

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Expert meeting: unpaid care work, poverty and women's human rights

Palais Wilson, Geneva, May 13th and 14th 2013

Participant Biographies

Maria Virginia Bras Gomes

Virginia is Senior Social Policy Advisor in the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity in Portugal and a member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Her work at the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity includes coordination and preparation of reports on the implementation of international instruments (European Union, Council of Europe, United Nations) and participation in interdepartmental and multidisciplinary groups on social security, social protection, social development, social action and international relations policies and practices. She served as a Member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from 2003-2010, acting as Co-Rapporteur for General Comment 19 on the Right to Social Security and Rapporteur for the Revised Guidelines for national reports on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In 2013, she re-joined the Committee as a Member and was elected as Rapporteur. Additionally, she is a member of the International Board of the Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the High Level Advisory Group on De-institutionalisation of the European Social Network; the Scientific Committee for the World Forum on Human Rights; and the Board of the Portuguese UNICEF Committee.

Sarah Cook

Sarah is Director of the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). Her research has focused on economic and social change in China. Current work focuses on social policy and protection particularly in Asia, and on the social dimensions of sustainable development. Sarah previously worked at the Institute of Development Studies, and for the Ford Foundation's Beijing Office. Recent publications include **Social protection as development policy - Asian perspectives** (edited with Naila Kabeer, 2010) and 'Harsh Choices: Chinese Women's Paid Work and Unpaid Care Responsibilities under Economic Reform' (with Xiao-yuan Dong) **Development and Change** (2012).

Priti Darooka

Priti Darooka is the Founder and Executive Director of Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (PWESCR). Working in partnership with diverse groups and networks, she continues to provide support and is part of several initiatives on women's poverty, right to livelihoods, social security and right to food. With expertise on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, she works closely with the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and various UN Rapporteurs. She helped PWESCR develop its Leadership Institute in Women's ESCR. Priti previously worked at the Ford Foundation, in New York and assisted the Foundation in its grant making in the areas of International Human Rights, Women's Rights and Gender Equity, and International Economic Policy. She was also involved in the Stop FTAA (Free Trade Area of

Americas) campaign and focused on different aspects of trade, and women's lives, from a feminist and human rights perspective. Priti has authored and presented many papers in various international conferences and forums.

Kate Donald

Kate is an independent adviser and researcher to the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. Previously, she was Human Rights Officer at the OHCHR and a Research Fellow at the International Council on Human Rights Policy.

Valeria Esquivel

Valeria is Associate Professor of Economics at the Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Argentina, and Research Associate, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. She graduated with honors from Universidad de Buenos Aires, and earned an MSc in Economics and a PhD in Economics from the University of London. She has published articles in national and international journals, and book chapters on the Argentinean labor market—and on how women and men fare in it—, labor market regulation, informality, income distribution, and poverty. She has also published in the field of time-use studies, on how better measure and analyze unpaid care work, on the framing of the advocacy for time-use studies in the South, and on the “care economy” in Latin America. She has recently published “The Care Economy in Latin America: Putting Care at the Centre of the Agenda” (UNDP Panama 2011), and edited the collective books *Feminist Economics from Latin America. A Roadmap to Current Debates* (*La Economía Feminista desde América Latina: Una hoja de ruta sobre los debates actuales en la región*, ONU MUJERES Santo Domingo 2012) and, along with Elizabeth Jelin and Eleonor Faur, *The Logics of Childcare. Between Families, the State, and the Market* (*Las lógicas del cuidado infantil: entre las familias, el estado y el mercado*, IDES/ UNFPA/ UNICEF, Buenos Aires, 2012).

Yassine Fall

Yassine Fall is the Chief of the Economic Empowerment Section at UN Women. She is an economist with years of experience in public policy and poverty eradication strategies. She is presently leading UN Women's work on economic empowerment and served before as UNIFEM Regional Director, Economics Advisor and Director of INSTRAW.

She taught mathematics and applied economics and directed for 13 years an international consulting enterprise combining environmental field research, capacity development and macroeconomic policy analysis.

Yassine was active in global civil society organizing for economic and social rights and was among African economists that actively advocated against structural adjustment policies. During the Beijing conference process, she was actively involved as advisor to a number of African Governments in West and East Africa. She followed the negotiations and pushed for strong language for gender sensitive macroeconomic policies.

Marzia Fontana

Marzia is a feminist economist, currently a Research Associate at SOAS, University of London and, prior to this, a Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex. Her research interests focus especially on unpaid work, labour markets and international trade.

