***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5 APRIL 2023 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-0)*** *(*[*https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/838551*](https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/838551)*)   
  and****(2) application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-1)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc53*](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc53)*)*
* *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 letters of support may be attached to the email (in Word or PDF format).*
* *No additional documents (e.g., CVs, resumes or additional letters of support) 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****.*
* *Candidates 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:** Ochab | **5. Year of birth:** 1986 |
| --- | --- |
| **2. First (given) name:** Ewelina | **6. Place of birth:** Poland |
| **3. Other name, if any:** | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Polish |
| **4. Gender:** F | **8. Any other nationality:** British |

**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-word limit)

**Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights, and 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).**

For more than 10 years, I have been involved in a wide variety of human rights projects focused on legal avenues for justice for ethnic and ethno-religious minorities in Iraq, Myanmar, Pakistan, China, India, Ethiopia, Nepal, Sudan and many more. I have produced legal analyses on the situations of ethnic and ethno-religious minorities in several countries. In 2021, I co-authored a report on the situation of Christian and Hindu minority girls in Pakistan, focusing on the issue of abductions, forcible conversions and forcible marriages. In 2022, I led a UK Parliamentary inquiry into the situation of the Hazara Shia minority in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 2023, I led a UK Parliamentary inquiry into the situation of Darfurians in Sudan since 2021.

In 2016 and 2023, I travelled to Iraq to meet with minority communities targeted by Daesh. Following my 2016 visit, I presented the findings to the UN Forum on Minority Issues. Following the 2023 visit, I produced a report commenting on legal avenues to achieve justice and accountability for the atrocities against the communities I visited and highlighting the legal reforms needed to ensure the comprehensive protection of ethnic and religious minorities. I presented the report at a side event to the 52nd session of the HRC.

In 2020, I obtained a PhD in international law, medical law and medical ethics from Kent Law School, UK.

1. **RELEVANT EXPERTISE** (200-word limit)

**Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles (please indicate how this was acquired). Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the work of the United Nations or other international or regional organizations in the area of human rights, and particularly in the area of the mandate (please indicate how this was acquired).**

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

I have an excellent knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles, acquired both in theory and practice. My knowledge was obtained through a combination of my education and my professional engagements.

My core knowledge was acquired through my above-mentioned studies at the University of Kent and City Law School. Through my formal education, I have become a leading academic in the area of atrocity crimes, and minority issues, publishing three academic books which deal with aspects of the topic.

Through my work with the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) and the Coalition for Genocide Response, I have had meaningful interactions with the Human Rights Council, treaty bodies and Special Procedures, such as HRC, CEDAW, Forum on Minority Issues, Special Rapporteurs on Minority Issues, Freedom of Religion or Belief, Afghanistan and others.

Through my work, I have been involved in country visits in the field of minority issues, participated in reform processes, prepared submissions, and delivered briefings and presentations. I have significant experience working with a broad range of domestic and international bodies engaging with international law. In recent years, I have been conducting research on various aspects of human rights, especially issues pertaining to the rights of minorities and the right to freedom of religion or belief.

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE** (200-word limit)

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

Notable to the issue of minorities:

• I have been working with governments and legislators on the topic of minority rights, freedom of religion or belief, atrocity crimes, and the situation of women and girls. Among others, in 2015, my research paper on the Daesh genocide was used during debates at the UK House of Commons which focused on whether the government should recognise these atrocities as genocide (April 2016). Following on from this, I produced similar briefings for the Dutch Parliament and Government and contributed to the Dutch recognition of the Daesh atrocities as genocide and comprehensive legal responses.

• I conducted several Parliamentary inquiries (UK) into the situation of ethnic and ethno-religious minorities and produced reports on the situations.

• I produced submissions and Article 15 communications to the Office of the Prosecutor to the ICC on the issue of minority community situations and the right to freedom of religion or belief.

• I have been engaging several UN bodies. I have made written and oral submissions at the UN Human Rights Council, UPR and the UN Forum on Minority Issues.

• I have contributed to several reports before the European Parliament, mostly on the topic of Daesh atrocities and global persecution on grounds of religion or belief.

• I have contributed to inquiries by the PACE.

