

Biographical data form of candidates to the Committee against Torture

Name and first name: GAER, Felice

Date and place of birth: 16 June 1946, Englewood, New Jersey, USA

Working languages: English, Russian

Current position/function:

Member, Committee against Torture (Vice Chair, 2004-2006, 2009-present).

Director, Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, American Jewish Committee (1993-present).

Chair, Leo Nevas Task Force on Human Rights, United Nations Association of the USA (2011-present).

Main professional activities:

As member and Vice Chair, participate in biannual sessions of Committee against Torture (CAT); represented CAT at Chairpersons meetings in 2012 (Vice Chair of Addis Ababa meeting) and 2014 (Geneva), and Inter-Committee meetings including three on follow-up; two Malbun meetings on treaty body reform.

As Director of Jacob Blaustein Institute, conduct research and writing aimed at strengthening international human rights protections and institutions. Speaker at academic and policy conferences, including University of Nebraska (Thompson Forum, 2013), UNDP Seminar on National Institutions (2014), Wilton Park meetings on torture prevention (2015), treaty body reform (2015).

As Chair, Leo Nevas Task Force at UNA-USA, work to enhance awareness of UN human rights progress by persons based in the US and to offer recommendations for improvement.

Commissioner-at-large, US National Commission for UNESCO (2012-present).

Educational background:

Wellesley College, A.B. (Artem Baccalaureus) with Honors, 1968.

Columbia University, M.A. (Master of Arts), 1971.

Columbia University, M. Phil. (Master of Philosophy), 1973.

Other main activities in human rights relevant to the mandate of the Committee against Torture:

Regents Professor, University of California at Los Angeles (2010).

Commissioner, US Federal Commission on International Religious Freedom (2001-2012; Chair, 2002-2003, 2006-2007, 2008-2009; Vice-Chair, 2003-2006).

Chair, Steering Committee, National Coalition on 50th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1997-1999).

Public Member, US delegations to the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993); World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995); UN Commission on Human Rights (1994-1999).

Board of Directors, First Freedom Center (2012-2015); Andrei Sakharov Foundation (1993-present).

Advisory Committee, Human Rights Watch, Europe and Central Asia (1996-present).

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, Board of Directors (2001-2004); Board of Governors (2004-present).

The Carter Center, Emory University, International Human Rights Council (1994-2003).

List of most recent publications in this field:

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (ed. with C.L. Broecker), Martinus Nijhoff, 2014.

“Effectiveness of the UN Human Rights Protection Machinery: The High Commissioner for Human Rights,”
Proceedings of the Annual Meeting (American Society of International Law), April 2014.

“Implementing Treaty Body Recommendations: Establishing Better Follow-up Procedures,” in M. Cherif Bassiouni
(ed.), *New Challenges for the UN Human Rights Machinery*, Intersentia, 2011.

“Women, international law and international institutions” *Women’s Studies Internat’l Forum*, 2009.