



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

MEETING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS LEADERS @ LEIDEN LAW



MASTER OF LAWS: ADVANCED STUDIES IN
INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

MEETING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS LEADERS

In the final stages of your participation in the Master of Laws: Advanced Studies in International Children's Rights, we offer you the opportunity to meet global children's rights leaders in a special series called 'Meeting Children's Rights Leaders @ Leiden Law'. In the course of May and June, you are all kindly invited to participate in live sessions with leading experts, including representatives of UN agencies, international civil society organisations and research institutes. The aim of the meeting is to establish a conversation between advanced children's rights students and the experts on children's rights challenges in light of COVID-19. This special series forms part of the programme and is compulsory for all students. We wish you inspiring meetings and hope that this special series provides you with ample opportunities to broaden your horizon even further.

THE GLOBAL CHILDREN'S RIGHTS LEADERS: INTRODUCTION

CORNELIUS WILLIAMS – UNICEF HQ, NEW YORK

MONDAY 11 MAY, 03:00-04:00 PM (C.E.T.)



Cornelius Williams is Associate Director and Global Chief of Child Protection for UNICEF's Programme Division. For over 30 years, Cornelius has managed child protection programmes with UNICEF and Save the Children. He has been involved in advocacy that led to improved protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian settings, reduced recruitment and use of children by armed forces and increased access of children to identity documents/birth certificate and social assistance. Cornelius represents UNICEF on the Advisory Boards of the WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation Online, ID4Africa, CPC Learning Network and Changing the Way We Care. Mr. Williams is a national of

Sierra Leone and holds a Masters from the University of East Anglia, UK.

JACQUI GALLINETTI – PLAN INTERNATIONAL

THURSDAY 14 MAY, 03:00-04:00 PM (C.E.T.)



Jacqui Gallinetti is director of Research and Knowledge Management for Plan International, an international development organization with its International Headquarters based in the UK but working across the globe in 70+ countries. She is a qualified lawyer with 24 years of experience, eight of which were as a practicing attorney working on civil and criminal litigation in South Africa. After leaving legal practice, she ran a legal research and advocacy unit at the Dullah Omar Institute of Constitutional Law at the University of the Western Cape working on juvenile justice and child protection, as well as law reform in South Africa and other Southern and Eastern African countries.

MIA DAMBACH – INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE (ISS)

MONDAY 18 MAY, 02:00-03:00 PM (C.E.T.)



Mia Dambach is the ISS/IRC Director based in Geneva, with over 15 years' experience in child protection matters, starting her career as a children's lawyer in Sydney, Australia and joining ISS/IRC in 2008 as a Children's Rights Specialist. She likewise coordinates Advocacy and Policy Development for the ISS network, focusing on alternative care, adoption, migration and international surrogacy in the UN arena and with regional bodies. She has undertaken evaluation missions and provided technical assistance in over twenty countries related to these fields. In matters related to COVID-19, she has been collaborating with a taskforce on developing tools for professionals working on alternative such as a [technical guidance note](#) and is currently working to adapt the [MOOC on children moving alone](#) which has reached 26 000 persons, focusing on adapting child protection case management to the pandemic.

ANN SKELTON – UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

WEDNESDAY 20 MAY, 03:00-04:00 PM (C.E.T.)



Professor Ann Skelton has worked as a children’s rights lawyer in South Africa for over 25 years. She played a leading role in child law reform through her involvement with the committees of the South African Law Reform Commission that drafted the Child Justice Act and the Children’s Act. Ann is currently a Law Professor at the University of Pretoria where she holds the UNESCO Chair in Education Law in Africa. She is an advocate who often appears in South African courts, arguing landmark children’s rights cases. She is an internationally recognised researcher and has published widely. In 2012 she received the Honorary World’s Children’s Prize presented by the Queen of Sweden, for her successful fight for the rights of children affected by the justice system. In 2016 she received the ‘Juvenile justice without borders’ award, presented by the International Juvenile Justice Agency, for her 20 years of work in reducing the number of children in prison in South Africa. She chaired the Advisory Board of the Global Study of Children Deprived of their Liberty. Ann is currently a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, her term of office is from March 2017 to February 2021, and the South African government has nominated her for re-election.

