



Syracuse London Symposium

Women in Diplomacy

‘Diplomacy’ refers to the management of foreign affairs. Formal diplomats are officially named by governments: they’re people like ambassadors, and are the traditional focus of international political scholars. But more recently, theorists have begun thinking about the *informal* ways that everyday people interact...and how those more local interactions help to shape international relations. ‘Tracks’ of diplomacy refer to different levels and sectors through which global issues are impacted. Whatever sector you’re interested in, that field has an effect on international relations — and so do gender issues within it. *Choose your track to explore more.*

Track Pass:

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Diplomacy

“Nature knows no borders.” The environment transcends state control. Pollution, for example, easily flows from one country to another. But positive spinoffs spread too, making nature a rich avenue for official and civilian-led cooperation:

- “Peace Parks” straddle international borders and are jointly managed, encouraging information-sharing and relationship-building;
- many of the most binding treaties deal with international environmental concerns; and
- groups like EcoPeace Middle East bring together communities in conflict to address shared environmental concerns.

Spotlight: Women in Diplomacy



Wangari Maathai was the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1977, she founded the Green Belt Movement, empowering women

through tree-planting efforts. Maathai was an elected member of the Parliament of Kenya and an Honorary Councillor of the World Future Council.

Environmental Track Quiz

Try to answer without Googling!

Hint: there might be some trick questions. 😊

Of 140 country delegations at COP26 in Glasgow, how many were led by women?

- a. 3
- b. 10
- c. 27
- d. 53

When was the first female Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC named?

- a. 1991
- b. 2002
- c. 2016

Environmental protection is one of the few career fields with a greater % of women than men.

- a. True
- b. False

There has never been a female chair of the International Whaling Commission.

- a. True
- b. False

International Careers Panellists

Becca Farnum is an environmental peacebuilding specialist. Past projects have involved drafting legal articles with Ambassador Marie Jacobsson for the International Law Commission; running a training program on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and serving a stint in the Obama White House.

Alison Hook is the co-founder of Hook Tangaza, a consultancy on global business infrastructure. Alison has previously served as Director of International at the Law Society of England and Wales; before that, she worked in multiple countries for the European Commission and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Carol M. Graham has a long career in international education. Carol was the first woman, first American, and first ethnic minority Executive Director of UK Fulbright Commission. She was later appointed by the Foreign Office to the Marshall Scholarships Commission, where she served for six years.

Shiva Marvasti is an Economic Officer at the US Embassy in London covering British fiscal and monetary policy issues. She has previously focused on Mexico, Ecuador, and Turkey. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Shiva worked in corporate finance for General Electric. She speaks fluent Farsi and Spanish.

Brainstorm a question for our panel about their experiences in international careers and/or gendered issues in global affairs.