She has collaborated with a number of international organisations and NGOs including ILO, FAO, WFP, UNDP, UNRISD, UNCTAD, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the World Bank, ActionAid, and One World Action. Marzia has pioneered gender-aware economy-wide models that include unpaid sectors alongside market sectors and widely published in this field.

Indira Hirway

Dr. Indira Hirway is Director and Professor of Economics at Center for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad, India. She studied for her Masters in Economics at Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University and for her PhD at Department of Economics at University of Bombay, Mumbai.

The major areas of her interest are poverty and human development, labour and employment, globalization and related policies, development alternatives and development paradigms, environment and development, environment accounting, gender and development, time use studies etc. She has written several books and published a large number of research papers in reputed Indian and international journals. She has been associated with a number of expert groups, task forces, technical committees and study groups set up by the Central and state governments as well as international bodies. She has spent several semesters as visiting fellow / faculty at Oxford University, Erasmus University at Rotterdam, Amsterdam University, University of Utah at Salt Lake City and at Levy Institute at New York University.

Jane Hodges

Jane is the Director of the Gender Equality Bureau for the International Labour Organization (ILO) based in Geneva. Since joining the ILO in the early 1980s, Ms Hodges has served in the Freedom of Association and Equality and Human Rights Coordination Branches (NORMES), the Southern African Multidisciplinary Team (SRO-Harare), the Department for Government, Labour Law and Administration (GLLAD) and the Social Dialogue, Labour Law and Labour Administration Department (DIALOGUE).

She has broad experience in international and comparative labour law, and has designed and delivered training programmes in the area of fundamental principles and rights at work, in particular gender equality, human rights and HIV/AIDS. She has represented the ILO in many UN bodies during her career, in particular advocating international labour standards on non-discrimination with the treaty bodies. Ms Hodges is the author of a number of articles and has contributed to books concerning workers' rights as human rights.

Prior to joining the ILO, Ms Hodges practised law in a large Sydney, New South Wales law firm as a Solicitor, Notary Public and Trade Marks Attorney, having passed the relevant admission board requirements.

Ms Hodges holds a B.A. in modern languages and an LL.B. (Australian National University) and has undertaken international law postgraduate studies at Sydney University (Australia) and The Hague Academy of International Law (Netherlands).

Naomi Hossain

Naomi is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Development Studies. Currently based in Jakarta, she is a political sociologist and feminist specialising in the politics of poverty and pro-poor public services. Key areas of interest over 18 years of development research have included work on elite perceptions of poverty and the politics of public service provision, while she has more recently conducted research on informal accountability, crime and insecurity, and the impacts of global economic crisis.

Naomi has extensive experience of successfully managing large multidisciplinary, multi-site, comparative research projects, and her academic training includes anthropology, economics and political science. Her professional background spans the range of development work, from operational grassroots NGO work, to high-level policy advisory work. Before joining IDS in 2008 Naomi was at BRAC.

Thalia Kidder

Thalia is Senior Adviser on Women's Economic Rights at Oxfam GB. Her work for Oxfam spans 16 years, based in both Latin America and the head office in Oxford, UK. Currently, she is leading 'innovations in care work' including a 'Rapid Care Analysis' methodology for development and humanitarian programmes. Her work covers advising, programme development, training, and learning, including development of Women's Economic Leadership in agricultural markets in East Asia and Latin America, managing Researching Women's Collective Action (this is the link: <http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/our-work/food-livelihoods/researching-womens-collective-action>) and research on urban working-poor women.

Previously, she was Oxfam GB's global adviser on women workers' rights in the Fair Trade campaign Trading Away our Rights, and developed gender analysis for Oxfam GB's microfinance programming in Central America and Caribbean, West Africa and South Asia. She has facilitated numerous workshops on 'how change happens' and on improving the quality of Oxfam GB's advisory service.

Prior to joining Oxfam, Thalia worked as a community and labour organiser in the USA and Central America. Thalia holds a masters degree in Community and Economic Development from the University of Minnesota, and is a member of the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE).

Orlagh McCann

Orlagh McCann is a Human Rights Officer with OHCHR, working on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. Previously, she supported the mandates on freedom of expression and human rights defenders and has held legal and policy research positions within various international organisations and NGOs.

