***NOTE: THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MANDATE HOLDER WILL BE MADE PROVIDED   
THE MANDATE ITSELF IS EXTENDED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.***

***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 17 OCTOBER 2019 AT 12:00 noon GREENWICH MEAN TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-1)*** *(*[*https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/283689*](https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/283689)*)*

*and****(2) application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-2)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC43.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC43.aspx)*)*

* *Once fully completed, the Word application form should be submitted by email to* [*hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org*](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)
* *A maximum of up to three optional reference letters may be attached to the email (in Word or pdf format).*
* *No additional documents (e.g. CVs, resumes or supplementary reference letters) will be accepted.*
* *Applicants will receive an acknowledgment email 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 the Secretariat. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at a later stage.*
* *Please note that an application will only be considered if both parts and all sections of the Word application form have been completed and received by the Secretariat before the expiration of the deadline.* ***No incomplete or late applications will be accepted.***
* *General description of the selection process and answers to frequently asked questions are available at* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx) *and* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx)
* *In case of technical difficulties or problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by email (*[*hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org*](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)*) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family (last) name:**    Garcia | **5. Year of birth:** 1967 |
| **2. First (given) name:** Linda | **6. Place of birth:** Wilmington, Delaware United States of America |
| **3. Other name, if any:** N/A | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** American |
| **4. Gender:** Female | **8. Any other nationality:** N/A |

**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.)**

Along with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, I have 10 years professional and 30+ years of organizing experience in the areas of human and environmental rights, working primarily with marginalized populations and communities of color in the United States. A significant amount of this work was with individuals and families who are experiencing extreme conditions of poverty and homelessness, including three years as the founding executive director of Community Roots Collaborative, a 501(c)3 nonprofit focused on building tiny home villages for people who are homeless, with enhanced access to human services.

Before that, I co-founded a nonprofit organization (HUMAN) which focused on raising community awareness regarding the intersection of environmental and social injustices. I organized Southwest Washington's largest climate march in 2017, which moved local government to begin discussion of climate change policy.

I have worked successfully in the political arena, both managing campaigns and writing policy aimed at alleviating causes of homelessness, as well as plans for climate action for potential use within government sectors.

I have excellent communication skills and am very proficient in English, both oral and written.

1. **RELEVANT EXPERTISE** (200 words)

**Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles. (Please state how this was acquired.)**

My knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles comes from my professional work experience where I worked with communities whose backgrounds were uniquely diverse, and broadly international. I worked with many undocumented individuals whose rights were violated or abused in both their home country and in the U.S., creating the need for outreach to international organizations with the capacity to help determine the best course of action to protect their individual rights.

**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.)**

I have gained experience and knowledge of human rights mandates specifically through both the work I have been involved with, and through extensive reading and implementation of those mandates. I have written policy recommendations which require respect and strict adherence to calling out any violations of basic human rights. As well, I have attended many conferences locally, regionally and nationally, sponsored by individual NHR organizations, each with specific mandate focus, i.e. housing, food access, self-identity, poverty, environment, etc.

**Proven work experience in the field of human rights. (Please state years of experience.)**

5 years as Community Outreach Coordinator, Fruit Valley Foundation – worked with diverse communities in extreme poverty

3 years as Executive Director, Community Roots Collaborative – worked with homeless in region

3 years as Climate and Clean Energy Contractor, Washington Environmental Council - worked primarily on regulatory policy creation and implementation regarding fossil fuels projects and climate action plans.

30+ years experience organizing for women's rights (equal pay, reproductive and domestic violence), food and housing rights aligned with the affliction of poverty, as well as environmental

30+ years experience working on political campaigns, from grassroots door knocking and phonebanking, to management, including the successful election of a critical Port of Vancouver commission position which ultimately helped defeat the building of North America’s largest oil terminal.

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

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

I was awarded the 2019 Goldman Environmental Prize (North America) for recognition of my work as a human rights defender in stopping the building of what was to be North America's largest oil terminal, which would have had a devastating impact on both the environment and oppressed communities in the region. I was nominated by the attorneys at Earth Justice, who represented me throughout the process, including during the adjudicative hearings where I testified against the multiple partners and corporations working together to bring the oil terminal to fruition. I was selected to be the adjudicator to represent my region's voice, based on my experience and working knowledge of demographics, basic human rights of continually dehumanized populations, and my own personal experience. I organized my community and the surrounding region; I studied policies related to environmental and human rights, including that of local indigenous peoples, and deliberated conversations with elected officials who had direct impact and effect on the outcome. I did this in the face of receiving death threats, violent intimidation and many other obstacles that were meant to distract or deter me from accomplishing my task of using my voice to speak for others whose voices were silenced.

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:**

**Journal/Publisher:**

**Date of publication:**

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Title of publication:**

**Journal/Publisher:**

**Date of publication:**

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Title of publication:**

**Journal/Publisher:**

**Date of publication:**

**Web link, if available:**

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

While I have not yet written for publication any articles, books or journals, I have had multiple articles written about my work, with direct quotes and statements from me. I have included some of those links below in the additional summary area.

