***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 9 JUNE 2022 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-1)*** *(*[*https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/338142*](https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/338142)*)   
  and****(2) application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-2)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc51*](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc51)*)*
* *Once fully completed, in English or French only, the Word application form should be submitted by email to* [*ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org*](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)
* *A maximum of up to three optional reference letters may be attached to the email (in Word or PDF format).*
* *No additional documents (e.g. CVs, resumes or additional reference letters) will be accepted.*
* *Applicants will receive an acknowledgment email when both parts of the application process, i.e. the data submitted through the online survey and the Word application form, have been received by the Secretariat.*
* *Applications will only be considered if both parts and all sections of the Word application form have been completed and received by the Secretariat before the expiration of the deadline.* ***No incomplete or late applications will be accepted****.*
* *Eligible for Working Group mandates are only nationals of the States belonging to the* [*regional groups*](https://www.un.org/dgacm/content/regional-groups) *for which specific vacancies have been advertised.*
* *General description of the selection process and answers to frequently asked questions are available at* [*https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/nominations*](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/nominations) *and* [*https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/basic-information-selection-independent-experts*](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/basic-information-selection-independent-experts)*.*
* *In case of technical difficulties or problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by email (*[*ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org*](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)*) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family (last) name:** Sadovskaya | **5. Year of birth:** 1980 |
| **2. First (given) name:** Olga | **6. Place of birth:** Gorky, Russia |
| **3. Other name, if any:** | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Russia |
| **4. Gender:** Female | **8. Any other nationality:** |

**II. MANDATE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCE / QUALIFICATIONS / KNOWLEDGE**

**NOTE: Please describe why the candidate’s competence / qualifications / knowledge is relevant in relation to the specific mandate:**

1. **QUALIFICATIONS** (200 words limit)

**Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights; good communication skills (i.e. orally and in writing) in one of the six official languages of the United Nations (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.)**

Master in international law (LLM, 2004, University of Amsterdam and Nizhniy Novgorod State University under Erasmus Mundus program).

Certificate in public speaking (Russian and English).

Co-author of Manual on independent public investigations of human rights violations used by NGOs in different countries.

Co-author, 8 shadow reports to UN CAT.

External expert, UN DP Turkmenistan in 2018.

Awards; Martin Ennals Award, Homo Homini Prize, PACE human rights prize and Sakharov Freedom Award for investigations of torture and disappearances in the Russian North Caucasus.

Vice-Chair and international law expert, Russian Committee Against Torture.

Board member, OMCT (World Organization Against Torture).

Board member, EU-Russia Civil Society Forum.

Steering Committee member, Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe.

Member, Council of Russian human rights defenders.

Co-author of the 2d edition of the Istanbul protocol.

Representative of 367 victims of torture and abduction at ECHR. Two cases presented at ECHR were included into the list of 20 cases that have changed Russian laws and practice: https://rm.coe.int/russia-and-the-european-convention-on-human-rights-20-years-together-b/16808b3b38

Worked with abduction cases in the North Caucasus since 2003, starting as a junior investigator and and now lead complex and high-profile litigation, including on cases of mass abductions.

1. **RELEVANT EXPERTISE** (200 words limit)

**Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles. (Please state how this was acquired.)**

**Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the United Nations or other international or regional organizations’ work in the area of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate. (Please state how this was acquired.)**

**Proven work experience in the field of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate. (Please state years of experience.)**

I have graduated from Nizhniy Novgorod State university from the department of international law with the first research paper in Russia on torture and the European Convention.

I have been working with abduction and torture cases at national and international levels since 2003, including the first case of torture against police that set standards for similar cases in 2006 (Mikheev against Russia). Among the main cases are: https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-212397

https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-210754

https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-199016

As co-author of alternative reports to UN CAT, I organized informal briefings with UN CAT members and prepared NGOs for official briefing in 2008, 2012 and 2018.

In 2006 - 2010 taught three courses for 4th year undergrads at Nizhniy Novgorod State university: 1. UN human rights bodies, 2. Right to life and freedom from torture, 3. International and European mechanisms of human rights protection.

In 2021 had a course on incarceration and human rights as OAK Human Rights fellow at Colby college (Maine, USA): https://news.colby.edu/story/olga-sadovskaya-named-2021-oak-human-rights-fellow/

Between 2010 and 2021, several monitoring and investigation trips as a member of different international groups to Tunis, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Transnistria, and Belarus.

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE** (200 words limit)

**Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired.)**

12 years of experience in legal drafting (amendments to the Law on Office of Public Prosecutor, Criminal Code (criminalization of torture), Law on Police, regional law on governmental support of local NGOs).