Christiana Okojie

Professor Christiana E.E. Okojie is a Professor of Economics at the University of Benin since 1995. She studied at the University of Ibadan and the University of Leeds England, where she obtained an MA degree in Economic Development. She completed her PhD Degree at the University of Ibadan in 1981.

Previously, she has worked at the Bendel State Education Board, Adolor College, Ugbowo and Idia College, Benin City. She spent a Sabbatical year at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut in the 1987/88 academic year.

Professor Christiana Okojie has won many research awards from various international organizations such as Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Population Council, World Health Organization, African Academy of Sciences, and the African Economic Research Consortium, Nairobi, Kenya. She has attended over fifty international conferences and workshops to present papers. She has published in national and international journals and books. Her area of specialization is Development and Population Economics, with special interest in gender and development. She has conducted extensive research on gender and education, gender and poverty, gender and family planning, gender and labour force participation, gender budgeting, gender mainstreaming, gender and education and more recently on human trafficking. In the last eight years, she has served as consultant to a number of international agencies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), African Development Bank (ADB), UN Women, ODI, UNDP, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UNICRI, UNODC, UN-DESA, IFPRI and IOM. Professor Okojie is a Fellow of the Nigerian Economic Society (FNES).

Zo Randriamaro

Zo is a human rights and feminist activist from Madagascar. She is a development sociologist by training and has authored several published papers on the gender dimensions of economic, trade and global governance issues. She has been involved in research and advocacy around these issues for more than a decade in Africa as well as at the global level, and has served as an expert for international organizations and the major United Nations agencies. She is currently the Interim Executive Director of Fahamu, the publisher of Pambazuka News on social justice issues in Africa. She is also the Chair of the Research and Support Center for Development Alternatives - Indian Ocean (RSCDA-IO) and an Associate of DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women For a New Era).

Shahra Razavi

Shahra is Chief of Research and Data at UN Women. Until December 2012 she was Research Co-ordinator at UNRISD. She specializes in the gender dimensions of social development, with a particular focus on livelihoods and social policies. She coordinated the preparation of the UNRISD flagship report, *Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World* (2005) and her recent research projects included *The Political and Social Economy of Care*. Shahra's recent publications include a co-edited volume with Silke Staab, *Worlds Apart: Global Variations in the Social and Political Economy of Care* (Routledge, New York, 2012), a special issue of the journal, *Development and Change*, entitled *Seen, Heard and Counted: Rethinking Care in a Development Context* (Vol. 42, No.4, July 2011), and *The Gendered Impacts of Liberalization: Towards "Embedded Liberalism"?* (Routledge, 2009). Shahra obtained her D.Phil. from St. Antony's College (Oxford University) in December 1992.

Patricia Schulz

Patricia is a Swiss lawyer, director of the Federal Office for Gender Equality (1994-2010). She is currently an expert with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women since 2011, and Member of the Board of directors of UNRISD (2012-2015).

Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona

Magdalena has been serving as Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights since May 2008. She is a Chilean lawyer and holds a PhD in International Human Rights Law from Utrecht University in the Netherlands and an LL.M in human rights law from the University of Essex in the United Kingdom. Ms. Sepúlveda has extensive experience working on economic social and cultural rights and poverty issues. She worked as Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy in Geneva, as researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, as staff attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and as the Co-Director of the Department of International Law and Human Rights of the United Nations affiliated University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Janet Walsh

Janet Walsh is the deputy director of the women's rights division at Human Rights Watch. Prior to joining Human Rights Watch, she practiced law at several international law firms and at the United Nations legal office in New York. Janet is a graduate of the U.C. Berkeley School of Law. She has been with Human Rights Watch since 2002, where she works on a range of women's rights issues, including property and inheritance rights, reproductive rights, labor rights, violence against women, and work-family policies.

Fiona Williams

Fiona is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy and International Professorial Research Fellow at the University of Leeds. Her previous roles at Leeds have been Director of the ESRC CAVA Research Group on Care, Values and the Future of Welfare and Co-Director of CIRCLE <http://www.sociology.leeds.ac.uk/circle/> where she is now International Professorial Research Fellow.

Fiona is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts, a member of the Academy of Learned Societies in the Social Sciences and sits on the editorial board for Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State and Society. She also holds a part-time position at the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

Fiona has written widely on gender, 'race' and ethnicity in social policy, and is currently researching the employment of migrant care workers in Europe. A key concern is about the place of care in contemporary society and the possibilities for a political ethic of care. Her work is informed by an attempt to understand how individuals, groups and social movements articulate their needs and how policy responds to this.