



## **12th Session, Geneva 28 and 29 November 2019**

### **INVITED SPEAKERS**

#### ***CHAIRPERSON***

##### **MS. ANASTASIA CRICKLEY**



Anastasia Crickley has been chairperson of the UN Committee for Elimination of Racial Discrimination from 2016 to 2018 and an elected member from 2010. She was the first chair of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and also served as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. From 2004 to 2008 she was Personal Representative of the OSCE Chair in Office on Racism. Until 2015 she was Head of Department of Applied Social Studies at Maynooth University, Ireland where she championed university access for minorities and marginalised groups. She is a founder of the European Network Against Racism, Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre and the Migrants Rights Centre, Ireland, and she is a lifelong advocate for human rights, in particular women's rights and the rights of minorities.

#### ***CHAIRPERSON***

##### **MS. ASTRID THORS**



Astrid Thors is a lawyer and the former OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (2013-2016). She has served as Finnish Minister of Migration and European Affairs between 2007 and 2011 and in the European Parliament (1996-2004) and in the Finnish Parliament (2004-2013). She has held several positions of trust related to human rights and minority rights, chairing the Advisory Board on Human Rights of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Refugee Advisory Council. She has been the Chair of the Swedish Assembly of Finland - an umbrella organisation for the Swedish speaking Finns (2005-2007) and chair of the National Committee for UNICEF in Finland (2000-2005). Currently, she is the vice president of the board of the University of Arts Helsinki, a member of the Nordic Women Mediation Network, chair of its Finnish branch and member of the Board of Trustees of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, based in Uppsala, Sweden.

**INVITED SPEAKERS**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

***PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL***

**H.E. MR. COLY SECK**



Coly Seck has been Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations Office in Geneva since October 2016. He has chaired the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body Special Session (DSB/SS) since March 2017 and of the Francophone Ambassadors Group (GAF) since November 2016. Prior to his appointment in Geneva, Mr. Seck held the position of Chief of Staff to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad from November 2012 to October 2016. Mr. Seck was Minister Counselor, Director of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from February to October 2012. He was also Minister Counselor, Director Africa Asia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from January 2011 to January 2012. Prior to that, Mr. Seck was Counselor at the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations in New York from November 2004 to December 2010 where he was in charge of political affairs, disarmament, peace and international security. He also held various directorial positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between October 2001 and October 2004. He speaks French and English.

***UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS***

**H.E. MS. MICHELLE BACHELET**



On September 1, 2018, Michelle Bachelet assumed her functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Ms. Bachelet was elected President of Chile on two occasions. She was the first female president of Chile, as well as Chile's and Latin America's first female Defense Minister. She also served as Health Minister of Chile. During her presidential tenures, she promoted the rights of all but particularly those of the most vulnerable, through reforms to the education and tax systems, as well as the empowerment of women and girls. In 2011, she was named the first Executive Director of UN Women. Economic empowerment and ending violence against women were two of her priorities during her tenure.

## INVITED SPEAKERS

### *OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES*

**H.E. MR. LAMBERTO ZANNIER**



Ambassador Lamberto Zannier is OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and has occupied this position since July 2017. Previously, he was OSCE Secretary General for two consecutive three-year terms, from 1 July 2011 until 30 June 2017. Other senior positions include UN Special Representative for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) from 2008 to 2011, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE (2002-2006), Chairperson of the negotiations on the adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (1998-1999) and Head of Disarmament, Arms Control and Cooperative Security at NATO (1991-1997). Lamberto Zannier joined the Italian Foreign Ministry as a career diplomat in 1978 and also served in Rome, Abu Dhabi, Vienna and The Hague, mainly specializing in multilateral and security affairs.

### **INVITED SPEAKERS**

**MR. VINCENT DEFOURNY**



Vincent Defourny is the Director of UNESCO Liaison Office. He has worked in Uganda as a secondary school teacher, then taught in higher education in Belgium and France (Catholic University of Louvain, Celsa, SciencesPo and ENA International). He has also worked for several years as a communication and management consultant for various companies in the public, private and non-profit sectors in Belgium, France and Spain. Within UNESCO, he has held positions in the areas of program evaluation and editorial coordination of the Web. He was then appointed Director of the Brasilia Office and Representative of UNESCO in Brazil, from 2006 to 2011; Project Manager, Field Coordination Office, 2012-2013; Director of the Division of Cooperation with Extrabudgetary Funding Sources, from 2013 to 2015 and finally Director of the Division of Public Information from 2015 to 2019.