* 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:** Adjudicative Hearing Trial on social justice and human rights impact relating to potential building of North America's largest oil terminal

**Event organizer:** State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** July 21, 2016

**Web link, if available:** [**https://www.cvtv.org/ajax\_video\_popup.php?id=18306**](https://www.cvtv.org/ajax_video_popup.php?id=18306)

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Award Ceremony with call to action speech upon receipt of prize

**Event organizer:** Goldman Environmental Prize

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** April 29, 2019

**Web link, if available:** [[**https://www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/linda-garcia/**](https://www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/linda-garcia/)](https://www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/linda-garcia/)

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Annual Conference where I spoke on the importance of funding human rights and social justice defenders in order to help them safely and effectively continue their work

**Event organizer:** Environmental Grantmakers Association Annual Conference

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** October 2, 2018

**Web link, if available:** N/A (private website)

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

Over the years, I have represented in the media, the voice of those who would be greatly and negatively impacted by projects of social and environmental injustices. My public statements and calls to action have helped further educate people on the causes and solutions of such human rights as food, housing, poverty and environment. I have included, below, links to just a few of the articles/podcasts/radio interviews regarding my work.

* **Earth Island article - <http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/articles/entry/not-being-heard-linda-garcia-tesoro-savage-terminal/>**
* **Huff Post - <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/goldman-environmental-prize-oil-linda-garcia_n_5cc1a56fe4b01b6b3efd65e1>**
* **Pacific Standard article - <https://psmag.com/environment/the-woman-who-fought-an-oil-terminal-and-won>**
* **Podship Earth podcast - <https://www.podshipearth.com/courage>**
* **The Common Good radio interview -** [**https://xray.fm/broadcasts/23235**](https://xray.fm/broadcasts/23235)

(discussion as E.D. For nonprofit serving homeless and marginalized)

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 fully understand the importance of dedicating the appropriate and required amount of time. I can absolutely commit to the estimated total of three months per year to this work.

**III. Motivation Letter**(600 word limit, must be included below and not in a separate email or as an attachment)

Admittedly, I am not the “typical” candidate who would apply for this position. While you will see in my application my traditional education, work and organizing experience, which has given me much greater knowledge and comprehension of basic and fundamental human rights, I also have a deeper level of personal life experience that many cannot replicate. When living in situations alongside many others, of extreme poverty and, at one point, homelessness, one thing always stood clear: marginalized, oppressed and indigenous people almost always bear the brunt of absence of oversight regarding basic human rights. That is where my passion and drive to force change through implementation of human rights regulations and policy began. For years I championed the creation of newer, more humanitarian policy in the areas of housing, women’s rights and the environment.

When a corporate oil conglomerate came to my community and began the process of going against anyone they’d consider adversarial to their project, I realized it was time to, once again, start defending - in my own literal backyard - the simple, equitable basic human rights of clean air, clean water, safe living environments and the voice of the marginalized that had been traditionally silenced.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has always, in both my professional and personal life, been my guiding alignment. Regardless of circumstances or danger, I have continued to adhere to those specific rules and rights. Over time, due to my diligence and integrity within my work as an environmental frontline defender, I became targeted for my actions. Most recently, for several years, I was on the receiving end of nonstop death threats, physically violent intimidation and continual harassment. Because I insisted on doing the right thing - making sure the voice of the oppressed was amplified - my life changed dramatically. I was forced to leave the region where I lived, in order to keep myself safe, alive. I left behind two jobs which were critical to the passage and implementation of policy which would have created far better conditions for many whose rights are inhumanely violated. Repercussions of an ever-widening circle of threats meant no contact with friends and family. I suffered severe economic and emotional fallout from this, but I persevered.

This resilience, combined with the very personal intimate knowledge of the need for protection of human rights defenders has affected every move I make in life. I have the ability and drive to share, from firsthand experience, what can happen to frontline defenders when they do the arduous work of protecting the rights of those who have had them taken away or expressly violated.

When I was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize earlier this year, it gave me a more global platform from which to tell my story, use my voice and continue my organizing work in policy-related fields through the extensive network of those who won before me. If chosen for this position of Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders, it would further my ability to best represent the collective voice of those working in dangerous or deplorable conditions. I would like to be considered for this position in order to share with other governments and organizations, the message of urgent necessity for immediate action in helping defend those who defend, ultimately protecting against any violations of the mandated human rights.

**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: **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: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or 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, Social Work, University of Wyoming, full time | 1986-1990 | Rock Springs, WY, USA |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**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:** |
| Founder of Get Loud, Stay Loud – F/T  Nonprofit with focus on amplifying environmental defenders' voices, with an emphasis on safety to allow them to continue fighting for basic human rights | Current (began May, 2019) | Vancouver, WA, USA |
| Washington Environmental Council – P/T  Climate/Clean Energy Contractor | April 2016-September 2019 | Vancouver, WA, USA |
| Community Roots Collaborative  Executive Director | January 2016 – April 2019 | Vancouver, WA, USA |
| Fruit Valley Foundation  Community Outreach Coordinator | February 1999-  January 2016 | Vancouver, WA, USA |

**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.**

I would not seek or apply for any position that would indicate any conflict of interest with this position. If any questionable activity or conflict arose, I would immediately relinquish any responsibility or role that would lead to conflict. If that was unavoidable, I would step down from the outside role. If conflict continued, I would seek advice regarding the issue and, if indicated necessary or advisable, would step down from this position, in a last resort scenario.

**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   
email (**[**hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org**](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)**).**

**Please review your application before you insert your name and date to indicate your agreement.**

**Name:**      Linda Garcia

**Date:**      16 October 2019

1. The short **online survey** 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. The same name, gender and nationality should be used both in the online survey and in the Word application form. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The **application form in Word format** includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words (section III of the 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 the vacancy. The candidate’s application form will also be posted as received on the OHCHR public web page for the selection process. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)