GENDER EQUALITY INITIATIVE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ELLIOTT SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

# GEIA BULLETIN 02.08.2021

Stay connected with the Gender Equality Initiative in International Affairs, the Elliott School's resource for curriculum, research and engagement in the policy and practice of promoting and achieving gender equality globally.

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## IN THIS EDITION:


Black History Month Women

Gender, Peace & Security Speaker Series

GEIA Virtual Coffee Hour

Let's Talk About...

Podcast Highlight: PDx

Book Review: "The First Political Order"

Jobs, Opportunities & Resources

Global Women's Institute

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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GEIA recognizes and celebrates the important work of black feminists by highlighting activists and advocates of the civil rights and women's rights movements, who tirelessly worked to make the world a more equal place.

## SOJOURNER TRUTH

***"If it is not a fit place for women, it is unfit for men to be there."***

Born a slave, Sojourner Truth escaped to freedom in 1826 and spent her life advocating for equal rights for all. Her famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech addressed the lack of recognition towards black women in the promotion of equal rights. This speech secured her reputation as a famous champion of the woman's rights cause.

In 1864, Truth traveled to Washington D. C. where she was received by President Lincoln in the White House. In December of that year, the National Freedman's Relief Association appointed her "counselor to the freed people" at Freedman's Village, Arlington Heights, VA. Truth also attended meetings of the American Equal Rights Association where she called for the vote for both Black men and for women.

## ANNA JULIA COOPER

***"We take our stand on the solidarity of humanity, the oneness of life, and the unnaturalness and injustice of all special favoritism, whether of sex, race, country, or condition."***

Anna Julia Cooper was the fourth African American woman to receive a doctoral degree, and was a strong advocate for the voice of black women. Cooper founded the Colored Women's League of Washington in 1892, and assisted in opening the first YWCA chapter for black women. Her book, A Voice from the South is a foundational text of black feminism.

## SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

***"I want history to remember me… as a black woman who lived in the 20th century and who dared to be herself. I want to be remembered as a catalyst for change in America."***

Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman in Congress and the first African American woman to seek a major party's nomination for president. As a congresswoman, Chisholm co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus and introduced over 50 pieces of legislation. After leaving Congress, she founded the National Political Congress of Black Women.

Sources available at:

- https://suffragistmemorial.org/african-american-women-leaders-in-the-suffrage-movement/
- http://www.forharriet.com/2014/02/27-black-women-activists-everyone.html

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## GENDER, PEACE & SECURITY SPEAKER SERIES

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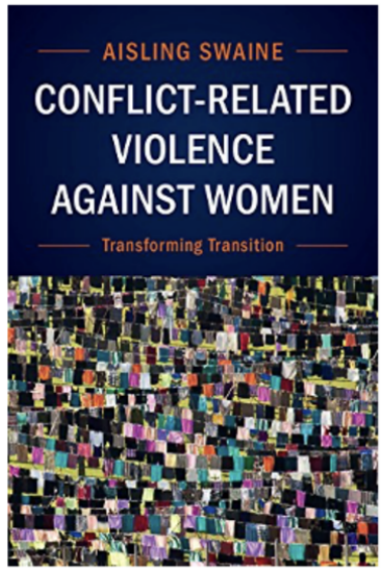

### Book Discussion with Author Dr. Aisling Swaine

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:00-12:30 EST**

Join GEIA Director, Dr. Shirley Graham, for a discussion with feminist IR theorist and author **Dr. Aisling Swaine** about her research on "Conflict-Related Violence against Women: Transforming Transition".

Register Here

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## Teaching Gender in International Affairs with Professors' Michael Brown and Shirley Graham

**Thursday, February 25, 2021 12:00-13:00 EST**

Join GEIA and Diversity & Inclusion for a conversation with Dr. Michael E. Brown about the importance of teaching gender in international affairs. Dr Brown will be interviewed by Dr. Shirley Graham about his recently published book 'Gender & Security: Strategies for the 21st Century' as well as the wider global gender policy agenda.

Register Here

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## GEIA VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

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GEIA would like to thank the speakers of last week's GEIA Virtual Coffee Hour: Latinx Voices! Eric Moreno, Ana Paula Velasco, Alexxa Ponte, and Lara Negro engaged in dynamic discussions with attendees on being Latinx at GW, Immigration issues, Femicide, Machismo, and a Mexican feminist foreign policy.

Keep a look out for the next GEIA Virtual Coffee Hour!

If you, or a group of individuals would like to lead a GEIA Virtual Coffee Hour, please share your ideas with geia@email.gwu.edu. We look forward to collaborations!