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 in which the candidate has 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:** State Responses to Crimes of Genocide: What Went Wrong and How to Change It

**Journal/Publisher:** Palgrave

**Date of publication:** 2022

**Web link, if available:** https://link.springer.com/book/9783030991616

**2. Title of publication:** Dignity and International Human Rights Law

**Journal/Publisher:** Routlege

**Date of publication:** 2021

**Web link, if available:** https://www.routledge.com/Dignity-and-International-Human-Rights-Law-An-Introduction-to-the-Punta/Scharffs-Ochab/p/book/9781032074580

**3. Title of publication:**  'The Iraqi Constitutional Failure to Protect the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief' in Paul T. Babie, Neville G. Rochow and Brett G. Scharffs (eds.), Freedom of Religion or Belief. Creating the

**Journal/Publisher:** Elgar Publishing

**Date of publication:** 2020

**Web link, if available:** https://www.elgaronline.com/view/edcoll/9781788977791/9781788977791.00021.xml

**If more than three publications, kindly provide a summary of the rest** (200-word limit):I have published a number of reports, scholarly articles and op-eds. Some of my other recent publications include an academic article in the Journal of Genocide Research (Pieter Omtzigt and Ewelina U. Ochab, ‘Bringing Daesh to Justice: What the International Community Can Do’ (2018) Journal of Genocide Research, a chapter published with the Edinburgh University Press (‘Religious Freedom’ in Kenneth R. Ross, Mariz Tadros and Todd M. Johnson (eds) Christianity in North Africa and West Asia (Edinburgh University Press: Edinburgh, 2018)) and a book on Daesh genocide (Never Again: Legal Responses to a Broken Promise in the Middle East (Kairos: Vienna, 2016)).

I am currently working on two book proposals including one on the use of conflict-related sexual violence as a means of atrocity crimes against women and girls belonging to minority groups.

I have a column with Forbes where I cover human rights violations, particularly on the situation of religious or belief minorities, atrocity crimes and other topics.

I authored several reports following Parliamentary inquiries but also fact-finding missions to Iraq, Ukraine and other countries.

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

**1. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** Side event to the 52nd Session of the HRC

**Event organizer:** International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute and PMs of the US, Germany, Poland, Armenia, the Netherlands, Canada, Luxembourg

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** 6 March 2023

**Web link, if available:** n/a

**2. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** Side event to the 49th Session of the HRC

**Event organizer:** the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute, PMs of the US and the Netherlands

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** 15 March 2022

**Web link, if available:** https://www.ibanet.org/49th-UN-Human-Rights-Council-session-HRI-event

**3. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** UN Forum on Minority Issues

**Event organizer:** UN Forum on Minority Issues

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** 3 December 2021

**Web link, if available:** https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1q/k1qljucsrl

**If more than three, kindly provide a summary of the rest** (200-word limit):I have made several oral statements, public interventions, and speeches, including at sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, UN Forum on Minority Issues, European Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Parliaments of the UK and the Netherlands, and several conferences globally. In 2022, I spoke at the Ministerial on freedom of Religion or belief and the Ministerial on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, focusing on the situation of religious or belief minorities.

I organise regular webinars on human rights, atrocity crimes, and many more, online and in-person (including in the UK Parliament).

1. **FLEXIBILITY/READINESS AND AVAILABILITY OF TIME** (200-word limit)

**to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, such as participating in Human Rights Council 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 the 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 a salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.**

I have institutional independence, as well as flexibility and time to commit to the functions and tasks of the mandate. There are no financial constraints to carrying out the duties of the post and I understand that the position is unpaid. I can dedicate the time to effectively perform the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements.

1. **NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE**

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

☒ **Individual nominations (select this option if the candidate is self-nominating)**

**☐ Governments**

**☐ Regional groups operating within the United Nations human rights system**

☐ **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-word limit)**:**

Baroness Kennedy KC, Peer at the UK House of Lords, Director of IBAHRI

Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London

Lord Alton of Liverpool, Peer at the UK House of Lords

**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.

To members of the Consultative Group:

It would be an honour for me to take the role of the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues. For this role, I would utilise my significant experience working with a broad range of domestic and international bodies engaging on the situation of various minority communities.

I have a passion for the topic of minority rights, especially within the context of atrocity crimes. My interest in this area began when I visited the UN Forum on Minority Issues in 2015. A Yazidi man spoke during the session and called for action to protect the Yazidis who were subjected to genocide by Daesh. The issue grabbed my attention and compelled me to engage with the topic. I researched the atrocities and produced a legal analysis against the definition of genocide in Article II of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In the years since I have been working on establishing legal avenues to bring about justice and accountability. This led to my interest in the plight of other persecuted religious minorities including the Rohingyas and other religious minorities in Myanmar, Uyghurs in China, Tigrayans in Ethiopia, the Hazara in Afghanistan and many more.

