

THE NICOLAUS COPERNICUS SCHOOL OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION
THE JOHN FELICE ROME CENTER OF LIBERAL ARTS OF LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
BOLOGNA, ITALY CENTER OF SPRING HILL UNIVERSITY
PRESENT

THE INJUSTICE OF GENDER:
**WOMEN'S RIGHTS
IN A JUST SOCIETY**



**SUNDAY,
14 OCTOBER**

6.00- 9.00 PM

Location:

Centre of Contemporary Art

Waly Gen. Sikorskiego 13, 87-100 Toruń, Poland

The Injustice of Gender

Introduction to the Program and Film Screening:

Documentary: *Miss Representation (2011)*

Prof. Michal Balcerzak (Associate Professor at the Chair for Human Rights, Faculty of Law and Administration, Nicolaus Copernicus University School of Law and Administration)

Mr. John Kurowski (Attorney and former Visiting Professor at NCU (2006, 2010))

Ms. Urszula Nowakowska (Founder and President of Women's Rights Center)

**MONDAY,
15 OCTOBER**

9.00 – 9.15 AM

Location:

*Faculty Council Hall (Collegium Iuridicum Novum),
ul. Władysława Bojarskiego 3, 87-100 Toruń, Poland*

Introduction and Welcome

Prof. Michal Balcerzak (Associate Professor at the Chair for Human Rights, Faculty of Law and Administration, Nicolaus Copernicus University School of Law and Administration)

Prof. Bożena Gronowska (Vice-Dean for International Cooperation, Faculty of Law and Administration, Nicolaus Copernicus University School of Law and Administration)

Mr. John Kurowski (Visiting Professor of Law at NCU, (2006, 2010) Managing Partner, Kurowski Shultz LLC)

9.15 - 10.15 AM

Empowerment of Women in Europe through Adversity: Defining and Challenging Discrimination in the Context of Migration

Ms. Elisabeth Kaneza (Kaneza Foundation for Dialogue and Empowerment, Berlin)

10.15 – 11.15 AM

Violence against Women and Related Violations of Their Rights –A View from Poland

Dr. Sylwia Spurek (Deputy Human Rights Commissioner for Equal Treatment of the Republic of Poland)

11.15 – 11.30 AM

Break

11.30 – 12.30 PM

Protection of Women's Reproductive and Sexual Health - Recent Developments and Challenges in Europe and Beyond

Dr. Katarzyna Sękowska-Kozłowska (Chair of the Poznań Human Rights Center of the Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences).

12.30 – 1.15 PM

Panel Discussion of the Speakers Led by Ms. Nowakowska

FACULTY:

Prof. Michał Balcerzak

Associate Professor and the Chair for Human Rights in the Faculty of Law and Administration at Nicolaus Copernicus University School of Law and Administration in Toruń. He obtained his Master's degree of Law in 2003 and his Ph.D. in 2007 from Nicolaus Copernicus. In 2004, he was awarded the Diploma of the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. Apart from his academic activities, Dr. Balcerzak was a legal advisor in the office of the Polish Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights. Between 2012 and 2017 he was an alternate member of the Management Board of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union. In 2014 he was elected by the UN Human Rights Council as a member of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. He specializes in European and International human rights law, the international judiciary and the law of international organizations.

Ms. Elisabeth Kaneza

A native Rwandan, is a human rights expert based in Berlin, Germany. She is the founding President of the Kaneza Foundation for Dialogue and Empowerment and a PhD Candidate at the Faculty of Law, University of Potsdam, where she researches on the impact of international human rights law, in particular provisions on anti-racial discrimination, on national law. Ms Kaneza was selected as Senior Fellow (2016) for the United Nations Office for Human Rights' (OHCHR) Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent. In the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent she implements multi-stakeholder cooperation projects and trainings with the aim to promote the fight against racism. Ms Kaneza further promotes women's rights and advocates for the recognition of multi-dimensional and intersectional discrimination which disproportionately affects migrant and refugee women in Europe.

