

Experts' biographies

Members of the Drafting Committee

Professor **Ann Skelton** (chair of the Drafting Committee) is a professor of law at the University of Pretoria, where she holds the UNESCO Chair in Education Law in Africa. She is also the director of the Centre for Child Law which promotes children's rights in South Africa through advocacy, law reform, research and litigation. She is a practicing lawyer who often appears before South African courts, arguing landmark children's rights cases. She is currently a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. She teaches Education Law to LLB and LLM students and supervises LLD students researching the right to education. She is also an internationally recognised researcher and has published widely on children's rights and education law.

Professor **Sandra Fredman** is Rhodes Professor of the Laws of the British Commonwealth and the USA at Oxford University. She was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2005 and became an honorary Queen's Counsel in 2012. She founded the Oxford Human Rights Hub in 2012, of which she is the director. She has acted as an expert adviser on equality law and labour legislation in the EU, Northern Ireland, the UK, India, South Africa, Canada and the UN; and is a barrister practising at Old Square Chambers. She has written and published widely on anti-discrimination law, human rights law and labour law, including numerous peer-reviewed articles.

Jayna Kothari is a co-founder of The Centre for Law and Policy Research. She is a partner at Ashira Law, a Bangalore-based law firm and practices as a counsel in the Karnataka High Court and the Supreme Court of India. Jayna has been awarded the Wrangler D.C. Pavate Fellowship in Cambridge University. Jayna's research and practice interests include constitutional law, including the right to education, health and housing, gender, disability rights, environmental law. Her book, "The Future of Disability Law in India" was published in 2012 by Oxford University Press and is one of the first books on disability law in the country.

Benyam Dawit Mezmur is an academic who specialises in children's rights law. He is a member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) of the African Union. He previously served as the chairperson of the ACERWC (2012- 2014) and chairperson of the CRC Committee. Benyam is an associate professor of law at the Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights (formerly known as the Community Law Centre) of the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, where he is the senior researcher and coordinator of the Children's Rights Project.

Jacqueline Mowbray is associate professor at The University of Sydney Law School and an external legal adviser to the Australian Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights. Her previous academic experience includes convening the unit on economic, social and cultural rights for the European Regional Master's in democracy and human rights, taught at the University of Sarajevo. She has also practised law at firms in Australia, Belgium, and the UK.

Professor **Aoife Nolan** is professor of International Human Rights Law at the School of Law at the University of Nottingham. In November 2016, she was elected to the Council of Europe's European Committee of Social Rights. She is currently a member of the Scottish First Minister's Human Rights Leadership Advisory Group. Professor Nolan has published extensively in the area of human rights and constitutional law, with a particular focus on economic and social rights, children's rights, economic policy and non-state actors. She was founding coordinator of the Economic and Social Rights Academic Network UK and Ireland (ESRAN-UKI) and is currently a member of a number of Editorial Boards. Aoife has worked with, and acted as, an expert advisor and consultant to a wide range of international and national bodies and organisations working on human rights issues, including: UN Special Procedures, UN treaty bodies, the Council of Europe, the World Bank, multiple national human rights institutions, and a large number of international NGOs.

Sandra Epal Ratjen is international advocacy director of Franciscans International. She has extensive experience and expertise in international legal and advocacy processes, especially pertaining to economic, social, and cultural rights. Prior to her position as international advocacy director, Ms Ratjen served as senior legal adviser in the Legal and Policy Office of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in Geneva, heading the Program on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Before joining the ICJ, she worked for over 10 years for Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN) International—an international NGO specialised on the right to adequate food. She has published extensively on the issues of human rights, development and access to justice, and regularly lectures at universities and academic institutions—e.g., The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, the University of Neuchâtel, the American University Washington College of Law, and others.

Magdalena Sepúlveda is senior research associate at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). She is also a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT). From 2008 to 2014 she was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. From 2013 to 2017 she was on the High Level Panel of Expert on Food Security and Nutrition of the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Ms Sepúlveda has worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, as a staff attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as the co-director of the Department of International Law and

Human Rights of the United Nations-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica and as research director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy, in Geneva. She has published widely on human rights, poverty, gender, and development and taught various postgraduate courses at universities in Latin America. She is a visiting professor at Oxford University.

Dr **Maria Smirnova** has worked in the area of the right to education for the last 12 years. She has worked as a practicing lawyer in Moscow, bringing cases relating to violations of students' rights to courts and helping set up private schools. As a researcher at the Federal Centre for Educational Legislation in Moscow she conducted policy-oriented research on international standards of the right to education and their implementation. Following her LLM in international human rights law she has focused on international justiciability of the right to education and its components. Her publications in this area cover such topics as linguistic diversity in education, fighting poverty through education, corruption in education, religious rights and the right to education, and other related areas. She is an active member of the European Association for Education Law and Policy and Manchester International Law Centre.

