

INVITED SPEAKERS

CHAIRPERSON

MS. RITA IZSÁK-NDIAYE HUNGARY



Ms. Rita Izsák-Ndiaye is the former UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues. At 30 years old, she was the youngest expert to be appointed to special procedures. She held the mandate between 2011-2017 and was then elected to become a member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) for the period of 2018-2022. She holds a Masters in Law diploma from the Péter Pázmány Catholic University, Budapest, Hungary. Inspired by her own experiences of prejudice and discrimination - because of her partly Romani origin - she has been working on human and minority rights since her university years.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

H.E. MS. MICHELLE BACHELET CHILE – *Video Message*



On September 1, 2018, Michelle Bachelet assumed her functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Ms. Bachelet was elected President of Chile on two occasions. She was the first female president of Chile, as well as Chile's and Latin America's first female Defense Minister. She also served as Health Minister of Chile. During her presidential tenures, she promoted the rights of all but particularly those of the most vulnerable. In 2014, President Bachelet officially launched an initiative, entitled Chile Reconoce (Chile Recognizes), aimed at eradicating and preventing statelessness in Chile.

In 2011, she was named the first Director of UN Women. Economic empowerment and ending violence against women were two of her priorities during her tenure.

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PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

H.E. MR. VOJISLAV ŠUC SLOVENIA



Mr. Vojislav Šuc, President of the Human Rights Council, Twelfth Cycle (2018), has been serving as Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva since January 2014. Prior to his appointment to Geneva, Mr. Šuc had been Head of the Diplomatic Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2010. He served as Slovenia's Ambassador to Sweden, Finland, Latvia and Estonia from 2006 to 2010. Mr. Šuc was the Head of the Division for North and Latin America and the Caribbean at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia from 2000 to 2006, and served as Consul General of Slovenia in New York from 1996 to 2000. He entered the Foreign Service of Slovenia in 1991, holding a number of posts, including as Head of the Department for Multilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1993 to 1996.

ITEM 2: Root causes and consequences of statelessness affecting minorities: preventing statelessness through a human rights approach

MR. JOHN PACKER CANADA



John Packer is the Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution in the Faculty of Law and Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, both at the University of Ottawa. Before taking up his position at the University of Ottawa in 2014, Professor Packer was the Constitutions and Process Design Expert for the UN's Standby Team of Mediation Experts. In a 30-year career, Professor Packer has advised numerous inter-governmental organizations, governments, communities and other actors. From 1995 to 2004, he was Senior Legal Adviser and then the first Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in The Hague. In the course of his work, he has addressed matters of statelessness in a number of countries in different parts of the world.

INVITED SPEAKERS

MS. DIANA GICHENGO **KENYA**



Diana Gichengo works as Identity and Inclusion Programme Manager at Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) Diana has extensive experience in gender justice, citizenship and statelessness, social justice and political participation. She successfully designed and implemented an advocacy campaign for stateless Makonde Community that resulted in the recognition of the Makonde as Kenyan Citizens and the 43rd tribe in Kenya. This campaign also opened the avenue for registration of other stateless persons in Kenya. Diana is currently working on formation of coalitions and networks on statelessness advocacy within Eastern Africa on behalf of the CRAI network on the right to a nationality in Africa.

MR. AMAL DE CHICKERA **SRI LANKA**



Amal is a co-founder and co-director of the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. He has worked in the statelessness field for over ten years. Amal leads the Institute's human rights advocacy programme and its work on statelessness and discrimination. He also plays an important part in the Institute's work on childhood statelessness, legal identity, citizenship stripping and forced migration, as well as its partnership and outreach with civil society, stateless activists and artists. Amal is particularly interested in the nexus between statelessness and discrimination (including against minorities) and its implications on access to other rights. Before co-founding the Institute, Amal provided the lead on the Equal Rights Trust's statelessness work. He was also one of the co-founders of the European Network on Statelessness and is a founding member of Stages, a Sri Lankan theatre group.

