



UNGA75 VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT

# CELEBRATING WOMEN IN ACTIVISM AND CIVIL SOCIETY:

## THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS TO FREELY ASSEMBLE AND ASSOCIATE

REPORT BY SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR CLEMENT N. VOULE

OCTOBER 20, 2020 • 9:00-11:00am EST

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# CELEBRATING WOMEN IN ACTIVISM AND CIVIL SOCIETY

THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS TO FREELY ASSEMBLE AND ASSOCIATE

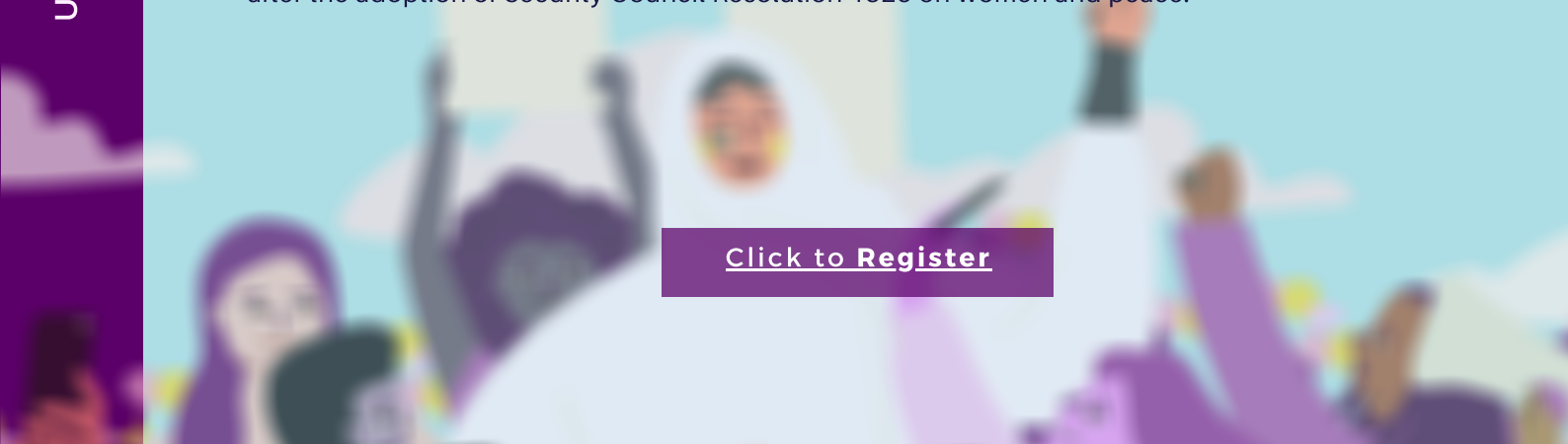
## BACKGROUND

- Women of all ages and backgrounds, working collectively and creatively, are leading and inspiring social movements, peaceful protests and civil society initiatives that seek to transform existing social, political and economic structures. **They are at the forefront of today's most pressing global struggles**, including tackling the greatest impediments to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Whether it is speaking up against militarization and discriminatory policing, fighting poverty and economic inequality, reclaiming democracy and political freedom, advancing women's rights and gender equality, improving communities or organising for fair work and climate justice, **women are the drivers of change around the world.**
- The exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association is central to these movements and initiatives. **Yet despite their vital importance, the voices of women and their contributions to activism and civil society continue to be under-valued, under-resourced and undermined.** While significant progress has been made to ensure women's participation in public life, state and non-state actors alike continue to violate women's rights to the freedoms of peaceful assembly and of association – both online and offline.
- In many cases, the situation has even deteriorated, with **many women experiencing an increase in severe violations of these fundamental freedoms** and backlashes against gender equality. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of these challenges and constraints.
- In response to these trends, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, Clement N. Voule, **has focused his 2020 report to the United Nations General Assembly on exploring the myriad ways in which women's organizations and movements have contributed to the advancement of human rights, peace and sustainable development.** He also examines the gendered and intersectional restrictions they face to exercise her peaceful assembly and association rights. The report puts forward recommendations for States and other stakeholders to counter this situation and to promote an enabling environment for women the world over.
- The report is produced in the context of the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing +25) and 20 years after the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women and peace.

