

Online Webinar with Ambassador Samantha Power and Ambassador Karel van Oosterom

Date

Thursday 25th June 2020

Time

21:00 (9PM GMT+2)

Title

Online Webinar with Ambassador Samantha Power and Ambassador Karel van Oosterom

Special Guests

Ambassador Karel JG van Oosterom – Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN

Ambassador Samantha Power – Former United States Ambassador to the United Nations

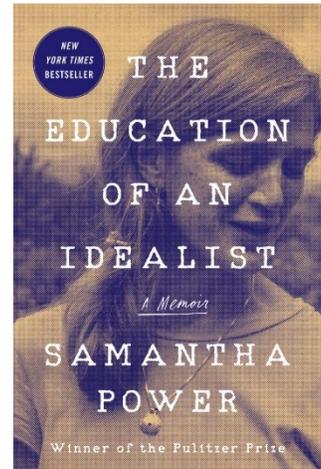
Short description of the event

This year the United Nations turns 75 and June 26th is the 75th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter. To mark this occasion Ambassador Samantha Power and H.E. Ambassador Karel J.G van Oosterom are taking part in an online event to talk about their experiences as international civil servants. Moderated by [Chris Kijne](#), the interview will explore the intricacies of the United Nations, the Security Council, and how to make a difference in the world.

To join the conversation on **Thursday 25th June at 21:00 (9PM GMT+2)** please use the following Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88646593213>

Short description of the books¹

In the book, *the education of an Idealist: A memoir*, Ambassador Samantha Power offers an urgent response to the question “What can one person do?”— and a call for a clearer eye, a kinder heart, and a more open and civil hand in our politics and daily lives. *The Education of an Idealist* traces Ambassador Power’s distinctly American journey from immigrant to war correspondent to presidential Cabinet official. The book describes Ambassador Power’s journey as she navigates the halls of power while putting her ideals into practice.



In her book, Ambassador Power transports us from her childhood in Dublin to the streets of war-torn Bosnia to the White House Situation Room and the world of high-stakes diplomacy. Humorous and deeply honest, *The Education of an Idealist* lays bare the searing battles and defining moments of her life and shows how she juggled the demands of a 24/7 national security job with the challenge of raising two young children. Along the way, she illuminates the intricacies of politics and geopolitics, reminding us how the United States can lead in the world, and why we each can advance the cause of human dignity. Ambassador Power’s memoir is an unforgettable account of the power of idealism—and of one person’s fierce determination to make a difference.

¹ <https://www.libris.nl/boek/?authortitle=karel-van-oosterom%2Fmet-een-oranje-das--9789045040240>

<https://www.managementboek.nl/boek/9789045040240/met-een-oranje-das->

In the book, *Met Een Oranje Das: Een jaar in de Veiligheidsraad* (*With an orange tie: a year in the Security Council*), Ambassador van Oosterom gives the reader an intimate glimpse into the Security Council. He shows how diplomats fight international conflicts without resorting to violence.

Ambassador van Oosterom's book focuses on the year 2018 which is when the Kingdom of the Netherlands occupied a seat

on the Security Council as a non-permanent member. The book highlights the work of the Security Council in Syria, Yemen, Iran and North Korea as well as situations that garnered international attention like the MH17 tragedy and the Novichok issue in Salisbury. In his book Ambassador van Oosterom elaborates on the great importance of the UN and what it means for the Netherlands that it was part of the Security Council for a year.



Speaker Profiles:

Ambassador Samantha Power – Former United States Ambassador to the United Nations

Ambassador Samantha Power is the Anna Lindh Professor of the Practice of Global Leadership and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School and William D. Zabel '61 Professor of Practice in Human Rights at Harvard Law School. Ambassador Power began her career as a journalist, reporting from places such as Bosnia, East Timor, Kosovo, Rwanda, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. Before joining the U.S. government, Ambassador Power was the founding executive director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the Kennedy School, a columnist for TIME, and a National Magazine Award-winning contributor to the Atlantic, the New Yorker, and the New York Review of Books.

In 2005, her critiques of US foreign policy caught the eye of newly elected senator Barack Obama, who invited her to work with him on Capitol Hill and then on his presidential campaign. After Obama was elected president, Ambassador Power went from being an activist outsider to a government insider, navigating the halls of power while trying to put her ideals into practice. From 2009 to 2013, Ambassador Power served on the National Security Council as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, where she focused on issues including atrocity prevention; UN reform; LGBT and women's rights; the promotion of religious freedom and the protection of religious minorities; and the prevention of human trafficking. She served for four years as Obama's human rights adviser, and in 2013, he named her US Ambassador to the United Nations, the youngest American to assume the role.

From 2013 to 2017, Ambassador Power served as the 28th U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, as well as a member of President Obama's cabinet. In this role, Ambassador Power became the public face of U.S. opposition to Russian aggression in Ukraine and Syria, negotiated the toughest sanctions in a generation against North Korea, lobbied to secure the release of political prisoners, helped build new international law to cripple ISIL's financial networks, and supported President Obama's pathbreaking actions to end the Ebola crisis. President Obama has called her "one of our foremost thinkers on foreign policy," saying that "she showed us that the international community has a moral responsibility and a profound interest in resolving conflicts and defending human dignity."

Ambassador Karel van Oosterom – Ambassador and permanent representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at the United Nations,²

Ambassador Karel J. G. van Oosterom is the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at the United Nations in New York and presented his credentials to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on August 5th, 2013.

Before Karel J.G. van Oosterom was the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations he was the Director-General for Political Affairs in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a post he held since 2011. Prior to that, between 2006 and 2011, he was Foreign Policy and Defence Advisor to the Prime Minister. A career diplomat for almost 30 years, he held several positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as Deputy Head of Mission at the Dutch Embassy in Beijing, from 2002 to 2006. During a six-year stint in the Ministry's European Affairs Department, he served most recently as the Department's Deputy Director from 2000 to 2002, as well as Head and Deputy Head of the Western European Division from 1998 to 2000 and from 1996 to 1998 respectively.

Event information

<https://www.john-adams.nl/event/un-us-nl-with-samantha-power-and-karel-van-oosterom/>

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88646593213>

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- ² https://washdiplomat.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11773&Itemid=162
- <https://www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl/ambassadeurs/o/oosterom-karel-van>
 - <https://www.un.org/press/en/2013/bio4504.doc.htm>