**INVITED SPEAKERS**

**MS. TOVE SKUTNABB-KANGAS**



Tove Skutnabb-Kangas is Associate Professor at Department of Education, Åbo Akademi University, Finland. Actively involved since over 50 years with Indigenous peoples' and minorities' struggle for linguistic human rights in education and in counteracting linguistic and cultural genocide, linguistic imperialism, and subtractive spread of English. In supporting mother-tongue-based multilingual education, she has worked with many international organisations (e.g. UN, UNESCO, OSCE) and states, with indigenous peoples (and their organisations) in India, Nepal, USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, all Nordic countries, as well as with deaf people. She is also recipient of Linguapax award 2003.

**MR. ALEKSANDRS KUZMINS**



Aleksandr Kuzmin is a lawyer from Latvia, specialized in legal linguistics and the law on the use of languages. Since 2010, he has been a board member of the Latvian Human Rights Committee (FIDH) and as assistant of a MEP. He was OHCHR Minority Fellow in 2018. He has addressed minority education issues in various articles and reports, and through participation in court cases and public discussions. Currently he is part of a team working on related cases before the Latvian Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights. In 2003-2005 and since 2017, Aleksandr has been active in the informal Russian School Defence Staff network.



**INVITED SPEAKERS**

**MS. VICTORIA MANNING**



Victoria Manning is a deaf sign language user who has long been involved with human rights, disability policy, and language policy on the national and international level. A Board member of the World Federation of the Deaf, Mrs. Manning also represented disabled New Zealanders at the United Nations for New Zealand's first examination of its progress under the CRPD in 2014. She was a key government advisor on the development of the New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) Bill 2002 – 2006; and while working at the New Zealand Human Rights Commission, Mrs. Manning led the official Inquiry into NZSL. She was awarded a Queen's medal in 2015 for services to the Deaf and disabled communities. She is the General Manager–Strategy at Deaf Aotearoa and was the inaugural chairperson of the NZSL Board, 2015 - 2019.

**MS. ANNA-MARIA BIRÓ**



Anna-Mária Biró is the director of the Tom Lantos Institute. She established and directed the Europe Office of Minority Rights Group International (MRG) and worked as the Advisor on Minority Affairs of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. Furthermore, she has been a senior consultant to the Managing Multiethnic Communities Programme, LGI/Open Society Foundations and director of the “Incorporating Ethno-cultural Diversity into the Teaching of Public Administration” higher education course at the Central European University. She was advisor on international relations to the President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania.

## INVITED SPEAKERS

**MS. SHIVANI NAG**



Shivani Nag is an education rights activist and Assistant Professor in School of Education Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi. She has been working in the area of Multilingual Education for more than 10 years and has been involved in research and documentation of MLE models and resources in India. She has published in this area and has developed a postgraduate course in her university that focuses on Multilingual education as a practice of critical pedagogy and democracy and taught courses in departments of Psychology and Education Studies with focus on child development, learning theories and research methods. Her doctoral research has focused on socio-cultural and linguistic inclusion of children in school education and her current research interests include critical and feminist pedagogies, multilingual education and socio-cultural theories of learning and cognition.

**MS. KATHLEEN HEUGH**



Kathleen Heugh is a socio-applied linguist and Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics at the University of South Australia, specialized in language policy, planning, assessment, teacher education and evaluation research and practice in multilingual societies, particularly in Africa. She played a prominent role in the development of post-apartheid language policy in South Africa. She has undertaken several system-wide and multi-country language education policy evaluations and research for governments and development agencies, including ADEA, UNESCO and UNDP, and she has served as a policy advisor to several governments and non-for-profit agencies in Africa and more recently in the Asia-Pacific. Much of her fieldwork is in remote and post-conflict contexts of internally displaced communities in sub-Saharan Africa. She is the co-founder of the Southern Multilingualisms and Diversities Consortium.



## **12th Session, Geneva 28 and 29 November 2019**

### **INVITED SPEAKERS**

#### **MR. JUAN DE DIOS SIMON**



Juan Simón is currently the program manager of Educo Foundation in Guatemala. He is specialized in education, pedagogy and educational administration. During the last 15 years, he has worked as a consultant for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as the General Director of alternative education at the Ministry of Education in Guatemala, as bilingual and intercultural education specialist in UNICEF-Perú, and as a social specialist in gender and indigenous peoples' rights at the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB. He actively engaged in and committed for the promotion of the human rights and well-being of the deprived, excluded and vulnerable children in Guatemala.

