**How to apply:**

The entire application process consists of two parts: **1. online survey** and **2. application form in Word format**. Both parts and all sections of the application form need to be completed and received by the Secretariat before the expiration of the deadline.

**First part:** **Online survey** (<http://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/898354?lang=en>) is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate applying for and, if appropriate, nominating entity.

**Second part:** **Application form in Word** can be downloaded from [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC36.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC36.aspx) by clicking on the mandate. It should be fully completed and saved in Word format and then submitted as an attachment by e-mail. 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 also be posted as received on the OHCHR public website.

Once fully completed (including Section VII), the application form in Word should be submitted to hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org (by e-mail). A maximum of up to three reference letters (optional) can be attached in Word or pdf format to the e-mail prior to the expiration of the deadline. No additional documents, such as CVs, resumes, or supplementary reference letters beyond the first three received will be accepted.

**Please note that for Working Group appointments, only citizens 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**](http://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml)

* **Application deadline: 1 June 2017 (12 noon GREENWICH MEAN TIME / gMT)**
* **No incomplete or late applications will be accepted.**
* **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](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx)

In case of technical difficulties, or if encountering problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by e-mail at hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org or fax at + 41 22 917 9008.

**You will receive an acknowledgment e-mail when both parts of the application process, i.e. the data submitted through the online survey and the Word application form, have been received by e-mail.**

**Thank you for your interest in the work of the Human Rights Council.**

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family name:** ALIKARAMI  | **6. Year of birth:** 1977 |
| **2. First name:** LEILA  | **7. Place of birth:** TEHRAN-IRAN |
| **3. Maiden name (if any):**        | **8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** IRAN |
| **4. Middle name:**        | **9. Any other nationality:** NO |
| **5. Sex:** FEMALE |  |

**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.)**

As a member of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women I would bring with me my 17 years experience as lawyer and human rights practitioner working to promote women's right in Iran, the Islamic world, and beyond. I started my legal career with two leading Iranian organizations, Society For Protection of the Rights of the Child and Defenders of Human Rights Center. I worked alongside Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Shirin Ebadi to provide representation to women, children and to other vulnerable groups trying to secure their rights through the courts. I was also an active member of the One Million Signatures Campaign, launched in Iran in 2006 to urge the Iranian government to end legal discrimination against women. By 2009, I started working with the Nobel Women's Initiative and helped found the Center for Supporters of Human Rights in the United Kingdom. I have received a PhD in law and an LLM in human rights, peace and conflict resolution from the School of Oriental and African Studies in the United Kingdon and a law degree from University of Tehran, Iran. I am a native Persian speaker, fluent in English and advanced in written Arabic.

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.)**

My expertise in international human rights law and institutions is born out of my work as a practitioner and of my academic endeavors alike. As a lawyer, I regularly utilized international human rights law in cases, including those involving child custody, divorce and domestic violence. I continue to train lawyers from the Middle East in international standards and how to use the work of Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures in their courtroom representation of individual clients. I expanded on this knowledge through my graduate studies, developing a deep understanding on women's rights norms. Indeed, my PhD research, a comparative analysis of Iranian and Islamic law and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, is currently being expanded into a forthcoming book to be published by I.B. Tauris. I have written numerous articles on discrimination against women in law and practice in Islamic countries. I am well aquainted with UN human rights mechanisms. Since starting CSHR I have repeatedly participated in the Commission of the Status of Women, engaged with various UN Special Procedures, and offered submissions to review by the Committees on the rights of the child and on the rights of persons with disabilities.

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

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

At national level I am a recognized human right lawyer and women's rights expert.

Internationally, I have been honored by the European Union as a 2017 Sakharov Fellow in human rights and received the Anna Politkovskaya Award in 2009 from Reach All Women in War on behalf of the One Million Signatures Campaign. I have been invited to speak on women's rights and human rights at prestigious insitutions including the Graduate Institute, Geneva (Switzerland), University of London (UK), St Antony’s College (UK), St Andrews University (UK), Amnesty International (Switzerland), Nobel Women’s Initiative Biennial International Conference (the Netherlands), AWID Forum (Turkey), German-Iranian Law Association (Germany) and Raw in War (UK). I advised NWI in the MENA region and mapped the situation of women in those countries and amplify the voice of grassroots organisations, and bridged the gap between western feminists and women in Middle East by convening gatherings of powerful women to support a global women's peace movement that furthered our cause.

