

The Institute for Inclusive Security

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Advancing Leadership for the Field of Women, Peace, and Security

WASHINGTON, D.C. – May 3, 2011 – Ambassador Swanee Hunt, president and chair of Hunt Alternatives Fund, today announced new leadership for The Institute for Inclusive Security, one of the Fund’s programs. After five years as Institute director, Carla Koppell has taken a position with the US Agency for International Development, where she will serve as senior coordinator for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and senior adviser to the administrator.

“Based on Carla’s visionary leadership of the Institute in a time of enormous growth, we are confident that she will broaden the Obama administration’s fulfillment of its commitment to women worldwide,” said Ambassador Hunt. “Our new team is poised to build on her exemplary success and lead the way for all stakeholders to take their rightful place in peace processes around the world.”

Evelyn Thornton will become chief executive officer and Jacqueline O’Neill director. Mirsad (Miki) Jacevic will assume the role of chief training officer.

“Despite great momentum in our field right now, there remains a significant gap between rhetoric and full implementation of obligations on the part of international organizations and governments,” said O’Neill. “We will continue to connect women leaders to policymakers globally and demonstrate why inclusion is essential to building lasting peace.”

As CEO, Thornton will oversee vision, strategy, and management, as well as Inclusive Security’s extensive network of women leaders, and Middle East work. As director, O’Neill will represent the Institute to policymakers in a wide range of spheres. She will guide the Institute’s regional and thematic advocacy, research, and our agenda in Africa. Jacevic will continue heading the Institute’s training programs, as well as initiatives in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

“This is a momentous time to take the helm of Inclusive Security,” said Thornton. “Middle East uprisings are demonstrating that women’s participation is key to transforming conflict. I look forward to forming powerful new partnerships that put women at the forefront of realizing peace.”

About The Institute for Inclusive Security

The Institute for Inclusive Security uses research, training, and advocacy to promote the inclusion of all stakeholders, particularly women, in peace processes. We work with a global network of well over 1,000 women leaders from more than 40 conflict regions. Our research gives policymakers new strategies to drive inclusion by examining tangible contributions of women peacebuilders. Our training provides leaders with the specialized skills and knowledge to direct local, national, and international peacebuilding. Our advocacy to more than 5,000 high-level policymakers promotes change that makes peace processes more broad based, and thus sustainable. To learn more, visit <http://www.inclusivesecurity.org>.

About Hunt Alternatives Fund

Hunt Alternatives Fund, a family foundation based in Cambridge, MA, provokes sustainable social change through a blend of operating and grant-making programs. Since its founding in Denver in 1981, the Fund has contributed more than \$90 million toward a broad spectrum of social issues. Currently strengthening youth arts organizations, supporting social movement leaders, advocating for inclusive peace processes, combating the demand for modern-day slavery, and inspiring women to political leadership, the Fund designs and supports movements that produce systemic change. To learn more, visit the Hunt Alternatives Fund website at <http://www.huntalternatives.org>. The Institute for Inclusive Security is a program of Hunt Alternatives Fund.