**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](mailto: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](mailto: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:** GROVER | **6. Year of birth:** 1964 |
| **2. First name:** VRINDA | **7. Place of birth:** NEW DELHI, INDIA |
| **3. Maiden name (if any):** | **8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** INDIAN |
| **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.)**

I hold an undergraduate degree in History, a law degree, LLB from New Delhi, India and an LLM from NYU School of Law. At NYU I received the Flora S and Jacob Newman award, and took courses in Economic and Social Rights; Transitional Justice; Cultural Rights in Constitutional Democracy; Racial Profiling in the 'war on terror' for the human rights clinic; challenges in legal representation of victims of gender based crime as a cause lawyer etc.

I have been practising in India as an independent lawyer at the Supreme Court and the trial Courts in India since 1989, and specialise in criminal law, women’s rights law and human rights law.

In 2013 to 2015 I was awarded the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Research Fellowship, through which I produced a publication on ‘*The evolving Jurisprudence of mass crime in India: A legal history’*

In 2012 to 2014 I was awarded a grant by The Justice Project, South Asia to work on a publication titled ‘*The* *Adivasi Undertrial, A Prisoner of War- A study of undertrial detainees in South Chhattisgarh’*

In addition I am regularly invited as an expert on women’s rights and human rights law to address Judges at the National Judicial Academy; police at the National Police Academy; and Public Prosecutors and doctors under the aegis of the Delhi High Court.

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.)**

I have extensive knowledge of international human rights law through academic courses at NYU Law school and my work with international organisations. I continue to work with international human rights law while contributing to policy making and the drafting of laws. As a lawyer I have used international human rights law instruments and the judgments of the ad hoc Tribunals and ICC, have been helpful in conducting Public Interest Litigation in Indian Courts.

My work and experience have contributed to the India country visits of the UN Special Rapporteurs on extra-judicial, summary and arbitrary executions; Violence Against Women; Human Rights Defenders; and Freedom of Religion. In 2008 I addressed the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID)and filed eight complaints. I have sent joint communications to the UN SR on Torture, Human Rights Defenders, VAW and Indigenous Persons, extra-judicial executions I have contributed to the joint UPR reports submitted by WGHR, and have been active in the advocacy around the UPR, including in 2017.

For 30 years I have been a leading advocate on women’s rights in India and in the region. I am closely associated with human rights and women's rights networks and movements across the region.

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

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

* Leading lawyer, expert and prominent media commentator on women’s rights
* Landmark case, documented by Amnesty India, 2017, "Losing Faith: The Muzaffarnagar gang-rape survivors struggle for justice".

Drafting contributions:

* Protocol for Medico-Legal Examination of victims of sexual violence - Union Health Ministry Committee;
* Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 2013, on sexual offences;
* The Communal and Targeted Violence Bill, 2010;
* Legal Advisor to the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons;
* Consulted by Women’s Commission
* Consulted by IWRAW -Asia Pacific
* Senior National Advocate, South Asia Rule of Law Project- ICJ (2011-2013)
* Fact Finding and Report on status of Human Rights Defenders in Philippines, (2012) - OMCT & FIDH.
* Trial monitoring - FORUM -ASIA
* Regional legal analysis on Enforced Disappearances in South Asia
* Bureau Member -South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR)
* Nominated by Times magazine among 100 Most Influential People, 2013.
* Member - Experts Drafting Committee on Model Law for the Recognition and Protection of Human Rights Defenders -ISHR <http://protectioninternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/model-law_FULL_Digital-2.pdf>
* CSW 2013, IWRAW-AP panel, presented “Critique of the application of the UN Impunity Principles in addressing VAW in the context of conflict and transition period”
* Advisor - Urgent Action Fund For Women’s Human Rights
* UN Women (CSAG) S.Asia- Member
* ISHR -Board Member

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: :** “Citadels of Power and Impunity, Disturbed but not Dislodged, Evaluating the 2013 Law Reforms in the Anti Rape Law in India” in

‘Sexualised Violence in the National Debate, Cross-border observations on India and South Africa” Ed. by Melanie Verwoerd & Claudia Lopes

**Journal/Publisher:** Heinrich Boll Foundation, Southern Africa

**Date of publication:** April, 2015

**Web link, if available:** <https://za.boell.org/sites/default/files/sexual_violence_sa_india_epdf_1.pdf>

1. **Title of publication: “**Internally Displaced Women:Issues and Challenges - A Framework for Protection and Action in South Asia”

**Journal/Publisher:** UNIFEM South Asia Regional Office

**Date of publication:** 2010

**Web link, if available:** Not available

**3. Title of publication:** ‘Addressing Domestic Violence Through The Law, A Guide

to the Protection of Women From Domestic Violence Act, 2005.’ Ed. Vrinda Grover

**Journal/Publisher:**   Multiple Action Research Group (MARG)

**Date of publication:**  2010

**Web link, if available:**   <http://www.ngo-marg.org/publications/books-articles-reports-and-other-publications>

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

4. ‘Kandhamal -Introspection of Initiative for Justice 2007-2015, Vrinda Grover and Saumya Uma, (2017)

Study of the response of the State and criminal justice system to targeted communal attacks in Orissa.

