perform nearly 66% of the world's work, produce half of the world's food, they in return receive less than 5% of its income and own less than 1% of the world's property. 70% of the 1.3 billion people living in poverty around the world are women.

Women over the age of 15 in the least developed countries are almost twice as illiterate compared to men. 75% of the world's 876 million illiterate adults are women – and still today two thirds of children deprived of primary education are girls.

More than half a million women die in pregnancy and childbirth every year - that's one death every minute. In developed countries, one woman in 2,800 dies from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. In developing countries, it is one death in 67 woman. At least 35 % of women in developing countries receive no prenatal care. Almost half give birth without skilled attendance (doctor, nurse or trained midwife), and 70 % receive no care after delivery.

At least one in every three women, or up to one billion women, have been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in their lifetimes. Rape, the most violent form of sexual violence, is also associated with unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. 51% of all people living with HIV/AIDS today (over 20 million) are women and 55% of the 16,000 new infections occurring daily are women...

*Source: Reports and Studies from Women's International Networking; United Nations Population Fund; AskaWoman; WHO; UNICEF; Amnesty International; UNIFEM; UNAID; South African Institute for Race Relations; US Department of Justice; European Women's Lobby*