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DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
AT THE ELLIOTT SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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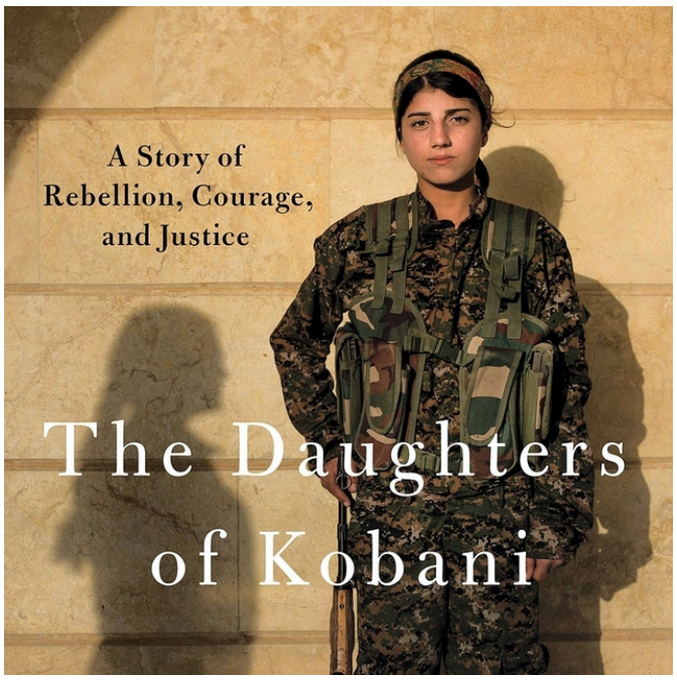
## Webinar with best-selling writer Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, author of the forthcoming book, “The Daughters of Kobani: A Story of Rebellion, Courage, and Justice”

**Tuesday, February 9th, 2021 at 2pm EST**

On the sixth anniversary of the liberation of Kobani Syria from the Islamic State, please join the US Mission of the Syrian Democratic Council in welcoming best-selling author Gayle Tzemach
Lemmon for a discussion about her much anticipated next book: THE DAUGHTERS OF KOBANI: A Story of Rebellion, Courage and Justice.

Register Here

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## LET'S TALK ABOUT...

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GEIA and Elliott School student Anny Lin are excited to introduce the “Let's Talk About...” series. We hope to create a virtual space where students can learn, exchange resources, and discuss gender inequality issues. To highlight Black History Month, this week's bulletin will focus on the experiences of racism and sexism that Black women face everyday.

## Black Women’s Maternal Health

In the United States, Black women experience disproportionately high rates of maternal health complications and mortality. Racism, sexism, and other systemic barriers often prevent Black women from accessing safe and affordable quality health care. Public health officials, health care providers, policymakers, and communities must identify and address racism, sexism, and implicit bias in health care. Below we have gathered resources about Black Women's Maternal Health through which we hope to explore these issues further.

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# Resources

### Racial and Ethnic Disparities Continue in Pregnancy-Related Deaths

*CDC Newsroom Release*

Black women are 3 times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy related deaths. In order to reduce Black maternal mortality, the CDC recommends that healthcare systems should implement standardized protocols in quality improvement initiatives. In addition, healthcare providers can identify and address implicit bias in healthcare that would likely improve patient-provider interactions and health outcomes.

Read More Here.

Center for American Progress

### Eliminating Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Mortality

*Comprehensive Policy Blueprint*

The Center for American Progress reports that “the stressors and the cumulative experience of racism and sexism, especially during sensitive developmental periods, trigger a chain of biological processes, known as weathering, that undermine African American women's physical and mental health." In order to protect Black women both during and after pregnancy, the authors outline five policy recommendations: improve access to critical health services, improve quality of care for pregnant women, address maternal and infant mental health, enhance support for families before and after birth, improve data collection and oversight on maternal health.

Read More Here.

### Black Women's Maternal Health: A Multifaceted Approach to Addressing Persistent and Dire Health Disparities

*Issue Brief*

Policymakers, healthcare professionals, and local communities can support Black maternal health by expanding access to health care providers and coverage, providing quality maternal and reproductive health care that addresses the needs of Black women, and increasing labor protections for pregnant workers, to name a few. In this light, to meaningfully improve Black maternal health outcomes, systemic change is needed that starts with the health care system and makes the places Black women live and work healthier, more fair and more responsive to their needs.

Read More Here.

### Black Maternal and Infant Health: Historical Legacies of Slavery

*Academic Article*

Drs. Deirdre Cooper Owens and Sharla M. Fette write "The legacies of slavery today are seen in structural racism that has resulted in disproportionate maternal and infant death among African Americans." In predominantly Black communities like Brooklyn, Black women are 8 times more likely than white women to die from a pregnancy related health complication. Public health officials and health care professionals must recognize the legacies of slavery by identifying and addressing racism and implicit bias within the health care system.

