



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:

HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Rights Diplomacy

Formal human rights treaties like the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights are a big part of Track 1 diplomacy. Less officially, moral claims to the ideals of ‘human rights’ can shape public opinion about foreign affairs, including calls for humanitarian intervention. Examples of human rights diplomacy at various levels include:

- the 1940s international negotiations over the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- economic sanctions imposed by one country on another in punishment for HR violations;
- grassroots human rights activism bringing together people from different countries.

Spotlight: Women in Diplomacy



Michelle Bachelet was the first woman President of Chile, supporting gay marriage and reproductive rights during her tenure.

From 2018 to 2022, Bachelet served as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Human Rights Diplomacy Quiz

Try to answer without Googling!

Hint: there might be some trick questions. 😊

Women have only ___ of the legal rights that are afforded to men around the world.

- a. 1/5
- b. 2/3
- c. 3/4

Globally, nearly ___ of girls are married before 18.

- a. 7.8%
- b. 12.9%
- c. 19.5%

Which of these countries have not ratified the Intl Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights?

- a. Iraq
- b. Singapore
- c. United States

Eleanor Roosevelt received a standing ovation by the UN Assembly when the UDHR was adopted.

- 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.