Roman Zinigrad is a researcher in the fields of constitutional law, children's rights, and law and religion. He is a J.S.D. candidate at Yale Law School and a visiting fellow at the Sciences Po Law School. He supervises Master's students at the Sciences Po Human Rights Clinic since 2016, and has taught modules in human rights, law and education, comparative constitutional law, and administrative law to Master's and Bachelor students in France and in Israel. Roman was awarded the Yale Fox International Fellowship in 2014 to conduct his research on education law and a teaching fellowship at Sciences Po from 2015 to 2017. He served as a law clerk for Justice Salim Joubran at the Supreme Court of Israel, and is a member of the Israeli Bar. He served as an Associate Editor for the Yale Journal of International Law and the Bar-Ilan Law Studies Journal.

Experts in attendance

Dr **Frank Adamson** is an assistant professor of Education Leadership and Policy Studies, California State University, Sacramento. He currently studies the effects of different political and economic approaches to education on student experiences and their performance in schools. Dr Adamson has also studied the impact of system-wide charter school reform on students in New Orleans. Previously, he published on the adoption of assessments of deeper learning and 21st century skills at the state, national, and international levels, as well as on teacher salary differences within metropolitan labour markets in New York and California. His research interests include the economics and sociology of education, U.S. and

international education policy, and educational equity and opportunity. Dr Adamson began his career in education as a high school English teacher.

Maria Virginia Bras-Gomes is former chair of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and presently senior social policy adviser in the Ministry of Employment, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal. She holds positions on various boards, including: chair of the board of the Portuguese UNICEF Committee and member of the International Board of Programme for Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (PWESCR) and of the Portuguese Committee for Human Rights, and is former board member of the European Roma Rights Foundation, the UNRISD Advisory Group for the project on Linking Social Protection and Human Rights, and the European Social Network High-Level Advisory Group on De-institutionalization. She has conducted training in treaty body reporting and on human rights in Africa, Asia and Europe, on behalf of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She has contributed to national and international conferences and publications on economic, social and cultural rights, non-discrimination and equality and social security.

Dr **Koumbou Boly Barry** is the current UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education. She holds a PhD in Economic History from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Senegal. She is the former Minister of Education and Literacy of Burkina Faso and has consulted widely for various governments and international institutions on the right to education. She was also appointed ambassador of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) for financial resources mobilisation and developed with civil society programs in non-formal education which were recognised at the global level by UNESCO as best practice. Dr Boly has also been a vocal advocate on gender issues in education. She has also acted as a visiting professor at University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, and University of Louvain La Neuve Belgium, and a lecturer at Ouagadougou University, Burkina Faso, Vitoria University, Brazil and Fribourg University, Switzerland.

Professor **Joshua Castellino** is the executive director of Minority Rights Group International and professor of law and former dean of the School of Law, as well as the Business School, at Middlesex University, London. He is a widely recognised leader in the field of minority and indigenous peoples' rights. His noted academic career has focused on these issues and he previously chaired the eighth UN Forum on Minorities. Professor Castellino has authored and edited eight books on international law and human rights law, on self-determination, title to territory and the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as numerous articles on a range of related legal topics. He regularly engages with multilateral organisations and with law societies and NGOs in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, on issues of human rights advocacy and public international law.

Professor **Esteban Hoyos Ceballos** is professor of law at EAFIT University law school where he is also academic director of the LLM program. Before joining Universidad EAFIT, Professor Hoyos was a law clerk at the Colombian Constitutional Court. He was one of the lawyers of the case on the right to free education (C-376/2010) by the Colombian Constitutional Court. His research and teaching interests include: Colombian constitutional law; comparative constitutional law; economic, social, and cultural rights; international human rights law, clinical legal education, and public interest law.

Dr **Joanna Härmä** is an independent researcher specialising in low-fee private schooling for the poor in sub-Saharan Africa and India, and has published extensively on the issue. She is also a visiting research fellow at the Centre for International Education. Dr Härmä was, until August 2015, a research officer for the UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report.

