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## ORGANIZER

DIGNITY – Danish Institute Against Torture is a self-governing institution independent of party politics.

DIGNITY's goal is to ease human suffering after torture, to prevent torture and organized violence and to be a global driving force in the development of new knowledge in these fields. Rehabilitation, prevention and research are the core areas of our work.

DIGNITY was established 33 years ago, and currently has programs in partnership with civil society organizations and state institutions in twenty countries worldwide, notably in Asia, Central Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. DIGNITY has consultative status at the United Nations (ECOSOC), is a member of the WHO Violence Prevention Alliance, and is a member of Denmark's National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

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## THE INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF WOMEN AGAINST TORTURE

Side-event at WOMEN DELIVER 2016  
by DIGNITY – Danish Institute Against Torture  
May 17, 2016: 6PM – 8PM, Bella Center, auditorium 10



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## SPEAKERS

### Juan E. Méndez

Professor of Human Rights Law in Residence at the American University – Washington College of Law, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Until 2009 he was the President of the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). Mr. Méndez has dedicated his legal career to the defense of human rights and has a long and distinguished record of advocacy throughout the Americas.

### Jackie Jones

Professor of Feminist Legal Studies at Bristol Law School, University of the West of England. Professor Jones teaches, researches, speaks and writes on equality, violence against women, and human rights, broadly defined. She is President of the European Women Lawyer's Association and trustee of and active in several Women's NGOs in the UK. She is involved in campaigns to pass a UN Treaty to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls.

### Eva Abu Halaweh

Leading lawyer and Director of Mizan Law Group for Human Rights in Jordan. With a group of lawyers, she took up cases of torture within the Jordanian legal system and has since been fighting obstacles in order to secure justice and redress for torture victims. In 2011, she was awarded the US Secretary of State's International Women of Courage award.

### Jo Baker

International human rights and gender consultant. She recently led and produced a multi-country research study for DIGNITY on conditions for women in detention, and is currently working with Penal Reform International and the Thailand Institute of Justice on research and training relating to women in the criminal justice system.

### Moderator: Therese Rytter

Director of Legal Affairs and Advocacy at DIGNITY and an international human rights lawyer with 20 years of experience in international human rights, prevention of torture and criminal justice sector reform. Ms. Rytter is a member of the Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT).



## WHY THIS SEMINAR?

The international torture protection framework needs to be applied in a more gender-sensitive manner. This side-event with a high-level panel comprised of a UN Special Rapporteur, a professor of feminist legal studies, a distinguished civil society activist from Jordan, and the author of a DIGNITY study on women in detention will address key questions, such as how to enhance the international protection of women against violence and torture, and highlight best practices in protective and preventive mechanisms to protect women and girls from torture and other ill-treatment.

## PROGRAMME

**Welcome:** By Karin Verland, Director General of DIGNITY

**Introduction:** By Therese Rytter, Director of Legal Affairs and Advocacy, DIGNITY

**Session 1: How can the international human rights system help eliminate violence against women: Challenges and opportunities?**

**Highlights of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture's 2016 report "Gender perspectives on Torture and other Cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" with a focus on the role of civil society in supporting the implementation of its recommendations (Live on Skype)**

By Professor Juan E. Méndez, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture

**What are the benefits for gendered torture of a new specific instrument on Violence against Women?**

By Jackie Jones, Professor of Feminist Legal Studies at Bristol Law School, University of the West of England

### Q&A

**Session 2: What violations are women experiencing and what interventions can help eliminate violence against women: Challenges and opportunities?**

**Access to justice for women victims of violence in Jordan: structural and societal barriers including difficulties for victims to obtain protection, compensation and rehabilitation**

By Ms. Eva Abu Halaweh, Executive Director of Mizan Law Group for Human Rights, Jordan

**Presentation on the findings of DIGNITY's study on the conditions for women in detention focusing on the needs, vulnerability and good practices**

By Ms. Jo Baker, independent international Human Rights and Gender Consultant

### Q&A

**Final remarks:** By Ms. Therese Rytter