Read More Here.

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## Let's Talk!

Let's talk!! Please use this Padlet to share your thoughts, questions, resources, and reading materials that are related to this week's "Let's Talk About…" topic. Feel free to respectfully respond to other posts so that we can jointly build and exchange our knowledge on important issues.

Share Here

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## Ways to Support

[Black Women's Health Imperative]

The Black Women's Health Imperative is a Black women-led nonprofit organization that advocates for the health and wellness of Black women and girls.

*"Since 1983, we have been the only national organization dedicated solely to improving the health and wellness of our nation's 21 million Black women and girls - physically, emotionally, and financially."*

[GW Black Defiance]

The GW Black Defiance is a GW student-led organization that advocates and supports Black womxn.

*"We aim to eradicate white supremacy and injustices against Black people through a feminist lens."*

[Black Mamas Matter Alliance]

Black Mamas Matter Alliance is a Black women-led alliance that advocates for Black maternal health, rights, and justice through advancing policies that support Black women, cultivating research on maternal culture, advancing health care for Black mamas, and amplifying the voices of Black women.

*"We envision a world where Black mamas have the rights, respect, and resources to thrive before, during, and after pregnancy."*

*Anny Lin is a second year undergraduate student at GW majoring in International Affairs with a concentration in International Development and minoring in Economics. She is excited to be a part of the GEIA team and looks forward to engaging with the GW community on issues of gender inequality.*

## PODCAST HIGHLIGHT: PDx

The Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication (IPDGC) hosts Public Diplomacy Examined (PDx), an interview-based easy-access podcast of interviews with U.S. foreign service officers (current and retired), foreign diplomats, public diplomacy professionals, academics and researchers, media practitioners, cultural exchange specialists, and many others - all who share their experiences and insights into the latest thinking and trends of public diplomacy and global communication.

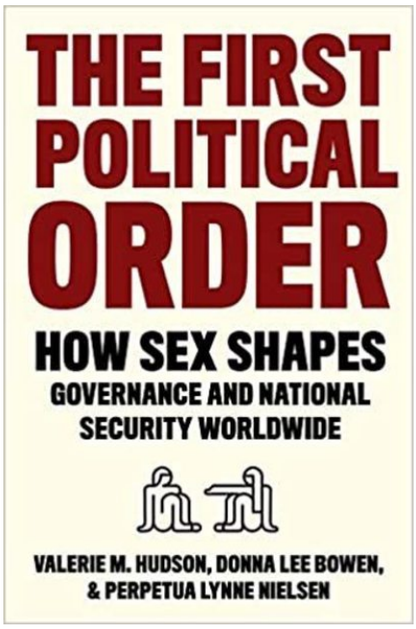
### Podcast Highlight: Building Equality into International Affairs

In this latest interview, Victoria Makanjuola, PDx interviewer and SMPA graduate student, talks to GEIA Director, Dr. Shirley Graham. GEIA is a program to encourage gender equality in all areas of global affairs, international development, political power, military strength, and government leadership. Dr. Graham shares highlights from the initiative and how gender inclusion is making progress in academia and practice for international affairs.

This podcast was recorded in August 2020.