As I have been working on these topics, I have identified numerous issues that require attention.

Prevention. We, as the international community, always act too little and too late to prevent atrocities from materialising. For example, despite the legal duty to prevent genocide established by Article I of the Genocide Convention, only a few countries have mechanisms that would effectively monitor and analyse risk factors to spot the early warning signs of genocide. To address the issue, I propose to work with governments on identifying practices which would equip them with the tools to monitor and analyse these risk factors and to act on them effectively, whether to protect the right to freedom of religion or belief generally and to prevent such atrocity crimes. This includes a strong focus on monitoring the situation of minority communities, which are often targeted in such situations.

Promotion. Minority communities are often the most neglected communities. There is very little understanding of their rights and ever less general engagement. I would like to continue the engagement with the UN Forum on Minority Issues, to give a voice to survivors, experts, and NGOs, who ordinarily would have limited access to the sessions of the HRC.

Justice and Accountability. Minority victims of violations of human rights can rarely access justice. To address this issue, I would like to review access to justice for people whose rights have been violated, globally, and identify how the failings could be addressed.

The above are only a few proposals of the work I would like to engage in to bring about change. And change is urgently needed.

I would humbly welcome the opportunity to explain my proposals further.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ewelina Ochab

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **Polish**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**V. EDUCATION**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating the type of degree and field of study, academic institution and whether full- or part-time; for example, *Masters in Law, University of XXX, part-time, 1975-1977, place and country)*. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one degree may be listed in the additional 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): | **Degree obtained** (please indicate YES or NO): | **Place and country:** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of degree: PhD  Field of study: international law  Academic institution: Kent Law School  Full or part-time: part time | 2014-2020 | YES | Canterbury, UK |
| Name of degree: Bar Professional Training Course  Field of study: Law  Academic institution: City Law School  Full or part-time: full time | 2011-2012 | YES | London, UK |
| Name of degree: LLB (Hons)  Field of study: Law  Academic institution: Kent Law School  Full or part-time: full time | 2008-2011 | YES | Canterbury, UK |
| Name of degree: Diploma  Field of study: Law  Academic institution: Breslau University/Humboldt University  Full or part-time: | 2006-2008 | YES | Berlin, Germany |
| Name of degree:  Field of study:  Academic institution:  Full or part-time: |  |  |  |
| Additional: Certificates in:  in Religion and the Rule of Law, BYU/Oxford University, full-time  in Human Trafficking Law and Policy, St Thomas Law School, part-time  in Law, War and Human Rights, LSE, part-time |  |  |  |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with the candidate’s current (or 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 the additional 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:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of employer: IBA Human Righst Institute  Functional title and main functions of position: Programme lawyer  Covering programmic work on atrocity crimes, with specific focus on CRSV, and situation of ethnic and ethno-religious minorities.  Full- or part-time: full time | 2021 - present | London, UK |
| Name of employer: Coalition for Genocide Response  Functional title and main functions of position: Co-founder  Covering the issue of genocide and working on initatives focused on impelmenting the duties under the Genocide Convention.  Full- or part-time: part time | 2019 - present | London, UK |
| Name of employer: Self-employed  Functional title and main functions of position: Legal researcher  Conducting legal research on atrocity crimes.  Full- or part-time: full-time | 2016- 2021 | London, UK |
| Name of employer: International NGO  Functional title and main functions of position: Legal counsel  Conducting legal research and advocacy on freedom of religion or belief and atrocity crimes.  Full- or part-time: full time | 2015-2016 | Geneva, Switzerland and Vienna, Austria |
| Name of employer: Osbornes Solicitors  Functional title and main functions of position: Litigation executive  Case work on over 140 medical negligence and personal injury cases.  Full- or part-time: full-time | 2012-2015 | London, UK |
| Name of employer:  Functional title and main functions of position:  Full- or part-time: |  |  |
| Name of employer:  Functional title and main functions of position:  Full- or part-time: |  |  |
| Name of employer:  Functional title and main functions of position:  Full- or part-time: |  |  |
| Additional: |  |  |

**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. 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 a 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 that the candidate will take.**

The candidate does not believe there is any conflict of interest, but if found to be so, is prepared to relinquish any other position or affiliation.

**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:** Ochab

**Date:** 14 March 2023

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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-0)
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-1)