How to start the application process:

The application process consists of two parts: the first part is a web-based survey and the second part is an application form in Word format. Both parts and all sections of the application form need to be completed for the application to be processed.

**First part:** The [web-based survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WebApplication_SMH_HRC29_June2015) 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** per selection round, i.e. multiple selection is allowed to indicate if the candidate is applying for more than one mandate within a given selection round.

**Second part:** 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. The application form should be completed in English only. It 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 public website.

Once completed, the application form in Word should be submitted by email to [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)

If the candidate is applying for more than one mandate, a mandate-specific Word application form needs to be completed and submitted for each mandate.

* A maximum of three reference letters can be attached, in pdf format, to the application sent by email. No additional documents such as CVs or lists of publications will be accepted.
* **Application deadline: 30 April 2015 (12.00 noon GMT)**
* Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at a later stage.

General description of the selection process is available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx>

Please note that for Working Group appointments, only nationals of States belonging to the specific regional group are eligible. Please refer to the list of United Nations regional groups of Member States at <http://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml>

In case of technical difficulties, or if you encountering problems completing or accessing any of the forms, the Secretariat may be contacted by email at [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org) or fax at + 41 22 917 9011.

**An acknowledgment email will be sent when we receive both parts of the application process, i.e. the information through the web-based survey and the Word application form by email.  
Thank you for your interest in the work of the Human Rights Council.**

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family name:** Åström | **5. Sex:**  **Male**  **Female** |
| **2. First name:** Gertrud | **6. Date of birth (dd-mm-yy):** 25-jul-54 |
| **3. Maiden name (if any):** | **7. Place of birth:** Kalix, Sweden |
| **4. Middle name:** Maria | **8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Swedish |
|  | **9. Any other nationality:** |

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

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

1. **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 six official languages of the United Nations (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.)**

She studied Political and Social sciences at Stockholm University and Uppsala University, lived in Israel 1973-74, carried out fieldwork in anthropology and in Egypt in late 70’s. She worked at the Department of Economic History and Forum for Women’s Research and Women researchers at Stockholm University from the very start in 1981.

Her professional life has always focused on gender equality. She runs her own enterprise, Hela HUT AB (sustainable development). For severaly years Ms. Åström has worked in the field of human rights as a professional consultant on gender equality and gender mainstreaming. For sex years she has also served as president for the Swedish Women's Lobby and board member of the European Women's Lobby. The Swedish Women's Lobby is the umbrella organisation for the women's movement in Sweden. The organisation has consultative status to the ECOSOC.

Both as consultant and leader for the women's movement she is a driving force behind policies on gender quality, gender mainstreaming and women's human rights in accordance with the CEDAW Convention and the Beijing Platform for Action. She has excellent communication skills both orally and in writing in English and French. She has profound expertise in UN Convention texts and how Human Rights conventions are connected proposing new methods to thenational and regional contexts.

1. **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.)**

Ms. Åström worked in the Government Committee on Power and Democracy in Sweden 1986-1991 and has since worked in several Government Committees during the 90’s and 2000’s as an expert and as head of the committees. She was head of the Government Committee on Gender Equality Policy during 2004-2005. The committee report presented new goals and a new organization for gender equality work in Sweden. She has conducted several studies from a gender perspective on organizations

In the beginning of the 90’s she focused on issues on women’s representation and was a member of the Ministers for Equality affairs working group for Gender Equality resulting in the Government Bill “Shared Power- Shared Responsibility” where gender mainstreaming was introduced as the main strategy for gender equality work in Sweden. She wrote “In to the Main Building” presented at Beijing conference in 1995. She has developed methods for gender mainstreaming at national, regional and local level, especially the

Ms. Åström has served as expert in the Swedish delation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women between 2011-2015. Futhermore she has took part in numerous panels on women's rights including violence against women. At this years CSW she took part with Ms. Rashida Manjoo at a high level panel on VAW.

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE** (200 words)

**Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired.)**

She worked in the Government Committee on Power and Democracy in Sweden 1986-1991 and has since worked in several Government Committees during the 90’s and 2000’s as an expert and as head of the committees. She was head of the Government Committee on Gender Equality Policy during 2004-2005. The committee report presented new goals and a new organization for gender equality work in Sweden. She has formulated the gender equality goals of Sweden.

