

About our Keynote Speaker

**VICE CHAIR - UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION, COMMISSION ON THE
ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)**

Ms. BANDANA RANA



Ms. Bandana Rana serves as the Vice Chair of the United Nations Association's Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). She is the first Nepali national serving on the Committee where she brings more than three-decades of experiences working in the field of gender equality and women rights. She has been a member of UN CEDAW since 2017.

Ms. Rana is an Independent Gender Expert and key member of the women's movement of Nepal having worked at the grassroots, national, regional and global level addressing extensive discrimination against marginalised, destitute and conflict affected women and their empowerment. She founded and led national, regional and global networks as well as women's shelters to work and advocate for the full development and advancement of women addressing their political, economic, social, cultural and civil rights. She has extensive experience in leading national, regional and global advocacy, research and public outreach programs for policy reforms linking UN instruments particularly CEDAW, ICPD, BPFA, UNSCR 1325 and SDGs to local, national and regional initiatives.

As a Television journalist with Nepal Television for two decades (initially full time and later part time), Ms. Rana co-founded and led Forum of Women in Media (Sancharika Samuha) in Nepal and led critical media and participatory communication programs to promote gender equality. She has several years of experience in leading and moderating national and international level conferences, meetings and events attended by the highest level of state authorities.

She has held many key positions in Nepal and internationally. Her international work includes but is not limited to Focal person of the Committee for Women Peace and Security, Member of the High Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 (UNFPA) (2020-2023), Member of the High Level Advisory Group for the UN Secretary General's Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2014/15), Member of the UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group (2012 /15), Co - Chair of the Asia Pacific NGO Committee on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Vice President of International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) (2007/2010)

Ms. Rana holds a Master's Degree (One Year in English Literature 1983) and Bachelor's Degree (Psychology, Culture and Major English) Tribhuvan University (1981/82). She earned a Post Graduate Diploma in Women in Journalism – FOJO Sweden (1997), a Post Graduate Diploma in Women in Development Project Management – Atlanta Management Institute (USA 1992) and a Post Graduate Diploma in News and Current Affairs – Radio Netherlands Training Centre, Netherlands (1987).

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