



NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'OTAN

THE SECRETARY GENERAL
LA SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRALE

147 CIR 23 E

4 September, 2023

TO SECRETARIES OF MEMBER DELEGATIONS FOR DISTRIBUTION
TO ALL MEMBERS

Re: 2023 NATO PA Women for Peace and Security Award

Dear members,

As you know, the Standing Committee decided in 2021 to create a "Women for Peace and Security" Award to honour a woman who has made a particular contribution to the equal participation of women and men in the field of peace and security, the protection of women in conflict situations and/or the mainstreaming of women's needs and perspectives into relief and recovery initiatives in post-conflict countries.

I am pleased to inform you that the Selection Committee for the prize - composed of NATO PA Bureau members and the Special Representative of the NATO Secretary General for Women, Peace and Security - has bestowed the 2023 award to **Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, leader of Belarus' democratic movement**. Ms **Tsikhanouskaya** was nominated by Njall Trausti Fridbertsson, Head of the Icelandic delegation on behalf of his delegation.

Ms Tsikhanouskaya is grateful to the Assembly and has confirmed she will be delighted to join the award ceremony which will take place during the Assembly's plenary sitting in Copenhagen on 9 October. I know Assembly members will welcome this opportunity to recognise Ms Tsikhanouskaya's exceptional contribution.

The nomination highlights Ms Tsikhanouskaya's courageous fight against oppression and the violation of basic human rights by an authoritarian regime and stresses how she has become a role model and living symbol of the spirit of freedom and equality. The award also recognises her demonstrated commitment to the equal participation of women and men in the field of peace and security and the sacrifices she is making every day in her peaceful, non-violent struggle against tyranny.

I would like to express my gratitude as well to the other delegations who have submitted nominations for the quality of their submissions:

- Canada – **Ms Jacqueline O'Neill**, Canada's Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security
- Germany – **Ms Isabelle Lasserre**, Journalist, Deputy Editor-in-chief of the Foreign Affairs Department of the French daily newspaper *Le Figaro*
- Italy – **LtCol Monica Segat**, Commander of 'L'Aquila' 9° Alpini Battalion

Further information about the award, its purpose, criteria for submissions and previous awardees can be found on the NATO PA website here: <https://www.nato-pa.int/content/women-peace-and-security-award>

Yours sincerely,

Ruxandra POPA

