

UA Ruhr Celebrates Women in Diplomacy Day

In recognition of the United Nations' [International Day of Women in Diplomacy](#), University Alliance Ruhr (UA Ruhr) - representing Ruhr University Bochum, TU Dortmund University, and the University of Duisburg-Essen, celebrates the outcomes of its roundtable "*Women at the Forefront of Science Diplomacy*," convened on February 13, 2025, in Washington, D.C. This milestone event was organized as part of Women in Science Diplomacy Week and reflects UA Ruhr's growing commitment to advancing gender-inclusive leadership in science diplomacy through transatlantic cooperation.

Elevating Women in Science Diplomacy: A Transatlantic Dialogue

Held at the German Embassy in Washington, D.C., the roundtable was co-hosted with the Women in Science Diplomacy Association (WiSDA) and brought together diplomats, researchers, and academic leaders from Germany, the U.S., and beyond. Participants represented institutions such as the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Italian Embassy, the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University, University of Cologne's New York Office, UAS7 – Universities of Applied Sciences, NYU's Office of Research Planning and Analysis, the German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) New York, Children's National Hospital, the U.S. Department of State, and the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA), among others.

Key Recommendations for Advancing Gender Equity in Science Diplomacy

1. Empowering Universities and Research Networks

Participants highlighted the foundational role of universities in shaping the next generation of science diplomats and recommended both formal and informal mechanisms for gender equity. These included:

- Removing systemic barriers such as opaque hiring processes, limited childcare, and inflexible work arrangements
- Offering mentorship, skills training, and leadership development for women in research
- Institutionalizing science diplomacy through formal academic pathways and staff education
- Celebrating diverse role models and supporting women's visibility in the field

2. Strengthening the Pipeline for Women in Science Diplomacy

The group emphasized the need for sustainable, community-driven initiatives, including:

- Creating a shared registry of members' skills and areas of expertise
- Expanding in-person workshops and roundtables for mentorship and peer learning
- Enhancing collaboration with university offices and external partners
- Launching media and social campaigns to amplify women's contributions
- Sustaining programming through modest membership contributions

3. Advancing Transatlantic and Trilateral Collaboration

To tackle global challenges through inclusive science diplomacy, participants proposed:

- Establishing a Transatlantic Science Diplomacy Forum to connect stakeholders across borders
- Exploring trilateral collaborations among Germany, the U.S., and countries in the Global South
- Building public-private partnerships and launching shared digital platforms for resource exchange
- Advocating for institutional support for fellowships, awards, and joint research initiatives

Looking Forward

Participants agreed that policy alone doesn't transform culture, but it sets the framework for progress. Sharing models of success and building global networks are essential next steps in advancing equity, impact, and collaboration.

UA Ruhr reaffirms its commitment to inclusive science diplomacy by supporting the change needed to elevate women's leadership on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond.

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