

## **Intersessional Seminar on the protection of the family and human rights of older persons**

11 June 2018, Room XVII Palais des Nations, Geneva  
10 am – 6 pm

### **SHORT BIOS OF PANELLISTS**

**Ms. Rosa Kornfeld-Matte** has been appointed by the Human Rights Council as the first Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. Previously, Ms. Kornfeld-Matte served as the National Director of the Chilean National Service of Ageing where she designed and implemented the National Policy of Ageing. She has a long career as an academic and is the founder of the programme for older persons at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.

**Ms. Irina Gekht** is a Deputy Chairperson of the Council of Federation Committee for Agricultural, Food Policy and Environmental Management, representing the Governor of the Chelyabinsk Region in the upper house of the Parliament of the Russian Federation. She has wide-range experience in political and legislative work. She has held public offices in the Chelyabinsk Region, including Deputy Chairperson of the Public Chamber at the Legislative Assembly, First Deputy Minister of Social Affairs, Minister of Social Affairs, and Vice-governor of the Region. Ms. Gekht is a Member of the Board of the Union of Women of Russia; and chairs the Committee of Rural Women, under the Russian Ministry of Agriculture.

**Ms. Florence Simbiri-Jaoko**, is a Kenyan lawyer, trained at the University of Nairobi and University of Bristol. She is a lecturer at the University of Nairobi, School of Law. She is the former Chairperson of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and Secretary of Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions. Ms. Simbiri-Jaoko also worked as a judicial officer in Kenya for over 15 years and has extensive experience in the governance sector, more particularly in human rights, as well as legal, judicial and security sector reforms. She has served on various Kenya government taskforces on legal, judicial and security sector reforms. She is a member of the International Commission of Jurists and the International Federation of Women Lawyers.

**Ms. Mona Ibrahim Issa Moussa Ahmed**, represents the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs of Qatar, where she is a specialist at the elderly citizens and persons with disabilities section. Previously, she has worked on projects and programs for the elderly and persons with disabilities, including in the development of assistive devices for the elderly and persons with disabilities and creation of public databases with disaggregated data on these population groups. She has also implemented social and awareness-raising programs for older persons and their families, as well as activities aimed at school students. She holds a bachelor's degree in Law and Islamic Studies from Qatar University.

**Dr. Xenia Scheil-Adlung** has a long-standing career and expertise in the International Labour Organization (ILO) in advising governments, UN and academic institutions, and NGOs on health and long-term care policies and has published numerous books and articles coverage, access, impoverishment and workforce issues. She focuses particularly on social health and long-term care protection, socio-economic impacts and rights. Prior to her current work as independent advisor, lecturer and academic referee, Xenia served as for many years as the Senior ILO Health Policy Coordinator and as Head of Division in the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs of the Federal Government of Germany. She studied at the Universities of Munich and Berlin, Germany, where she received her PhD in Economics and a Diploma in Political Science.

**Ms. Nena Georgantzi** is a Human Rights Officer at AGE Platform Europe. She is a lawyer specialized in human rights and social protection, at the Universities of Strasbourg and Leuven. Ms. Georgantzi works since 2010 for AGE Platform Europe (AGE), a network that aims to voice and promote the rights of the 190 million citizens aged 50+ in the European Union, and to raise awareness on the issues that concern them most. She is currently finalizing her PhD on the human rights of older persons at the National University of Ireland in Galway (NUIG). She has participated in the drafting of the Council of Europe recommendation on the rights of older persons and has consulted the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She is also involved in the political process regarding a new UN instrument on the rights of older persons.

**Dr. Jeremy B. Yorgason** is an Associate Professor in the School of Family Life, and Director of the Gerontology Program at Brigham Young University. He received his PhD from Virginia Tech (USA) in human development, with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy. He teaches classes in adult development and aging, family stress and resilience, and advanced statistics. His research addresses the impact of health and illness in marriage, including health behaviours such as sleep and exercise, daily illness symptoms and management, and caregiving. He also studies grandparent/grandchild relationships, and other aspects of family relationships in later life.

**Dr. Marie Beaulieu**, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, is a full professor at the School of Social Work of the University of Sherbrooke, and a researcher at the Research Centre on Aging at the CIUSSS Estrie-CHUS. Since 2010, she has held the position of Research Chair on Mistreatment of Older Adults financed by the Québec Government. Since 2017, she has co-directed a center affiliated with the World Health Organisation at the Research Centre on Aging at the CIUSSS Estrie-CHUS specialised on Age-friendly communities.