

# London University Diplomatic Summit

## DAY 2: “Gendering IR”

----- The London School of Economics and Political Science -----

8th March 2025

## PARTICIPANT PACK



## DAY OVERVIEW

<b>Timings</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
9.45-10.00	Student Attendees Arrive
10:00-10.10	Introduction to LSE Day by LSE Day Director Tasneem Begum Mustapha
10:10-10.40	Introduction to Panels by LSE Planning Committee
10:45-12.15	<u>Panel 1:</u> Victims or Agents? Rethinking Gender in Conflict Dynamics and Peace Processes
12.15-1.15	Catered Networking Session with Guest Speakers @ Somerset Rooms
1.15-2.30	<u>Panel 2:</u> Divine Wars – Religion as a Justification for Violence
2.30-3.30	Lunch
3.30-5.00	<u>Panel 3:</u> Thatchers, Harrises and Arderns – The Politics of Visibility and Women’s Representation
5.00-5.15	Closing Remarks by LSE Day Director

## SESSIONS OVERVIEW

### **PANEL 1:** Victims or Agents? Rethinking Gender in Conflict Dynamics and Peace Processes

#### **Introduction to the Session:**

In this panel, speakers will discuss the role of gender and the agency of women and queerness in facilitating peace within a world of conflict: How do women influence insurgencies and peacekeeping processes? What can gender scholarship tell us about the interplay between femininity and masculinity during periods of conflict and upholding peace?

Speakers will explore how women contribute to insurgencies, peace negotiations, and post-conflict reconstruction, challenging traditional narratives of women as passive victims. The session will also delve into gender scholarship, unpacking the complex interplay between femininity and masculinity during times of war and in the construction of peace, highlighting the pivotal roles these dynamics play in shaping outcomes. By examining gender through the lens of both victimhood and agency, this session aims to broaden our understanding of how gendered experiences influence conflict and peace processes. It will address key questions about the power women hold in navigating and influencing peace, as well as the role of gender in ensuring its equity and sustainability.

#### **Speakers:**

Caroline Brooks is the Senior Advisor on Organisational Development and Conflict Management at Amnesty International. Her current focus is on advising governments and organisations operating in Syria on how their interventions can support peace and stability. In addition, she works to connect the political and diplomatic tracks to realities on-the-ground, and to support civil society organisations in the Middle East.

Dr Nita Yawanarajah is currently the Deputy Director of Oxford Process. She has proven mediation, consensus building and diplomatic skills from intergovernmental negotiations at the UN and the Commonwealth. Participated in UN engagements in Rwanda, Bosnia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia-Eritrea, Darfur & Western Sahara and with the Commonwealth in conflict prevention engagements in the Maldives and Swaziland.

Eva Tabbassam is the Director at Gender Action for Peace and Security, a network of development, human rights, humanitarian, and peacebuilding INGOs, based in the UK. She is a gender expert with diverse experience in development, humanitarian, refugee

and asylum matters, and Women, Peace, and Security. She was Youth Resolve Program Officer For World Vision in Lebanon. Policy oriented in the UK.

**Moderator:**

Dr. Zeynep Kilicoglu is an LSE Fellow in Gender and International Politics and a feminist scholar specializing in migration and forced displacement. Her research explores how humanitarian organizations in Western Europe, particularly in the UK and France, construct the identities of women refugees and asylum-seekers. She examines how these organizations define women's empowerment and the opportunities they provide for refugee women to assert their agency and visibility. She actively collaborates with activist networks and employs ethnographic methods to co-create knowledge with marginalized communities, emphasizing inclusivity and community engagement.

**PANEL 2:** Divine Wars – Religion as a Justification for Violence**Introduction to the Session:**

This panel will see a critical discussion on the intersection of religion, gender, and conflict, with a particular focus on how faith-based narratives are weaponized to justify violence. Panelists will explore the role of religious ideology across multiple faiths in legitimizing conflict and how gender is strategically employed to mobilize support for violence.

A key theme of the discussion is the instrumentalization of women in political and religious rhetoric, where they are positioned as symbols of moral authority or vulnerability to justify disproportionate military action. What are historical and contemporary examples of religiously framed conflict? What are the broader implications for international diplomacy, peacebuilding, and security policy? Is gender and religion always strategic, or could it be a genuine driver of conflict and intervention?

**Speakers:**

Prof. Azza Karam is a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism and holds a Professorship in Religion and Development at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. Before joining Religions for Peace, she spent nearly two decades at the United Nations (UNDP and UNFPA) as the former Secretary General of Religions for Peace International. There, she played a key role in fostering dialogue on religion, development, and diplomacy. She has worked internationally since the 1980s with organizations such as IIDEA, OECD, and the EU. Prof Karam has publications covering democratization, human rights, peace and security, gender, and religious engagement.

Mandy Sanghera OBE is an international human rights activist who has spent the last 26 years supporting victims and survivors of 'honour' based Violence, cultural Abuse, female genital mutilation and witchcraft. She is an international motivational speaker who has spent years supporting and empowering others to find their purpose and rebuild their lives after abuse. Mandy is currently working with the European Parliament with regards to forced marriages in collaboration with the 28 EU Member States and selected associated countries (Switzerland, Norway, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Albania and Turkey). She has delivered training to the CPS, police, local authorities, and other organisations around safeguarding, cultural competency, and the ideology of cultural practices. She has published articles in academic papers and international magazines on learning disabilities and forced marriages.

