

## 2018 Women PeaceMaker Program: International Partners



**Martine Miller** Miller is a mediator and conflict transformation specialist with over 18 years of engaged experience—with communities, government and UN agencies, regional bodies (i.e. EU, AU, ASEAN), and a range of international non-governmental organizations coupled with academic institutions. Her work has engaged her directly in fluid war to post-war reconstruction and development contexts across over 75 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, West to East Europe and North and South America. While engaged directly conducting/advising on conflict assessments, facilitating dialogues, designing, implementing and monitoring peace mediation, building processes to the evolution of networks and communities of practices across these fluid contexts, she works to consistently engage and build the capacity of youth civil society to ensure all processes include these vital stakeholders and evolve from specific local to national and regional contexts. She is also developing a Conflict Transformation Program at the Peace and Conflict Studies Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.



**Elin Miller, Senior Policy Advisor, Global Affairs Canada** - Elin Miller, Senior Policy Advisor, Global Affairs Canada - Miller is the Senior Policy Advisor on women, peace and security at Global Affairs Canada. She began her career in the Swedish Foreign Service as the Second Secretary at the Embassy of Sweden in Colombia working on the peace process and compliance with International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. From 2001 to 2004, she was the Legal Advisor for the Swedish Mission to the United Nations, covering International law, the ICC and the ad hoc tribunals, as well as counter-terrorism. Following this, Miller was the deputy director of Environmental Affairs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Stockholm, then deputy ambassador and chargé d'affaires at the Swedish Embassy in Canada in 2009-2010. For six years, she was self-employed as freelance writer. Miller has a BA in political science, a civil law degree from Lund University, Sweden and a Master's of International law from Columbia University, New York. With extensive involvement in all elements of international affairs, Miller is well versed in global efforts surrounding peace.



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**Nika Saedi, *Policy Specialist, Governance and Peacebuilding,***

***United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*** - Saedi has over 18 years of experience in policy development, program design and management, and partnership building on women, peace and security across the areas of conflict prevention, rule of law, governance and early recovery. She has been instrumental in the development of the UNSCR 1325 Strategic Results Framework and guided the institutionalization of UNSCR 1325 indicators at UNDP to systematize the agency's delivery of results, monitoring and reporting for gender equality. Nika plays a pivotal role steering UNDP partnership with women's civil society and

supported the creation of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) network which brings together women peacebuilders and CSOs working on peace and security to enable their strategic collaboration with UNDP and to amplify their voice to influence policy and programming in support of women, peace and security. Nika is Global Focal Point on gender and prevention and countering violent extremism. Among her achievements under her current position as a Policy Specialist on Gender, Political Processes, and Peacebuilding at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), leading UNDP's portfolios on women's political participation, she has developed and is leading a global programme to enhanced role of parliaments and parliamentarians (women and men) in advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Nika has worked in a variety of country contexts on the promotions of women's rights and gender equality, including at UNDP Afghanistan where her inter-agency work and support to government on increasing women's political participation contributed to a 25% increase in Afghan women's leadership in local governance. Nika also conceptualized and led the first and most successful national family planning project in Afghanistan which raised the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate in 13 provinces from 9% to 40% in 2006. Nika holds a master's in religion and Culture.

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**Rebecca Besant**, *Regional Director for East Africa, Search for Common Ground* - Besant has served as Search for Common Ground's Regional Director for East Africa since 2012. In this role, she oversees Search's programming in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. She first joined Search in 2001 as West Africa Program Associate. She has moved through a number of roles at Search including West Africa Program Manager and Africa Program Manager, as well as Director, Great Lakes. Prior to Search, Rebecca worked as Development Coordinator at the environmental nonprofit Trout Unlimited. Originally from a small town near Buffalo,

New York, Rebecca holds a BSFS from Georgetown University. She speaks English, French, and Thai.\*