

Pramila Patten (Mauritius)

Personal data

Date of birth: 29 June 1958
Place of birth: Mauritius
Nationality: Mauritian
Working languages: English and French

Educational background

- Master's Degree in Law (LLM) — University of London, 1984
- Bachelor's Degree in Law (First Class Honours) — University of London, 1981
- Diploma in Criminology, Kings College, University of Cambridge, 1981
- Professional Bar Exams, Council of Legal Education, UK, 1982
- Member of Gray's Inn

Present international functions

- Member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Jan 2003-Dec 2006)
- Chairperson of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (Jan 2005-Dec 2006)
- Vice Chair of the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, Gambia, 2005-2008
- Founding member and President of the Women's Legal Action Watch

Professional activities

- Barrister at Law (1982 to date)
- Consultant at the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (2006-2007)
- Adviser to the Minister of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare (2001-2004)
- Drafted the following legislation for the Government of Mauritius:
 - The Child Protection Bill
 - The Sex Discrimination Bill
 - The Ombudsperson for Children Bill
 - The Protection from Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill
 - The National Children's Council Regulations

- Consultant on the Reform of the Family Justice System in Mauritius (August 2006)

Responsible for the drafting of all legislation for the establishment of a Family Court in Mauritius (2006)

Other activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned

- Chairperson of national Taskforce on discriminatory laws against women (2000-2001)
- Chairperson of national Taskforce on child protection related laws (2001-2003)
- Chairperson of the National Advocacy Team of the Mauritius Family Planning Association (2000-2001)

Member of the Governing Council of the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, Gambia (1998-2005)

Resource person/trainer for l'Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie in the training of Parliamentarians on CEDAW (Has trained Parliamentarians in 15 countries) (2005)

Executive Committee Member of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) (1991-1999)

- Resource person and adviser to the International Commission of Jurists on issues of violence against women at 2 regional conferences in Lebanon, Egypt (2003)
 - Head of Fact Finding Mission for International Commission of Jurists in Bangladesh and India on "Acid Burning" and "Domestic Violence" respectively (2003)
 - Resource person for the African Centre on Democracy and Human Rights Studies at several training workshops on "International Human Rights Procedures and the Protection of Women's Rights in Africa" (2000-2003)
 - Resource person at 2 meetings on "Gender, Minorities and Indigenous Peoples" in Geneva (Palais des Nations) and London (Institute of Commonwealth Studies) organized by Minority Rights International (2004)
 - Speaker at three international conferences on "Global Tobacco Law", "Tobacco or Health" and "Tobacco and Health — Avoiding the tobacco epidemic in women and youth", Japan, USA, India (1999-2001)
- Member of Drafting Panel on Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
- Resource person at the first and second All Africa Seminars on Human Rights Education (1994-1995, South Africa, Egypt)
 - Resource person at an Expert group meeting organized by UNESCO on "Racial Discrimination", Benin (1997)
 - Resource person at an Expert Group meeting on "the complementarity between CEDAW and CRC" — New York, 1998

- Resource person at 2 seminars on “Women and Trade”, Kwa Zulu and Pretoria, South Africa (1998-1999)
- Organized an All Africa Seminar on “Independence of Judiciary” in collaboration with the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (Mauritius, October 1998)
- Resource person at expert panel discussion on the “Effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on the issue of complementary standards to strengthen, update international instruments against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia — Related Intolerance” (Palais des Nations, Geneva 2004)
- Keynote speaker at a Global Consultation on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (Malaysia, August 2005)
- Speaker at 9th World Interdisciplinary Congress on Women (South Korea, June 2005)

Selected publications

- Violence against Women
- Sexual Harassment at Work
- Rights of Children
- Guide on United Nations mechanisms and fundamental rights of women
- Marriage laws in Mauritius
- Reforming the Family Justice System in Mauritius
- Contribution of several articles in a book by People’s Decade for Human Rights Education “Passport to Dignity”