Listen to the Podcast

## BOOK REVIEW: "THE FIRST POLITICAL ORDER"

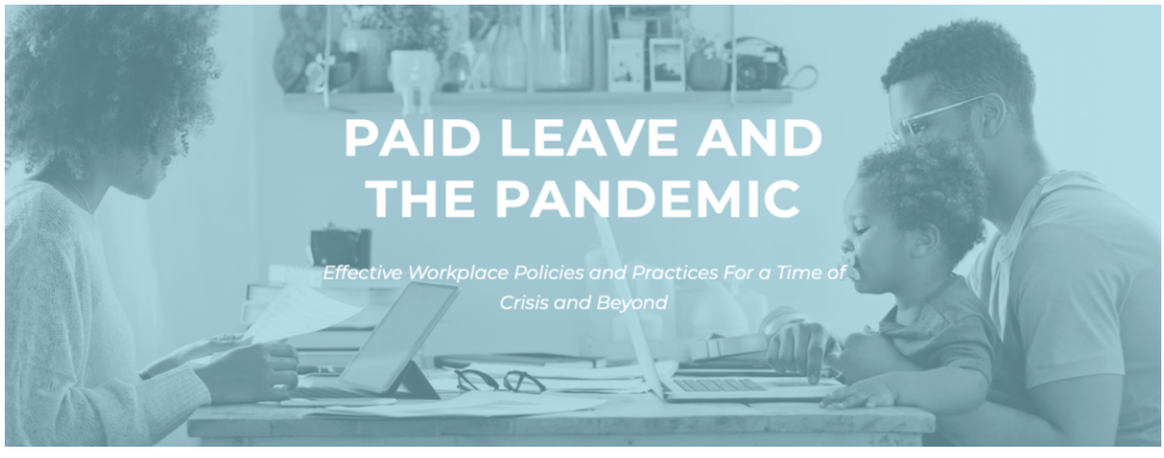



GEIA Director, Dr. Shirley Graham, reviews the book, **"The First Political Order: How Sex Shapes Governance and National Security Worldwide,"** by authors Valerie M. Hudson, Donna Lee Bowen, and Perpetua Lynne Nielsen.

*"This book begins with the story of how one of its authors, Valerie Hudson, while chatting with one of the first woman ministers of the Afghan Parliament, commented on how much progress women had made in Afghanistan since the overthrow of the Taliban. The minister explained, however, that while she had political power in the public realm, under customary law she was still subordinated in the private realm of her home. If her husband says, "I divorce you" three times, she will be made homeless and lose access to her children without recourse to justice. This story was one of the first catalysts compelling the authors to theoretically and empirically examine how intimate relationships between husbands and wives are linked to security at a national and international level."*

Read the Book Review Here.

# JOBS, OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES




### Paid Leave Policies Key in Supporting Employees During COVID-19

A new report from Promundo and PL+US, in collaboration with the Parental Leave Corporate Task Force, reveals the impact of paid leave policies on companies.

Almost three quarters (72.5%) of businesses surveyed reported that their paid leave policies positively impacted their ability to navigate the crisis, further bolstering the business and public policy case for expansion and implementation of paidleave policies. Companies that offered paid leave policies also benefited from greater employee morale, workplace satisfaction, and retention and were better able to support women considering exiting the workforce amidst rising caregiving and parenting responsibilities.

However, there is still a gendered disparity when it comes to who is taking leave: nearly half (47.5%) of companies report that half or more of those who utilized paidleave were female. Importantly, 30% of the companies surveyed did not track or report gender data – potentially missing out on an opportunity to understand and close gender-related gaps.

Read more on key findings here.

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NGO CSW/NY MONTHLY MEETING

# GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH IN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC:

## UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN'S PSYCHOSOCIAL WELLBEING

**21 January 2020**
**8:30 – 10:30AM EST**

Watch the Recording

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## Report: Malign Creativity: How Gender, Sex, and Lies are Weaponized Against Women Online

This report strives to build awareness of the direct and indirect impacts of gendered and sexualized disinformation on women in public life, as well as its corresponding impacts on national security and democratic participation. In an analysis of online conversations about 13 female politicians across six social media platforms, totaling over 336,000 pieces of abusive content shared by over 190,000 users over a two-month period, the report defines, quantifies, and evaluates the use of online gendered and sexualized disinformation campaigns against women in politics and beyond. It also uses three in-depth interviews and two focus groups to emphasize the impacts gendered abuse and disinformation have on women's daily lives.

Read the Report Here.

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## The COVID-19 Gender and Development Initiative

A new global research hub explores the gendered dimensions of COVID-19 to promote equality through recovery.

The COVID-19 Gender and Development Initiative will aim to promote gender equality and long-term prosperity in low- and middle-income countries by informing global and national decision makers' policy responses to the current pandemic and future crises.

Read more about the Initiative here.

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*Are you beginning a new job, fellowship, or other exciting opportunity? We want to celebrate your achievement! Send a photo and short description*

*of your new role to geia@email.gwu.edu and we'll feature you in an upcoming GEIA bulletin.*

### Job Openings:

- **NEW: GW Graduate School of Education and Human Development (GSEHD):** Federal work study position
- **NEW: GW Global Women's Institute:** Student Research Assistant
- **NEW: Women's Action for New Directions (WAND):** Communications Intern
- **Congressional Research Service (CRS):** Assistant Director and Senior Specialist (Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division)
- **Congressional Research Service (CRS):** Deputy Assistant Director and Specialist (Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division)
- **The Public Health Institute:** Gender and Sexuality Diversity Intern
- **The Public Health Institute:** Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Communications Intern
- **United Nations Foundation:** FELLOW, PARTNERSHIPS, GIRL UP
- **The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth:** Operations and Program Assistant

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# GLOBAL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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## The Global Women's Institute

The Global Women's Institute (GWI) at the George Washington University launched in the Fall of 2012 as a university-wide measure to advance gender equality through various initiatives such as interdisciplinary research, education, policy and outreach.

**Click Here** to subscribe to GWI's weekly newsletter to stay updated with GWI news, events and more.

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