

## **SECOND PART: APPLICATION FORM IN WORD FORMAT**

### **Special Rapporteur on minority issues** [[HRC res. 25/5](#)]

*Appointment to be made by the Human Rights Council at the 35th session  
of the Human Rights Council (6 to 23 June 2017)*

#### **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/412731?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/HRC35.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>

- **APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30 MARCH 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>

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.**

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**I. PERSONAL DATA**

<b>1. Family name:</b> Mihlar	<b>6. Year of birth:</b> 1977
<b>2. First name:</b> Farah	<b>7. Place of birth:</b> Colombo, Sri Lanka.
<b>3. Maiden name (if any):</b> Mihlar	<b>8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):</b> Sri Lankan
<b>4. Middle name:</b>	<b>9. Any other nationality:</b> United Kingdom
<b>5. Sex:</b> 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.)**

My inter-disciplinary PhD combining minority, gender and religious studies is from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), I have been invited to give lectures at prestigious universities.

With Minority Rights Group (2006-2015) I worked directly with minorities training and networking at the grassroots in East Africa, South Asia and South East Europe gaining exceptional knowledge of minority rights in practice and at the community level.

Through country-based field research I have published landmark reports. I am a regular contributor to the State of the World's Minorities report. I have authored policy reports on minorities and MDGs and climate change.

I have worked with states at a bi-lateral, regional and international level and with UN bodies and mechanisms to act on recommendations on minority rights protection. Working at the OHCHR, I gained insight into the role of the office and UN mechanisms.

I have excellent communication and public presentation skills having presented at the UK and EU parliaments, UN Forum on Minority Issues, UN HRC panels and other events. As a journalist (1995-2005) and through media work at MRG, OHCHR and ICJ, I have strong media skills ensuring impact for my work.

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#### **2. 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 extensive expertise on minority rights in conflict situations comes from empirical research in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Iraq, Uganda and Israel, strengthened through work with minorities on the ground and advanced through participating in conferences, advocacy, policy debates and teaching on the subject.

I was an expert at the last UNFMI on minorities in humanitarian crisis. I also have substantial experience on minority rights in post-conflict contexts, which comprises my current work in Sri Lanka where I wrote a report for the International Crisis Group (ICG) and am writing a journal article on a minority rights approach to transitional justice.

I also have strong expertise on religious minorities, especially in South Asia, which has come through research, project implementation and trainings on this subject. This is also the subject of my PhD.

I have excellent knowledge of the UN and regional human rights framework, international human rights laws and mechanisms, and theories on ethnicity and identity, acquired through years of work with the UN system (including UNFMI since 2009), framing research for policy purposes and my own academic writing and teaching. I have worked with a number of special procedures, including both the mandate holders on minority issues.

#### **3. ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200 words)**

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

Through community level work, I have trained, empowered and built networks leading to minority representative knowing and successfully claiming their rights at the national and international levels. I am a prominent minority rights defender in my home country Sri Lanka. Through my academic lectures I have challenged young people's perceptions on issues of diversity and increased their understanding of minority rights.

My research and publications have contributed to policy changes at the national level and helped raise international awareness on country and thematic issues. I have advanced policy debates on minorities in situations of conflict, humanitarian disasters, religious minorities, SDGs and climate change. My empirical research at the country level, presented through publications and public presentations have raised increased

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the profile of minorities and drawn attention to their problems, leading to policy changes.

My in-depth knowledge and expertise have been recognised by both the minorities mandate holders who have consulted me at different levels and worked with me country issues. I have also been at the fore-front of a number of UNFMIs. Developing strong and constructive policy recommendations and through constructive engagement with states I have been able to raise awareness and contribute towards policy changes on minority rights protection.