5. ‘Delhi gang rape case: Move away from ‘masculinist’ responses to rape’, Hindustan Times, 10 May 2017, <http://www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/delhi-gang-rape-case-move-away-from-masculinist-responses-to-rape/story-6ymacn7kCFE7258uvM9LQM.html>

6. ‘The Arrears of Justice’, Indian Express, 11 February 2010 <http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/the-arrears-of-justice/578417/0>

7. ‘Impunity A Rule, Justice An Exception’, (Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Jamia Millia Islamia: New Delhi, pp. 90-99. (2009)

8. ‘Shopian - Manufacturing a Suitable Story, A Case Watch’,Independent Women’s Initiative for Justice

<http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/IWIJ-Report-Shopian-10-Dec-2009.pdf>

9. ‘Irreversible Consequences: Racial Profiling and Lethal Force in the ‘War on Terror’ (Briefing Paper), NYU, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, (2006) Co-author,

<http://chrgj.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/CHRGJ-Irreversible-Consequences-June-2006.pdf>

10.’Prevarication on Criminal Procedure Code’, Economic and Political Weekly, 13 August, 2005, [www.epw.org.in](http://www.epw.org.in)

11. ‘The Elusive Quest for justice, Delhi 1984 to Gujarat 2002’ in *Gujarat* *The Making of a Tragedy*, Penguin India, New Delhi 2002.

* 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:** Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Annual Lecture: The Liberté Series - The Struggle for Human Rights in India

**Event organizer:** SOAS South Asia Institute, London, U.K.

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 7 February 2017

**Web link, if available:** <https://www.soas.ac.uk/south-asia-institute/events/07feb2017-noor-inayat-khan-memorial-annual-lecture-the-libert-series---the-struggle-for-human-rights.html>

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

21st annual Herbert Rubin and Justice Rose Luttan Rubin International Law Symposium, “[Constitution and Custom: Women’s Rights and Access to Justice in Pluralistic Legal Societies](http://nyujilp.org/symposia/constitution-custom-womens-rights-and-access-to-justice-in-pluralistic-legal-societies/),”. Keynote Speaker -Vrinda Grover

**Event organizer:** NYU, School of Law

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** November 2015

**Web link, if available:** http://www.law.nyu.edu/news/vrinda-grover-rubin-symposium

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:**

UN Human Rights Council

**Event organizer:** UN Human Rights Council, 10th Meeting 23rd Regular Session of Human Rights Council

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 30 May 2013

**Web link, if available:** http://webtv.un.org/media/geneva-press-briefings/watch/clustered-id-on-executions-and-idps-contd-10th-meeting-23rd-regular-session-of-human-rights-council/2419860366001?page=7

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

4. Member of WRN, participant in South Asia Tribunal on Women’s Human Rights in 2014

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/fd5098\_c649a9f272b24d4fabeb570fc3ed6122.pdf

5. Women in India: Law, Violence and Change, Chatham House, 6 December 2013

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/events/view/1956233>

6. Debriefing in India by delegation on the CEDAW Committee <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/india-not-willing-to-accept-failure-in-providing-safety-measures-to-women/article6293424.ece>

7. "Losing Faith: The Muzaffarngar gang-rape survivors struggle for justice", Amnesty India, 2017

<https://www.amnesty.org.in/pages/losing-faith-the-muzaffarnagar-gang-rape-survivors-struggle-for-justice>

Press briefing on the launch of the Report available at:

<https://www.amnesty.org.in/show/entry/three-years-after-muzaffarnagar-riots-no-justice-in-sight-for-gang-rape-sur>

8. Speaker at the release of report on human rights violations of sexual minorities

http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/cops-involved-in-50-cases-of-rights-violation-of-sexual-gender-minority-report-1458324

9.Participant in the UPR process as a member of the Working Group on Human Rights in India

<https://www.forum-asia.org/?p=12594>

10. Member of the high level experts group that endorsed the UN Model Law for the Recognition and Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

<http://www.ishr.ch/news/groundbreaking-model-law-recognise-and-protect-human-rights-defenders>

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”.**

My work and life circumstances both enable me to devote time and attention to effectively discharge the functions of this mandate. As an independent practising lawyer, I am in a position to structure and organise my work. I can plan my work schedule and commitments, in advance. My professional life therefore allows for flexibility and I can allocate time for travel, for drafting reports and to fulfill other engagements of this mandate.