1. **PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**Please listsignificant and relevant published books, articles, journals and reports that you have written or public statements, or pronouncements that you have made or events that you may have participated in relation to the mandate.**

* 1. **Enter three publications in relation to the mandate for which you are applying in the order of relevance:**

**1. Title of publication:** The Heartless Father: A Glance at the Phenomenon of Filicide in Iran

**Journal/Publisher:** AMEWS E-BULLETIN, issue 1

**Date of publication:** January 2015

**Web link, if available:** http://iwsaw.lau.edu.lb/publications/amews/amews-ebulletin-2015January.pdf

**2. Title of publication:** In Iran, female landmine survivors are third-class citizens

**Journal/Publisher:** Sister Hood Magazine

**Date of publication:** 21 July 2016

**Web link, if available:** http://sister-hood.com/leila-alikarami/iran-female-landmine-survivours-third-class-citizens/

**3. Title of publication:** Iran's political paranoia includes children of foreign fathers

**Journal/Publisher:** AL MONITOR

**Date of publication:** 5 DECEMBER 2016

**Web link, if available:** http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/12/iranian-mothers-foreign-fathers-children-citizenship-law.html

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words):I have written several academic articles on the issues related to women in Persian language that is published in Iran. I have published numerous articles in influential English, French, Spanish, and Persian language media worldwide such as Huffington Post (US and France), BBC Persian (UK), Al Monitor, Open Democracy, El Pais (Spain), Shargh (Iran), Etemad (Iran), El Desconcierto (Chile), and ReproductiveHealth Rewire (US). Currently I am working on my book, "Women, Law and Activism in Iran" which will be published by I.B Touris in 2017. Titles include: "To Become A Truly Legitimate World Player, Iran Must Prioritize Women’s Rights" (The Huffington Post), "CEDAW and the Quest of Iranian Women for Gender Equality" (Open Democracy), "Silence of Iranian Law on Marital Rape" (BBC Persian), "UN must Hold Iran to Human Rights Promises" (Al Monitor), "Iran’s accession to the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women" (BBC Persian), "How Iranian women are using Sharia to their benefit" (Al Monitor).

* 1. **Enter three public statements or pronouncements made or events that you may have participated in relation to the mandate for which you are applying in the order of relevance:**

**1. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** , NOBEL LAUREATES ON HUMAN RIGHTS- A VIEW FROM CIVIL SOCIETY

**Event organizer:** GRADUATE INSTITUTE GENEVA

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 11 MARCH 2016

**Web link, if available:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPydDiDE9Rw

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** FRIBOURG UNIVERSITY

**Event organizer:** AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 9 MARCH 2017

**Web link, if available:** https://www.amnesty.ch/fr/sur-amnesty/agenda/2017/conference-avec-manon-schick-et-leila-alikarami

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** ANNA POLIKOVSKAYA AWARD CEREMONY

**Event organizer:** RAW IN WAR

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** OCTOBER 2009

**Web link, if available:** http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/programmes/2009/10/091008\_outlook\_iranian\_women.shtml

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words):

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 (HRC) sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York, travelling on special procedures visits, drafting reports and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. Kindly indicate whether the candidate can dedicate an estimated total of approximately three months per year to the work of a mandate.**

**Please note that the work of mandate holders is unpaid. Those appointed as mandate holders serve in their personal capacities. They are not United Nations staff members, they are not based in United Nations offices in Geneva or at another United Nations location, and they do not receive salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.**

I am a fully employed by the Center for Supporters of Human Rights and Nobel Women's Initiative. However, the nature of my work gives me flexibility to undertake a demanding membership on the Working Group. In fact, the position is complementary to my existing positions. In my work, I regularly undertake projects to address discrimination against women in law and practice and travel worldwide for such efforts. As part of my job I need to research on discriminatory laws and practices in some Islamic countries and propose strategies for reform based on good practices undertaken in other jurisdictions. I also follow international legal developments as they pertain to the righs of women and provide trainings on these developments. I live in London which give me advantage of traveling more easily to Geneva and come to the city at least five times a year already.

**III. Motivation Letter** (600 word limit, must be included below and not in a separate e-mail or as an attachment)

I look forward to the opportunity to contribute my years of experience as a lawyer and human right practitioner to sharpen the dialogue between UN bodies, states and stakeholders on how to best eliminate laws and practices that discriminate against women as a member on the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women.