#### 4. PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS

**Please list-significant 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.**

##### 4.1 Enter three publications in relation to the mandate for which you are applying in the order of relevance:

**1. Title of publication:** Voices from the margins: including the perspectives of minorities and indigenous people in the post-2015 development agenda

**Journal/Publisher:** Minority Rights Group International

**Date of publication:** 2013

**Web link, if available:** <http://minorityrights.org/publications/voices-from-the-margins-including-the-perspectives-of-minorities-and-indigenous-peoples-in-the-post-2015-development-agenda-march-2013/>

**2. Title of publication:** No war, no peace: the denial of minority rights and justice in post war Sri Lanka

**Journal/Publisher:** Minority Rights Group International

**Date of publication:** 2011

**Web link, if available:** <http://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/old-site-downloads/download-921-Download-the-full-report.pdf>

**3. Title of publication:** Voices that must be heard: minorities and indigenous peoples combating climate change

**Journal/Publisher:** Minority Rights Group International

**Date of publication:** 2008

**Web link, if available:** [http://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/MRG\\_Brief\\_ClimateC.pdf](http://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/MRG_Brief_ClimateC.pdf)

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

- 'Everything has shattered'- rising levels of violence against Shia in Pakistan ( 2014) MRG briefing paper.
- Israel's denial of the Bedouin (2010 ) MRG briefing paper.

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- Living with insecurity: Marginalisation and sexual violence against women in north and east of Sri Lanka (2013) MRG full report.
- South Asia chapters and other articles to State of the World's Minorities (SWM) report, 2016, 2013, 2010 and 2009.
- The state of Sri Lanka's Muslims (2009) Economic and Political Weekly, Volume XLIV, No 38.

Awaiting publication -

- Minority women in the north and east and transitional justice in Sri Lanka, 2017, International Crisis Group, Asia Report.
- A minority rights approach to transitional justice, to be submitted to the International Journal of Human Rights in 2017.
- Islamism and minority politics in Sri Lanka– journal article to be submitted in 2017.

#### **4.2 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:**

Side event to mark 25 years since the UN Declaration on Minorities.

**Event organizer:** Missions of Austria, Slovenia and Senegal and Minority Rights Group International

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 28 February 2017

**Web link, if available:** <http://minorityrights.org/2017/02/17/25th-anniversary-un-declaration-rights-persons-belonging-national-ethnic-religious-linguistic-minorities-looking-ahead-opportunities-challenges/>

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

UN Forum on Minority Issues on minorities in humanitarian crisis.

**Event organizer:** OHCHR

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 25 November, 2016

**Web link, if available:**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Minority/Pages/Session9.aspx>

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

Fighting hate against minorities, side event at the UNFM

**Event organizer:** UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 25 November 2013

**Web link, if available:**

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/MinorityIssues/Session6/FlyerMovie251113.pdf>

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

- This path may be mined: Working on human rights in situations of conflict - lecture at Sussex Centre for Conflict and Security Research, March, 2016.

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- Marginalised groups in situations of conflict - Kings College London, February, 2016.
- Working towards a human rights council resolution: Sri Lanka at the UN HRC, 2010-2014 - presentation to Sussex Justice and Rights Centre; October, 2015.
- Human rights situation in Sri Lanka - panel discussion at UN Human Rights Council, Geneva; 2012.
- Denial of minority rights in Sri Lanka – report launch, London; 2010; campaign launch on rights of plantation workers in Sri Lanka, London; 2012.
- Situation of Bedouin in Israel – launch of report at the House of Commons; 2011, and SOAS university; 2011.
- Women in conflict, part of a panel discussion at the House of Commons; 2010.

**5. 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 currently working as an independent consultant and in the coming years plan to take on an academic posting. I am aware of the dedication and commitment required for this post, including the travel and I will have no problem doing so. I can dedicate the necessary time for this post.

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

As a woman from a minority community who has lived through and worked on a conflict, minority rights have always been of real importance to me.

I have a well-established career in minority rights, specialised in religious minorities, minority women and minorities in situations of conflict. Through work with OHCHR, policy and international advocacy work at MRG, I have a sound understanding of UN, regional human rights mechanisms and diplomacy. I have always assessed states' laws, policies and practices with objectivity, made efforts to understand their positions, and worked with them to strengthen minority rights.

