Invitation

Breaking Barriers, Being Better: Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations

When: September 26, 2018, 75 minutes, 1:15 pm -2:30 pm
Where: UN HQ, New York, CR5
Moderator: Chrystia Freeland, Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Background
In November 2017, Canada hosted a UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Meeting, at which Prime Minister Trudeau launched the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations. The Elsie Initiative is a pilot project through which Canada will develop and test innovative approaches to increase the meaningful participation of women in UN peace operations in uniformed military and police roles. In March 2018, Minister Freeland hosted an event on the margins of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, which discussed approaches to move from incrementalism to bold, rapid change in terms of the participation of women in peace operations.

Event
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, will highlight recent developments and exciting progress made on the Elsie Initiative since November 2017 by Canada and its Contact Group. She will also moderate a dynamic and impactful roundtable, with women peacekeepers sharing first-hand experiences serving in UN missions, and a representative from the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) sharing conclusions from its recent study assessing barriers to increasing women’s participation in peace operations. Minister Freeland will also be joined by other Ministers speaking to their governments’ commitment to creating positive change, and their support for the innovative work of the Elsie Initiative.