**Moderator:**

Dr Katarina Dalacoura is an Associate Professor in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has been awarded a Major Research Fellowship by the Leverhulme Trust for three years. Dr Dalacoura has worked on human rights, democracy and democracy promotion in the Middle East, particularly in the context of Western policies in the region. She was formerly the British Academy's Mid-Career Fellow and participated in a project on the 'Middle East and North Africa Regional Architecture', sponsored by the European Commission under the auspices of Horizon 2020. She has also previously worked at the University of Essex and at the International Institute of Strategic Studies.

**PANEL 3: Thatchers, Harrises and Arderns – The Politics of Visibility and Women’s Representation****Introduction to the Session:**

This panel will aim to spotlight the experiences and achievements of women trailblazers in politics and diplomacy, while delving into the issue of women’s visibility and representation from global perspectives.

Speakers will explore how women leaders around the world have placed issues of gender equality onto the political agenda, both domestically and internationally. Why is representation important to encourage political engagement by women and influence attitudes towards women politicians? Crucially, the panel hopes to consider how visibility may not translate into true, substantive representation of women’s interests at the policy level if female voices are marginalised within highly masculinised systems where there is little room to deviate from the code of conduct. This panel will assess opportunities for both symbolic and ‘true’ representation relating to the visible cue theory of representation and issues of gender mainstreaming in policy making, before concluding with a discussion on opportunities for women’s increased representation and visibility.

**Speakers:**

H.E. Abida Islam is the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the UK, with a distinguished career in diplomacy spanning over three decades. She has held key positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, including serving as Ambassador to South Korea and Deputy High Commissioner to the UK. Her expertise includes bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, economic cooperation, and policy negotiation. She has played a vital role in strengthening Bangladesh’s global presence, particularly in trade, investment, and diaspora engagement.

Vicky Tennant is the UNHCR Representative to the UK, bringing extensive experience in refugee protection, humanitarian policy, and international law. She has worked in senior roles within the UNHCR across multiple regions, leading strategic responses to displacement crises. Tennant has engaged with governments, civil society, and international organizations to advocate for refugee rights, asylum policies, and durable solutions for displaced populations. She plays a crucial role in shaping the UK’s approach to refugee protection and humanitarian aid.

Georgina Butler is a former British Ambassador to Costa Rica and Nicaragua, with an extensive background in diplomacy, international development, and trade policy. Over her diplomatic career, she has worked on UK-Latin America relations, focusing on

economic cooperation, climate change, and human rights. She has also held various senior roles within the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, contributing to international policy formulation and diplomatic strategy. Her expertise extends to global trade negotiations, sustainability, and cross-cultural diplomacy.

Mariana Herrera-Salcedo Serrano is the Head of Economic Affairs at the Embassy of Mexico in the United Kingdom. She has extensive experience in international relations, foreign policy, and diplomatic negotiations. She has represented Mexico in key global forums, focusing on trade diplomacy, multilateral cooperation, and cultural exchange. With a strong background in public policy and international economic relations, she has been instrumental in fostering bilateral partnerships, enhancing trade agreements, and promoting Mexico's interests on the global stage. Her diplomatic career includes engagements in regional integration initiatives and global governance discussions.

### **Moderator**

Prof. Karen E Smith is a Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her main area of research is the 'international relations of the European Union', and she has written extensively on the formulation and implementation of common EU foreign policies. She has examined the EU's pursuit of 'ethical' foreign policy goals such as promoting human rights and democracy, and policy-making within European states regarding genocide. For over a decade she has also analysed EU-UN relations, and more recently has extended her research to consider the role of other political and regional groups in UN diplomacy. She is now working on projects on women in foreign policy-making and diplomacy, and on the role that emotions play in EU foreign policy-making. She teaches a course on the EU in the world, and supervises PhD students working on EU foreign relations.

Note: The speaker list is subject to change without prior notice.

