RALPH BUNCHE FORUM
The Global Struggle for Women’s Rights

Hear firsthand from women who are making a difference

Ruchira Gupta on India  Liesl Gerntholtz on Africa  Abosede George on Africa  Gimena Sanchez on Colombia  Ellen Chesler: Worldview

Monday, March 7, 6-8 pm
The Skylight Room (9100)
The CUNY Graduate Center
365 Fifth Avenue (between 34th and 35th Streets)

Ruchira Gupta is a feminist campaigner, visiting professor at New York University and founder of the India-based anti-sex trafficking organization, Apne Aap Worldwide, which has helped more than 20,000 girls, women and their family members exit prostitution systems. An advocate for prostitution survivors, she was responsible for the creation of the Trafficking Fund at the United Nations after taking delegations of survivors to speak to the United Nations and speaking to the UN General Assembly on their behalf. She has won an Emmy for outstanding investigative journalism, the Clinton Global Citizen award, and the UN NGO CSW Woman of Distinction of Award.

Liesl Gerntholtz is Executive Director of the Women’s Rights Division of Human Rights Watch. She is an expert on women’s rights in Africa and has worked and written extensively on violence against women and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa. Prior to joining HRW, Gerntholtz worked for key institutions promoting human rights and democracy in post-Apartheid South Africa, including the South African Human Rights Commission and the Commission on Gender Equality. A lawyer by training, she was involved in high-profile, strategic human rights litigation to promote women and children’s rights.

Abosede George is an associate professor of history and Africana studies at Barnard College and Columbia University. She received her Ph.D. in history from Stanford University. Her research and teaching interests have been focused on urban history of Africa, the history of childhood and youth in Africa and the study of women, gender and sexuality in African history. Her articles have appeared in the Journal of Social History, Women’s Studies Quarterly and the Scholar and Feminist Online. Her recent book is Making Modern Girls: A History of Girlhood, Labor, and Social Development in 20th-Century Colonial Lagos (Ohio University Press, 2014).

Gimena Sanchez is the leading Colombia human rights advocate at the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), is an expert on internally displaced persons, refugees, human rights and violence against women. Her work has shed light on the situation of Colombia’s more than five million internally displaced persons—as well as help expose the links between Colombia’s government and drug-funded paramilitaries. Far Worse than Watergate, co-authored by Ms. Sánchez, documents the widespread abuse of power by Colombia’s presidential intelligence agency, DAS.

Ellen Chesler, Ph.D., is a Senior Fellow at the Roosevelt Institute, the longtime partner to the Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, which has recently established a presence in New York City as a progressive public policy and leadership development center. She is author of the critically celebrated Woman of Valor: Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Movement in America, 1992, 2007, co-editor with Wendy Chavkin, M.D. of Where Human Rights Begin: Health, Sexuality and Women in the New Millennium, 2005; and co-editor with Terry McGovern of Women and Girls Rising: Progress and resistance around the World, 2015.

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Seating is free but limited.
RSVP to RBInstitute@gc.cuny.edu

Refreshments will be served.