



**2011**

**THE EVOLUTION OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN  
IN SPAIN, THE U.S., LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

*PRESS RELEASE*



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## THE EVOLUTION OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN

A panel discussion moderated by Ambassador Carmen Moreno (OAS), and presentations by Dr. Marijke Velzeboer (PAHO), Ms. Joanne Sandler (UN Women), and Ms. Inés Alberdi (former UNIFEM), at the Pan American Health Organization



Photo: Bru Rovira. Motherhood 2011



**When: Wednesday, May 11, 2011, 6:30 P.M.**

**Where: Pan American Health Organization 525 23rd Street NW,  
Washington, DC 20037. Second level, Room A or C**



## THE EVOLUTION OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN

Washington, DC, May 5, 2011- The Spain-USA Foundation and the Embassy of Spain, in collaboration with The Washington Ballet and the Pan American Health Organization are pleased to present the panel discussion “*The evolution of the role of women in Spain, the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean*” that will take place on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Pan American Health Organization

On the occasion of the presentation of The Washington Ballet's *Carmen* a panel discussion moderated by **Ambassador Carmen Moreno**, Executive Secretary, Permanent Secretariat, Inter-American Commission of Women (OAS), will explore the change undergone by women in Spain, the U.S, Latin America and the Caribbean. Panelists include **Ines Alberdi**, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) until 2010; **Joanne Sandler**, Deputy Director for Programmes of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women); and **Dr. Marijke Velzeboer**, Coordinator of the Gender, Ethnicity and Health Office at the Pan American Health Organization.

The photo exhibition *Motherhood* by Spanish photojournalist Bru Rovira will be opened to the public on May 11<sup>th</sup> for the event. The opening of the exhibition last September coincided with the launching of *Safe Motherhood Initiative* (SMI), which urges the countries of the Americas to renew their commitment and efforts to meet Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5 by reducing maternal mortality and achieving universal access to reproductive health by the year 2015.

The exhibit is a project of the Spanish Foundation "La Caixa" and consists of a series of photographs taken in 16 countries around the world by Spanish photojournalist Bru Rovira (Ortega y Gasset Award, 2004). The photographs reflect different situations where there is a common sentiment: motherhood. After Washington, *Motherhood* will become a traveling exhibit, visiting the countries of the region that request it as part of the activities of the Safe Motherhood Initiative.

This panel discussion is part of **Spain Arts & Culture 2011**, a cultural program that includes more than 100 events all over the US featuring the most cutting-edge works of internationally renowned Spanish artists in fields such as design, urban culture, architecture, visual arts, film, performing arts, literature and music.

A reception will be offered to the attendees at the end of the panel discussion.

This event is free and open to the public, RSVP required [contact@spainculture.us](mailto:contact@spainculture.us)

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## BIOS

### **Carmen Moreno**

Carmen Moreno, an internationalist and diplomat, began her work on women's rights and gender equality as a member of the Mexican Delegation to the first UN Conference on Women (1975). She has since served as the Mexican Ambassador to Costa Rica and Guatemala, as well as the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Organization of American States (OAS).

In 2003, Carmen Moreno was appointed by the Secretary-General of the UN as Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW). In July 2009, Jose Miguel Insulza, the Secretary General of the OAS, appointed Ms. Moreno as Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

### **Ines Alberdi**

Born in Seville, Spain, in 1948, she is Full Professor of Sociology in Madrid University. She teaches Political Sociology and Sociology of Gender and has published several books on family and women's issues.

She has been Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), New York 2008-2010.

She has been Associate Researcher in George Washington University (1988-89), in Washington D.C. and also Visiting Scholar in the Department of Sociology, in Georgetown University (1978-80). She was awarded an Eisenhower Fellowship in 1998 to travel around the United States visiting Universities and Gender Research Centers.

She has been the Research Manager in the Centro de Investigaciones Sociologicas CIS and has collaborated, as Spanish expert, for the Equal Opportunities Unit of the European Commission on the networks "Family and Work" and "Diversification of Occupational Choices for Women". She has worked for the Interamerican Bank as Adviser for Women in Development (1989-1990, Washington D.C.) and has served as a Member of the Board of INSTRAW, United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (1986-1989).

She is member of a feminist lobby of professional women, speaks often in radio broadcast magazines and is invited frequently to present lectures in universities and others institutions.

She has been Member of the Madrid Parliament from 2003 to 2007



## **Joanne Sandler**

Joanne Sandler is an acting Deputy Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). She oversees UN Women teams working on policy development and programme support.

Joanne has worked with international organizations and women's groups worldwide for the past 30 years, with a focus on organizational development, strategic planning and economic justice. Prior to her work with UN Women, Joanne worked as a consultant to international and U.S.-focused women's rights organizations, including many UN organizations, the Ms. Foundation for Women, the Global Fund for Women, the National Council for Research on Women, the International Planned Parenthood Federation-Western Hemisphere, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She has also served on the Board of Directors of international and U.S. organizations, including Breakthrough, Association for Women's Rights in Development, Gender at Work, and Positive Exposure.

## **Marijke Velzeboer**

Since January of 2008, Dr. Marijke Velzeboer was hired by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), as Coordinator of the Gender, Ethnicity and Health Office, where she worked with her team to mainstream gender and ethnicity in all the policies, programs, research and health monitoring systems of PAHO and the Member States.

From 1998 to 2003, she was in charge of the previous PAHO Program for Women, Health and Development focusing on gender-based violence, as well as improving the evidence on gender equity in health and of policy reforms. Before the actual position, Dr. Velzeboer was the Regional Director of the Latin America Section and Caribbean Fund of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) that promotes the equality of gender, women's rights and their participation. She also founded and co-directed two NGOs and linked women producers to domestic, international and virtual markets. Dr. Velzeboer received her doctorate in Public Health from the University of Texas.