



**Canadian & Turkish Women's Association of Ottawa
(CATWAO)**

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"Bridging Cultures"

Evolving Role of Women in the Turkish and Canadian Societies

Panel Discussion

Organized on the occasion of the 2009 International Women's Day

**Hosted by Senator Mobina Jaffer and
Dr. Rafet Akgünay, The Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey**

Tuesday, March 10, 4:30 pm
131 Queen St., Ottawa, ON, Canada

Panel Chair: Caroline Andrew, Director of the Centre on Governance, University of Ottawa

Panel Members:

Prof. Ayşe Feride Acar has an MA and Ph.D. in Sociology from Bryn Mawr College (U.S.A.) and is currently an internationally published faculty member of Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey. Her research covers gender and women's studies, women's human rights, education and women, women in Islamic movements, women's participation in professional life as well as political sociology, social and political movements, and social and political change in Turkey. She was a member of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence Against Women, including Domestic Violence (2006-2008) and is a member of the International Women's Commission (IWC) for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace. She was a member and national contact for Turkey for the European Network for Women's Studies (1990-1998), member (1997-2005) and chairperson (2003-2005) of the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and a consultant/member of the Gender Advisory Panel for Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming in UNDP (2004-2005). She is the founding chair of the Gender and Women's Studies Graduate Program at METU.

Prof. Ayşe Güneş-Ayata has a Ph.D. in Sociology and Social Anthropology from the University of Kent at Canterbury (U.K.) and a prolific writer from Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey. Her research areas include women in politics, revival of Islam in Turkey, migration and urban ethnicity in Ankara, neighbourhood and community relations and urban culture, evaluation of gender mainstreaming policies of the UN Development Program and poverty. She was a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies (1993-1994 and 2002-2003). She is the chair of the Center for Black Sea and Central Asia at METU; a member of the Advisory Board of the Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS, UNDP; and the founding member of the Program Committee of the First European Sociology Conference and member of several scientific organizations, such as the Turkish Sociological Association (founding member and member of the Executive Board); the Association of Social Anthropologists in the U.K. and Turkish Political Science Association.

Prof. Caroline Andrew is the Director of the Centre on Governance at the University of Ottawa and a political scientist and researcher on local politics, municipal government, urban development and gender equality. Former Dean of the Faculty of Social Science of the University of Ottawa (1997-2005) she was named in August 2007 as the first Chair of the Board of Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario. Her interest in the study of local politics and urban governance developed into an interest in the role of local communities and municipalities in the area of violence against women and in the creation of safe, healthy and inclusive communities. Current action research in this area is through involvement in the Ottawa based "*City for All Women Initiative / Initiative: une ville pour toutes les femmes*" and through "*Femmes et Villes Internationales / Women and Cities International*". Caroline has been active in the women's movement; has served as the president of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women; was a member of the advisory body to the Status of Women Canada's Research Program, and contributed to women's advancement and equality within and outside Canada.

Pauline Rankin holds a Ph.D. in political science and researches in the area of women's participation in political life. She is a co-author of *Politics As If Women Mattered: A Political Analysis of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women*, editor of a collection on gender and public policy and the author of articles on various aspects of women's movements in Canada, nationalism, gender and public policy and gender mainstreaming. She is involved in several international gender and development projects where she specializes in integrating gender into public policymaking. She has delivered seminars and training workshops in Russia, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, China, and throughout the South Caucasus. Dr. Rankin served as Director of the Pauline Jewett Institute of Women's Studies from 2000-2005; Director of the School of Canadian Studies from 2005-2007, and currently holds the position of Associate Dean (Research) for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Carleton University.