**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>

* **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:** Parke | **6. Year of birth:** 1966 |
| **2. First name:** Melissa | **7. Place of birth:** Bunbury, Western Australia |
| **3. Maiden name (if any):** | **8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Australian |
| **4. Middle name:** | **9. Any other nationality:** |
| **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.)**

Education: LLM Masters in public international law (human rights), Murdoch University (1998); LLB Bachelor of Laws, University of New South Wales (1992)

Experience: **Four** years as principal lawyer in regional community legal centre, Australia applying human rights principles; **Eight** years as legal officer in United Nations in Kosovo (UNMIK), Gaza (UNRWA), Lebanon (UNIIIC), New York (UNHQ).

**Nine** years as Federal parliamentarian advocating for human rights, including time as

Minister for International Development, Parliamentary Secretary for Mental Health, Homelessness and Social Housing, and Shadow Assistant Minister for Health.

Communication skills: Excellent oral and written communication skills

Languages: Mother tongue English, UN proficiency French, basic Spanish (UN level 6)

Integrity: Established UN Ethics Office, UNHQ, NY in 2005-6; Winner of parliamentary integrity medal (presented by former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, The Hon Sir Gerard Brennan, December 2013).

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.)**

**Masters degree in international human rights** law involved learning international human rights instruments, norms and principles.

**Four** years principal lawyer, regional community legal centre, Australia applying human rights principles to assist poor, disadvantaged and marginalised community members.

**Eight** years UN Legal Officer Kosovo (1999-2002 UNMIK), Gaza (2002-2004 UNRWA) Lebanon (2006-2007 UNIIIC), New York (2004-2006 UNHQ) included frequent application of relevant international human rights, humanitarian, and criminal law principles to complex fact situations.

In UNMIK I chaired working group on trafficking in persons, drafted first national legislation implementing UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime Protocol on Trafficking, focusing on rights of victims.

In UNRWA I drafted international legal section of annual reports to UNGA, documenting violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

**Nine** years parliamentarian in Australia’s federal parliament, advocating for human rights. Roles: Inaugural member of Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights; long-term member of Joint Foreign Affairs Committee (including acting as Chair Human Rights subcommittee)and Joint Treaties committee. Founder and Chair Australia-UN Parliamentary group; Chair UNICEF parliamentary group; Chair Parliamentarians for Global Action (Australia); member Working Group on Population and Health, Parliamentary Group Against the Death Penalty

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

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

Four years as principal lawyer in a regional community legal centre (Australia) helping poor, disadvantaged and marginalised community members (especially indigenous Australians, migrants and asylum seekers), and advocating for law reform based on human rights principles.

Eight years as lawyer with United Nations in Kosovo, Gaza, Lebanon and New York included frequent application of relevant international human rights, humanitarian, and criminal law principles to complex fact situations.

Nine years in parliament championing human rights and leading discussions on Australia’s treatment of refugees and indigenous Australians, as well as advocating for human rights in many parts of the world, including for Palestinians, Rohingyas, Tibetans, Oromia and other peoples. Working with parliamentarians from other countries through Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) to advocate for universal abolition of the death penalty and universal ratification of the ICC Rome Statute and the UN Arms Trade Treaty.

Applying a human rights approach to Australia’s foreign aid program as Minister for International Development. (http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-07-03/new-aid-minister-breaks-the-mould/4797614;

<http://dfat.gov.au/news/media-releases/Pages/minister-for-international-development-applauds-malala-s-day.aspx>

Chapter (co-authored): “Is there a Distinctive Labor Tradition in Australian Foreign Police and Practice?”, Australian Foreign Policy: Controversies and Debates, 2015, Oxford University Publishing

Article (co-authored): “International Law Obligations to provide Reparations for Human Rights Abuses”, Murdoch e-law journal, 1999

1. **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.**

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

**1. Title of publication:** Report to Australian parliament regarding outcomes of international parliamentary conference on "Parliaments, minorities and indigenous peoples" held in Chiapas, Mexico

**Journal/Publisher:**

**Date of publication:** 20 August 2012

**Web link, if available:** http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\_Business/Hansard/Hansard\_Display?bid=chamber/hansardr/d75f3d9f-3eb9-4f52-b197-0b7e87567daa/&sid=0233

**2. Title of publication:** Speech to parliament regarding the 60th anniversary of the UDHR

**Journal/Publisher:**

**Date of publication:** 3 December 2008

**Web link, if available:** http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22chamber%2Fhansardr%2F2008-12-03%2F0235%22

**3. Title of publication:** Article:"Aboriginal People are entitled to be treated as human beings, not just as a fiscal problem"

**Journal/Publisher:** Guardian Australia

**Date of publication:** 9 December 2014

**Web link, if available:** https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/dec/09/aboriginal-people-are-entitled-to-be-treated-as-human-beings-not-just-as-a-fiscal-problem

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words):Articles regarding Australia's asylum seeker policy: https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jun/18/my-motion-on-offshore-processing-was-defeated-where-to-now-for-labor

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/12/melissa-parke-labor-cannot-support-the-deliberate-cruelty-of-current-asylum-seeker-policy>

* 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:** Speech to Australian parliament regarding the treatment of asylum seekers