Mr. John Kurowski

An American lawyer who has been engaged in the private practice of law in the United States for over 40 years. He received a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) degree in History from Loyola University of Chicago and attended the John Felice Rome Center in 1973-1974. He received his Juris Doctor from the St. Louis University School of Law. Mr. Kurowski has a broad legal background, having experience and interests in litigation, trials, government affairs and human rights. He is the founder and now managing partner of the law firm of Kurowski Shultz, LLC. He is a member of the Congress of Fellows of the Center for International Legal Studies in Salzburg and the Society of Fellows of the Aspen Institute. He is a frequent lecturer on a variety of legal and other topics at programs throughout the United States. In 2006, he was invited to attend the Justice and Society program of the Aspen Institute in Aspen, Colorado. In the fall of 2006 and the spring of 2010, he served as a Visiting Professor of Law at the School of Law and Administration of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland. While teaching in Toruń in 2006 he began this symposium in cooperation with the NCU law faculty. Loyola University Chicago presented Mr. Kurowski with its John Felice Award in 2013 in recognition of his contribution to the John Felice Rome Center, as well as to business and his community.

**Ms. Urszula
Nowakowska**

Founder and president of the Warsaw-based Women's Rights Center, a leading Polish NGO providing comprehensive assistance to female victims of violence. The Center has several branches throughout the country and it runs a safe shelter in Warsaw for women and women with children who left their homes to escape their abusers. Over the past 22 years, Urszula Nowakowska has personally intervened in numerous ongoing gender-based violence cases, often accompanying women escaping abusive partners and bringing them to safety. Prior to establishing the Women's Rights Center, Ms. Nowakowska was a women's rights activist. In the 1980s, she was one of the first to explicitly raise women's rights in politics and society as part of the anti-communist opposition. She co-founded the Polish Feminist Association in 1989 and was actively involved in numerous efforts to create an influential women's movement to consider gender equality as part of the new legal and political order after the collapse of communism. In 1991, Ms. Nowakowska attended the Equal Opportunity and Legal Protection International Visitor Leadership Program in Washington, DC, and in 1993 participated in a three month U.S. Congressional Fellowship Program. From 1992-1995, she served as a staff member of the Parliamentary Constitutional Committee and the European Integration Committee. In 1994, Ms. Nowakowska helped co-found Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE), a network of European NGOs working to combat violence against women and children, and continues to serve as a member of the network's advisory board. During her thirty years of advocacy, Ms. Nowakowska has authored and edited numerous legal manuals on violence against women, reports on women's rights violations, and dozens of articles on women's issues. She has organized gender-based violence training for law enforcement and judicial officials, as well as women's rights advocates. Ms. Nowakowska also advocated for the ratification of the 2011 Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. Her work in this area, as well as her contribution to combating violence against women, was recognized by former Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski when he signed the convention at the Women's Rights Center's office in Warsaw.

**Dr. Katarzyna
Sekowska- Kozłowska**

Director of the Poznań Human Rights Centre of the Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences. She conducts research in various fields of international human rights law. With a focus on gender issues (including reproductive rights, violence against women, temporary special measures, gender stereotyping) she is a member of the scientific board of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Cultural Gender and Identity Studies of Adam Mickiewicz University.

Dr. Sylwia Spurek

Deputy Human Rights Commissioner for Equal Treatment of the Republic of Poland. She was a member of the Legal Fellowship Program and participant in the International Women's Human Rights Clinic (City University of New York, 2000). Between 2002 and 2005 she was a lawyer at the Secretariat of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Status of Men and Women. Ms. Spurek participated in monitoring of law changes in terms of equal treatment, discrimination and human rights in Poland. Her contributions included participating in drafting the first Polish legal act on prevention of domestic violence. Until 2014 she had been a counsel at the Office of the Prime Minister (Legal Department), later appointed Deputy Head of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment (until June 2015). In 2008-2015 she was a member of the Unit for European Court of Human Rights Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Todd Waller

In 2010 - 2012 she held the position of a representative of the Office of the Prime Minister at the Committee of the Protection of Rights. She was a University lecturer of Gender Studies at the University of Warsaw and post-graduate course in Gender Mainstreaming at the Polish Academy of Sciences. She is a certified expert in helping victims of domestic violence (National Emergency Line for the Victims of Domestic Violence “Blue Line”). Dr. Spurek is a member of the Polish Society of Anti-Discrimination Law and the Polish Legislative Society. She is the author of numerous publications on domestic violence, as well as equal treatment and discrimination issues.

Dr. Todd Waller is the Director of the Spring Hill College Italy Center. The Italy Center provides courses focusing on social justice education. The program works in collaboration with Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) to offer a diploma in Innovation and Social Change for migrants who study alongside American students in Bologna. He has taught service learning courses and coordinated international service projects at a number of universities including the John Felice Rome Center, Johns Hopkins SAIS, University of Pennsylvania, University of Denver, Regis University, and Fordham University. He has directed two documentary films in Bosnia Herzegovina. He received his doctorate in International Education from the University College in London in 2011.