**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** (<https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/858683>) 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/HRC37.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC37.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 same name, gender and nationality should be used both in the online survey and in the Word application form. 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: 23 JANUARY 2018 (12:00 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 (last) name:** Lawlor | **5. Year of birth:** 1952 |
| **2. First (given) name:** Mary | **6. Place of birth:** Dublin |
| **3. Other name, if any:** Patricia | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Irish |
| **4. Gender:** Female | **8. Any other nationality:** No |

**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 have decades of experience in human rights work, much of which is directly related to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. I am the founder and former Executive Director of Front Line Defenders, and a former Director and Chair of the Irish section of Amnesty International.

During the period of my leadership at Amnesty International, Irish Section Amnesty maintained a focus on civil and political rights, particularly the rights to association and assembly. I was galvanized to found Front Line Defenders due to the ongoing restrictions to free association and assembly, and the related impact this had on human rights work undertaken by civil society, independent media and Human Rights Defenders. Front Line Defenders exists to protect and support Human Rights Defenders at risk – including those fighting for the rights to peacefully assemble and form associations.

Through my current work as Adjunct Professor for Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility, and Lead on Business and Human Rights in the Trinity College Dublin, I focus on the impact of restrictions to free association and assembly for environmental and land rights activists seeking to protect communities and resources from multinational organisations and non-state actors.

I am a Board Member of the [Irish Council for Civil Liberties](https://www.iccl.ie/), [Smashing Times Theatre Company](http://www.smashingtimes.ie/), and previously of the [Irish Refugee Council](http://www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie/).

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 was trained by Amnesty International on the body of international human rights law, and subsequently acquired in-depth and practical knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles through decades of work. I gained profound expertise on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, particularly from working alongside those whose rights are violated or neglected. I have worked to uphold rights using specific instruments and with bodies and mechanisms including the UN Human Rights Council, Special Procedures Mandate Holders, the African Union, European Union and OSCE.

I have used this knowledge to organise high level events at the UN with a range of Member States and associated agencies. I am networked at the highest level with non-governmental organisations active in the field of human rights at international, regional and national level. Co-operation and dialogue with all actors has been something I have embraced, and at which I have been successful throughout my career. I participated in the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing and the associated outcomes, assisted with the development of both the EU and OSCE Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, and worked with the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights.

I have over 40 years’ experience: 28 professional and 12 voluntary. 16 years as Director of Front Line Defenders, 12 years as Director of Amnesty International, Irish Section and 12 as Board member and Chair of Amnesty International Irish Section.

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

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

My work with Front Line Defenders has resulted in recognition both of my personal competence and established Front Line Defenders as a leading voice on the situation of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) globally. Under my leadership, Front Line Defenders became a trusted partner of Ireland and the EU and HRDs were prioritised in Irish Foreign Policy. The EU Guidelines on HRDs were developed in conjunction with Front Line Defenders under the Irish EU Presidency in 2004. Front Line Defenders is the primary partner in *Protect Defenders.eu* - the European Union Human Rights Defenders Mechanism. I also sought to support the UN OHCHR by establishing a paid [annual internship scheme](https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/frank-jennings-internship-dublin-and-geneva) whereby a Front Line trainee is placed in Geneva to support OHCHR’s work. Most recently I engaged with the ten year review of the EU FRA, specifically in relation to increased restrictions on the rights to assembly and association.

Over my 40 years of human rights work, I have gained a reputation as an expert, as well as being approachable, trustworthy and committed. In this respect, I have received the following awards from Governments, media, academia and other bodies:

* **2007:** Front Line Defenders awarded the King Baudouin International Development Prize.
* **2008:** I was awarded the Irish Life WMB Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award.
* **2011:** I received the Irish Tatler Woman of the Year Special Recognition Award.
* **2014:** I was awarded the French insignia of *Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur.*
* **2014:** I was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor in Laws from Trinity College.
* **2015:** I was appointed Adjunct Professor on Business and Human Rights in the School of Business, Trinity College.
* **2016:** I was awarded the Franco-German Award for Human Rights and Rule of Law, presented in the Reichstag by the Foreign Ministers of both countries.

