

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

RAY ACHESON

Ray Acheson is the Director of Reaching Critical Will, the disarmament programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She leads WILPF's work on stigmatising war and violence, including by campaigning for a nuclear weapon ban treaty. Ray provides analysis, research, and advocacy across a range of weapons issues, and is the lead author or editor of WILPF's disarmament publications. Ray represents WILPF on several coalition steering groups, including the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). She has an Honours BA in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Toronto and an MA in Politics from The New School for Social Research.

BRUCE BLAIR

Dr. Bruce G. Blair is the co-founder of Global Zero, the international movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide. He is also a research scholar in the Program on Science and Global Security at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Blair is an expert on nuclear security policies and risks of nuclear weapons use. He was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship Prize for his work on de-alerting nuclear forces in 1999. In 2000, he founded the World Security Institute. From 1970 to 1974, Blair served in the U.S. Air Force as a Minuteman ICBM launch control officer and as a support officer for the Strategic Air Command's Airborne Command Post.

BARRY BLECHMAN

Dr. Barry M. Blechman is co-founder of the Stimson Center -- a non-partisan, non-profit think-tank in Washington, DC. He served as chairman of Stimson's Board from 1989 to 2007, and returned to the Board in 2014. He also serves as a Trustee of Whittier College in Los Angeles. Blechman founded DFI International Inc., a research consultancy, in 1984, and served as its CEO until the company's sale in 2007. Blechman has more than fifty years of distinguished service in national security in both the public and private sectors. He has worked in the Departments of State and Defense, and at the Office of Management and Budget. During the Carter Administration, he was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Congress as assistant director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Among other boards and commissions, Blechman served on the Commission to Assess the Ballistic Missile Threat to the United States (1998-99), the Defense Policy Board (2002-06), and the Department of State Advisory Committee on Transformational Diplomacy (2005-08). In the 1980s, he was principal drafter of the report of the Palme Commission, Common Security. Blechman holds a PhD in international relations from Georgetown University, has taught at several universities, and has written extensively on national security issues. His publications include nearly 20 books and hundreds of blogs and articles.

BASSEM CHAABAN

Professor Bassem Chaaban is a Religions of the World Professor at Seminole State College of Florida. Professor Chaaban teaches the elements of the major religions of the world by providing students a deep analysis of the complexities and intrigue of faith and spirituality. Professor Chaaban is also director of Operations & Outreach for the Islamic Society of Central Florida and has been actively involved in lecturing and presenting the elements of Islam and helping dispel the stereotypes and misconceptions about Islam and Muslims. As Director of the Center for Peace (American Islam), Professor Chaaban has organized grassroots advocacy for nuclear abolition.

LILLY DAIGLE

Lilly Daigle is the Network Campaigner at Global Zero. She spends her time spearheading Global Zero's mobilizations against nuclear weapons and working to build partnerships and make our movement more diverse and intersectional. She graduated from Warren Wilson College in 2011 with a degree in Global Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies.

JAMIE DeMARCO

Jamie DeMarco works at the Friends Committee on National Legislation mobilizing constituents and lobbying members of Congress for nuclear disarmament and reductions in Pentagon spending. Previously Jamie worked at the Chesapeake Climate Action Network where he worked with Baltimore City community associations to pass state legislation expanding renewable energy. He grew up in Baltimore and currently attends Adelphi Quaker Meeting in Maryland.

ERICA FEIN

Erica Fein is the Nuclear Weapons Policy Director for Women's Action for New Directions (WAND). In this capacity, Ms. Fein works with Congress, the executive branch, and the peace and security community on arms control, nonproliferation, and Pentagon and nuclear weapons budget reduction efforts. Previously, Ms. Fein served as a legislative assistant to Congressman John D. Dingell where she advised on national security, defense, foreign policy, small business, and veterans' issues. Ms. Fein holds a M.A in International Security from the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies and a B.A. in International Studies from University of Wisconsin - Madison. She is a political partner at the Truman National Security Project.

DANIEL HALL

Daniel (Danny) Hall is Director of Public Affairs for Soka Gakkai International-USA and manages the SGI-USA Buddhist Center in Washington, DC. Mr. Hall directs awareness raising initiatives focused on building a culture of peace, nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, and sustainable development. Mr. Hall received a Master of Public Diplomacy from the University of Southern California.

LAICIE HEELEY

Laicie Heeley is a Fellow at Stimson Center working on Budgeting for Foreign Affairs and Defense. Ms. Heeley's areas of expertise include U.S. budget process, defense strategy, and nuclear weapons proliferation. Prior to joining Stimson, Ms. Heeley was Policy Director at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation where her research focused on nuclear proliferation in emerging states such as Iran and North Korea, as well as budgeting and strategy at the Department of Defense. While in this role, Ms. Heeley served as part of the independent Sustainable Defense Task Force formed in response to a request from Representative Barney Frank (D-MA), working in cooperation with Representative Walter B. Jones (R-NC), Representative Ron Paul (R-TX), and Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), to explore possible defense budget contributions to deficit reduction efforts. Heeley previously held positions at Physicians for Social Responsibility, The Counter Terrorist Finance Organization, and Global Green USA where her research focused on nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in addition to the financing and structure of terrorist organizations. She holds a B.A. in political science from The George Washington University and an M.A in international relations from St. Mary's University.

IRA HELFAND

Dr. Ira Helfand is Co-President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), the recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Helfand is a co-founder and past president of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), IPPNW's US affiliate. He has spoken widely on the medical effects of nuclear war in the United States, the former Soviet Union, India, Pakistan, Israel and throughout Europe, and is a co-author of the study "Accidental Nuclear War -- A Post-Cold War Assessment," which appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine in April, 1998 and of PSR's 2006 report, "The US and Nuclear Terrorism: Still Dangerously Unprepared". Dr. Helfand serves on the committee which oversees PSR's work for nuclear abolition and has a special interest in the global impact of limited nuclear. He is the author of IPPNW's publication: "Nuclear Famine: Two Billion People at Risk—Global Impacts of Limited Nuclear War on Agriculture, Food Supplies, and Human Nutrition."

HANK JOHNSON

Now beginning his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Hank Johnson (4th District – GA) has distinguished himself as a substantive, effective lawmaker and a leading national progressive voice. A member of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep Johnson hosted former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Thomas R. Pickering on Capitol Hill in April 2011 to discuss the path to a political settlement of the war in Afghanistan. He cosponsored successful legislation (implementing) the

9/11 Commission's official recommendations. Rep Johnson consistently opposed the Iraq War and supported removal of US forces from Iraq. He introduced and passed a resolution officially calling upon the warring parties in Uganda, the government of the United States, and the international community to work to peacefully resolve that country's brutal civil war. He introduced legislation to establish a National Commission on Detainee Treatment to review U.S. policy regarding the capture, custody, treatment, judicial proceedings, and repatriation of suspected "unlawful enemy combatants." He co-authored legislation to impose sanctions on Iran's petroleum sector, and cosponsored the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act, which would sanction Iran for its failure to make good on its international legal commitments with regard to its clandestine nuclear program.

DARYL KIMBALL

Daryl G. Kimball is the Executive Director the Arms Control Association (ACA), a private, non-profit membership organization dedicated to eliminating the threats posed by the world's most dangerous weapons. Since 2001, he has led ACA's work on key issues, including the Iran nuclear deal, the nuclear test ban treaty, New START, and the DPRK nuclear problem. Established in 1971, ACA publishes the monthly journal, Arms Control Today. In 2004, National Journal recognized Kimball as one of the ten key individuals whose ideas will help shape the policy debate on the future of nuclear weapons. From 1997 to 2001, Kimball served as Executive Director of the Coalition to Reduce Nuclear Dangers, a consortium of 17 of the largest U.S. disarmament organizations. From 1989-1996, he was a Herbert R. Scoville Peace Fellow and director of security programs with Physicians for Social Responsibility (1989).

MATTHEW MCKINZIE

Since joining NRDC in 1997, Matthew McKinzie has focused on nuclear power, specifically the consequences of accidents and the ramifications of nonproliferation and arms-control agreements. In 2005, he also began working with NRDC's Land & Wildlife program, for which he has studied the impact of oil and gas extraction on the Rocky Mountain region and of renewable energy siting in western states. He holds a PhD in experimental nuclear physics from the University of Pennsylvania, has conducted research at Los Alamos National Laboratory, and was a postdoctoral associate at Cornell University. He is based in Washington, D.C.

ZIA MIAN

Dr. Zia Mian is a physicist and co-director at Princeton's Program on Science and Global Security, where he also leads the Project on Peace and Security in South Asia. His research and teaching focus on nuclear weapons and nuclear energy policy, especially in Pakistan and India. His most recent book is *Unmaking the Bomb: A Fissile Material Approach to Nuclear Disarmament and Nonproliferation* (with Harold Feiveson, Alexander Glaser, and Frank von Hippel, MIT Press, 2014). Dr. Mian is co-chair of the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM), a group of technical and policy experts from 17 countries working to reduce global stockpiles of nuclear weapon-useable material, and co-editor of *Science & Global Security*, an international journal of technical analysis for arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation policy. Dr. Mian received the 2014 Linus Pauling Legacy Award for "his accomplishments as a scientist and as a peace activist in contributing to the global effort for nuclear disarmament and for a more peaceful world."

MICHAEL O'MALLEY

Michael O'Malley is the director of Young Men's programs for SGI-USA and currently works at SGI-USA's offices in New York. He received his B.A from Soka University of America in 2005 and his MA in Media Studies from the New School University in 2014. Since leaving the mutual fund industry in 2011, he began working at SGI's United Nations Liaison Office later that year, and currently serves as SGI-USA's social media specialist.

