



**VISION 2020 LEADS DISCUSSION
on WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL CONFLICT
at SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT**

PHILADELPHIA, PA, June 17, 2013 -- -- Drexel's Vision 2020 project carried its message of advancing gender equality to Edinburgh, Scotland last week when founder and co-chair Lynn Yeakel moderated a panel discussion on "The Impact of Women's Leadership in Global Conflict" at Scottish Parliament.

The prestigious panel discussion on June 14 before a capacity audience was the culmination of the three-day conference, "Women and Warfare: From Troy to the Trenches," at the University of Edinburgh that focused on the roles women have played in warfare from antiquity to current conflicts and on the impact of war on women.

Vision 2020, a project of Drexel University College of Medicine's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership, was invited to participate in the conference by Yvonne McEwen, an Honorary Fellow at the University of Edinburgh's Centre for the Study of Modern Conflict and a Vision 2020 International Delegate.

The panelists for the discussion at Scottish Parliament included a Vision 2020 Delegate from Texas, Col. Kimberly Olson (USAF, Ret.), president and CEO of Grace After Fire, an organization that serves women veterans in that state, and Dean Afaf I. Meleis of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and a Vision 2020 Ambassador.

Other panelists were Megan Bastick, a lawyer and the Gender & Security Fellow with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, an intergovernmental organization of which the United Kingdom and the United States are members, and Tom Clonan, *Irish Times* security analyst, a retired Irish Army Captain and internationally recognized scholar on terrorism and combat, including women in combat.

"Vision 2020 was honored to participate in this conference that acknowledged the substantial contributions women have made as leaders, caregivers, participants and journalists during times of conflict, as well as the abuse of women and girls in wars throughout history," said Yeakel, director of the College of Medicine's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership. "The panel discussion at Parliament highlighted the importance of increasing the number of women in leadership and ensuring the protection of women during wartime.

“This international conference provided an ideal opportunity to showcase Vision 2020’s work on behalf of women’s equality and to build new coalitions to advance shared goals. We were honored to represent Drexel University in this setting of scholars and public policy experts.”

The College of Medicine’s Legacy Center contributed to an exhibition of the Royal College of Surgeons, *Women in Warfare*, which opened in conjunction with the conference. The Legacy Center, which is part of The Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership, is the repository for the records and heritage of the College of Medicine. One of the College’s predecessor institutions was the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania, the first medical college for women in the world.