



UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

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Innovative Economic Partnerships with Women in Post-Conflict Transition

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Speaker Bios *(listed in alphabetical order)*

Raymond Gilpin
Director, Center for Sustainable Economies
U.S. Institute of Peace

Raymond Gilpin directs USIP's Center for Sustainable Economies (CSE), one of the Institute's Centers of Innovation. He leads the Institute's work on analyzing relationships among economic actors during all stages of conflict (including prevention, mediation, resolution and post-conflict). In doing so, he collates sound practices from practitioners and experts, and designs appropriate capacity-building and tools for conflict environments. He teaches the Economics and Conflict course at the USIP Academy and manages the Web-based International Network for Economics and Conflict. Before joining the USIP, he served as: academic chair for defense economics at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University; director for International Programs at Intellibridge Corporation (now part of Eurasia Group); senior economist at the African Development Bank Group; research director at the Central Bank of Sierra Leone and an economist at the World Bank. He holds a doctorate from Cambridge University in Economics and an Executive Certificate in international finance and capital markets from Georgetown University.

Kathleen Kuehnast
Director, Center for Gender and Peacebuilding
U.S. Institute of Peace

Kathleen Kuehnast is director of the Gender and Peacebuilding Center at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). She is co-editor of the volume, *Women and War: Power and Protection in the 21st Century* (2011), which focuses on the gap between international commitments like UN Resolution 1325 and the harsh realities facing women in war, as well as the critical role women play in peacebuilding efforts. As a socio-cultural anthropologist, her work examines the impact of political and economic transitions on societal gender roles, including how social networks and social capital intersect with local practices of conflict resolution. For fifteen years of her career, she worked in the international development field, primarily with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, where her research included such topics as conflict drivers in Central Asia; community driven development in post-conflict reconstruction; migration impacts on gender roles; qualitative studies of poverty in transitional countries; and

systematized guidance notes on social analysis for economists. Kuehnast is a recipient of the Mellon Foreign Fellowship at the Library of Congress (2000) and the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies Fellowship (1999) at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She lived several years in Kyrgyzstan, where she researched and wrote extensively on the impact of post-Soviet transition on Muslim women of Central Asia. Among her related works is the co-edited volume, *Post-Soviet Women Encountering Transition: Nation Building, Economic Survival, and Civic Activism* (2004). Kuehnast holds a Ph.D. in socio-cultural anthropology from the University of Minnesota.

Sydney Price
Senior Vice President, Global Merchandising
Kate Spade New York

Sydney Price is senior vice president at kate spade new york, a global lifestyle brand. As chief merchant she oversees all functions for buying, visual merchandising, store operations and ecommerce within the United States, UK and Canada. Sydney has led the kate spade new york (KSNY) partnership with Women for Women International (WfWi) in creating a replicable business model around private-public partnerships in Bosnia, Rwanda and Afghanistan. KSNY formed a partnership with WfWi, a non-governmental organization with a mission to offer women, living in countries devastated by war, one-year programs that provide the job training, business skills and economic and social empowerment they need to earn a sustained living. The partnership, called Hand in Hand, aims to help WfWi realize this mission by pairing the traditional handicrafts of the women in these countries with KSNY's signature design and training. KSNY has also assisted in reviving the cashmere industry within Afghanistan. And in 2011, was the first global customer using all 5 processing stages creating 240 sustainable jobs for women, paying good wages and offering them a world market. In 2012, KSNY will be manufacturing jewelry and other fashion accessories. Many of these jobs can be done within the women's home creating a safe environment. By 2013, KSNY goal is to create over 1,000 sustainable jobs for women in war-torn countries and manufacture more than 25,000 units.

Karen Sherman
Executive Director, Global Programs
Women for Women International (WfWI)

Karen Sherman is the Executive Director for Global Programs at Women for Women International (WfWI). She provides dynamic leadership and strategic oversight of Global Programs and is responsible for the development and execution of the organization's programming in accordance with WfWI's mission of serving women survivors of war and conflict. She spearheads efforts to enhance the impact, depth and scale of WfWI programming and advises the CEO, President, Board, and senior colleagues on global issues and trends. Prior to assuming this role, Ms. Sherman was Chief Operating Officer at Women for Women International where she managed the day-to-day operations of the organization. Her passion, vision, and creativity are pivotal in achieving the organization's goal of affecting lasting change in the lives of women, their families, and communities. Ms. Sherman has 25 years of multi-faceted international development experience spanning a wide variety of development contexts and challenges. She exhibits a comprehensive understanding of the issues effecting countries in transition. Ms. Sherman specializes in the design, implementation and executive level management of technical and financial assistance programs, and over the course of her career, has managed a diverse portfolio of economic, social and civic development programs targeting women, entrepreneurs and non-governmental organizations. Ms. Sherman has served on numerous Boards and has spoken to a wide range of audiences, including corporate leaders, the media and policy-makers. Prior to joining Women

for Women International in 2003, Ms. Sherman served as Executive Vice President of Counterpart International. Ms. Sherman is proficient in Russian and has a Masters of Arts in Russian and East European Studies from the George Washington University. She is a proud wife and mother of three boys, an avid traveler, and active in her community both philanthropically and socially.