JAMES O'SULLIVAN

Dr. James P. O'Sullivan is Assistant Professor of Social Ethics at Saint Joseph University, and Affiliated Scholar of the Faith Justice Institute. The Institute explores contemporary issues of faith and justice through academic courses, public forums, and experiential field seminars. These initiatives seek to critically analyze the sources of and reasons for injustice and to actively fashion

fashion more just communities at local, national, and international levels. Such efforts should be rooted in a spirituality that takes seriously the world as it unjustly exists and that fosters hope and commitment to keep working to reshape that world in the light of Gospel values.

JOSHUA POLLACK

Joshua H. Pollack is the Editor of the *The Nonproliferation Review* and a Senior Research Associate at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. He is recognized as a leading expert on nuclear and missile proliferation, focusing on Northeast Asia. Before joining MIIS in April 2016, Pollack served as a consultant to the US government, specializing in issues related to weapons of mass destruction, including proliferation, arms control, and deterrence. As a defense policy analyst at DFI International, Science Applications International Corporation, and Constellation West, his clients included the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Nuclear Security Administration, and the Plans and Policy Directorate (J5) of US Strategic Command. In 2015, he was named an Associate Fellow of the Royal United Services Institute. He also serves as a Research Scientist at CNA, a nonprofit research institution in Arlington, VA.

ALAN ROBOCK

Dr. Alan Robock is a Distinguished Professor of climate science in the Department of Environmental Sciences at Rutgers University. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1970 with a B.A. in Meteorology, and from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with an S.M. in 1974 and Ph.D. in 1977, both in Meteorology. Before graduate school, he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines. He was a professor at the University of Maryland, 1977-1997, and the State Climatologist of Maryland, 1991-1997, before coming to Rutgers. Prof. Robock has published more than 370 articles on his research in the area of climate change. His areas of expertise include geoengineering, climatic effects of nuclear war, effects of volcanic eruptions on climate, and soil moisture. Professor Robock served as Lead Author of the 2013 Working Group 1 Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007).

OLIVIA SAITO

Olivia Saito is the director of Young Women's Programs for SGI-USA and is currently a staff at the SGI-USA headquarters in Santa Monica, CA. She received her B.A from Soka University of America in 2010 and her MPH from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in 2013. After working in infant mortality and child abuse prevention, she started at SGI-USA and currently supports the monthly publication and study department of the organization.

DINGLI SHEN

Dr. Shen Dingli is a professor and associate dean at Fudan University's Institute of International Studies. He is also an Honorary Visiting Professor of Washington University in St. Louis. He has taught international security, China-US relations, China's foreign and defense policy in China, the US and the "Semester at Sea" Program. His research and publication covers China-US security relations, regional security and international strategy, arms control and nonproliferation, foreign and defense policy of China and the US etc. He is Vice President of Chinese Association of South Asian Studies, Shanghai Association of International Strategic Studies, Shanghai Association of American Studies, Shanghai UN Research Association, and Shanghai Public Policy Research Association. He received his Ph.D. in physics from Fudan in 1989 and did post-doc in arms control at Princeton University from 1989-1991. He was an Eisenhower Fellow in 1996, and advised in 2002 the then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for his strategic planning of second term. He is on the Global Council of the Asia Society, and serves as a distinguished member of Shanghai CPPCC's Committee of Friendly Relations with Foreign Countries. He has been appointed by both Shanghai and Hangzhou Municipality as respective Convention Ambassador. He has co-edited 17 books and published over 2,000 papers and articles worldwide.

KATHLEEN SULLIVAN

Kathleen Sullivan, PhD, has been engaged in the nuclear issue for nearly 30 years, and has worked internationally as an educator for disarmament focusing primarily on two distinct audiences: young people and atomic bomb survivors (hibakusha). Currently, she is the Program Director for Hibakusha Stories, an arts-based initiative that has brought atomic bomb survivors into the lives of some 32,000 New York City High Schools students. As an education consultant to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, she developed the disarmament education web portal for the UN's Cyberschoolbus website and co-wrote with Peter Lucas Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do! (2014), recently translated into Japanese and Korean. Kathleen has produced four films on nuclear issues, two documentaries (The Last Atomic Bomb & The Ultimate Wish: Ending the Nuclear Age) and two projects that focus on art for disarmament — utilizing visual arts, music and dance (The Nuclear Age in 6 Movements & The Hiroshima Panels Project). With Robert Croonquist, Pioneer Works and the Maruki Gallery, she helped produce an exhibit of Toshi and Iri Maruki's remarkable Hiroshima Panels, voted the second best arts exhibition in Brooklyn for 2015.

SETSUKO THURLOW

As a 13-year old schoolgirl, Setsuko Thurlow found herself in close proximity to the hypocenter of the atomic blast that rocked Hiroshima. A survivor of one of the most pivotal events in modern history, she displayed great courage and leadership, sharing her experiences in order to sensitize people to the consequences of an indiscriminate massive attack of nuclear weapons on populations and to advocate for nuclear disarmament. Educated in Japan, the U.S. and Canada, she served as a social worker in education and health care services in the Metropolitan Toronto area. Her disarmament education efforts have taken her to many nations around the world.

