

**Biographical data of candidate of the Republic of Latvia to
the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)**

Name and first name: Dr (Mrs) Elīna Šteinerte

Date and place of birth: 9 June 1978 in Riga, Latvia.

Working Languages: Latvian (native); English and Russian (excellent); French (basic).

Professional Background: International human rights lawyer, academic and expert.

Educational background: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, 2006); Master of Laws (LLM) in Human Rights Law (University of Nottingham, 2002); Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons) and Lawyers' Diploma (University of Latvia, 2001).

Current position/function: Expert, lawyer, academic with 20 years of experience in international human rights law and specialising in the prevention of torture including with significant practical expertise in inspecting, assessing and monitoring of places of deprivation of liberty. Since 2016, I have been an expert member of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) on behalf of the Eastern European States and elected the Group's first Chair Rapporteur from this region in 2021.

Main professional activities: The prime focus of my work and research has always been international human rights law and torture prevention with a strong focus on the implementation of the UNCAT and OPCAT. Over the last 20 years, I have advised numerous States on varying aspects of the effective implementation of OPCAT, especially in calibrating domestic legislation and policy to ensure compliance. I have also acquired extensive experience in practical monitoring and visiting of detention facilities worldwide. Additionally, I have delivered expert advice and training on a variety of issues including strengthening the capacity of NHRIs; the designation and effectiveness of NPMS; various aspects of criminal justice reform such as pre-trial detention and overcrowding as well as immigration detention and child justice. Whilst serving the WGAD mandate, my practical knowledge and experience has been further strengthened by numerous State visits, including to a wide spectrum of detention facilities and providing cogent advice to States.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the Mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture: I have internationally recognised competence in human rights law and torture prevention specifically. Additionally to my practical detention facilities oversight experience, I have produced a series of high quality scholarly and general publications in this area and have regularly presented at international and national conferences and events in Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa, including, for example, [Scotland's progress in the prevention of ill-treatment in places of detention: An assessment of the implementation of recommendations made by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture](#) (2021). I have been and continue to be approached by a variety of stakeholders for advice on a wide range of issues surrounding torture prevention including OHCHR, UNHCR, UNDP, WHO, CoE, OSCE and ODIHR as well as international and national NGOs.

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the Mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture: [The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture \(OPCAT\)](#), Oxford University Press (2011); [Ireland and the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture](#) (2017); [The Jewel in the Crown and its Three Guardians: Independence of National Preventive Mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to the UN Torture Convention](#); Human Rights Law Review (2014); [The Changing Nature of Relationship between the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and National Preventive Mechanisms: in Search for Equilibrium](#); Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights (2013).