Ibrahima Kane is senior adviser at Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and heads the Africa Union Advocacy Program. Kane is qualified as a lawyer in Senegal and France. Prior to joining the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa in 2007, he was a senior lawyer in charge of the Africa program at INTERIGHTS for 10 years. A founding member of RADDHO, a Senegalese human rights organisation, Kane directed a human rights programme that focused on public education and women's human rights in five West African countries—Cape Verde, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, and Senegal—for six years. He has particular interest in economic, social, and cultural rights; women's rights; and the pursuit of justice through regional and international mechanisms. Kane has collaborated very closely with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Union Commission for the last eight years. He also works with the Expert Panel on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. He is an author of a number reports on the Africa Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, and the protection of human rights by Regional Economic Communities bodies. He has also been an associate lecturer at the Law Faculty of the University of Essex since 2005.

Archana Mehendale is an independent researcher and an adjunct honorary professor at Centre for Education, Innovation and Action Research (CEIAR), Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India since May 2018. She has earlier worked as a Professor, CEIAR at Tata Institute of Social Sciences and as a Senior Research Consultant with the Centre for Child and Law, National Law School of India. Archana is a trained social worker with a doctorate in social sciences from the National Law School of India. Her research interests lie in the area of education law and policy, child labour, inclusive education and child rights. She was a member of the CABE committee (2005) which drafted the right to education legislation in India.

Lady Justice **Lydia Mugambe** is a judge of the High Court in Uganda. Prior to this she worked as a legal officer in the Chambers and as Appeals Counsel in the Appeals and Legal Advisory Division of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (UNICTR) in Arusha. She's also worked as a researcher at the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association in London. She has presided over economic, social and cultural rights cases and issued some groundbreaking judgements. She is keen on contributing to the enforcement of economic social and cultural rights through the courts and ensuring that government institutions do not abdicate their duties in regard to these rights.

Dr **Godfrey Odongo** is senior programme officer at Wellspring Philanthropic Fund. He previously worked as the lead researcher on human rights in East Africa with Amnesty International.

Gauri Pradhan is global coordinator of LDC (Least Developed Countries) Watch. He is a human rights defender and development activist, who has served as a member of Nepal's Human Rights Commission. He served as founder president of the National Campaign for Education (NCE Nepal) in 2003 and now as an adviser. He is also the former president of NGO Federation of Nepal and Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice. He is regarded as one of the pioneers of child rights movement in South Asia.

Professor **Ben Saul** is Challis Chair of International Law at the University of Sydney, Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard Law School, a barrister, and an Associate Fellow of the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. Professor Saul has expertise in human rights, counter-terrorism, armed conflict, the use of force, international crimes, development, the United Nations, Antarctica, and the Asia-Pacific. He is lead author of the Oxford Commentary on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He has published 15 books and 100 scholarly articles; undertaken professional missions in over 40 countries; and been awarded millions of dollars in research grants. He previously taught at Oxford, The Hague Academy of International Law, and in China, India, Nepal, Cambodia and Italy. His research has been used in international and national courts. He has a doctorate from Oxford University.

Fernando Luiz Cássio Silva is assistant professor at the Federal University of ABC (Santo André, SP, Brazil). He participates in the Public School and University Network and is a researcher for the Brazilian Campaign for the Right to Education. His main research interests include: education policy and educational inequalities, and the right to education, with a focus on curriculum policies, evidence-based education, impact evaluation of educational policies, managerialism, and financialisation of education.

Professor **Manisuli Ssenyonjo** is professor of International Law and Human Rights at Brunel University London. His research is primarily in public international law. This includes various aspects of international human rights law, economic, social and cultural rights, the role and accountability of non-state actors, international organisations (World Trade Organisation, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group) and settlement of human rights disputes (by national, regional and global human rights institutions). He has published widely on these areas, and has assisted governments, corporations, international/regional organisations, non-governmental organisations and peoples concerning international law and human rights. He has lived and undertaken human rights work and training in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. He is managing editor and co-editor-in-chief, *International Human Rights Law Review*, brill.com/hrlr and is on the editorial and advisory boards of a number of leading academic journals on international law and human rights. Before embarking on an academic career, he worked as a barrister in commercial and human rights litigation and taught postgraduate students undertaking Legal Practice Course and Bar Course. He is co-author of one of the leading text on economic, social and cultural rights: *Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in International Law* (2nd ed., Hart Publishing 2016).

Dr **Faranaaz Veriava** is head of the Education Rights Programme at SECTION27 where she works closely with other members of the team in developing and building the education cases at SECTION27. She also assists in the drafting of legal papers and occasionally appears in court as counsel for SECTION27. Before joining SECTION27, she headed the Western Cape office of the South African Human Rights Commission, and founded the Education Law Project at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits University. She is also a lecturer at the University of Pretoria where she teaches on education and the law. Dr Veriava's doctoral research explored the influence of social movements, the legislature, executive and courts on the development of the normative content of the right to basic education as an unqualified socio-economic right.