In the academic field, my PhD is an exceptional study of religious radicalism in a minority context. I am continuing this study and also researching on minorities in transitional justice. My policy work on minorities in conflict, post-2015 MDGs, climate change and now transitional justice is pioneering and has helped develop theoretical knowledge in these areas. My empirical research, often in challenging contexts, in a number of countries has contributed to raising awareness on marginalised communities and bring about policy changes.

My biggest strength lies in the in-country community level work I have done, empowering minorities, training them to access their rights and advocating for them at local and international levels. Through these relationships and networks and through my field research I have an in-depth understanding of issues affecting minorities. My proven ability to successfully combine this grassroots insight into policy recommendations and constructively promote them with UN offices, mechanisms and member states has earned me repute in the field of minority rights. I have the important ability to communicate and interview people from different backgrounds in extremely different contexts: minority women in remote areas, displaced persons in camps, political leaders in capital and international policy makers in Geneva and New York.

My expertise on minority rights lead me to be invited as an expert to the last UN Forum on Minorities and in February I presented at a high-level panel co-sponsored by Austria, Slovenia, Senegal and MRG, to mark the 25th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Minorities. I have lectured on minority rights at the Universities of London, Middlesex and Sussex. My publications are cited at policy and academic levels and are considered authoritative sources on minorities and minority rights.

I understand what it means to be a minority, particularly a minority woman and I have the ability to gain the trust of victims and right-holders. These inter-personal skills are combined with strong analytical skills, and my work seeks to investigate issues of intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination. I care deeply about the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, wherever they are and whatever their chosen

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identity, and have always worked with professionalism and integrity to champion their rights. The strength, determination and perseverance I bring, which have seen me through prior challenging circumstances, are critical to ensure the mandate continues to be effective and responds to the changing international political climate.

My close contact with minority groups will always help me to stay abreast of issues affecting them and enable me to better work to promote their rights. My independent theoretical and legal knowledge combined with my research skills, academic rigour and analytical approach will help me to advance theoretical debates on minority rights to better meet the challenges minorities face in the coming years. My strong communication, public speaking and media skills allow me to effectively get the message across to the right audience. Mostly my commitment and passion for the advancement of minority rights will enrich and enable me to successfully serve the mandate.

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue: English**

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

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

**Read:** Easily or Not 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: **Not easily**

**Write:** Easily or not easily: **Not easily**

**Speak:** Easily or not easily: **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:

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**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*).**

<b>Name of degree and name of academic institution, full or part-time:</b>	<b>Years of attendance</b> (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003):	<b>Place and country:</b>
Ph.D. The pursuit of piety and the quest for seperatism: the politicisation of Islam in Sri Lanka. Department of Study of Religion, School of Oriental and African Studies	2005-2015	London, UK
M.Sc.Social Policy London School of Economics	2002-2003	London, UK
B.Sc. Law and Management University of London (external)	1996-1999	Colombo, Sri Lanka
BA Sociology, International Relations and Politics	1998-2002	Colombo, Sri Lanka.

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**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:
Consultant Researcher, International Crisis Group	2016- on going	Jaffna, Sri Lanka
Research Associate, School of Global Studies, University of Sussex.	2015 - on going	Sussex, United Kingdom
Head of Asia, Minority Rights Group International  Conflict Prevention Programme Coordinator  Media Officer and Minority Voices Programme Coordinator  2006-2009: part-time while attending SOAS for PhD. 2009-2012 - Full time 2012 -2014 - Part time 2014-15 - on maternity leave.	2013-2015  2009-2013  2006-2012	London, United Kingdom.
Media Officer, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Full time.  Consultant media work - International Commission of Jurists and Geneva Call.  Producer BBC World Service - part-time (while doing MSc)  Journalist covering Sri Lanka armed conflict and reporting on human rights problems for local media, Tims of India and Reuters news service	1/2005-11/2005  2004  2002-2003  1996 - 2002	Geneva, Switzerland  Geneva, Switzerland  London, UK.  Colombo, Sri Lanka.

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**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.**

NA

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**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:** Farah Mihlar

**Date:** 30 March 2017

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