#### **MR. BENYAM MEZMUR**



Benyam Dawit Mezmur is an academician and practitioner who specialises on children's rights law. He is a member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, and served as its Chairperson from 2015-2017, and as Vice-Chairperson from 2013-2015. At the regional level, Professor Mezmur continues to serve on the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), a treaty body of the African Union. He served as its Chairperson twice, from 2012-2014, and from 2015-2017, and is currently its special rapporteur on children and armed conflict in Africa. In his full-time post, he is an Associate Professor of Law, and Coordinator of the Children's Rights Project at the Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance, and Human Rights, Faculty of Law, at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in South Africa.



## **12th Session, Geneva 28 and 29 November 2019**

### **INVITED SPEAKERS**

#### **MR. TAMÁS KISS**



Tamás Kiss is a researcher at the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities. His main areas of research are: ethnic politics, social inequalities, diversity management and minority institutions. He coordinates an interdisciplinary research group on minority language education in Romania and he is the author of several books and of many articles in English, Romanian and Hungarian in peer-reviewed academic journals, focusing on the rights of minorities, and in particular of the Hungarian minorities.

#### **MS. LINDA TSUNG**



Linda Tsung is Associate Dean for Indigenous Strategy and Services and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the University of Sydney, and a renowned expert in multilingual education and Indigenous and minority education, topics on which she has published extensively. She has worked as a language teacher educator at the University of Sydney and University of Hong Kong and has conducted over 20 years of research on indigenous minority language education in China, especially mother-tongue education in some of the more remote areas in China. She has served as a language education consultant in China for the Save the Children Fund UK and has been a lead investigator reporting to the Hong Kong Government in the development of policies supporting South Asian minority students to access higher education in Hong Kong. Since 2009 she has been doing research on community language education in Australia and has been a member of the Multilingual Education Working Group at UNESCO.



## INVITED SPEAKERS

### MR. SALIH AKIN



Salih Akin is assistant professor in linguistics at Rouen University in France, member of the Kurdish Institute of Paris and specialist of language policies towards minority and diasporic languages in Europe and in Middle East. His work focuses on language as the most salient manifestations of identity and on the way the relationship between language and identity refers to a profound structuring of personality. He studies the involvement of languages in social integration processes and, in particular, the role of the acquisition of minority languages in school success. Mr Akin is co-founder of the International network on Linguistic Justice.

### MS .ALIONA GROSSU



Aliona Grossu is human rights defender specialized in minority rights with a strong gender perspective, and she is a member of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and a senior adviser of the Jewish Community of the Republic of Moldova. She has led the International Centre for the Protection and Promotion of Women's Rights "La Strada" and the Centre for Ethnic Integration in Moldova, and she has cooperated with think tanks, human rights NGOs and international organizations, in Moldova and abroad. Her professional experience includes also the support for the implementation of migration and development pillars of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility of the European Union.

**INVITED SPEAKERS**

**MS. NOUHA GRINE**



Nouha Grine is a human rights defender, focusing on the rights of Amazigh people, and in particular youth. She is a civil society activist, and she is the president of tamount association for Amazigh rights and she has worked for the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the promotion of Amazigh culture among Tunisian youth, and the importance of their language. She uses culture as a way to reach out to the Amazigh youth, as well as youth of other ethnic communities. She is a former OHCHR minorities fellow and currently a regional former fellow with OHCHR Tunisia office. She is one of the experts and mentors of the OHCHR minorities and indigenous fellowship programs.

**MS. ELZBIETA KUZBORSKA-PACHA**



Elzbieta Kuzborska-Pacha is a legal adviser to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, and a human rights lecturer and author. She is a former OHCHR senior minorities fellow, she has cooperated with the European Foundation of Human Rights where she provided legal training for members of minorities and an active member of the Association of Polish Lawyers in Lithuania. She has been a lecturer at the University of Białystok in Vilnius, focusing on the mother tongue of the Polish minority. As a Board Member of the Association of Polish Academics in Lithuania, she has supported young people of a minority background..



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#### **MS . PUJA KAPAI PARYANI**



Puja Kapai is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law and Convenor of the Women's Studies Research Centre at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). She is an expert in international human rights law, minority rights, and intersectional legal studies. Her recent research includes a comparative study on children's rights education, a study on the experiences and help seeking behaviours of ethnic minority and immigrant victims of domestic violence, a comprehensive report on the Status of Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong 1997-2014 and Doing Equality Consciously, the first study on unconscious bias in Asia. She has closely engaged with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and has been honoured with the International Women of Courage Hong Kong Award 2015, HKU Faculty of Law's Outstanding Teaching Award 2016 and its Knowledge Exchange Award 2017 and the American Chamber of Commerce's Women of Influence Professional Woman of the Year Award 2019.