INVITED SPEAKERS

MS. OLENA VAIDALOVYCH **UKRAINE**



Olena Vaidalovych represents the International Charitable Organization “Roma Women Fund “Chiricli”, which defends the rights of Roma women and girls in particular. She is also the coordinator of the Roma youth initiative group, whose work is aimed at coordinating and monitoring the observance of the rights of Roma men and women. She is actively involved in projects aimed at combating stereotypes and discrimination, protecting the rights of Roma women, and promoting education for Roma children.

Inspired by her own background as Roma, at a very early age, Olena knew that working for equal rights and freedom is her calling. The stereotypical attitudes and prejudices of some people towards Roma, which offended her, compelled her to act. Most importantly, her sense of duty is not only limited towards her own community but to other minority communities as well.

ITEM 3: Statelessness resulting from conflicts, forced population movements and migration affecting minorities: main challenges and possible solutions

MR. JOSHUA CASTELLINO **INDIA**



Joshua Castellino is the Executive Director of Minority Rights Group International (MRG). He was Professor of Law and Dean of the School of Law and Business School at Middlesex University in London, and is a widely recognized expert in the field of minority and indigenous peoples’ rights, who has published extensive on this field for the last two decades. He has served as Chair of the 8th UN Forum on Minority Issues, and is on the Leadership Council of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, where he co-chairs the Thematic Group on Social Inclusion, Gender and Human Rights. He is also on the board of trustee of the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI).

11th Session, Geneva, 29 and 30 November 2018

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SHAHRZAD TADJBAKHSH UNHCR



Shahrzad Tadjbakhsh is the Deputy Director in the Division of International Protection in UNHCR, based in Geneva. She took up this position in March 2017. Prior to her appointment, she served as Chief of the Universal Periodic Review Branch at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, and as Chief of Staff for High Commissioners Arbour and Pillay respectively from 2005-2013. She began her career with UNHCR in 1994, in Malaysia, Rwanda, and then in the Division of International Protection before her secondment to OHCHR in 2003. She graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelors degree with honours, and received her Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1994.

MS. WAI WAI NU MYANMAR



Wai Wai Nu is the Director of Women's Peace Network-a platform aiming to build peace and mutual understanding between Myanmar's different ethnicities, and to advocate for the rights of marginalized women in Myanmar, including her own community-Rohingya. She founded the organization in 2012 after her release from prison, where she spent 7 years as a political prisoner. Wai Wai Nu is also the co-founder of Justice for Women, a network of women lawyers providing legal assistance to Burmese women. She is doing important work in promoting tolerance in Myanmar through engaging women and youth from different backgrounds in peace building processes. She was awarded numerous awards, and was most recently listed as one of the Next Generation Leaders in the world by Time Magazine in March 2017. In 2018 Wai Wai Nu was awarded Hilary Rodham Clinton Award for Advancing Women in Peace and Security and named one of the Young Global Leaders 2018 by the World Economic Forum.

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MR. PERUMAL PITCHAI SIVAPRAGASAM **SRI LANKA**



Mr. P.P. Sivapragasam is the Executive Director of the Human Development Organization (HDO) based in Sri Lanka since 2000. He is also General Secretary of Workers' Solidarity Union, Secretary General of Coalition of Agriculture Workers International (CAWI), Steering Committee Member of ADRF and Board of Director of IMADR Asia Committee. He is also a sub-committee member of Human Rights Commission, Sri Lanka.

Mr. Sivapragasam is a human rights advocate, development practitioner, social activist and consultant on minority rights, right to development and sustainable development. He also published number of books and articles on human rights, social issues and Caste based discrimination of Plantation and minority communities in Sri Lanka.

ITEM 4: Ensuring the right to a nationality for persons belonging to minorities through facilitation of birth registration, naturalization and citizenship for stateless minorities

MS. ELIZABETE KRIVCOVA **LATVIA**



Elizabete Krivcova is a Latvian lawyer and human rights defender, focusing on political participation, education and language rights of Russian-speaking minority in Latvia. Since 2012 she is a board member of Latvian Non-citizens' Congress – most known Latvian NGO representing and advocating for non-citizens' interests. She was OHCHR Minority Fellow in 2013. Now she is elected as a councilwoman in city Jurmala. Concerning statelessness issue, she worked as an expert and legal adviser in national parliament, as well as an organizer of public discussions and politic actions. She is participating in strategic litigations concerning human and national minority rights in Latvia.

