SHORTLISTED 1

KHAMSHAJINY (KAMZY) GUNARATNAM
NORWEGIAN POLITICIAN

Born in Sri Lanka, Gunaratnam arrived in Norway at the age of 3 and grew up in Oslo. She is a courageous political leader, not afraid of challenging the established order and committed to political issues that contribute to more democracy, community involvement, and transparency. At the age of 27 she was elected as the youngest Oslo Deputy Mayor in history. In this role she has been especially outspoken about the fight against discrimination and hate speech. She herself is a survivor of terrorism rooted in hatred and intolerance: In July 2011, when she was 23, Gunaratnam was attending a Workers’ Youth League Camp on the island of Utøya where Anders Breivik killed 69 people, acting out Islamophobia and anti-feminism. Gunaratnam swam 500 metres across the Tyrifjorden Lake to survive, as bullets struck the water around her. She was previously the leader of the Workers Youth League (AUF) in Oslo, a member of the central board of AUF, and has been the editor of AUF’s magazine, Praksis. Currently, she is deputy leader of Oslo Labour Party. Moreover, she is a member of the Standing Committee on Culture and Education.

HIGHLIGHTS: FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION; DEMOCRACY

SHORTLISTED 2

TERRY REINTKE
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, GROUP OF THE GREENS/EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE

As a Member of the European Parliament, Terry Reintke has continually raised the issues faced by women of all ages, ethnicities, sexualities, religions, and nationalities both around Europe and around the world. She has called out countries, and leaders, with policies that are discriminatory against women - including transgender women - and through her social media profiles she has made young people aware of these issues. She has dedicated her career so far to human and environmental rights. She has served in the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Regional Development during her first term as European Deputy. Reintke has continually stood up for women’s rights in the European Parliament, and condemned countries which discriminate against women. She was featured by TIME magazine as a “Silence Breaker” for speaking out against sexual abuse and harassment.

HIGHLIGHTS: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT; FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION; EQUAL RIGHTS
SHORTLISTED 3

SVIATLANA TSIKHANOUSKAYA
BELARUSIAN POLITICIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST
By risking her own life, Belarusian opposition leader and political activist Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya has, in a very courageous way, taken upon herself the responsibility for political, social and democratic change for her country. She has insisted on a peaceful transition in Belarus. Together with other courageous people, many of them women, she has brought hope for a democratic and political change for her country. Moreover, she encouraged the EU to take a stronger stance and impose sanctions on top officials in her country and to not financially support a regime that is undermining democratic principles and civil liberties.

HIGHLIGHTS: BELARUS; POLITICAL ACTIVISM; HUMAN RIGHTS