As I have been working as a professional for the past 28 years I am economically self sufficient, I do not expect or require any fees for the time and work that I contribute towards discharging the role and responsibilities of this mandate. Even presently I give a fair share of my time to many initiatives and organisations for advocacy and justice at the national, regional and international level, and contribute my skills and experiences on a pro bono basis.

I would be able to allocate three months in a year towards the work of the mandate.

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

For the last 30 years, I have been engaged as a key participant in the Indian women’s movement and the multiple processes through which women have reshaped their lives and transformed society.

From the 1980s, our campaigns around individual cases of violence against women created an understanding and acknowledgement of the oppression experienced by women, both in the private and public sphere. Through this period, we worked on issues of gender equality, sexual violence, economic and cultural rights, equal citizenship, political participation, as non-negotiable and essential elements of human rights.

As a result of feminism and the women’s movement, I understood the necessity both of litigation around victim-survivors of gender based discrimination and violence, as well as creating a set of non-negotiable pre-conditions within society and the legal system which make individual interventions meaningful.

In recent years sexual harassment of women at the workplace is increasingly being acknowledged. I have worked on the making of the law and its development through court cases. My effort has been to evolve healthy practices around this law, drawing upon international jurisprudence, including CEDAW.

My work with human rights movements and campaigns, including on issues of targeted violence, rise of non-state extremist violence, land and natural resource rights and internal conflict has been invaluable in making me interrogate my legal practices and interventions and making my work as a women’s rights lawyer more incisive. This has also nuanced my understanding that women do not constitute a single homogenous group and work towards conceptualising the rights of women located across a spectrum.

International law and discourse on the targeting of women’s bodies in conflict situations have been extremely helpful to me while representing those who have been sexually assaulted during communal targeted violence, and women human rights defenders

Through my legal practice, I have consistently looked to sources outside of the law- at the everyday practices and needs of women, families, societies, states, markets, and institutions to generate new legal responses.

An important moment for legal reform emerged after the Delhi gangrape in December 2012, when the Government constituted the Justice Verma Committee in response to the public outcry. To ensure that legal reform was informed by voices and experiences of women from the ground, I worked to organise a two day consultation of women’s groups from across the country with the Committee. The advocacy emphasised that the law relating to sexual violence- substantive, procedural and evidentiary- must necessarily reflect feminist principles and women’s experiences.

I see today, not just in India or Asia, but also across the world, a renewed, mature and public assertion by women, cutting across class, religion, caste, nationality, claiming equality as a right in every sphere. The conviction and confidence in the voices of these women is promising and reassuring. I think we are presently at a juncture where we need to create frameworks and principles which reflect women’s experiences as opposed to work within already established social and legal categories. I am able to offer a method to foreground systemic, institutional, cultural oppression, subordination and prejudice of women. There is also my expertise and experience developed from working and living in a country and region with extremely complex geo-political, social, cultural and religious configurations, which enables me to respond effectively to the challenges posed by cultural relativism, impoverishment, and the technology divide.

In some jurisdictions, reactionary, fundamentalist, extremist and regressive forces having acquired state power have unleashed a backlash and push back against women’s hard won rights. It is in this moment of contestation that I believe my expertise and experience can make a significant contribution.

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **HINDI**

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

**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: **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:** |
| Bachelor of Arts -History (Hons.), St.Stephen's College, Delhi University, full time | 1982-1985 | New Delhi, INDIA |
| Bachelors in Law -L.L.B., Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, Delhi University, full time | 1985-1988 | New Delhi, INDIA |
| Masters in Law - L.L.M, New York University School of law, U.S.A, full time | 2005-2006 | New York, U.S.A. |
|  |  |  |

**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:** |
| Independent Lawyer, practising in the Supreme Court of India, High Courts and Trial Courts,  full time | 1989-2005 & 2009 to the present | New Delhi, India |
| Executive Director, Multiple Action Research Group(MARG), full time | 2007-2009 | New Delhi, India |
| International Commission of Jurists, (ICJ) National Advisor, part time | 2011-2013 | New Delhi, India |
| **Honorary Positions**   * Member of UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group, South Asia (UN Women CSAG) | 2013- to the present | New Delhi, India |
| * Working Group on Human Rights in India and at the United Nations (WGHR) Independent member | 2009 to the present | New Delhi, India |
| * South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR)- Bureau Member | 2010 to the present |  |
| * OMCT - Member, General Assembly | 2012 to the present | Geneva, Switzerland |
| * International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) - Board Member | 2016 to the present | Geneva, Switzerland |
| * Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR) Board - Member | 2015 to the present | New York, USA |

**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.**

**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**](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)**).**

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

**Name:**      VRINDA GROVER

**Date:**     1st June, 2017

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