

Promoting Empowerment through Journalism WOMEN'S VOICE in the Public Sphere

The UN Commission on the Status of Women 58th Session
Wednesday, March 12, 2014 | 2:30 to 4:00 pm
Y-Hall, Armenian Convention Center
630 2nd Ave., New York

Carolyn M. Byerly, Ph.D., the panel organizer, serves on the graduate faculty of the School of Communications, Howard University, Washington, D.C. She was the principal investigator and author of the 59-nation study, *Global Report on the Status of Women in News Media* (2011), and is the editor of *The Palgrave International Handbook of Women and Journalism* (2013), as well as dozens of articles and book chapters. She is a former print journalist and feminist media activist who worked particularly to improve coverage of sexual and domestic violence, including the use of survivors as sources.

Elisa Lees Muñoz, M.A., Executive Director of the International Women's Media Foundation, Washington, D.C., has a background in international human rights and the rights of women. IWMF, a non-governmental organization, is dedicated to strengthening the role of women journalists worldwide by advocating press freedom, women's leadership and ownership in news industries, the safety of women journalists in the pursuit of truth. Regarding the last of these, IWMF recognizes women journalists who risk their own well-being in investigative reporting with annual Courage Awards. IWMF also supports new research on women and journalism, including its funding of the *Global Report on the Status of Women in News*.

Martha Leslie Allen, Ph.D., is the Director of the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, a non-governmental organization founded in 1972 in Washington, DC, seeking to democratize the communications media and assure that women have full participation in media. WIFP publishes an annual print and online *Directory of Women's Media*, a regular newsletter *Voices for Media Democracy*, and booklets on a wide range of women-and-media issues.

Stephanie Ortoleva, Esq., Founder and President of [Women Enabled, Inc.](#) is an internationally renowned human rights lawyer, policy and development consultant on women's rights and disability rights. [Women Enabled, Inc.](#), an international non-governmental organization, consults with local non-governmental organizations, governments and international organizations, particularly in developing and transitional countries, on how to ensure rights for women and girls with disabilities in their policies and programs. The organization also publishes a range of reports on topics related to girls' education, sexual and reproductive health and rights, post-conflict peacebuilding, violence against women with disabilities and women in general, available [xyz](#). Throughout her career, she has advocated for the inclusion of women's voices in mainstream media and for the utilization of social media and alternate platforms, both to reach the wider community and to enhance communication among women.

Karen Toulon, M.A., New York Bureau Chief, Bloomberg News, an international news service with more than 150 bureaus in 72 countries. As bureau chief in New York, she coordinates journalistic teams of reporters, editors, producers and to cover local, national and international events and issues. A broadcast journalist, she was a managing editor for Reuters Financial TV and managing editor for Reuters America. She has also held posts at CNBC and CBS networks before joining Bloomberg in 1999.

As an associate producer at CBS Radio Network, she was part of the team to launch Business Update, a daily program aired on American Public Radio. At Bloomberg, she has helped to foster a pro-woman environment and the coverage of women in news.