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Letter from the Nuclear Security Women Editors

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Letter from the Nuclear Security Women Editors

Taylor Hart-McGonigle, Lindsey Gehrig, and Kathleen A. Doty
Nuclear Security Women

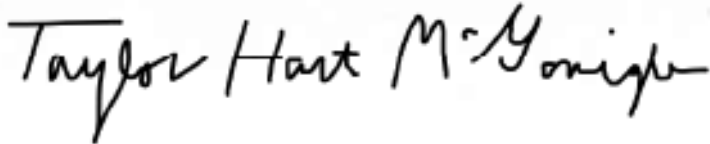
The Nuclear Security Women (NSW) initiative was born out of years of witnessing firsthand the gender disparity at nuclear security meetings, facilities, and training events around the world. The initiative was launched in the pandemic era as a means of connecting women working in nuclear security. Through activities such as coffee talks—in which NSW staff meet with international partners for a virtual coffee and discussion about gender equality—the initiative grew into a program that organizes events at global conferences, conducts research on gender equality in the field, and provides professional development opportunities for women.

This special issue of the *International Journal of Nuclear Security* (IJNS) represents a highlight of our work so far. We were honored to receive more than 50 abstract submissions in response to our call for papers for this issue. Our call for papers was intentionally very broad in scope, but with such an overwhelming response, we were faced with hard choices about the direction in which to take this issue. After much consideration, our team decided not to focus on technical papers. Authors that submitted technical work were invited to submit papers directly to a regular issue of IJNS. We hope that in this way, those women authors will find a publication home for their work, and we will have helped to increase IJNS' overall submission of technical papers from women authors.

We settled on three themes for this issue. The first addresses the role of women and nuclear security in current events, namely papers related to Ukraine. The second addresses regimes, both those related to gender and nuclear security, and the opportunities and challenges these present. The final section of the issue is dedicated to regional experiences and features papers about gender topics from authors from Africa and the Americas. (We note with disappointment that while we accepted papers

also representing Asia and the Middle East, those authors were unable to complete manuscripts in time for this issue. We hope that we will be able to represent even more areas of the world in future issues.)

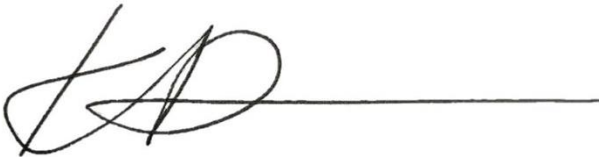
We are grateful for the collaboration with the staff at IJNS; their dedication to promoting the scholarship of women in the field is inspiring. We are proud to publish this special issue and hope that it is the first of many more opportunities to feature women's voices in this forum in the future.



Taylor Hart-McGonigle



Lindsey Gehrig



Kathleen A. Doty