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MR. KHALID HUSSAIN BANGLADESH



Khalid Hussain is a human rights lawyer and minority rights activist. He belongs to Bihari- Urdu Speaking linguistic minority and is a member of formerly stateless community of Bangladesh. He along with his friends ended their statelessness in 2003. After getting citizenship he is implementing a community paralegal project with the partnership of NAMATI, USA inside the Bihari-Urdu Speaking Camps in Bangladesh to empower the Camp dwellers and raise awareness about the importance of human rights in the process to achieve civil documentation. Since 2011 he organizes annual residential national minority/indigenous youth leadership summit to empower minority/ indigenous youth as community leaders and activists.

He is also representing International Network of Statelessness Asia Pacific (SNAP) as a vice-president and is OHCHR Minority Fellow 2008.

MR. BENECO ENECIA DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



He is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development (CEDESOC) and the coordinator of Dominicans for Rights, a platform of a dozen organizations that accompanies and files claims on the right to a nationality. In the last decade, he has accompanied families from the Dominican Republic in their claim for a nationality and addressed and raised awareness about the vulnerability of people who were denied nationality.

He graduated from the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo –UASD- and from a very young age, he has dedicated his life to promoting and defending the human rights of the migrant population and their families.

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ITEM 5: Minority women and children affected by statelessness: advancing gender equality in nationality laws

MS. ANASTASIA CRICKLEY IRELAND



Anastasia Crickley is the Vice-President of International Association for Community Development. She was Former Chairperson of the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Anastasia Crickley was the first Chair of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and is a lifelong advocate for women's and minorities' rights. She also served as member of Advisory Committee on the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and was the Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies in Maynooth, University. Ms. Crickley a lifelong advocate for women's rights and the rights of minorities. Ms. Crickley is founder of the European Network Against Racism, Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre and Migrant Rights Centre Ireland.

MR. BENYAM DAWIT MEZMUR ETHIOPIA



Benyam Dawit Mezmur is an academician and practitioner who specialises on children's rights law. He is a member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, and served as its Chairperson from 2015-2017, and as Vice-Chairperson from 2013-2015.

At the regional level, Professor Mezmur continues to serve on the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), a treaty body of the African Union. He served as its Chairperson twice, from 2012-2014, and from 2015-2017, and is currently its special rapporteur on children and armed conflict in Africa.

In his full-time post, he is an Associate Professor of Law, and Coordinator of the Children's Rights Project at the Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance, and Human Rights, Faculty of Law, at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in South Africa.

INVITED SPEAKERS

MS. NINA MURRAY UNITED KINGDOM



Nina Murray is Head of Policy & Research at the European Network on Statelessness (ENS), a civil society alliance of 130 NGOs, academics and individual experts in 40 countries, committed to addressing statelessness in Europe. She is currently coordinating research and advocacy projects with ENS members and partners on Roma statelessness in the Western Balkans and Ukraine, the nexus between forced migration and statelessness in Europe, the arbitrary detention of stateless people, as well as ENS' new Statelessness Index. Prior to joining ENS in 2017, Nina worked at Scottish Refugee Council for over six years, and has extensive experience undertaking and leading research, policy development and advocacy with a focus on gender and refugee rights. She has also worked as a researcher at What Works Scotland, based at the University of Glasgow, and in a range of other professional and voluntary roles in the human rights field.

MS. NORO RAVAOZANANY MADAGASCAR



Ms. Ravaozanany is a sociologist, specialist in gender and qualitative research. She works on mainstreaming gender in different areas of development, such as governance, education, public health and especially on all forms of discrimination. She was a project Coordinator for the ILO before becoming an international consultant for French speaking countries in the Indian Ocean and in Africa. Since 2014, she is the Coordinator of the Prevention and reduction of statelessness in Madagascar Project, in partnership with UNHCR and implemented by Focus Development Association research lab of which she is a co-founder. She is also serving as President of the National Council of Women of Madagascar since 2012, and from 2017 onwards, as Coordination member of the Réseau Francophone pour l'Égalité Femme-Homme (RF-EFH).