## ATTENDING THE LSE DAY OF THE LONDON UNIVERSITY DIPLOMATIC SUMMIT

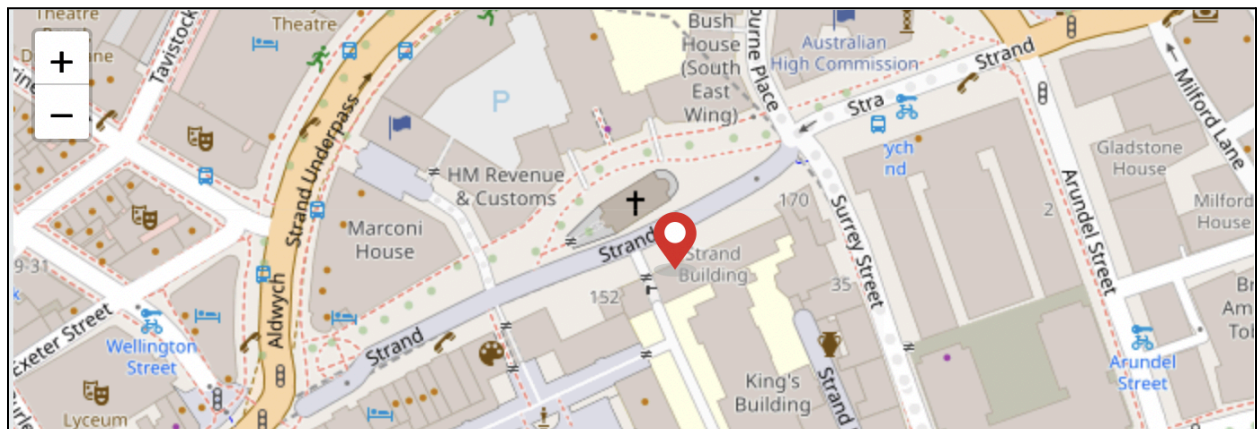
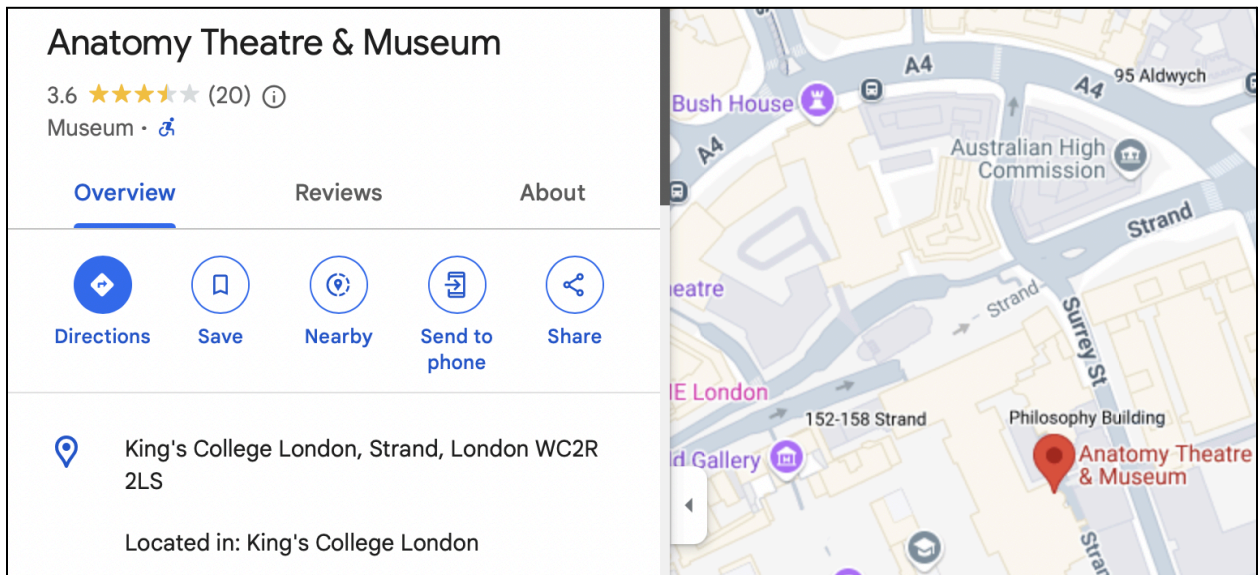
**Venue:** Anatomy Lecture Theatre, King's Building, Level 6, Room K6.29

**Location:** King's Building, Strand Campus, The Strand, London, WC2R 2LS

**Time:** Please kindly arrive at 9.45 am, allowing time for registration.

**Dress Code:** Business-casual

### EVENT ACCESS:



### **By underground:**

Embankment Station (Northern/Circle & District Line): 10 minute walk to Strand Campus.



Charing Cross Station (Northern Line): 7 minute walk to Strand entrance.

Temple Station (Circle & District Line): 5 minute walk to campus.

Holborn Station (Central & Piccadilly Lines): 10-minute walk down Kingsway towards Aldwych and Strand Campus.

**By train:**

Waterloo Station: take the Northern Line to Embankment or walk across Waterloo Bridge ( approx. 15 minutes).

London Bridge Station: take the Northern Line to Embankment or bus towards the Strand.

**By bus:**

- Buses 1, 6, 9, 11, 15, 23, 87, 91, 176
  - Stop at Aldwych (Stop D, Stop R, Stop S)
  - Strand (Somerset House, Stop U, Stop K)
  - The Royal Courts of Justice (Stop P).
- Buses 26, 59, 68, 76, 139, 168, 171, 172, 188, 243, 341, 521, RV1
  - Stop at Aldwych (Stop D, Stop R, Stop S)
  - The Royal Courts of Justice (Stop P).
- Buses 15, 26, 76, 341, N15, N21, N26, N89, N199, N550, N551
  - Stop at Aldwych / Australia House (Stop G).

**Parking:**

King's College London (Strand Campus) has limited on-site parking, with a few spaces available for blue badge holders.

- Nearby parking options include Q-Park Covent Garden and NCP Bedfordbury, both within a 10-minute walk of the campus.

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