1. **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.)**

Ms. Åström will dedicate the time required in accordance to the mandate.

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

Gertrud Åström is the foremost expert on women’s rights in Sweden and the Nordic region.

Her professional life has always focused on gender equality. Ms. Åström has worked as a professional consultant on gender equality and gender mainstreaming as well as the president for the women’s movements umbrella organization. Ms. Åström worked in the Government Committee on Power and Democracy in Sweden 1986-1991 and has since worked in several Government Committees during the 90’s and 2000’s as an expert and as head of the committees. She was head of the Government Committee on Gender Equality Policy during 2004-2005. The committee report presented new goals and a new organization for gender equality work in Sweden. She has conducted several studies from a gender perspective on organizations in fields such as adult education, sports and unions. Ms. Åström formulated the Gender equality goals for Sweden, among which Violence against women shall be ended is one goal.

Ms. Åström has analytical ability, taking into account both qualitative and quantitative data and presenting them in a coherent manner. She has profound expertise in UN Convention texts and how Human Rights conventions are connected. Furthermore she has great capacity in listening and understanding different situations. Moreover she is an expert in proposing new methods to thenational and regional contexts the basis of CEDAW And BPlfA.

Ms. Åström is an excellent speaker and inspirer. See for example two interventions by Ms. Astrom here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FzQxhkIA2E (from 7 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXestKmFcx4

She was one of the introductory speakers at the Commission on the Status Of Women NGO Consultation Day at the Appollo Theatre in March 2015.

Ms. Astrom has spoken on many high level panels on violence against women. In March 2015 she took part on a panel on violence against women together with Ms. Rashida Manjoo.

Ms. Åström has been board member of the European Women’s Lobby and has a great network in Europe and Internationally. She has been active in the Commission on the Status of Women as expert in the Swedish delegation to the Government. In 2015 she was expert to the Islandic Government.

Ms. Åström was initiator and overall responsible for Nordic Forum Malmö- New Action on women’s Rights. The most important meeting for women’s rights in the Nordic region in 20 years and follow-up of the Beijing Conference and Platform for Action. At the Nordic Forum many UN representatives took part, among others Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Ms. Nicole Ameline.

Sweden is the leading country in policies against violence against women. The Swedish Sex Purchase Act is one of many examples of policies againt violence against women. It was Sweden that brought the issue of violence against women to agenda at the Nairobi conference in 1985. Sweden has long experience in working with policies on violence against women and there would be no greater expert as rapporteur from Sweden and the Nordic countries than Ms. Gertrud Åström.

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

**Please indicate all language skills:**

**Mother tongue:**

**Arabic:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily orNot easily:   
**Write:** Easily or Not easily: **Speak:** Easily or Not easily:

**Chinese:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**English:** Yes or no: **Yes** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **Easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **Easily**

**French:** Yes or no: **Yes** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **Easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **Easily**

**Russian:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**Spanish:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**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**  **(from-to):** | **Place and country:** |
| Stockholm University/Uppsala University Department of Economic History Masters Degree | 1974-1981 | Stockholm/Uppsala |
| Researcher at the Women’s Research and Women researchers at Stockholm University | 1981-1987 | Stockholm |
| Anthropology field work | 1973-74 | Israel |
| Antrhropology field work | 19978-1979 | Egypt |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of employer,**  **functional title,**  **main functions of position:** | **Years of work (from-to):** | **Place and country:** |
| CEO Hela HUT AB (sustainable development). Government Committee on Power and Democracy | 2006-current | Sweden |
| Executive director at Ordfront (publishing house) | 2002-2005 | Stockholm, Sweden |
| Head of the Government Committee on Gender Equality Policy | 2004-2005 | Sweden |
| Government Committee on Power and Democracy | 1986-1991 | Sweden |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS   
(of Human Rights 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.***

Yes

**5. Should the candidate be appointed as a mandate holder, 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.**

Yes

\*\*\*\*