CATALINA DEVANDAS - UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

TUESDAY 2 JUNE, 02:00-04:00 PM (C.E.T.) EXACT TIME TO BE CONFIRMED



Catalina Devandas Aguilar of Costa Rica is a lawyer by training and a human rights advocate. She took office as the first United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 1 December 2014, following Human Rights Council [resolution 35/6](#) establishing the new special procedures mandate. She has worked extensively on disability rights and inclusive development for the past 20 years, including with the World Bank, the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, and international donor organizations that supported the work of organizations of persons with disabilities to promote the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Ms. Devandas Aguilar was previously part of the disability rights movement at national, regional and international level and continues to work closely with organizations of persons with disabilities. Her work priorities as a Special Rapporteur include socioeconomic inclusion, the promotion of full citizenship of persons

with disabilities, and embracing the understanding that persons with disabilities are part of human diversity. She is married, the mother of three daughters, and has spina bifida.

BENOIT VAN KEIRSBILCK – DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

THURSDAY 4 JUNE, 02:00-04:00 PM (C.E.T.) EXACT TIME TO BE CONFIRMED



Mr. Benoit Van Keirsbilck is the Director of the Belgian section of Defence for Children International (DCI) and the former President of the International Executive Council of DCI. He is one of the founder and co-director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for the Rights of the Child (CIDE) which gathers 4 universities and 2 NGOs in the French part of Belgium. The CIDE organises a University degree and conducts academic research on children's rights. Finally, he is Chief Editor of the Journal of Children's Law (Belgium) and a member of the Advisory board of the UN Global Study on

Children Deprived of Liberty.

BINA D'COSTA – AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY – FORMER MEMBER UNICEF ROHINGYA EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM, BANGLADESH

MONDAY 8 JUNE, 02:00-03:00 PM (C.E.T.)



Bina D'Costa is a Professor at the Department of International Relations, Coral Bell School of Asia-Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University. At the height of Europe's refugee emergency, she moved to the UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti to build its Migration and Displacement program.

As a UN staff member, Bina has worked in South and Southeast Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Middle East. Her research interests span migration, children and conflict, gender, human rights and justice. She has

undertaken studies on refugees, stateless communities and IDPs, and has provided inputs and technical advice to Human Rights bodies, UN agencies and NGOs. Most recently, she has served in UNICEF's Rohingya Emergency Response Team in Cox's Bazar Bangladesh. She has held visiting fellowships at the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, Geneva; the Refugee Studies Center, Oxford University and the Global Justice Center, New York. Bina has also served as the Asia Rapporteur for the Asia-Europe 55 member states ASEM global meeting on Children and Human Rights in 2017. Also, she has contributed to policy research in Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Research in Social Development (UNRISD), AUSAID (now in DFAT), USAID and UKAID (Department for International Development, UK).

GODFREY ODONGO

(TBA)



Godfrey O. Odongo is a Senior Program Officer with the Human Rights Program at the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, a US-based private foundation. In this role, he manages funding portfolios dealing with support for an ecosystem of key civil society organizations advancing human rights norms in/on multiple contexts and issues. Before joining Wellspring, Godfrey served as a regional research expert on East Africa with Amnesty International's International Secretariat; in a program advisory role with Save the Children-Sweden on a new children's rights program on South Sudan and held research fellowship roles with the Dullar Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa and the Danish Institute for Human Rights in Copenhagen. An advocate of the High Court of Kenya, he holds a postgraduate diploma in law from the Kenya School of Law, a bachelor's degree in law from Moi University, Kenya; master's in law in human rights and democratization in Africa, from the University of Pretoria, South Africa; and a doctorate in international human rights law, focused on the domestication of children's rights in African justice systems, from the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. He is the author of several peer-reviewed book chapters, journal articles and research reports on a range of human and children's rights issues.