

2023

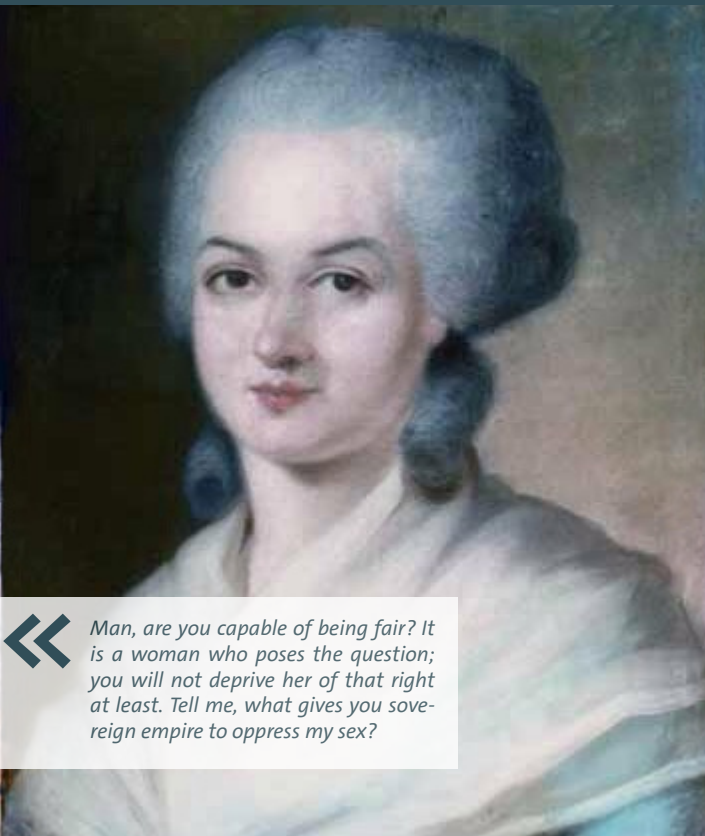
Outstanding Women
of International, European
and Constitutional Law



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

FAKULTÄT
FÜR RECHTSWISSENSCHAFT



Olympe de Gouges

7 May 1748

Olympe de Gouges was a feminist, abolitionist French playwright and political activist, who advocated for a marriage based on gender equality and publicly opposed slavery. In 1791, she published the “Declaration of the Rights of Woman and of the Female Citizen”, challenging male authority, advocating for women’s entitlement to identical citizenship rights and in favor of those whom the original Declaration had failed to consider. Two years later, de Gouges was tried for treason and sent to the guillotine.

Author: Verena Kahl



Man, are you capable of being fair? It is a woman who poses the question; you will not deprive her of that right at least. Tell me, what gives you sovereign empire to oppress my sex?

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Erna Scheffler

21 September 1893

Erna Scheffler studied law in Munich, Berlin and Breslau, following which, she became an associate judge at the District Court of Berlin Mitte. In 1933, she was forced to leave this position by National Socialists on account of her father being Jewish, and her subsequent classification as „half-Jew“.

She returned to her job in 1945 and became the first female judge at the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe, Germany. Her activism for women's rights is remembered to this day.

Author: Lilian Langer

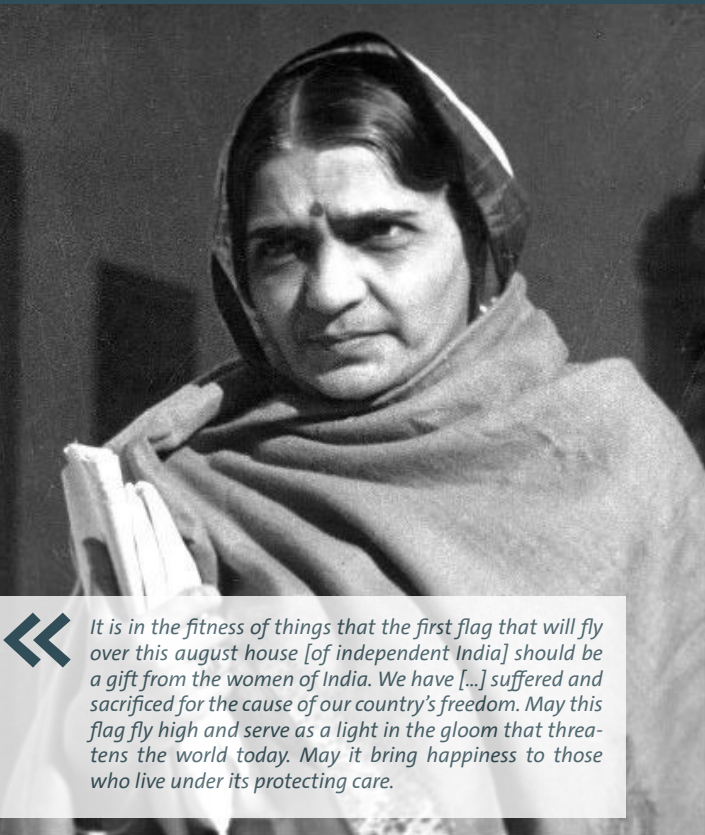


Personally, I believe that women must be represented in the Senate, because we women have the same kind of mind as men, but sometimes other points of view seem important to us, and we sometimes value questions that are to be judged differently. Also, in connection with these different values, we women sometimes think of something that men do not think of.