**Event organizer:**

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 29 February 2016

**Web link, if available:** http://australianpolitics.com/2016/02/29/melissa-parke-asylum-seekers-speech.html

2**. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Condolence Speech to parliament on the death of former Prime Minister Hon Malcolm Fraser

**Event organizer:**

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 25 March 2015

**Web link, if available:** http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\_Business/Hansard/Hansard\_Display?bid=chamber/hansardr/f16c26f7-7d81-47f6-b117-32cd0df0510e/&sid=0172

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

World-first parliamentary motion on the situation of the Rohingya people in Myanmar

**Event organizer:**

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 14 July 2014

**Web link, if available:**<http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22chamber%2Fhansardr%2F1ab79a37-6469-4f02-ac54-0cbcf32f5976%2F0258%22;src1=sm1>

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

Speech for National Sorry Day: 13 February 2012: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\_Business/Hansard/Hansard\_Display?bid=chamber/hansardr/26088656-df77-4f73-8605-47271c5ff5cf/&sid=0359

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 ready and flexible to perform the functions of the mandate, including travel on special procedures visits, participating in Human Rights Council and General Assembly sessions, drafting reports and engaging with a variety of stakeholders as required.

I am not employed full-time and can therefore dedicate as much time as needed to 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)

Dear Consultative Group and Human Rights Council

I appreciate your consideration of my application to be appointed as the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

I am an Australian former federal Member of Parliament and former Minister for International Development who retired from parliament in 2016 after 9 years representing the constituency of Fremantle in Western Australia.

During my time in parliament I spent much time advocating on human rights issues, including the treatment of indigenous Australians and asylum seekers, while also serving on the Joint Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee (including its human rights subcommittee), the Joint Treaties Committee, and the Joint Human Rights Committee. I was the founder and Chair of the Australia-United Nations Parliamentary Group, Chair of Parliamentarians for Global Action, PGA (Australia), and Chair of the UNICEF Parliamentary group. My work with the UN parliamentary group frequently involved hosting visiting senior UN officials for meetings with parliamentarians to discuss human rights and other issues. My activities in PGA involved working with parliamentarians from other countries to advocate universal abolition of the death penalty, and universal ratification of the ICC Rome Statute and the UN Arms Trade Treaty. As Minister for International Development I adopted a human rights based approach to Australia’s aid program.

Prior to being elected to the Australian parliament I worked as a legal officer with the United Nations for 8 years in Kosovo, Gaza, Lebanon and New York. This work involved frequent application of relevant international human rights, humanitarian, criminal and administrative law to complex fact situations. I worked with trafficked women in Kosovo and with Palestinian refugees in Gaza, West Bank, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. I drafted the international legal section of UNRWA’s annual reports to UNGA, documenting violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Part of my work with UNIIIC involved examining the human rights issues associated with the UN investigation.

Before working with the UN, I was the principal lawyer in charge of a regional community legal centre in Western for four years, assisting the poor, the disadvantaged and the marginalised, including Indigenous Australians, migrants, asylum seekers, people with disabilities and victims of family violence.

I hope it is evident from the above that throughout my working life, I have seen first-hand the impact of racism and discrimination and I have stood up against such injustices. This was my motivation in studying for a Masters degree in Public International Law (human rights), and for the work I have undertaken in Australia and internationally.

My work in the field of human rights as a community lawyer, as a legal officer with the United Nations, in government and as a parliamentarian has given me the knowledge, skills and experience to undertake the important mandate of Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

With regard to the issue of integrity, I was awarded the parliamentary integrity medal in December 2013, presented to me by the former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, The Hon Sir Gerard Brennan. My abiding interest in integrity and good governance was the reason I was tasked by the USG, DM in 2005-2006 with the responsibility to establish the United Nations Ethics Office at UNHQ.

I advise further that I have the time and flexibility to travel and to commit to the role of Special Rapporteur as I am not engaged in full-time employment.

I thank you for your kind consideration.

Best regards,

(Hon) Melissa Parke

**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: **Easily**  
**Write:** Easily or not easily: **Easily**  
**Speak:** Easily or not easily: **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: **Yes** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Not easily**  
**Write:** Easily or not easily: **Not easily**  
**Speak:** Easily or not easily: **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:** |
| Master of Laws (LLM), Public International Law (Human Rights), Murdoch University, full-time | 1998 | Perth, Australia |
| Graduate Diploma in Legal practice, University of Technology, (College of Law), full-time | 1992 | Sydney, Australia |
| Bachelor of Laws (LLB), University of New South Wales, full-time | 1990-1992 | Sydney, Australia |
| Bachelor of Business (with Distinction), Curtin University, full-time | 1987-1989 | Perth, Australia |

**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:** |
| Federal Member of Australian Parliament (Fremantle), full-time | 2007-2016 | Canberra & Fremantle, Australia |
| Minister for International Development, Parliamentary Secretary for Mental Health, Homelessness and Social Housing, full-time | 2012 | Canberra |
| Legal Officer, United Nations, full-time | 1999-2007 | Kosovo (UNMIK), Gaza (UNRWA), New York (DM, Secretariat), Lebanon (UNIIIC) |
| Principal lawyer, Community Legal Centre, full-time | 1993-1997 | Bunbury, Australia |

**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.**

N/A

**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:**   **Melissa Parke**

**Date:**    **1 June 2017**

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