

The United Nations, in partnership with the European Week of Action for Girls, Mission of Canada to the EU and The Embassy of Ireland, present:

The Breadwinner

With an introduction by the Canadian Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg, Olivier Nicoloff, and the Irish Ambassador to Belgium, Helena Nolan, the panel discussion includes:



Nora Twomey  @nora877

The Director of The Breadwinner

Nora is an Irish animator, director, screenwriter, producer and voice actress. She is a partner in Cartoon Saloon, an animation studio and production company, based in Kilkenny City, Ireland. She co-directed *The Secret of Kells* and directed *The Breadwinner*. Her work on both films earned Academy award nominations for Best Animated Feature Film.



Áine Hearn  @AineHearnIRL

Director of the Conflict Resolution Unit at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland

Áine joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1979 and is currently Director of the Conflict Resolution Unit with responsibility for Ireland's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (Women, Peace & Security). The Unit is also involved in promoting lesson sharing from the Northern Ireland Peace Process. From 2014-2017 she was Ambassador of Ireland to Malawi and from 2009-14 Deputy Director of Evaluation & Audit Unit.



Sietske Steneker  @StenekerS

Director of the Brussels Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Sietske, a national from the Netherlands, has previously worked as UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation, Honduras and El Salvador. She holds a Masters Degree in International Law and Public Health in Developing Countries. UNFPA delivers a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



Carlos Jimenez

Spanish Desk Officer, the United Nations Regional Information Centre

Carlos is the Desk Officer for Spain and Andorra at UNRIC, the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels. Mr Jimenez started his career at the United Nations in 1984 and has since worked at UN offices in New York, Madrid and Geneva. He studied journalism at the School of Communications of American University in Washington and was a correspondent at EFE, Spanish News Agency.

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Since 2012, 11 October has been marked as the International Day of the Girl. The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.

Today's generation of girls are preparing to enter a world of work that is being transformed by innovation and automation. Educated and skilled workers are in great demand, but roughly a quarter of young people – most of them female – are currently neither employed or in education or training.

Of the 1 billion young people – including 600 million adolescent girls – that will enter the workforce in the next decade, more than 90% of those living in developing countries will work in the informal sector, where low or no pay, abuse and exploitation are common.

Under the 2018 theme, *With Her: A Skilled GirlForce*, International Day of the Girl will mark the beginning of a year-long effort to bring together partners and stakeholders to advocate for, and draw attention and investments to, the most pressing needs and opportunities for girls to attain skills for employability.

EUROPEAN WEEK OF ACTION FOR GIRLS

The European Week of Action of Girls (EWAG) is a week-long programme of events and activities, based around the International Day of the Girl Child, on Thursday 11th October.

Now in its sixth year EWAG asks the EU to better protect and champion the rights of girls, particularly through its external action. Organised by a coalition of civil society organisations, and supported by the European Institutions and UN Agencies, the 2018 European Week of Action for Girls takes place from 8 – 12 October.

This year again, EWAG will launch in Brussels for a full week (8-12 October) around the International Day of the Girl Child. For this edition, as the European Parliament elections are approaching, EWAG focuses on advocacy by girls, for girls, in Europe and beyond.

Girl advocates will gather in Brussels for a full day of capacity-building on the European Union, particularly on what the Parliament can and should do to empower girls to enjoy their rights around the world. This will inform and support their meetings with a number of MEPs from various political groups.

Canada 



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland