

The SOAS' Centre for Gender Studies and The University of East London's Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging (CMRB) are delighted to announce:

# Gender, Fundamentalism & Development



**Speakers:**  
**Baroness Valerie Amos**  
**Dr Awino Okech**  
**Prof Ruth Pearson**  
**Dr Ayesha Khan**  
**Dr Afaf Al-Jabiri**

**Saturday 18 March 2017**

**Seminar 2pm-5pm (free entry, all welcome)**

**Room B102 Brunei Gallery SOAS University of London, London WC1H 0XG**

**Valerie Amos** joined as Director of SOAS University of London in September 2015. From 2010, she served as Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator at the UN. She served in a number of roles in the public sector including in local government and as Chief Executive of the Equal Opportunities Commission. Valerie was an adviser to the Mandela Government on leadership, change, management and strategy issues between 1994 and 1998. She was appointed a Labour Life Peer in 1997 and became a member of the Government in 1998. She was a Foreign Office Minister, Secretary of State for International Development, Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council. She also served as UK High Commissioner to Australia before joining the UN. In June 2016, she was made a Companion of Honour in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

**Awino Okech** joined the Centre for Gender Studies at SOAS as a lecturer in October 2016. Prior to this, Dr Okech has spent the last twelve years involved in social justice transformation work in Eastern Africa, the Great Lakes region, and South Africa. Awino's work has focused on women's rights in conflict and post conflict societies, security sector governance and governance more broadly. She has supported the work of a number international and inter-governmental organisations in these areas, most recently acting as lead researcher for Niger and Burkina Faso in a United Nations Economic Commission of Africa commissioned study on "Causes and Consequences of conflict in the Sahel" in 2015, serving as the lead drafter for the African Union's Operational Guidelines on Gender and Security Sector Reform in 2014 and supporting UNDP's Somaliland Civilian Police Programme review their police reform work in Hargeisa in 2012. Her publications include among others: *Women and Security Governance in Africa* (2011) co-edited with 'Funmi Olonisakin; "Gendered security: Between ethno-nationalism and constitution making in Kenya" (2013) and "Dealing with Asymmetrical Conflict: Lessons from Kenya" (2015).

**Ruth Pearson** is a socialist feminist who has researched and written widely on women, work, migration, development and globalisation. She is Emeritus Professor of International Development at the University of Leeds. She is also an activist and trustee of a number

of women's organisations in the UK and internationally including the UK Women's Budget Group and Rosa, the UK Fund for Women and Girls and has written extensively on feminist economic policy and the need for investment in the social economy to deal with the care crisis in the UK. A founder member of WAF when it was established in 1989, she has supported anti-fundamentalist and pro-internationalist initiatives in the UK, Europe and Latin America and South East Asia. She has also co-produced an interactive website for schools and community groups offering resources on miwork and workers' rights, based on research on South Asian women workers in the UK, from Grunwick to Gate Gourmet ([www.strikingwomen.org](http://www.strikingwomen.org))

**Ayesha Khan** works with the Collective for Social Science Research in Karachi. She has conducted primary research and policy analysis for the last twenty years in gender and development, health, and conflict/refugee issues in the region. She has also worked as a journalist in international radio, local television, and press from 1990-96. Recent research studies include a review of best practices in girls' education in a non-profit school system in Pakistan, and an assessment of reproductive health knowledge amongst adolescent girls in rural Sindh. She is currently writing a book on the women's movement in Pakistan [I.B. Tauris, upcoming 2018]. During fall 2016 she was a Visiting Scholar at the School for Interdisciplinary and Area Studies at Oxford University.

**Afaf Jabiri** is Senior Lecturer at the School of Social Sciences, University of East London. Previously, she was LSE Fellow in Gender and a Senior Teaching Fellow at the Centre for Gender Studies/SOAS. Afaf is the author of the book 'Gendered Politics and Law in Jordan: Guardianship over Women'. For the last 20 years, Afaf has been advocating for gender equality, law, and policy reform in the Arab region. She was the Regional Director of the Karama (Dignity) Network and the Director of the Jordanian Women's Union Aid Centre and Shelter for women's survivors of violence. She has also worked as women's protection officer at UNHCR and served as a policy and advocacy advisor for international and domestic NGOs and UN agencies. She took part in several UN missions to conflict areas, such as: Libya, Syria, and Yemen.



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