16 years of experience in cooperation with international and regional HR bodies (UN CAT, OSCE, CPT, UPR, UN Special Reporters): urgent actions, analytical activity, reporting.

13 years of experience in analytical researches (including 4 alternative reports to UN CAT, 5 annual reports to Office of Prosecutor General).

Supervision of sociological research (2007 – prevalence of torture in Russia (in 17 regions), 2008 – level of confidence in local courts (1 region), 2009 - level of confidence in local police (1 region), 2018 – national research on torture prevention in Russia).

Consulting partners in CIS countries on litigation before UN bodies and ECHR. Trained HR defenders from CIS countries and Eastern Europe.

In 2017 together with OMCT conducted a training on UN mechanisms for a group of journalists in Geneva that results in the widest mass media coverage of Russian report to UN CAT.

1. **PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**Please list significant and relevant published books, articles, journals and reports that the candidate has written or public statements, or pronouncements that the candidate has made or events participated in relation to the mandate.**

* 1. **Enter three publications in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Title of publication:** How a Chechen abduction exposes Putin’s problems at home

**Journal/Publisher:** New York Times

**Date of publication:** 12.02.2022

**Web link, if available:** https://indianexpress.com/article/world/how-a-chechen-abduction-exposes-putins-problems-at-home-7769043/

**2. Title of publication:** Manual on public investigations of torture and other violations of fundamental human rights.

**Journal/Publisher:** Russian State Library

**Date of publication:** 2017

**Web link, if available:** https://search.rsl.ru/ru/record/01008916629?

**3. Title of publication:** A gaping hole in the criminal code Torture is endemic in Russia today. Here’s what can be done about it.

**Journal/Publisher:** Meduza.io

**Date of publication:** Jan 2022

**Web link, if available:** https://meduza.io/en/feature/2022/01/27/a-gaping-hole-in-the-criminal-code

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):

https://pytkam.net/en/the-echr-established-that-the-russian-authorities-bear-responsibility-for-abduction-and-brutal-treatment-of-salman-tepsurkayev-moderator-of-1adat-telegram-channel-chat/

https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/11/13/russian-child-witnessing-fathers-violent-arrest-was-tortured-european-court-rules-a68152

https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2021/12/07/en-russie-un-immense-complexe-carceral-soumet-un-demi-million-de-personnes-a-un-ordre-tyrannique\_6105039\_3232.html

https://2017.nyubernsteinconference.org/speakers/olga-sadovskaya/

https://humanrightsdefenders.blog/2015/12/02/russian-olga-sadovskaya-keeps-fighting-torture/

https://www.omct.org/en/resources/news/olga-and-the-paradox-of-fighting-torture-revealing-legal-dysfunctionality-building-trust

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ex-6Xz86nkE

* 1. **Enter three public statements or pronouncements made or events that the candidate may have participated in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** DHIM OSCE

**Event organizer:** OSCE

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** numerous public statements at Human Dimension Implementation Meetings OSCE between 2005 and 2020

**Web link, if available:** https://www.osce.org/event/hdim\_2011?view=conference\_documents&display=page\_5&arg=81384&author=690

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Conference on victim-centered approach by UNVFT

**Event organizer:** UNVFT UN

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** March 2018

**Web link, if available:** https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Torture/UNVFVT/ReportUNVFVT2018.pdf

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Geneal Assembly of CINGO

**Event organizer:** Council of Europe

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 26.02.2022

**Web link, if available:** https://rm.coe.int/elections-april-2021-olga-sadovskaya-motivation-en/1680a1e406

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):

https://www.rferl.org/a/russian-files-chechnya-gay-purge-complaint-with-european-rights-court/29960776.html

https://humanrightshouse.org/statements/russian-civil-society-calls-on-un-to-establish-special-rapporteur-to-monitor-and-report-on-human-rights-in-russia/

https://www.bond.org.uk/sites/default/files/human\_rights\_frontline\_country\_briefings\_final.pdf

1. **flexibility/readiness and AVAILABILITY of time** (200 words limit)

**to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, including participating in Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York, travelling on two country visits per year, drafting reports according to established deadlines, organizing and participating in consultations and meetings, addressing allegations of human rights violations with all concerned, providing advice to States and other stakeholders on issues related to their mandate and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. Kindly indicate whether the candidate can dedicate an estimated time of four to six months per year to the work of a mandate depending on its workload.**

**Please note that the work of mandate holders is unpaid. Those appointed as mandate holders serve in their personal capacities. They are not United Nations staff members, they are not based in United Nations offices in Geneva or at another United Nations location, and they do not receive salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.**

Being a member of OMCT board and bureau I spend 20% of my working time in Geneva and will be ready to increase the amount of time there. Monitoring visits and other travel is not a problem as well. Zoom allows to save time on trips sometimes and communicate online where it is possible.

