



March 7th, 2018

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International Women's Day: WAND hosts panel and reception at SXSW

Austin, TX-- On International Women's Day (March 8), Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) will host a conversation with leading nuclear and non-proliferation and disarmament efforts --all women-- at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas. The panel, "How to Avoid a Nuclear Apocalypse," will bring together four brilliant and engaging women whose contributions to reducing the threat of nuclear war both domestically and internationally have been widely recognized, including with a Nobel Peace Prize.

WAND Executive Director Nancy Parrish issued the following statement: "We are increasingly seeing women, especially women of color, step up to re-shape power and policy in new and innovative ways across nearly every sector, including technology, politics, and entertainment. From the scourge of sexual violence to gun violence, from the halls of the 116th Congress, women have been particularly prominent in the work to reduce risks, prevent harm, and promote a more sustainable status quo. It is therefore no surprise that women, especially women of color, are doing the crucial work to study and implement the safeguards needed to prevent arguably the largest-scale violence possible: a nuclear apocalypse.

The stakes for women's leadership in nuclear security could not be higher: more than a matter of equality or optics, women's high-level participation in nuclear policy making is a matter of life and death for entire civilizations. Studies have repeatedly shown that having women at the negotiating table both makes war less likely and peace more sustainable.

The women-led discussion of nuclear security that WAND is hosting at SXSW is a showcase of and testament to women's quintessential role in preventing nuclear war, and builds upon WAND's forty-year record of women-led efforts to promote peace and prevent nuclear war. The meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jung-Un in Vietnam in late February, as well as the Trump administration's withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and the Iran Deal have raised the risks of nuclear conflict. The steady hand and sustainable peace that women have been shown to disproportionately provide are needed more than ever."

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The panel discussion will be followed by a reception at The Line Hotel at 4:30pm, which journalists are invited to attend. WAND is also making its executive director, Nancy Parrish and the panelists available for interviews and discussion throughout South by Southwest. For details or to schedule a discussion, contact Corey Greer.

WHAT: Panel - “How To Avoid A Nuclear Apocalypse”

WHEN: Friday, March 8 from 2:00-3:00pm CT

WHERE: The Line Hotel (111 E Cesar Chavez), Onyx Ballroom (Floor 2), Austin, TX

WHO: The panel will feature four leading nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament experts:

- Beatrice Fihn, the Executive Director of International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), who accepted the Nobel Peace Prize and delivered the Nobel Peace Prize lecture in Oslo on behalf of ICAN;
- Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, Founder and President of Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security and former Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation at the Department of State; and
- Dr. Mareena Robinson Snowden, Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the first American-born woman of color to earn a Ph.D. from the MIT Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering
- Deepika Choudhary, Director of the Peace and Security Collaborative at ReThink Media

WHAT: Cocktail Reception in honor of International Women’s Day

WHEN: Friday, March 8 from 4:30-6:00pm CT

WHERE: The Line Hotel (111 E Cesar Chavez), Austin, TX

WHO:

- Nancy Parrish, Executive Director of Women’s Action for New Directions
- Beatrice Fihn,
- Amb. Bonnie Jenkins,
- Dr. Mareena Robinson Snowden
- Women State Legislators from the WAND's program the Women Legislators' Lobby

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