

Outstanding Women  
of International, European  
and Constitutional Law



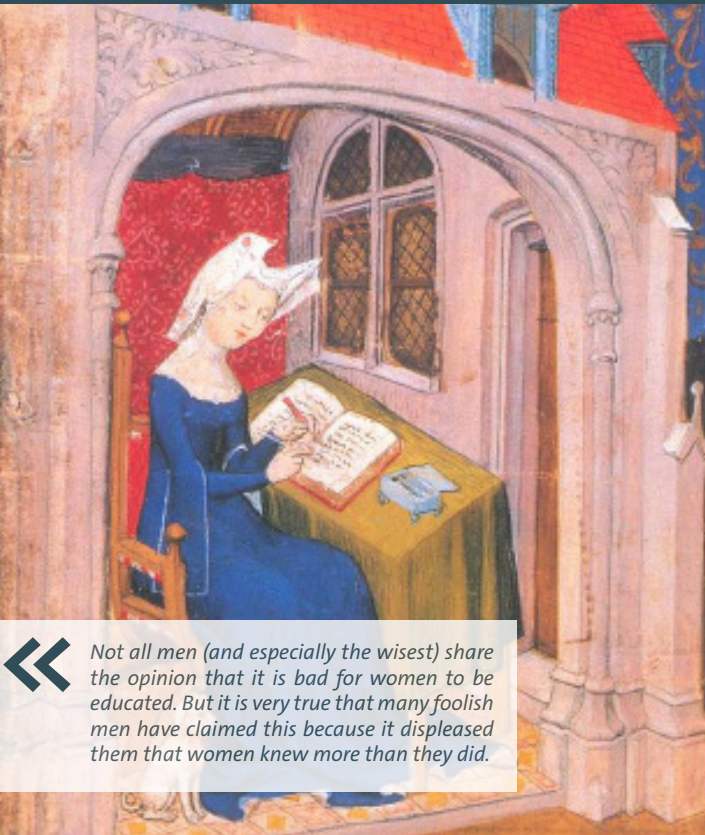
2024



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

**FAKULTÄT**  
FÜR RECHTSWISSENSCHAFT



## Christine de Pizan

September 1364

Christine de Pizan was a virtuous and versatile court writer, author and poet. She began writing after her husband's death to support her three children and mother. Her ingenuity found expression in literary, historical, political and philosophical works, including early feminist writings, such as *The Book of the City of Ladies*, a description of women's significant contributions to society. Her work *The Book of Deeds of Arms and of Chivalry* is one of the first known literature dedicated at the law of war, earning her the title "Mother of International Law".

Author: Verena Kahl



*Not all men (and especially the wisest) share the opinion that it is bad for women to be educated. But it is very true that many foolish men have claimed this because it displeased them that women knew more than they did.*

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31  
1W 2W 3W 4W 5W

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## Anna Julia Cooper

10 August 1858

Anna Julia Cooper was born into bondage in North Carolina, USA, in 1858. She was the fourth African American woman to obtain a doctorate degree and went on to become an author, teacher, and activist. Her book *A Voice from the South by a Black Woman of the South* is known to be one of the first articulations of Black feminism, demonstrating the complex intersection between gender, race, and class.

Author: Julia Clara Lips



*Let our girls know that we expect something more of them than that they merely look pretty and appear well in society... Not the boys less but the girls more.*

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**2** 2024



## Louise Weiss

25 January 1893

Witnessing the horrors of WWI, Louise Weiss set out to make war on war by becoming a journalist focusing on international affairs and the pursuit of peace. She founded *La Femme Nouvelle* to fight for women's rights to vote. During WWII, being Jewish herself, she helped to organize a passive civil defense for women against air raids. In 1979, she was elected to the first European Parliament and gave its inaugural speech.

Author: Christian Raby



*[H]ow could I accept the ordinariness of a family life? What a defeat!...The alternative before me: to devour the planet or devour myself.*

© European Union 2023 – Source: European Parliament

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**3** 2024



## Bertha Lutz

2 August 1894

Bertha Lutz was a renowned scientist in the field of herpetology – the study of frogs –, a women's rights activist, a politician at national and a diplomat at international level. She was one of the first women elected to the Brazilian parliament and one of four women to sign the UN Charter. Together with Minerva Bernardino, she is credited with including the word women in the preamble to the Charter and laying the foundation for the Commission on the Status of Women.

Author: Lauritz Wilde



*I come more and more to the conclusion that no civilization is possible without women very decisively in public affairs.  
(Lutz to Williams, March 1, 1938, WP)*

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## Hélène Cazes Benatar

27 October 1898

Moroccan Jewish lawyer and activist Hélène Cazes Benatar grew up in Tangier and later moved to Casablanca. Already a wife and mother, she obtained her law degree from the University of Bordeaux. Following the outbreak of WWII, she instituted the Committee for Assistance to Foreign Refugees collaborating with aid organizations to provide support for refugees fleeing from Europe to North Africa and continued to work with the Joint Distribution Committee after the war. She eventually resumed her legal profession, first in Casablanca and then Paris, where she passed in 1979.

Author: Franziska Bachmann



*At no moment did I consider the persons protected by us as material for calculations and statistics, but always took care of their needs, regarding them as human beings and persecuted persons with the right to all care and attention from our department. [...]*

*(American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Archives, G45-54, F007R/0841, as cited in Miller, Years of Glory, 2021, 153).*

© American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Archives – Item ID 27107 – Reference Code NY\_16211

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## Annie Ruth Jiaage

7 October 1918

Jiaage was Ghana's first female lawyer and the first female judge in Ghana and the Commonwealth of Nations. In 1980, she became the first female president of Ghana's highest court. As principal drafter of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and co-founder of the organization that became Women's World Banking, Jiaage was an exceptional force in advancing women's rights. Her activism included serving the World Council of Churches in the fight against racism and apartheid in South Africa.

