CURRICULUM VITAE

PROF ANN MARIE SKELTON

**Name and first name:** **Skelton, Ann Marie**

**Date of birth and citizenship:** 13 July 1961, South African

**Working language:** English (home language), French (basic)

**Current position/function:**

Ann Skelton is recognised in her country and internationally as a foremost expert in child law. Ann Skelton is a Professor of Law at the University of Pretoria, where she holds the UNESCO Chair in Education Law in Africa, teaches child law and education law, and supervises post graduate students. She has been a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child since 2017.

**Main professional activities:**

Professor Ann Skelton has worked as a children’s rights lawyer in South Africa for 30 years. She played a leading role in child law reform through her involvement with the committees of the South African Law Reform Commission that drafted the Child Justice Act and the Children’s Act. Ann was the Director of the Centre for Child Law for ten years, and initiated its strategic impact litigation work. She is an advocate and has appeared as counsel in many landmark child law cases in the South African superior courts, including 12 cases in the Constitutional Court. She is an internationally recognised researcher and has published widely on international children’s rights, education law and restorative justice. In addition to her teaching at the University of Pretoria, she is a visiting lecturer in advanced masters’ courses at the University of Leiden and at the University of Oxford.

In 2012 she received the Honourary World’s Children’s Prize, presented by Queen Sylvia of Sweden. In December 2016 she was awarded the Juvenile Justice Without Borders award presented by the International Observatory on Juvenile Justice, Paris.

During her first term on the Committee on the Rights of the Child, she chaired the working group that drafted General Comment 24 on Children’s rights in child justice systems, presented to the Scottish Parliament on behalf of the Committee, has served on the working group on simplified reporting procedures and has been an active member on the working group on the communications procedure (OPIC).

**Educational background:**

Ann Skelton has a doctorate in law (LLD) from the University of Pretoria, the thesis topic was child justice and restorative justice. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

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

Ann Skelton is recognised within the United Nations system as an expert on children’s rights and as such has been invited by UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR, amongst others, to provide expert technical input, for example:

* Chaired an international expert committee that drafted the Abidjan Principles on the Right to Education and the regulation of private education, adopted in February 2019.
* Chaired the Advisory Board of the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty and attended two expert meetings in Venice related to the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty in March 2019 and March 2017.
* March 2014: Participated in the expert meeting to discuss access to justice in the IDLO region (Eastern Europe) in Geneva, at the request of UNICEF.
* Jan 2012: Prepared the concept document for and participated in an expert consultation on ‘*Violence against children in the juvenile justice system*’ in Vienna, at the request of the UNODC, the OHCHR and the SR of the UN Secretary General on Violence Against Children. This culminated in a thematic report. It was presented to the General Assembly on 27 June 2012 (A/HRC/21/25).
* September 2011: Participated as a plenary panel speaker at the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child ‘*Day of General Discussion: Children of incarcerated parents*’.
* July 2011: Participated in the expert group meeting to discuss ‘*The legal framework required to prohibit, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children*’ in Geneva, at the request of OHCHR and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
* June 2010: Participated in the expert group meeting to discuss ‘*The 3rd optional protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure*’, at the request of the OHCHR.

**Selected recent publications:**

Ann Skelton has published over 50 peer reviewed articles and chapters in books, a small selection of relevant recent work appears below:

* Ann Skelton ‘A hiding to something: Reduction of violence against children in South Africa’s justice system’ in W O’Brien and C Foussard (eds) *Violence Against Children in the Criminal Justice System: Global Perspectives on Prevention* (2019) Routledge: Abingdon
* Skelton A ‘Child justice in South Africa: Application of international instruments by the Constitutional Court’ (2018) 26 *International Journal of Children’s Rights* 391-422.
* Skelton A ‘International Children’s Rights Law: Complaints and Remedies’ in: In: Kilkelly U., Liefaard T. (eds) *International Human Rights of Children. International Human Rights*. Springer,: Singapore (2018)
* Skelton A ‘South Africa’ in T Liefaard and J Doek (eds*) Litigating Children’s Rights: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Domestic and International Jurisprudence* (2015) 1-13 Springer: Netherlands
* Skelton A ‘Freedom in the Making’ in F Zimring et al *Juvenile Justice in Global Perspective* (2015) 327-369 NYU Press: New York.