How to start the application process:

- The application process has been split into 2 parts, the first part is a Web-based survey and the second part is an application form in word which can be downloaded, completed and returned by email. Both parts and all sections of the application form should be filled in for the application to be processed.

The **first part**, i.e. the [Web-based survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HRC25_SPmandateholders_EMRIPexperts) is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate/s applying for and nominating entity. **The web-based survey should only be completed once**, i.e. multiple selection allowed to indicate if the candidate is applying for more than one mandates.

This is the **second part, i.e.** of the application form in Word which can be downloaded, completed and saved in word format and then submitted as an attachment by email. Information provided in this form, includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words, will be used as received to prepare the public list of candidates who applied for each vacancy and will be made available to concerned parties, including through the OHCHR Internet.

Once completed the application form in Word should be submitted by email to hrcemrip@ohchr.org and saved as YOURSURNAME\_Yourname\_doc (i.e SMITH\_John\_doc).

If the candidate is applying for more than one mandates, an application form needs to be completed and sent for each mandate.

* A maximum of 3 reference letters can be attached, in pdf format, to the application sent by email. No additional document is required.
* **Application Deadline: 31 October 2013 (midnight, GMT)**.
* Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at a later stage.

If encountering technical difficulties, you may contact us by email: hrcemrip@ohchr.org  or fax: + 41 22 917 9011

**An acknowledgment will be sent when we receive both parts of the application process, i.e. the information through the web-based survey and the application form through email.**

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family Name: Griffiths  | Sex: [ ]  Male [x]  Female |
| First Name: Rhonda  | Date of birth ( d-MMM-yy): 29-Mar-64 |
| Maiden name (if any): Buffett  | Place of birth: New Zealand |
| Middle name: Evelyn  | Nationality(please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): New Zealand |
|  | Any other nationality: Australian |
| * Candidates to the **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)**

Indigenous origin:Mixed |

**II. MANDATE - SPECIFIC COMPETENCE/QUALIFICATION/KNOWLEDGE**

**NOTE: Please describe why the candidate’s competence/qualifications/knowledge is relevant in relation to the specific mandate:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| QUALIFICATIONS (200 words)Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights; good communication skills (i.e. orally and in writing) in one of the official languages of the United Nations (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.) | My academic qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Social Anthropology and Politics from Massey University in New Zealand. I have a post-graduate Certificate in Legislative Drafting for Democratic and Social Change from Boston University. I am a lifelong learner and would ultimately like to attain a PhD. I am currently studying for a Master’s degree in Public Administration (International) from the University of Tasmania. I am able to communicate effectively and persuasively. As an active member for three years with the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples I have communicated at the highest levels yet I can also convey complex concepts respectfully and clearly to stakeholders in the most remote village. I speak English and have a good working knowledge of French. My communication skills have been enhanced by my contributions to: the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (Geneva, 1997, 1998, 1999); the First Consultation of Indigenous Peoples on the Health of Indigenous Peoples (WHO, Geneva, 1999); the Intergovernmental Committee on Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Folklore (WIPO, Geneva, 2001, 2002) and the Sub-regional meeting on Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Folklore (WIPO, Cochin, India, 2003).  |
| RELEVANT EXPERTISE (200 words)Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles. (Please state how this was acquired).Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the United Nations or other international or regional organizations’ work in the area of human rights. (Please state how this was acquired).Proven work experience in the field of human rights. (Please state years of experience. | I participated in the debate on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Due to my genuine interest I continue to monitor the work and progress of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues. I am a founding member of the Committee of Indigenous Health (COIH) and served as an active member of the Committee for 3 years. I assisted in the organisation of, and attended, the First International Consultation on the Health of Indigenous Peoples at WHO headquarters in Geneva. I was instrumental in drafting and finalising the ‘Geneva Declaration on the Health and Survival of Indigenous Peoples’. Recommendations from this meeting formed the basis of a Resolution adopted by the 53rd World Health Assembly.I led the development of the ‘Pacific Model Law for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge & Expressions of Culture’. This Model Law establishes a new range of statutory rights for traditional owners of TK & TCEs. Following endorsement by Pacific Ministers for Culture, I participated regularly in the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, contributing to the development of an international legal instrument (or instruments) to ensure the protection of TK, TCEs and GRs |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200 words)Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired). | At the national level, I have actively lobbied on gender issues and promoted CEDAW at every opportunity. In 2010, I was elected to the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly. I was then elected as Deputy Speaker of the House. Due to my passion for on gender issues I was appointed to the Australian Steering Committee of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP). In 2012 the CWP was successful developing an innovative project designed to support Pacific Island countries raise the number of women in their parliaments. In 2013 I attended a forum in Sydney for Pacific women parliamentarians; approximately 40 Pacific and Australian MPs gathered to discuss ways to improve gender equality in Pacific parliaments and to better support those already in office. The outcomes of this forum are available online and will form the basis for further implementation of this long-term project. In 2011, as a result of my negotiation and advocacy on Norfolk Island, the Married Women’s Property Act (1931) was (unanimously) repealed and the Married Persons (Equality of Status) Bill was enacted. As part of my Legislative Drafting course, I co-authored a Sex Discrimination Act for the Cook Islands.  |
| flexibility/readiness and AVAILABILITY of time (200 words)to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, including participating in Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York, travelling on special procedures visits, drafting reports and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. (Indicate whether candidate can dedicate an estimated total of approx. three months per year to the work of a mandate) | As a post graduate student, I am flexible, ready and available to perform the functions required of the position. I am prepared to contribute any time necessary and am confident that I can perform effectively. I am well used to travelling as part of my work and have undertaken many official missions both alone and as part of multicultural multidisciplinary teams. I enjoy working with diverse teams and consider it enriching. My international exposure gives me an excellent number of contacts and networks to draw from. I have excellent written skills and can write articles of a technical or more general nature, depending on the audience. I have been published in and/or contributed to: encyclopaedias, international development journals, regional newspapers, technical meeting documents and press releases. During my involvement with the COIH, I attended a number of side events held in conjunction with the WGIP. Frequently acting as rapporteur, I was responsible for drafting reports, including the report of the First International Consultation on the Health of Indigenous Peoples at WHO headquarters in Geneva.  |