I experienced deep discrimination as a young girl in Iran. However, it was not until I started to study the law that I began to understand the extent of this discrimination. The law made me aware of how systematic gender discriminantion is in my country but also showed me the opportunities I had to strive for equality. I believe gender equality is an innate right – no matter what culture or religion one is born in - and even in a discriminatory Islamic legal context there are avenues to bring Islamic law into harmony with international women's rights norms.

As an advocate and lawyer, my priority is to help women utilizing any creative avenue, particularly when the government and laws failed to protect them. I have taken every measure to defend women facing domestic violence. I represented them in court and brought my clients' stories to the media to raise public awareness, helping change Iranian laws on child custody. I was one of the first women’s rights activists who raised the issue of marital rape in Iran and have written articles and given interviews in the media on the matter. This was not without censure and criticism for undermining family values.

In 2006, I, with others, launched the One Million Signatures Campaign to pressure Iranian government into ending legal discrimination against Iranian women. The women activists were charged with threatening national security, I took their cases and represented them in courts.

I believe that women's rights are human rights, universal and inalienable. Still my experiences also shows that law and culture can work hand in hand to advance the situation of women. In every family case I have used Islamic law and international law side by side, and have demonstrated how these bodies of laws together could promote gender equality and universal rights. Indeed, I rely heavily on international norms and the work of UN bodies to bolster my day-to-day efforts whether I advocate in the media for legislative reforms or advocate for my clients' right to divorce an abusive husband.

Furthermore, as a bystandered of the Iran-Iraq war, I was able to better understand the situation of women and girls in war and conflict zone. I have worked with women survivors of landmines who mostly belong to ethnic minorty groups.

I have been engaged in international seminars and the CSW and I built a network of women combatting discrimination in Bahrain, Saudia Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Tunisia, Morocco, and more. Meeting these women and hearing their stories, one thing became clear: the role of UN standards and the work of the treaty bodies and special procedures provide a foundation for global efforts to combat gender discrimination. Whether I was in Africa or South America I share a language with all these advocates and that was the language of CEDAW and other international conventions and norms.

What qualifies me most to work on gender related issues and with the Working Group on the issue of discrimnation against women is the fact that I have tested academic theories in practice and I continue to do so. I have first hand experience using UN norms and procedures to promote domestic level reforms and I believe I can contribute this perspective to the work of the Working Group.

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **PERSIAN**

**2. Knowledge of the official languages of the United Nations:**

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

**Read:** Easily orNot easily: **EASILY**
**Write:** Easily or Not easily: **EASILY
Speak:** Easily or Not easily: **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: **NO** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not 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, indicating type of degree, subject, and whether full or part-time, ex. *Masters in law, University of xxx, part-time)*.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of degree and name of academic institution, full or part-time:** | **Years of attendance**(provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003): | **Place and country:** |
| PhD IN LAW, SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON- FULL TIME | 2009-2014 | LONDON-UK |
| LLM, HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE AND CONFLICT , SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON- FULL TIME | 2008-2009 | LONDON-UK |
| BA, LAW, TEHRAN UNIVERSITY- FULL TIME  | 1995-1999 | TEHRAN-IRAN |
|       |       |       |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with your current occupation.** **Also indicate whether positions held were not full-time.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of employer,****functional title,****main functions of position, full or part-time:** | **Years of work**(provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2005): | **Place and country:** |
| EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR SUPPORTERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS- FULL TIME  | 2013-PRESENT | LONDON-UK |
| CONSULTANT-NOBEL WOMEN INITIATIVE- FULL TIME | 2009-2014 | LONDON-UK |
| CONSULTANT-EUROSIA-2012-2013- PART TIME | 2012-2013 | LONDON-UK |
| LAWYER- SHIRIN EBADI LAW FIRM- FULL TIME | 2002-2008 | TEHRAN-IRAN |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS
(of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on his/her behalf.***

**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 the 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? (Please answer YES if you comply, NO if you do not comply, together with an explanation.)**

***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

**VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on his/her behalf.***

 **I hereby certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete and are made in good faith. I understand that falsifying or intentionally withholding information will be grounds for not being selected or appointed or the withdrawal of any proposed appointment or, if an appointment has been made and accepted, for its immediate cancellation or termination.

Kindly note that whilst no changes can be made after this application form has been submitted and the deadline for applications has expired, any relevant change of current occupation, employment, or position, or any other relevant fact or circumstance should be brought to the attention of the secretariat by
e-mail (****hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org****).**

**Please review your application before you insert your name and date to indicate your agreement.**

**Name:** LEILA ALIKARAMI

**Date:** 1 JUNE 2017

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