Author: Ann-Sophie Hartmann



*Injustice eats me internally. I get very restless when I come in touch with it.*

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## Lore Maria Peschel-Gutzeit

26 October 1932

Lore Maria Peschel-Gutzeit worked as a judge, lawyer and Senator of Justice in Hamburg and Berlin. She fought for the introduction of part-time work and family leave for female civil servants, which was passed in 1968 and has been called “Lex Peschel” ever since. She was also involved in the expansion of Art. 3 para. 2 of the German Constitution, which stipulates that “the state shall promote the actual implementation of equal rights for women and men and take steps to eliminate disadvantages that now exist.”

Author: Lilian Langer



*As far as the legal, political and social position of women in Germany goes, there have been many well needed improvements. However, the result is still not good (enough). Much remains to be done for future generations of women and men.*

© Joachim Loch

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## Jutta Limbach

27 March 1934

In 1994, Limbach was the first woman to be appointed president of the German Federal Constitutional Court, serving until 2002. As to make the Court's voice heard and understood correctly in a world of modern media, she reformed the press strategy and appointed the first press speaker of the Court. Before joining the Court, she was Senator of Justice for the State of Berlin. She fought alongside Lore Maria Peschel-Gutzeit for the reform of Art. 3 para. 2 of the German Constitution.

Author: Friederike Löbbert



*Women have a self-evident right in our constitutional state to be employed and to hold public office in the same manner as the male sex.*

© Goethe-Institut/Antje Meinen

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**8** 2024



## Sujata Vasant Manohar

28 August 1934

Born on 28th August 1934 and educated at Elphinstone, Oxford and Lincoln's Inn, Sujata Vasant Manohar was the first lady Chief Justice of Bombay and Kerala High Court. From 1994 to 1999, she was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of India, where she delivered landmark decisions on women's rights, including the decision incorporating the provisions of CEDAW into enforceable Indian law. She became a member of the National Human Rights Commission, and in 2021, was awarded the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Medal of Honour.

Author: Kelly Amal Dhru



*Gender equality is an aspect of Rule of Law because Rule of Law is rule of just law. Laws that do not discriminate on grounds of race, religion, gender, caste or any other irrelevant ground. Rule of law entails enforcement of human rights for all human beings so that all can live a life with dignity.*

©



## Yayori Matsui

12 April 1961

Yayori Matsui was a Japanese journalist for the newspaper *Asahi Shimbun* and a feminist activist focusing on sexual violence, sex tourism and the exploitation of sex workers in East Asia. Her work led to the establishment of the *Women's International Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery* in 2000, a people's tribunal created to prosecute crimes committed against the so-called "comfort women", who were enslaved and raped by the Japanese military in WWII.

Author: Alena Schröder

« My life has been a life of action propelled by outrage and anger against injustice. I have been offered no official or social status of power, and I take that as an honour.

© Women's Active Museum on War and Peace (WAM)

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41W 41W 42W 43W 44W

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## Paula Escarameia

1 June 1960

A mentor and advocate, Paula Escarameia's legacy extends beyond victories in courtrooms, inspiring the next generation of legal minds. She was a tireless defender of Women's Human Rights, and her precision, dedication, and unwavering commitment to justice were extraordinary. With a career over decades, she earned global acclaim for her expertise in Public International Law and was also the first woman and the first Portuguese person to join the United Nations International Law Commission in 2002.

Author: Vanessa Domingues



*I have faith in a future where there will be a more equitable distribution, and where people will take more pleasure in contributing to a better world [...] than in buying a fur coat or a luxury car they don't need.*

© Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, <https://4genderjustice.org>

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## E. Tendayi Achiume

1982

Advocating for international refugee law and addressing the continuing impact of colonialism on migration, Tendayi Achiume became the first female UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Her global work includes being a law professor at UCLA, an associate professor at Pretoria University and a research associate at both the African Centre for Migration and Society and the Oxford Refugee Studies Centre.

Author: Marie Siegemund



*We must connect legal and power centers to those living on the front lines of racial subordination, those living the violence of borders. Their knowledge and experiences should be informing the policy that governs their lives.*

© MacArthur Foundation, <https://www.macfound.org/fellows/class-of-2023/e-tendayi-achiume>

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# Outstanding Women of International, European and Constitutional Law

## 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 monthly version of this calendar will be released in 2024. Please scan the QR-Code for more details:



uhh.de/rw-womencalendar

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**Julia Lips**

3. Louise Weiss

**Christian Raby**

4. Bertha Lutz

**Lauritz Wilde**

5. Hélène Cazes Benatar

**Franziska Bachmann**

6. Annie Ruth Jagge

**Ann-Sophie Hartmann**

7. Lore Maria Peschel-Gutzeit

**Lilian Langer**

8. Jutta Limbach

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**01/01** Neujahr  
New Year's Day  
**29/03** Karfreitag  
Good Friday  
**01/04** Ostermontag  
Easter Monday

**01/05** Tag der Arbeit  
Labour Day  
**09/05** Christi Himmelfahrt  
Ascension Day  
**20/05** 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

\* public holidays for Hamburg

**FEIERTAGE**  
**HOLIDAYS\***  
**2024**