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:** “We must stop the killing of those who stand up for human rights” (Opinion piece)

**Journal/Publisher:** The Irish Times

**Date of publication:** Friday January 8th, 2016

**Web link, if available:** <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/we-must-stop-the-killing-of-those-who-stand-up-for-human-rights-1.2490000>

**2. Title of publication: “**The Role of International Organisations should be to Support Local Defenders.”

**Journal/Publisher:** SUR - International Journal on Human Rights

**Date of publication:** Volume 11, no. 20: June/Dec 2014

**Web link, if available:** <https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2553383>

**3. Title of publication:** Lawlor, M (2008)“Values: Conflict and Consensus” In G Donnelly- Cox and C Breathnach (Eds.) “Conflict and Consensus: Assumptions, Values and Roles in the Irish Nonprofit Centre.” - ISBN 0954752449

**Journal/Publisher:**  Trinity College Dublin

**Date of publication:**2008

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

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words):I have written innumerable articles and opinion pieces for a range of publications over my forty year career. I have also commissioned publications including “What Protection can UN Field Presences Provide?” <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/resource-publication/what-protection-can-united-nations-field-presences-provide> and “Breakdown in Trust: A report on the Corrib Gas Dispute”

<http://www.shelltosea.com/sites/default/files/frontline_corrib_gas_report.pdf>

* 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:** In partnership with the International Commission of Jurists,Human Rights House Network (HRHN), Trócaire and the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, Front Line Defenders organised a side event during the March session of the 2014 Human Rights Council focused on shrinking space civil society space. The panel featured human rights defenders Dr. Hala Al-Dosari from Saudi Arabia, and Maksym Butkevych from Ukraine and myself. The session was opened by then UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay.

**Event organizer:** Front Line Defenders

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 10th March 2014

**Web link, if available:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnofYyl5paE>

1. **Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Third Annual International Human Rights Lecture, delivered by Hina Jilani, Mary Robinson Centre.

**Event organizer:** The [Mary Robinson Centre](http://www.maryrobinsoncentre.ie/)

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** September 2016

**Web link, if available:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EtIuSj6tzQ&feature=youtu.be>

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

“Challenges facing civil society organisations working on human rights in the EU”

**Event organizer:** EU Fundamental Rights Agency

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 19.01.2018

**Web link, if available:** http://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/agenda/our-events/events/challenges-facing-civil-society-organisations-working-human-rights-eu

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words): Over forty years of substantive human rights work, including as Director of two major international NGOs, I have spoken at countless universities, NGO conferences, UN Side Events, EU Commission and Parliament hearings and events, and ODIHR Human Rights Dimension Meetings. I have worked with popular media agencies worldwide to promote global human rights work including the “[Defending the Right Defenders](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/10/qa-mary-lawlor-defending-rights-defenders-161026080513743.html)” piece. Al Jazeera also partnered with Front Line Defenders to cover the Annual Human Rights Defenders Award. I have travelled extensively in the course of my work, and have spoken at events in over 30 countries from China to Cote D’Ivoire. I have met with Governments in countries as diverse as Afghanistan and Algeria, and participated as a speaker in government and intergovernmental events from Brazil to Brussels.

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 confirm that I can dedicate 3 months annually to the mandate as and when required, and that I would be honoured to do so. From my relationships and engagement with current and former UN Special Rapporteurs, I am conscious of the remit and requirements of the mandate, and the associated impact this has on existing responsibilities. I am pleased to say that I have assessed this thoroughly and can guarantee my preparedness and commitment to fulfill this mandate for its duration should I be selected.

