



**Advocating for Victims' Rights in the United Nations: A Conversation with Jane Connors**  
*Moderated by GW's Alina Potts, Global Women's Institute, & Ramin Asgary, Humanitarian Health Program, with a student-led Q&A*  
Friday, March 26, 9-10:00am EST

The [Global Women's Institute](#) and GWU [Humanitarian Health Program](#) at the Milken Institute School of Public Health is pleased to host the United Nation's first [Victim's Rights Advocate](#) Jane Connors in a conversation on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse in the humanitarian sector and centering victim's rights in its approach. A Question & Answer portion will be hosted by students from the George Washington University, engaging Ms. Connors on challenges, solutions, and next steps for her role and office.

The Global Women's Institute is a Research Institute at the George Washington University that seeks to advance gender equality through research, education and action to bring about change. GWI is currently leading a multi-year, multi-country research project entitled [Empowered Aid: Transforming Gender & Power Dynamics in the Delivery of Humanitarian Aid](#), that seeks to mitigate the risk of exploitation and abuse in aid distributions. The Global Women's Institute frequently partners with the Humanitarian Health Program within the Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University, to educate students on research, policy, and practice on gender equality and gender-based violence in conflict and humanitarian settings.

**Jane Connors, United Nations Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate**



Ms. Jane Connors is the United Nations Victims' Rights Advocate on sexual exploitation and abuse. Previously, she served as the Director of International Advocacy for Amnesty International. From 1996 to 2015 she held various positions at the United Nations, including at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Before joining the UN, she held academic posts in the United Kingdom and Australia, including 14 years at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. Ms. Connors has published widely on UN human rights mechanisms, the human rights of women and children, in particular, gender-based violence.

### **Alina Potts, The Global Women's Institute**



Alina Potts is a Research Scientist with the Global Women's Institute at the George Washington University, where she aims to center women and girls in asking and answering questions around how to better address gender-based violence (GBV) in humanitarian settings. Previously, Alina coordinated violence prevention research at UNICEF and explored intersections between GBV and child protection in emergencies. As a practitioner, Alina led GBV programming for the International Rescue Committee in a number of humanitarian responses over the last 10+ years—including Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar), Lebanon, Syria, DR Congo, Kenya (Dadaab) and Sudan (Darfur). Her experience in forced migration extends to refugee resettlement in the US; asylum advocacy in Europe; and addressing grave violations in conflict settings. Alina holds a BA in Anthropology and International Development from Boston University and a Master's of Public Health in Forced Migration and Health from Columbia University.

### **Ramin Asgary, Milken Institute of Public Health**



Ramin Asgary, MD, MPH, FASTMH, Associate Professor of Global Health and Director of Humanitarian Health Program, started working in humanitarian settings and complex emergencies with Doctors Without Borders-MSF and other humanitarian agencies in mid 90s as field physician, medical coordinator, director, and senior technical and research advisor in more than two dozen missions and projects in regions including Eurasia/Former Soviet States, Sub-Saharan/East/South Africa, South/Central America, and often in insecure contexts, refugee settings and post-conflict. Professor Asgary holds a secondary appointment as Associate Professor of International Affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs. He provides care to the homeless at Bowery homeless shelter-clinics of NYU School of Medicine/Langone.

### **Jessie Weber:**

Jessie Weber is a first-year MPH student studying Humanitarian Health at the Milken Institute School of Public Health. She currently works at the Global Women's Institute. Her prior experience includes working with organizations supporting the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families, assisting with research on behavioral treatments for veterans living with Post-Traumatic Stress, and directly supporting refugee populations in northern France as part of a network of grassroots organizations and activists.

**Meaghan Kincaid:**

Meaghan Kincaid recently graduated from the Humanitarian Health program in December. Meaghan's focus as a public health professional is increasing humanitarian efforts due to climate change, with an emphasis on disaster response. She has spent time in Haiti and Mexico aiding in public health initiatives. She recently returned from New Mexico where she assisted in vaccine distribution and emergency operations for Native Americans. Meaghan's Practicum was at PAHO, where she co-authored the COVID-19 Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services Readiness Checklist. And her CE focused on HIV and substance abuse indicators in Myanmar. Right now, she works as a Public Health investigator and vaccine advocator for the Institute for Public Health innovation.

**Katrina Giangobbe:**

Katrina Giangobbe is a second-year MPH student studying Humanitarian health at the Milken Institute of Public Health. Katrina currently works at a pathology lab at GWU within the Watkins Lab. She also volunteers as an outreach coordinator at A Child for All, which is a woman-led non-profit organization focused on reducing the cycle of poverty in Mali by providing vulnerable children with the resources they need to succeed. Her experiences include studying healthcare in rural Tanzania and working with children from culturally diverse backgrounds.

**Amal Hassan:**

Amal is a third-year student at the George Washington University. She hopes to earn a Bachelor of degree in Public Health from the Milken Institute of Public Health. Amal currently works at the Global Women's Institute as an undergraduate research intern for the *Empowered Aid* project. Amal's unique experiences as a first-generation Somali American Muslim woman has guided her interests in health equity, social justice, and gender-based violence. After acquiring her public health degree, she aims to bridge the intersectionality between health equity and social justice by furthering her career in the field of public health.