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## SPEAKERS

### **CLEMENT VOULE**

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND OF ASSOCIATION

### **BAHIA TAHZIB-LIE**

DUTCH AMBASSADOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

### **SHAWNA BADER-BLAU**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SOLIDARITY CENTER

### **NICOLETTE NAYLOR**

THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR GENDER, RACIAL AND ETHNIC JUSTICE, FORD FOUNDATION

### **MARUSIA LOPEZ**

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND SYSTEMATIZATION COORDINATOR OF THE MESOAMERICAN NETWORK OF WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

### **MIREILLE TUSHIMININA**

CAMEROON WOMEN'S PEACE MOVEMENT

### **MASINA FUSI**

HER VOICE

### **MODERATOR**

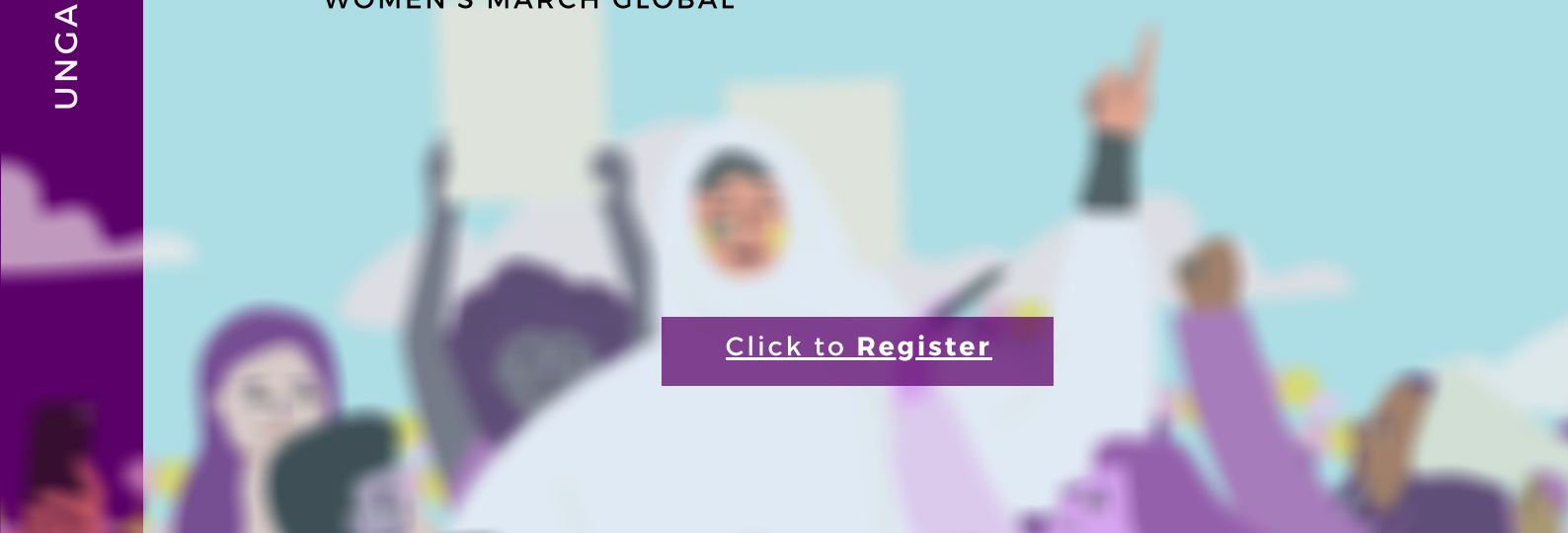
### **UMA MISHRA-NEWBERY**

WOMEN'S MARCH GLOBAL

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## AGENDA

9:00-9:10AM

Welcome

9:10-9:15AM

Open remarks by *Ambassador Bahia Tahzib-Lie*

The importance and need for women’s organizations and movements for the advancement of human rights, peace and sustainable development

9:15-9:20AM

Presentation of Report’s findings and recommendations by *UNSR Clement Voule*

9:20-10:10AM

Discussion of report:

*Shawna Bader-Blau*, Executive Director of Solidarity Center

*Nicolette Naylor*, the international director for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Justice, Ford Foundation

*Marusia Lopez*, Knowledge Generation and Systematization Coordinator of the Mesoamerican Network of Women Human Rights Defenders

*Mireille Tushiminina*, Cameroon Women’s Peace Movement

*Masina Fusi*, Her Voice

10:10-10:40AM

Q&A - Audience questions and answers

10:40-10:50AM

Ensuring implementation - Next steps:

*Ambassador Bahia Tahzib-Lie* and *UNSR Clement Voule*

11:00AM

Session closes

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