



66th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Parallel Event presented by The League of Women Voters of the United States and the Global NGO Executive Committee



Climate Change Threats to Democratic Elections: Preparing for the Worst

23 March 2022 from 2:00pm to 3:30pm Eastern Time (New York)

Please register in advance to join our Zoom Webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NF11hdvqR92H7k6SosyJ-A

(After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.)

Hear stories about how elections can be disrupted by severe climate change and environmental threats. You will learn about solutions, take-away lessons, and strategies that can be universally adapted so that individuals and their communities are prepared to prevent interruption of a citizen's right to vote.

Our Panel of Expert Speakers:

Mustafa Santiago Ali, Vice President of Environmental Justice, Climate and Community Revitalization for the National Wildlife Federation; Founder of Revitalization Strategies

David Becker, Executive Director and Founder Center for Election Innovation & Research, former Director of the elections program at The Pew Charitable Trusts

Natalie Adona, Assistant Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters for Nevada County, California, Deputy Member of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and the County Records Association of California

Nuhad Yazbik Dumit, Associate Professor at the American University of Beirut, School of Nursing, Lebanon, former President of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon.

Climate Threats to Democratic Elections: Preparing for the Worst

Speaker Bios:

Panelist:



Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali serves as the Vice President of Environmental Justice, Climate, and Community Revitalization for the National Wildlife Federation. He is also the founder of Revitalization Strategies, a business focused on moving our most vulnerable communities from “surviving to thriving.” Before joining the National Wildlife Federation, Mustafa was the senior vice president for the Hip Hop Caucus, a national non-profit and non-partisan organization that connects the hip-hop community to the civic process. He led the strategic direction, expansion, and operation of the Hip Hop Caucus’ portfolio on climate, environmental justice, and community revitalization. Prior to joining the Hip Hop Caucus, Mustafa worked for 24 years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Panelist:



David Becker is the Executive Director and Founder of the nonpartisan, non-profit Center for Election Innovation & Research, leading CEIR’s successful efforts to help election officials of both parties, all around the country, ensure that all eligible voters can vote conveniently in a system with maximum integrity. As one of the foremost elections experts in the country, with over two decades of experience, David is an expert on all aspects of election administration, including election cybersecurity, disinformation, foreign interference, long lines and other issues with in-person voting, mail and early voting, and voter registration. Prior to founding CEIR, David was Director of the elections program at The Pew Charitable Trusts. As the lead for Pew’s analysis and advocacy on elections issues, David spearheaded development of the Electronic Registration Information Center, or ERIC, which to date has helped a bipartisan group of thirty states update over 10 million out-of-date voter records, and helped those states register tens of millions of new eligible voters.

Before joining Pew, David served for seven years as a senior trial attorney in the Voting Section of the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division, overseeing voting rights enforcement in several states, including California and Georgia, and served as lead counsel on major voting rights litigation, including the case of *Georgia v. Ashcroft*, ultimately decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

David served as CBS’ election law expert during the 2020 election cycle, and his many appearances in the media include *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, MSNBC, PBS NewsHour, and NPR, and is frequently published on election issues, including by the *Stanford Social Innovation Review* and *The Washington Post*. David received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of California, Berkeley.

Panelist:



Natalie Adona is the Assistant Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters for Nevada County. She is a Deputy Member of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) and the County Recorders Association of California. She currently serves as the Chair of the CACEO Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Co-Chair of the state Ballot Design Advisory Committee. Prior to joining the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder's office, she was the Senior Research and Learning Associate for the Elections Program at Democracy Fund, a private philanthropy based in Washington, DC. Natalie's professional interests over the last 15 years center on elections and voting, including public opinion surveys on the topic. She is the co-author of "Understanding the Voter Experience" and the co-author/Principal Investigator of "Stewards of Democracy." Natalie holds a B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley, a J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law and a M.P.A. from AU's School of Public Affairs.

Panelist:



Dr. Nuhad Yazbik Dumit is an associate professor at the American University of Beirut School of Nursing, the convener of the undergraduate program, the coordinator of the MSN Administration and Management track at the AUB School of Nursing, and co-director of the Continuing Medical Education Office at the Faculty of Medicine, AUB. She has several funded research projects, related publications and oral presentations in international scientific conferences focusing on nursing workforce issues. She served as a consultant locally and regionally in higher education and health-related issues and as a member of the Scientific Steering Committee for the International Council of Nurses Code of Ethics. As the elected President of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon from 2015-2018, she submitted several nursing regulations proposals, won the International Council of Nurses Innovation Award in 2017, and organized a regional symposium addressing the impact of refugee healthcare on the nursing workforce. She is the recipient of the "Distinguished Nurse of the Year in Nursing Education" award by the Order of Nurses in Lebanon and the World Health Organization in 2006; and the "Teaching Excellence Award" by the American University of Beirut in 2007. Dr. Dumit led two research projects for the United Nations Population Fund related to reproductive and sexual health and HIV services. Dr. Dumit led a community health initiative in response to the Beirut Port blast serving people affected by the blast in Area 1, adjacent to the blast site. As a result of her leadership in the community, women were empowered to become more politically active in elections in Lebanon. She is running for Parliament with an independent group in the May 2022 elections. Dr. Dumit received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Masters in Education Policy from the American University of Beirut; and a PhD in nursing from the University of Colorado Denver, College of Nursing, and the first Global Nursing Leadership Institute certificate by the International Council of Nurses in 2009.

Facilitator:



Sarah Hirsch is an economic and financial policy expert and former diplomat. Since 2010, Sarah has advised senior public and private sector officials, including heads of state. From 2012 to 2019, Sarah served at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, most recently as senior advisor to the Under Secretary for Domestic Finance and Under Secretary for International Affairs. From 2014 to 2016, Sarah represented the United States as an advisor and Alternate U.S. Executive Director at the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. For her service, Sarah was awarded the Secretary’s Exceptional Service Award. Sarah is an NGO Representative to the United Nations for the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Facilitator:



Dr. Connie Sobon Sensor is an Assistant Professor at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, USA. She is the chief NGO representative to the United Nations for the League of Women Voters of the United States and President of the Northeast Chapter of the Transcultural Nursing Society. She serves as an elected Director on the Board of the Global NGO Executive Committee. Dr. Sensor earned a PhD from Seton Hall University, a Masters in Nursing Management from Kean University, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from New Jersey City University. She has presented locally, nationally and internationally about the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Leadership in Global Health, and her research about health-related beliefs, practices and experiences of migrant populations.



Register for the NGOCSW66 Forum: March 13-25, 2022. It is free and open to the public. Go to <https://ngocsw.configio.com/pd/6/> to register. After you register, you will receive an email with a link to log into the Virtual Portal and set up your account.