

SPEAKERS BIOS (as of October 9, 2015)



**Agnès Callamard @AgnèsCallamard**

**Director, Global Freedom of Expression & Information; Special Adviser to the President, Columbia University**

Dr. Agnès Callamard is the Director of Columbia University Global Freedom of Expression & Information, an initiative seeking to advance understanding on freedom of expression global norms. She spent nine years as the Executive Director of ARTICLE 19, the international human rights organization promoting and defending freedom of expression and access to information globally. She founded and led HAP International (the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership), which is the first self-regulatory body for humanitarian agencies at the international level. Prior to this, Dr. Callamard was Chef de Cabinet for the Secretary General of Amnesty International (AI) and AI's Research-Policy Coordinator, leading AI's policy work and research on women's human rights. She has advised senior levels of multilateral organizations and governments around the world and has led human rights investigations in more than 30 countries. She has published broadly in the field of human rights, women's rights, refugee movements and accountability and holds a PhD in Political Science from the New School for Social Research in New York.



**Ashraf El Nour @IOMatUN**

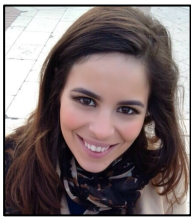
**Permanent Observer for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to the United Nations**

Mr. El Nour began his career in 1988 at CARE International, serving as an Assistant Programme Coordinator for the next three years. In 1991, he went on to join IOM, first as Coordinator for Northern Iraq until 1993 and then as their Coordinator of Operations in Mozambique until 1995. Moving to the agency's headquarters in Geneva, he worked as Programmes Coordinator for Migration for Development and Technical Cooperation until 1998, when he became Regional Adviser for Africa and the Middle East until 2001. After working as Senior Recovery Adviser at the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Geneva-based Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Mr. El Nour returned to IOM as Special Assistant with the Office of the Director General from 2006 to 2007. He then served in Kenya as Regional Representative for East and Central Africa, from 2007 to 2012, and as Regional Director for East and Horn of Africa from 2013 until his current appointment. Born in Khartoum in 1963, Mr. El Nour holds a master's degree in political science from Aligarh Muslim University in India.



**David Gura** @davidgura  
**Reporter, Bloomberg Television**

Before joining Bloomberg Television, David Gura was a senior reporter for, and the principal back-up host of, Marketplace, the public radio business and economics program. He has traveled widely, reporting on the U.S. economy. Much of his recent coverage has centered on the recession and recovery, and the implementation of healthcare and financial reform. He has reported on countless budget battles, showdowns and shutdowns. Ahead of the 2014 election, Gura focused on campaign finance. After the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, in Newtown, Conn., he spent several months reporting a series called “Guns and Dollars,” about the U.S. firearms industry. Gura began his career at NPR, first as an editor and a producer, then as a reporter for The Two-Way, the network's breaking news blog. He regularly contributed radio pieces to NPR's flagship news magazines, All Things Considered, Morning Edition, and Weekend Edition. His writing has been published by The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Columbia Journalism Review, and the Virginia Quarterly Review.



**Widad Ketfi** @widadk  
**Journalist, Bondy Blog**

Widad Ketfi is a French-Algerian journalist and blogger. Since 2007, she has written for the Bondy Blog, a website created during the riots in the French banlieues that spread through the country in 2005. The Bondy Blog gives a voice to groups who are underrepresented in mainstream media. In 2011, after studying journalism in Paris, she started to work for Canal+ group (canal +/ itélé/ D8) and M6 where she is still working as freelance journalist. Throughout her career, she's worked to help change the way young people from the banlieues are portrayed in mainstream media. In 2015, she covered the trial of two police officers involved in a case that is often considered one of the triggers of the tensions that led to the 2005 riots. Ketfi writes about the banlieues, discrimination, education, and racism. She also went to Tunisia during the revolution, and to Gaza in 2014 to report for the Bondy Blog.



**Eric Newton** @EricNewton1  
**Innovation Chief, Professor of Practice, The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication**

As the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Eric Newton drives change and experimentation at Cronkite News, the news division for Arizona PBS. He also serves Knight Foundation as a consultant, working on special projects and endowment grants. In his nearly 15 years at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, he expanded the foundation's journalism and media innovation program, overseeing the development of more than \$300 million in grants, \$160 million of which went to universities for pioneering projects in journalism education. Newton developed grants for groundbreaking initiatives such as Poynter Institute's News University, the largest online journalism-training portal in the world,

and Sunshine Week, an annual national observance of the importance of open government. His work was central to the creation of the Carnegie-Knight Initiative on the Future of Journalism Education, a high-visibility consortium of leading journalism schools dedicated to transforming journalism education at the university level. At Knight Foundation in 2007, Newton's team launched the nationally recognized Knight News Challenge, a media innovation competition that funds breakthrough ideas in journalism. Before joining Knight Foundation, Newton was founding managing editor of the Newseum in Arlington, Va. (now in Washington, D.C.). As managing editor of the Oakland Tribune, he helped guide the paper to numerous awards, including a Pulitzer Prize. He is the author of books and publications, including "Searchlights and Sunglasses: Field Notes From the Digital Age of Journalism." He shared a Peabody Award for Link TV's nightly news program, "Mosaic: World News From the Middle East."



**Mirta Ojito** @MirtaOjito

**Director, News Standards, Telemundo network**

Mirta Ojito was born in Havana, Cuba, and came to the United States in 1980 in the Mariel boatlift. She has received the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Award for best foreign reporting, and she shared the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting, for her contribution to the series "How Race Is Lived in America." Her work has appeared in several anthologies, including *Written into History: Pulitzer Prize Reporting of the Twentieth Century* from The New York Times, edited by Anthony Lewis. Ojito has taught journalism at New York University, Columbia University, and the University of Miami. She writes for The New York Times from Miami.



**Kai Wright** @kai\_wright

**Features Editor, The Nation**

Kai Wright's reporting and writing has focused on economic inequity, healthcare, racial justice, and sexuality. He is the former editorial director of Colorlines, a longtime fellow of the Investigative Fund at the Nation Institute and a regular analyst on National Public Radio and in other broadcast media.



**John Yearwood** @john\_yearwood

**World Editor, The Miami Herald; Chairman, International Press Institute North American Committee**

Under Yearwood's leadership, the World Desk of *The Miami Herald* has won numerous awards, including the Arthur Ross Award for best coverage of Latin America and it was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Breaking News for the Haiti earthquake coverage. It has also won recognition from Columbia University, the Overseas Press Club, the American Academy of Diplomacy and the King of Spain. Yearwood's legacy at the Herald includes conceiving

and directing the landmark “A Rising Voice” series that reported on the empowerment and civil rights struggle occurring among Afro-Latin Americans. Yearwood is a regular guest on National Public Radio, and local and national television programs, including the Tavis Smiley Show. During the course of his career, he has met with countless world leaders ranging from Nelson Mandela and Margaret Thatcher to President Obama and Jordan’s King Abdullah. Prior to joining the Miami Herald, Yearwood was National/International Editor at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Texas. Before that, he spent two years in Trinidad as founding publisher/editor of IBIS, a general lifestyle magazine. He also spent 10 years at The Dallas Morning News, where he reported from Europe, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.