

Children Deprived of Liberty: Learning from the UN Global Study

LECTURERS AND EXPERTS



Manfred Nowak

Independent Expert leading the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

Professor Manfred Nowak carries out this function in close cooperation with the Global Campus of Human Rights (GC) in Venice, where he is Secretary General, as well as with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights (BIM) in Vienna, which he founded and co-directs.

In addition, Manfred Nowak holds a Professorship of International Human Rights at the University of Vienna, where he is the Scientific Director of the Vienna Master of Arts (MA) in Human Rights.

Manfred Nowak was Professor of International Law and Human Rights at various universities, such as Utrecht, Lund, Stanford and the Graduate Institute in Geneva, and has published more than 600 articles and books, including various language editions of the CCPR-Commentary, a CAT-Commentary and an introduction to the International Human Rights Regime. His latest books look at human rights as an answer to growing economic inequality (*Menschenrechte – Eine Antwort auf die wachsende ökonomische Ungleichheit*, Konturen Hamburg 2016) and the limits of privatization from a human rights perspective (*Human Rights or Global Capitalism*, Pennsylvania Press 2017).

In the past, Manfred Nowak has also carried out various expert functions for the United Nations, the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Union (EU) and other inter-governmental organizations. Most importantly, he served as United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture (2004 to 2010), United Nations Expert on Enforced Disappearances (1993 to 2006), as Vice-Chairperson of the Management Board of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in Vienna (2012-2017), and as one of eight international judges in the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo (1996 to 2003).



Jo Becker

Advocacy Director, Children's Rights Division - Human Rights Watch

Jo Becker is the advocacy director of the children's rights division at Human Rights Watch. As the founding chairperson of the international Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, she helped campaign successfully for an international treaty banning the forced recruitment of children under age 18 or their use in armed conflict.

Her advocacy also helped lead to a groundbreaking 2011 treaty ensuring labor rights for domestic workers, which number 50-100

million worldwide.

She has conducted field investigations on children's rights in Burma, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and the United States. Based on her expertise on the issue of child soldiers, she has addressed the United Nations Security Council, testified before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, conducted trainings for US and African military officers, and testified as an expert in a Dutch war crimes trial.

She has written several Human Rights Watch reports and her op-eds have appeared in the Washington Post, International Herald Tribune, The Guardian, and other major papers. She is also the author of two books, *Campaigning for Justice: Human Rights Advocacy in Practice* and *Campaigning for Children: Strategies for Advancing Children's Rights*. She also teaches human rights advocacy at Columbia University.



Catalina Devandas Aguilar

UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities

Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar (Costa Rica) is a lawyer by training and a human rights advocate.

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 organisations 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 diversity/understanding that persons with disabilities are part of human diversity.



Vitit Muntarbhorn

UN Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

Mr. Muntarbhorn is an international law Professor. He was educated in the United Kingdom obtaining his undergraduate and graduate law degrees from Oxford University.

He also holds a degree on European law from the Free University of Brussels. He is currently a Professor Emeritus of law at the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, having taught international law, human rights, the law of regional organizations, migration and

refugee law, child rights, international humanitarian law and European Union law. He was awarded the UNESCO Human Rights Education Prize in 2004.

Prof. Muntarbhorn has served on many United Nations bodies. He was formally the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He has also been Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. He was the Chair of the International Commission of Inquiry on the Ivory Coast in 2011 and was one of the Commissioners of the Independent International Commission of inquiry on Syria from 2012 to 2016.

Prof. Muntarbhorn has extensive experience in research, policy development and advocacy in the field of sexual orientation and gender identity. He was the Co-Chairperson of the drafting committee of the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity in 2006. He is the author of many publications on human rights issues, including sexual orientation and gender identity.



Marta Santos Pais

Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children (2009-2019)

Marta Santos Pais is a Portuguese lawyer who has been serving as the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children between 2009 and 2019. Before her appointment, Marta Santos Pais was the Director of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. She joined UNICEF in 1997 as Director of Evaluation, Policy and Planning.

Previously she was the Rapporteur of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and Vice-Chair of the Coordinating Committee on Childhood Policies of the Council of Europe. Santos Pais was a Special Adviser to the UN Study on Violence against Children and to the Machel Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children.

Previously, Santos Pais was a Member of the Scientific Committee of the International Child Centre in Paris, and Visiting Professor at the International University in Lisbon, Portugal. In Portugal, she was Senior Legal Adviser for human rights in the Comparative Law Office and a member of the Portuguese Commission for the Promotion of Human Rights and Equality.

Santos Pais is the author of a large number of publications on human rights and children's rights. She was a member of the UN Drafting Group of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and of its two Optional Protocols.



Ann Skelton

Children's Rights Lawyer

Professor Ann Skelton has worked as a children's rights lawyer in South Africa for 25 years.

She has effectively lobbied for the rights of children in the criminal justice system throughout her career. She chaired the SA Law Reform Committee that drafted the Child Justice Act, and led a UN technical assistance project to prepare for its implementation.

Ann is a Professor of Law at the University of Pretoria, where she holds the UNESCO Chair: Education Law in Africa. She is an advocate who often appears in the South African superior courts arguing children's rights issues in public interest law matters – such as *Centre for Child Law v Minister of Justice* (which abolished minimum sentences and life imprisonment for children) and *J v National Director of Public Prosecutions* (which abolished automatic placement of child offenders on the sex offenders register).

She has published widely on child law both locally and internationally, and is acknowledged as an expert in the field by various UN bodies. She was involved in the drafting of the Model Law on Juvenile Justice for the UNODC in Vienna in 2013. Ann was recently elected as a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, her term of office starting in 2017.



Global Campus
of Human Rights