

Dianne will discuss the UN's response to the recent 'sex scandals' that implicate peacekeepers and humanitarian workers in sexual abuse and exploitation of young women and children. She finds several aspects of the response, which adopts a zero tolerance approach to all peacekeeping sex, troubling. In particular, the definitions of 'sexual exploitation' and 'sexual abuse' are broad and overlapping, the representations of women are protective rather than empowering, the adoption of 18 as the age of consent is not in keeping with children's rights, and the policy's anti-fraternization policies have imperial overtones. She suggests that the overriding concern is institutional survival, rather than securing the human rights of the 'vulnerable' populations the policy purports to be concerned with.