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

**Please indicate all language skills**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Languages** | **Read** | **Write** | **Speak** |
|  | **Easily** | **Not Easily** | **Easily** | **Not Easily** | **Easily** | **Not Easily** |
| **Arabic** | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| **Chinese** | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| **English** | [x]  | [ ]  | [x]  | [ ]  | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **French** | [x]  | [ ]  | [x]  | [ ]  | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Russian** | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| **Spanish** | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| **Mother tongue:**  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |

**IV. Motivation Letter (600 word limit)**

|  |
| --- |
| My motivation for this work comes from my interest in human rights, human rights mechanisms, and rights-based discourse. Additionally, my professional background gives me a broad range of competencies to perform well in this position. I have served as a parliamentarian in the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island; this role gave me a unique opportunity to promote human rights in the parliament making my contributions publically and permanently available via Hansard. As mentioned above, in this position I worked at advancing the rights of women on Norfolk Island. Prior to this role, I was the Cultural Affairs Adviser for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), an intergovernmental pacific regional development agency with its headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia. SPC delivers social and economic development assistance across 22 member Pacific Island countries and territories. As I have mentioned previously, in this position I contributed to the work being done by WIPO on an international legal instrument (or instruments) to ensure the protection of TK, TCEs and GRs. With more than a decade of experience working across the Pacific region, I am fully aware that, as a region, it has the lowest rate of ratification or accession of international human rights treaties; therefore I was pleased to see this issue recognised & prioritised as Initiative 12.5 of the Pacific Plan, the region’s master strategy for strengthening regional cooperation and integration. I am also aware of many NGOs and civil society organisations that play an important part in protecting and promoting human rights in the region. As Adviser to the Minister for Culture on Norfolk Island, I would bring to the role an excellent knowledge of the role of traditional knowledge and expressions of culture in indigenous and ethnic minorities. I have travelled frequently and extensively across the Pacific region which has given me a wide range of contacts and networks to draw from. I am experienced at sharing information and knowledge across vast geographical distances. In 2005, I co-edited “Cultural Etiquette in the Pacific Islands”, the first publication of its kind in the region. I am also familiar with language and cultural courtesies in a number of Pacific Island countries and territories.I am a Norfolk Islander of Pitcairn Island and Tahitian descent; I hold both New Zealand and Australian citizenship. I am married with 3 grown children. My personal interests include traditional and contemporary weaving, which I have exhibited nationally and regionally over the years. As a Pacific Islander, a woman, a mother and artist, I am creative and innovative. I am organised and creative with strong conceptual and analytical skills.       |

**V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications: (university level and higher)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of degree and name of academic institution** | **Years of Attendance** | **Place and Country** |
| Master of Public Administration (International) | 2013- current | Tasmania, Australia |
| Certificate in Legislative Drafting for Democratic Social Change  | 2005 | Boston, USA |
| Bachelor of Arts (Social Anthropology and Politics) | 1999-2006 | Massey, New Zealand |
|       |       |       |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held, beginning with the most recent one:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of EmployerFunctional TitleMain functions of position | Years of Attendance/Work | Place and Country |
| Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly; MLA; parliamentarian | 2010-2013 | Norfolk Island |
| Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau; Industry Development Manager; Capacity Building | 2007-2010 | Norfolk Island |
| Secretariat of the Pacific Community; Cultural Affairs Adviser; Protection and Promotion of Culture across the Pacific region | 2000-2006 | Noumea, New Caledonia |
| Minister of Culture and Community Affairs; Adviser; Protection and Promotion of Culture on Norfolk Island  | 1997-2000 | Norfolk Island |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS (of Council Resolution 5/1)**

1. To your knowledge, does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause him/her to limit the extent of their 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 his/her mandate? If yes, please explain:

No

3. Is there any reason, currently or in that 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 she/he discharges his 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?

 *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*

The candidate does comply

5. Should the candidate be appointed as an expert, he/she 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 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 the candidate will take.

Not applicable

You will receive an acknowledgment when we receive both parts of the application process, i.e. the information through the Web-based application and the Word application form by email.

Thank you for your interest.