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

As we move towards the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I have a strong desire to assist the organisation which established the vision of “We the Peoples.” The world is at a critical juncture in global human rights, and in the [words](http://rwi.lu.se/2017/11/not-dare-tell-human-rights-not-universal/) of High Commissioner Zeid “*The universality of rights is contested in much of the world…and under broad assault from authoritarian leaders, populists and those who claim to back “traditional values.*” Nowhere is this more evident than in countries and communities where human rights organisations, grassroots civil society, independent media and Human Rights Defenders are under threat - prevented and obstructed from undertaking their peaceful and legitimate work. Against this backdrop, I believe the United Nations is the collective and vital organisation working to defend and uphold the rights to freedom of association and assembly. In these grave times, we must continue to strive to honour the rules-bound international order.

The UDHR encompasses humanity’s timeless values. It is an extraordinary, living document which is as relevant today as the day it was adopted. It would give me great pleasure and fulfilment to be able to work to assist the implementation of Article 20:

*(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.  
(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.*

I have 40 years’ experience in working for human rights and my passion for continuing this work is undimmed.

I have a thorough knowledge of the UN structures, and of regional and national human rights systems. I have worked steadily throughout my career with governments to further the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and enjoy this work immensely. I have extensive experience of working with international, regional and local human rights organisations and feel that I could balance institutional and inter-governmental realities with the need to defend local voices and protect human rights activists.

If elected Special Rapporteur, I would take a strategic approach in the fulfilment of this mandate. I would ensure my work is effective, coherent, and contributes to the wider human rights system. I believe it is important for the incoming Special Rapporteur to approach the mandate transparently and with accountability - that the mandate holder justifies their decisions and activities to member states, civil society and other stakeholders.

I really enjoy working with people and understand the importance of a holistic approach to the realisation of rights - where UN member states, international institutions, civil society, private sector and others share a role in advancing the implementation of the mandate. I have strong interpersonal skills, which can be utilised in both multilateral and internal diplomacy.

I have the requisite expert and academic skills to understand the breadth and evolution of the mandate and how it can be implemented. The age of technology resulted in a revolution in how people assemble and associate for human rights, a trend which was inconceivable twenty years ago. These trends are vital to the realisation of human rights in a digital age. Similarly the emergence of the private sector has impacted on the rights to assemble and associate - both positively and negatively. This too must be addressed.

In conclusion, I believe I have the experience, energy and commitment to work co-operatively with governments, UN bodies, non-state actors and civil society alike to help protect those for whom freedom of assembly and association challenging. It would be a privilege to serve the United Nations, and I would honour the vision and mission of the United Nations at all times while discharging this mandate.

**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 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: 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:

**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, Philosophy and Psychology, full time. | 1969-1972 | University College Dublin |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Montessori Teaching (Association of Montessori Teaching, full time. International) | 1973 -1974 | Sion Hill, Blackrock,  Co Dublin |
| Diploma - Associate Institute of Personnel Management, full time. | 1975-1977 | College of Industrial Relations Dublin (now known as National College of Ireland) |
| Honorary Doctorate in Laws | 2014 | Trinity College Dublin |

**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:** |
| **Adjunct Professor, Centre for Social Innovation, School of Business.**  I lecture in Business and Human Rights, mentor students and sit on the Ethics Steering Committee. I also lecture on human rights more generally to other schools within Trinity, including the Irish School for Ecumenics. This is part time. | 2015- present | Trinity College Dublin, Ireland |
| **Executive Director, Front Line Defenders – The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.** I set the strategic direction of the organisation, led country visits, engaged in high level advocacy and government relations at multilateral, regional, bilateral and national level, oversaw accountability, managed programmes and raised funds. Full time position. | Jan 2001-November 2016 | Dublin, Ireland |
| **Director Amnesty International Irish Section.** As above. Full time position. | 1988-December 2000 | Dublin Ireland |

**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 the candidate’s behalf.***

**1. To your knowledge, does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause the candidate to limit the extent of 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 the 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 the candidate discharges the 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 the candidate complies, NO if the candidate does 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, the candidate 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.**

There are no conflicts of interest to my mind in my current work. However, if I am appointed, I will step down from any Boards if they were deemed to present a conflict of interest.

**VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION  
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on the candidate’s 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:** Mary Lawlor

**Date:** 22.01.2018.

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