



**World Council
of Churches**

The International Alliance of Women & the World Council of Churches
cordially invite you to

a Guest Lecture by

TORILD SKARD

*Norwegian politician, researcher
and author of "Women in Power"*

Followed by a distinguished panel on:
**Women in Top Leadership and
Decision-Making Positions**

3 October 2016

18:00 - 20:00

with drinks reception from 17:30

**Ecumenical Centre
Visser't Hooft Hall**

150 route de Ferney, Geneva

WOMEN of POWER

Half a century of female **presidents**
and **prime ministers** worldwide

Torild Skard

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World YWCA

See background information and detailed program on the next page.

For more information & registration, please contact: Esther Suter (IAW): e_r_suter@hotmail.com

Background Information

Whilst women around the world are slowly getting better represented in top level leadership positions in political and social spheres, they still face many barriers such as discrimination, gender stereotyping, balancing work/family commitments and prejudice. These barriers help maintain the gender gap and prevent women from fulfilling their potential and contributing to national and global goals for social, political and economic development.

Recognition of the important relationship between women's leadership, roles and decision-making and their empowerment, global development, prosperity and peace has pushed this issue higher up on the global development agenda. Examples of the issue's importance can be seen in Goal 5 of the new United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is devoted to women's empowerment and the introduction of UN led initiatives such as the first ever high level UN panel on women and the economy which aims to intensify global efforts to reduce the gender gap in all spheres of social and political life. This lecture and panel session will cover several of these issues, providing a timely follow-up to the global commitments made in the Beijing Platform for Action and the subsequent Beijing +20 discussion outcomes as well as the SDG goals for women's empowerment.

Programme

17:30 - Drinks Reception

- Welcome words by Madame Esther Alder, Conseillère administrative de la Ville de Genève

18:00 - Welcome & Introduction:

- Dr. Isabel Phiri, Associate General Secretary, World Council of Churches (WCC)
- Joanna Manganara, President, International Alliance of Women (IAW)
- Simone Ovar, President, NGO Committee on the Status of Women Geneva (NGO CSW Geneva)

18:10 - Keynote speech & Q&A Session



“Women of Power” by Torild Skard, Author and Senior researcher, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Leader of the Norwegian Women's Rights Association & member of IAW;

Formerly Assistant Secretary General of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director for women's questions in UNESCO, Paris, and Regional Director for UNICEF in West and Central Africa. She has written extensively about issues related to the United Nations and development, women and children.

18:55 - Panel presentations & Interactive Discussion

- Dr. Catherine Bosshart, Executive Secretary International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW Intl.)
 - Dr. Fulata L. Moyo, Programme Executive for Women in Church and Society, World Council of Churches (WCC)
 - Rev. Dr. Elaine Neuenfeldt, Secretary for Women in Church and Society, Department for Theology and Public Witness, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
 - Sara Lloret, Interim Secretary General, World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA)
- Moderation: Dr. Isabel Phiri, Associate General Secretary, World Council of Churches (WCC)

19:55 - Closing statement and thanks

- Joanna Manganara, President International Alliance of Women (IAW)

At the end of the event, Torild Skard will autograph her book, “Women of Power”, that will be on sale at 25 CHF, a 35% reduction off the regular price.