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Hansa Mehta

3 July 1897

Hansa Mehta was an Indian feminist social reformer and educationist. She represented India at the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The change in the wording of Article 1 of the UDHR from 'all men' to 'all human beings' is attributed to her. She likewise led the group of women who participated in the drafting of the Constitution of India. Mehta was also the first woman vice-chancellor of a university in India and wrote more than twenty books, including theatre plays and stories.

Author: Kelly Amal Dhru



It is in the fitness of things that the first flag that will fly over this august house [of independent India] should be a gift from the women of India. We have [...] suffered and sacrificed for the cause of our country's freedom. May this flag fly high and serve as a light in the gloom that threatens the world today. May it bring happiness to those who live under its protecting care.

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Minerva Bernardino

7 May 1907

Minerva Bernardino was one of four women to sign the UN Charter in 1945. Besides being the Dominican Republic's UN delegate, she fought for women's and children's rights, e.g., as president of the Inter-American Commission of Women and the UN Commission on the Status of Women, as well as vice-president of UNICEF. When drafting the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, she advocated for the gender-inclusive formulation "equal rights of men and women".

Author: Leonard Amaru Feil



You can call us ladies when you offer us a cup of coffee or tea, or ask us out to lunch; here, in this room, we are not ladies, we are delegates, and should be addressed accordingly.

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Nicole Fontaine

16 January 1942

A pioneer for a citizens' Europe, Nicole Fontaine served as second female President of the European Parliament from 1999-2002, promoting a Union that considers the concerns of people, a commitment which is also reflected in her signing of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in 2000. Fontaine, born in the Normandy in 1942, studied law, and - following her political career - held the Jean Monnet Chair at University of Nice Sophia Antipolis. She was also an Affiliate Professor at ESCP Europe.

Author: Franziska Bachmann



One of the key features of this new collective European consciousness is an ethical vision of the Union. Today, it is vitally important for Europe that it should no longer simply be an economic power.

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We can no longer ignore the effects of our actions on future generations. Yet future generations are not represented in the decisions we make today. The principle of inter-generational equity – fairness to future generations – is central to the Anthropocene and to our [...] world.

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Edith Brown Weiss

19 February 1942

Edith Brown Weiss received her Ph.D. from Berkeley University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. In 1978 she became the Francis Cabell Brown Professor of International Law at Georgetown University.

She was the first female chairperson on the World Bank's Inspection Panel and the Associate General Counsel for International Law at the U.S. EPA, where she established the international law division.

Author: Christian Raby

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Taghreed Hikmat

25 December 1945

Taghreed Hikmat started to work as a lawyer in 1982. In 1998, she became Jordan's first female judge. From 2003 to 2011 she served as a judge at the International Criminal Court for Rwanda, being the first female Arab judge in international criminal justice.

She is acclaimed for fighting gender-based and domestic violence, sexual and child abuse, for which she received the UN Human Rights Prize.

Author: Julia Lips

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27W 28W 29W 30W 31W

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Hillary Charlesworth

28 February 1955

Hillary Charlesworth – a judge at the International Court of Justice since November 2021 – is widely known as one of the authors of the seminal article *Feminist Approaches on International Law*. This paved the path for a new discipline in international law and was followed by a subsequent monograph, *The Boundaries of International Law*. Although often associated with feminism, she is foremost an international lawyer with an interest in human rights, war and peace, and the international legal system.

Author: Lauritz Wilde



There has been some success in having the vocabulary introduced but [...] this is actually delivered in very little change [...]. And in a way institutions of international law have been remarkably successful [...] in absorbing an apparently radical vocabulary but stripping it actually of all radical potential.

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Unity Dow

23 April 1959

After graduation, Unity Dow opened the first all-women law firm in Botswana and served as Botswana's first female High Court judge before entering politics and becoming a visiting professor, novelist, and human rights activist.

Three landmark cases marked her legal career: the right of the indigenous Basarwa to return to their ancestral lands, the abolition of gender discrimination in Botswana citizenship, and the registration of the LEGABIBO as an organization.

Author: Marie Siegemund



The language of law is very masculine. The culture of law is so masculine. At one point, I started to think that it shouldn't be like this and that I have a right to be where I am.

