



Wilton Park



Image: UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran

2015 Marsh Award for peacemaking and peacekeeping

In partnership with Wilton Park

This award will recognise an individual from outside the UK making an innovative difference to areas of conflict and peacemaking.

In association with:



The Award

Created by Brian Marsh OBE, Chairman of the Marsh Christian Trust (MCT), the Marsh Awards support and honour extraordinary, unsung heroes. The Marsh Award for Innovation in Peacemaking and Peacekeeping, presented in association with Wilton Park, recognises an individual from outside the UK whose work makes an innovative difference to areas of conflict and peacemaking.

Each year, Wilton Park Programme Directors nominate the conference participants whose contribution to peacemaking and peacekeeping they feel has made the most impact on others. The Wilton Park Advisory Council prepares a shortlist of these nominations for Brian Marsh to select the final winner. The Award winner receives £1,000 from the MCT to help further their work, and a certificate signed by both the Chief Executive of Wilton Park and Chairman of MCT.



Last year's winner, [Miss Elizabeth Henry Angok](#), Regional Director for the South Sudan Mother and Child Care Organisation, was presented with her Award at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, by then UK Foreign Secretary, William Hague.

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2015 Award winner



Devanna de la Puente MSc, is a Chilean national and specialist in gender and gender-based violence (GBV) in humanitarian crisis. She has over ten years' experience working globally with the UN, national and international NGOs and civil society. Ms de la Puente is currently the Inter-agency Regional Emergency GBV Advisor (REGA) for Asia and the Pacific, as part of the global Protection cluster GBV area of responsibility (AoR) and hosted by UNFPA

Regional office in Bangkok, Thailand. In this capacity she provides inter-agency regional coordination for promoting better capacity to address prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence in situations of disaster and conflict in the region, as well as in-country deployment at the onset of a crisis to support national governments, civil society and humanitarian actors to adequately respond to the protection needs of women and girls. Ms de La Puente has lead GBV prevention and response efforts in the recent Nepal earthquake, cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, conflict and communal violence in Myanmar, and protracted crises in Pakistan, with similar extensive support to Afghanistan conflict.

Ms de La Puente's experience extends beyond Asia and the Pacific, having worked in Darfur, managing projects for prevention and response to GBV working for the IRC and promoting women's rights and protection as Programme Manager for Oxfam GB, where she designed a study to identify and promote women's

participation and leadership in the IDP camps. Prior to her engagement in the humanitarian sector, Ms De La Puente worked in women and girl's rights in complex development contexts. In Bangladesh she founded an initiative for the prevention of child marriage in rural areas of Kurigram, while working with Action Aid; in Honduras, coordinating a programme for empowering women and girls at social risk in the western border area, working with UNIFEM, where she also founded a women's NGO which continues to lead local policy change and protection of women and girls in the border districts.

Ms de la Puente is the author of *Women's Leadership for Change in the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps in Darfur*, (CDJ, Oxford 2011), and co-author for the concept paper *on Responding to sexual violence in countries with limited capacity* presented at the annual forum of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SRVI) in 2013. Ms de la Puente is a member of the IASC Gender Standby Capacity project managed by the Norwegian Refugee Council (GenCap) which she also represents in her current capacity as REGA. She holds a Master's Degree in International Development and Cooperation from the University of Bologna in Italy. Ms de la Puente attended the Wilton Park workshop on [Disaster prevention, preparedness and response in South and Southeast Asia: maximising a gender-inclusive approach](#), held in Manila in 2014, where she focussed on the progress, good practices and challenges in south and south-east Asia to adequately address GBV in crises, building from her experiences in Myanmar, Pakistan and the Philippines.

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Shortlisted nominees

María Teresa Ronderos is the creator and editorial director of VerdadAbierta.com, a website covering Colombia's transitional justice process and which investigates how armed conflict has impacted citizens and democracy. She is also editorial adviser of Colombia's main news magazine *Semana* and columnist of the oldest daily newspaper *El Espectador*. She has given talks to journalists all over Latin America and has been awarded several national and international prizes, among them, the King of Spain Award for her series of stories related to illegal financing of campaigns. She is a member of the board of the Foundation for the Freedom of the Press in Colombia, New York's Committee to Protect Journalists, and the García Márquez Journalism Foundation.

Mrs Ronderos is the author of a number of books and has also received the European Union's Lorenzo Natali Award for the coverage of Human Rights, and was honoured with the Maria Moors Cabot Award from Columbia University for her career achievements. "At a time when internet technology should be allowing journalism to flourish, independent journalism is embattled on almost all fronts," said Chris Stone, President of the Open Society Foundations. "Maria Teresa Ronderos knows those battles first hand. She has devoted her career to fearless reporting, while working to protect and nurture the independence of her colleagues worldwide." She spoke about the Media as a driver for accountability and peacebuilding at the Wilton Park conference on [Media and fragile states](#) in 2013.

Susan Arif Maroof has international experience of combating violence against women and tailoring missions to include men. She is the founder and director of the Women's Empowerment Organisation (WEO) in Erbil, Iraq. WEO promotes women's participation in Iraqi society as peacebuilders. Using a variety of means including documentary film, they are able to provide mechanisms and strategies to combat discrimination and violence against women. Ms Arif Maroof was largely responsible for getting the Iraqi National Action Plan on Women in Peacebuilding adopted in 2014. She attended the Wilton Park forum for [Women in the private sector in the Middle East and North Africa](#), held in Cordoba in March 2014.

Betty Kitta Scopas Dumo is Director of Early Warning Systems in the Directorate of Disaster Management at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management in Juba, South Sudan. In January 2014, Ms Scopas participated in the Wilton Park meeting on [Strengthening technological capacities and information access for improving disaster risk reduction in the Horn of Africa](#), which was held in Nairobi.

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Wilton Park

[Wilton Park](#) is an Executive Agency of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and has been convening international foreign policy discussions for nearly 70 years. Thought leaders from the worlds of politics, diplomacy, business, defence, civil society, media and academia are brought together to openly share experience and expertise on issues affecting global prosperity, justice and security. Conferences are held at Wilton Park's headquarters in the UK, in London, and at partner venues worldwide.

Contact

Jo Childs, Director of Communications, Wilton Park
jo.childs@wiltonpark.org.uk +44 (0) 1903 817755 wiltonpark.org.uk