In my organization we have modalities that allow me to decrease the work load for several years and have 40-50% workload in order to be able allocate half of my working capacities to WGAD. In addition, a group of volunteers working for my organization could be also used as additonal help in terms of legal drafting, media relations, designing documents, etc.

1. **NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE**

**Indicate whether the candidate has been nominated by (check all that apply):**

**Individual nominations (indicate this if the candidate is self-nominating)**

**Governments**

**Regional groups operating within the United Nations human rights systems**

**International organizations or their offices**

**Non-governmental organizations**

**National human rights institutions**

**Other human rights bodies**

**Name of the nominating entity and additional information about the nomination (use if applicable, for third-party nominations only)** (200 words limit)**:**

The World Organisation Against Torture is the leading civil society coalition operating a network of 200+ member organisations on torture, arbitrary detention and other serious human rights violations. We nominate Olga Sadovskaya because of her outstanding role in our global network and as a leading lawyer in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Olga has proven an exceptionally high legal talent, an unusual level of rigour in law and the documentation of cases of arbitrary detention paired with an experience using international standards successsfully in some of the most challenging security environments. She is acutely aware of the patterns and legal specificities on detention across the former Soviet Union space and beyond. She has participated for the OMCT in major legal work on arbitrary detention to the ECHR and the UN treaty system, and has also applied her legal and advocacy skills in training members of the SOS torture network in a number of countries outside her region and in conducting multiple field mission in relation to the implementation of universal anti-torture standards. We are convinced that she would positively shape the work on arbitrary detention within the WGAD and would be seen by her fellow members as a strong and inspiring colleague.

**III. Motivation Letter, INCLUDING YOUR VISION OF THE MANDATE**(600 word limit. Must be typed in the space below; cannot be sent in a separate email or as an attachment. To be written by the candidates themselves even if nominated by another entity.)

The war in Ukraine, the pandemic, growing pressure on human rights defenders in the Eastern Europe have exacerbated preexisting human rights concerns worldwide and especially on European continent. The crisis we are witnessing now intensifies the scope of human rights violations. The absolute prohibition of abductions and torture continues to be put into question across Europe and in the rest of the world. Starting with the collapse of the Council of Europe, hundreds of displaced people and refugees are bearing the risks of having long-term consequences that need to be dealt with urgently today.

It is in this context that I have decided to run as a candidate for a member of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, member from Eastern European States.

I have been working with the problem of abductions and tortures since 2022. We have started as a small human rights initiative back in 2000 and now the Committee Against Torture is the most professional and largest organisation in Russia that investigates cases of abductions and torture and provides experts for national and international advopcacy and investigative missions around the world. Learning from our successes and mistakes, my colleagues and I created and published a methodology for public investigation, which is now used by all human rights organisations in Russia, the former Soviet Union and, to my knowledge, its elements are used even in Tunisia and other countries.

I’ve started from the most basic position of investigator and for several year was collecting evidence of human rights crimes in colonies, prisons, police and psychiatric institutions until my field experince brought me to the level when I can work on the strategy, tactics and develop new projects aims at restoration of justice and prevention of tortures and abductions nationally and regionally.

My team and I started working 20 years ago to ensure that this crime ceased to be latent and that victims would be ready to talk and fight for justice. Ten years ago, the Committee against Torture, together with colleagues, passed a law on public monitoring of places of detention, and for the last 8 years I have been visiting prisons and colonies around the country.

I have 20 years of experience in cooperation with international and regional human rights bodies and a track record of collective work as part of the human rights movement. Being a part of OMCT Board I hear a global voice with more than 200 member organisations working to end abductions and tortures, assist victims, and protect human rights defenders at risk wherever they are.

I have academic experience and reach experience working with many international institutions. But in my view now in those cases involving disappearances, abductions, often massive and often violent and related to other human rights violations, experience on the ground, first-hand and first-hand evidence gathering experience and the ability to assess whether local activists can collect this evidence, and give them reasonable and workable recommendations for its collection and analysis, is very important. I have learned from my own mistakes how to investigate such cases and, with a group of colleagues, have set up a mechanism to do so in almost any circumstance. I am ready and willing not only to advise countries and work with analytical data related to disappearances, but also to be back to basics and work in the field again.

**IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)**

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **Russian**

**2. Knowledge of the official languages of the United Nations:**

**Arabic:** Yes or no:If yes,

**Read:** Easily orNot easily:   
**Write:** Easily or Not easily: **Speak:** Easily or Not easily:

**Chinese:** Yes or no:If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**English:** Yes or no: **yes** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **easily**

**French:** Yes or no: **yes** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **not easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **not easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **not easily**

**Russian:** Yes or no: **yes** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **easily**

**Spanish:** Yes or no:If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating the type of degree and field of study, and whether full- or part-time; for example, *Masters in Law, University of XXX, part-time, 1975-1977, city and country)*. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one degree may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of degree, field of study and name of academic institution, full or part-time:** | **Years of attendance**  (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003;  for ongoing education, please put e.g. 2018-present): | **Place and country:** |
| Specialist degree in international law, full-time http://eng.unn.ru | 1998 - 2003 | Russia |
| LLM, full-time  University of Amsterdam | 2002-2004 | The Netherlands |
|  |  |  |
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**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with the candidate’s current (most recent) occupation.** **Also, indicate whether positions held were full-time or part-time. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one position may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of employer,**  **functional title,**  **main functions of position, full- or part-time:** | **Years of work** (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2005;  for ongoing activities, please put e.g. 2018-present): | **Place  and country:** |
| Bar Assosiation of Nizhniy Novgorod, intern  part-time | 1999 - 2001 |  |
| Committee Against Torture (NGO), vice-chair  full-time and part-time depending on the certain period | 2002 - now |  |
| University of Nizhniy Novgorod, professor  part-time | 2004 - 2010 |  |
| HURDOCS, trainer on documentation of human rights violations  part-time | 2005 - 2012 |  |
| Colby college, professor  part-time | 2021 - 2022 |  |
|  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS   
(of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)  
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on the candidate’s behalf.***

**1. To your knowledge, does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause the candidate to limit the extent of inquiries, to limit disclosure, or to weaken or slant findings in any way? If yes, please explain.**

No

**2. Are there any factors that could either directly or indirectly influence, pressure, threaten, or otherwise affect the candidate’s ability to act independently in discharging the mandate? If yes, please explain:**

No

**3. Is there any reason, currently or in the past, that could call into question the candidate’s moral authority and credibility or does the candidate hold any views or opinions that could prejudice the manner in which the candidate discharges the mandate? If yes, please explain:**

No

**4. Does the candidate comply with the provisions in paragraph 44 and 46 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1? (Please answer YES if the candidate complies, NO if the candidate does not comply, together with an explanation.)**

***Para. 44: The principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions at a time shall be respected.***

***Para. 46: Individuals holding decision-making positions in Government or in any other organization or entity which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to the mandate shall be excluded. Mandate holders will act in their personal capacity.***

Yes

**5. Should the candidate be appointed as a mandate holder, the candidate will have to take measures to comply with paragraphs 44 and 46 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1. In the event that the current occupation or activity, even if unpaid, of the candidate may give rise to a conflict of interest (e.g. if a candidate holds a decision-making position in Government) and/or there is an accumulation of human rights functions (e.g. as a member of another human rights mechanism at the international, regional or national level), necessary measures could include relinquishing positions, occupations or activities. If applicable, please indicate the measures the candidate will take.**

I will be availbale to dedicate up to 7 month per year for this acivity since the procedures in my organization allow me to decrease the working volume for a period of 3 years and the working arrangements are well-done in order to work for the WGAD.

**VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION  
*To be completed by the candidate. The candidate’s name below should match how it is entered on the first page of the form and in the online survey.***

**I hereby certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete and are made in good faith. I understand that falsifying or intentionally withholding information will be grounds for not being selected or appointed or the withdrawal of any proposed appointment or, if an appointment has been made and accepted, for its immediate cancellation or termination.  
  
Kindly note that whilst no changes can be made after this application form has been submitted and the deadline for applications has expired, any relevant change of current occupation, employment, or position, or any other relevant fact or circumstance should be brought to the attention of the secretariat by   
email (**[**ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org**](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)**).**

**Please review the application before you insert your name and date to indicate your agreement.**

**Name:** Olga Sadovskaia

**Date:**     June 9, 2022

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1. The short **online survey** is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate applying for and, if appropriate, nominating entity. The same name, gender and nationality must be used both in the online survey and in the Word application form. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The **application form in Word format** includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words (section III of the form). The application form should be completed in English or French only, the two working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. The application form will be used as received to prepare the public list of eligible candidates who applied for the vacancy. The application forms of eligible candidates will also be posted as received on the OHCHR public web page for the selection process. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)