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37W

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39W

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2023



I believed, and I still believe, that the law is an instrument for transforming social and institutional norms, values and structures.

Nazhat Shameem Khan

1960

Throughout her career, Nazhat Shameem Khan was a trailblazing figure. She was the first President of the UN Human Rights Council from a Small Island Developing State. In Fiji, she was the first female Director of Public Prosecutions and the first woman to be appointed as a High Court Judge. In these positions, she addressed institutional gender bias, advocates for the rights of island nations and highlights the connections between climate change and human rights. She is currently Deputy Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court.

Author: Paulina Maria Schiefelbein

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Fatou Bensouda

31 January 1961

Gambian lawyer Fatou Bensouda obtained the position of Minister of Justice and Attorney General in the Gambia before continuing her career at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Court (ICC). As Prosecutor of the ICC (2012 – 2021), she defended the Court against international criticism and fought relentlessly for justice and accountability, despite being sanctioned by the USA when she started to investigate their involvement in Afghanistan.

Author: Alena Schröder

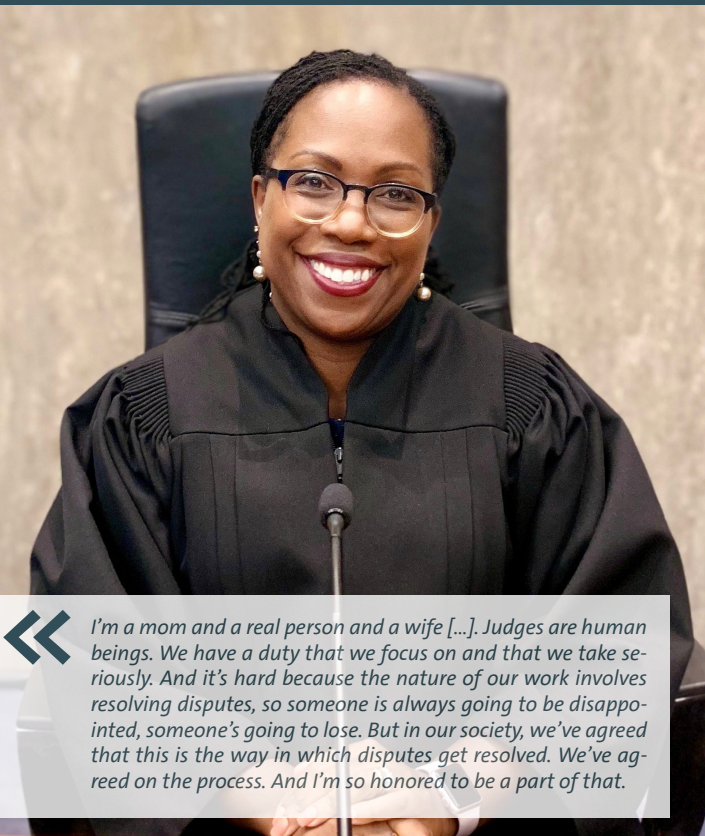


Peace and justice should not be seen as mutually exclusive. And we also need to remember that there cannot be peace, really, without justice.

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Ketanji Onyika Brown Jackson

14 September 1970

In 2022, Jackson was appointed to the US Supreme Court, thereby becoming the first black woman and former federal public defender to do so. She began her legal career as a law clerk, following which she worked for various law firms, as well as serving as an assistant federal public defender. She was later assigned the position of vice chair to the US Sentencing Commission. Before her appointment as Associate Justice, Jackson served as a District and Circuit Judge.

Author: Ann-Sophie Hartmann



I'm a mom and a real person and a wife [...]. Judges are human beings. We have a duty that we focus on and that we take seriously. And it's hard because the nature of our work involves resolving disputes, so someone is always going to be disappointed, someone's going to lose. But in our society, we've agreed that this is the way in which disputes get resolved. We've agreed on the process. And I'm so honored to be a part of that.

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ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The project “Outstanding Women of International, European and Constitutional Law” is an initiative of young researchers and students. Their aim is to make distinguished women, and their important contributions to the development of the national and international legal order, visible and more widely known.

An amplified montly version of this calendar will be released in 2023.

Please scan the QR-Code for more details:



Outstanding Women of International, European and Constitutional Law
www.cuhh.de/rw-womencalendar

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01/01 Neujahr
New Year's Day
07/04 Karfreitag
Good Friday
10/04 Ostermontag
Easter Monday

01/05 Tag der Arbeit
Labour Day
03/10 Christi Himmelfahrt
Ascension Day
29/05 Pfingstmontag
Pentacost

03/10 Tag der Deutschen Einheit
Day of German Unity
31/10 Reformationstag
Reformation Day
25/12 - 26/12 1. und 2. Weihnachtsfeiertag
1st and 2nd Day of Christmas