Ms. Purna Sen
Director of Policy, UN Women

Ms. Purna Sen is Director of Policy at UN Women where she is responsible for the direction, leadership and management of the Policy Division as well as the UN Women Training Centre. She has more than 30 years’ experience in capacity building, service delivery and evaluation review, teaching, advocacy and research publishing.

Her work has included research, publications and activism on violence against women, culture and human rights, trafficking, sexuality and sexual control, human rights, developments, civil society organizing against violence, and social development issues and race equality in the UK. She has consulted with organizations including Article 19 and the British Council, and has been on the management and advisory groups of NGOs, including the Refugee Women’s Resource Project and Southall Black Sisters. Purna was previously a board member of the Kaleidoscope Trust (an LGBT rights charity), RISE (a domestic abuse charity) and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

Prior to joining UN Women, Purna was Deputy Director of the Institute of Public Affairs at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where she also taught gender and development. Previously, she served as Head of Human Rights for the Commonwealth Secretariat and as Director for the Asia-Pacific Programme at Amnesty International. During the 2015 UK general election, Purna was a parliamentary candidate for the Brighton Pavilion constituency.

She has a PhD from Bristol University on the subject of Violence against Women.