



**DESA**  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs



**UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER**

**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEPARTMENT  
OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

**EXPERT GROUP MEETING  
Human Rights of Older Persons**

**New York, 29-31 May 2012,  
Conference Room B, North Lawn Building  
(1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and East 46<sup>th</sup> street)**

**EXPERT PARTICIPANTS- BIOS (alphabetic order)**

**Fitzpatrick, Kieren**

Mr. Fitzpatrick is the Director of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF), the leading regional human rights organization in the Asia Pacific. Established in 1996, the Asia Pacific Forum is a member-based organization that supports the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions in the region. The APF is currently comprised of 17 member human rights commissions, that have been established in accordance with the United Nations' 'Paris Principles' from Afghanistan, Australia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste. Combined these institutions employ more than 350 Commissioners and 3000 staff. In addition to the existing institutions the following States are in the process of establishing new human rights commissions: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iraq, Japan, Nauru, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

**Glen, Kristen Booth**

Honorable Judge Glen is a graduate of Stanford and Columbia Law School. She clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and was in private practice for 10 years, doing civil rights, women and prisoners' right and mental health litigation until she was elected a judge in New York in 1980. She also taught at NYU, Hofstra and New York Law Schools, and in 1995, after service on both trial and appellate courts, left the bench to be the third Dean at the City University of New York School of Law. In 2005 she stepped down from the deanship and was elected Surrogate Judge in New York County. She has been active in aging issues for two decades, both domestically, including services, first as a member, then as Chair of the ABA Commission on Law and Aging, as a Board member of the Brookdale Center on Aging of Hunter College, and internationally, through her work with Global Action on Aging. Her special area of



**DESA**  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs



**UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS**  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

expertise is guardianship, and she currently has jurisdiction over guardianship of people with intellectual disabilities which has led her to efforts to reform applicable laws in New York and nationally. She has written and lectured widely and is the recipient of many awards including Columbia Law School's Lawrence Wien Prize for Social Responsibility, and the New York State Bar Association's Ruth Schapiro Award for Service to Women.

### **Georgantzi, Nena**

A lawyer specialized in human rights and social protection, Ms. Georgantzi is a legal and research officer at the AGE Platform Europe, a European network of organizations that represent over 30 million older people in the continent. She has been contributing with legal expertise to AGE work on age limits and barriers older persons face in access to financial services. She is representing AGE in the Working Group of the Council of Europe on a non-binding instrument on older people's rights and enhancing AGE's work contributing to the work on the Accessibility Act to ensure that it reflects the needs of older persons and the work towards a horizontal anti-discrimination directive. She has participated and coordinated several AGE publications on the involvement of older people in research activities, on older people's rights in the European Union and related to the fields of transports, accessibility, health and ICT assuring user involvement in projects related to ageing.

### **Kloth, Matthias**

Mr. Kloth is currently working as an administrator in the Human Rights Law and Policy Division, part of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, of the Council of Europe. He is also member of the Drafting Group on the Human Rights of the Elderly (CDDH-AGE), created in February 2012 by the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) of the Council of Europe, in view of elaborating a non-binding Council of Europe instrument on the promotion of the human rights of the elderly. The group had a first meeting on March 2012 with the participation of expert representatives from other international organisations, civil society and representatives of other Council of Europe intergovernmental Committees. Mr Kloth also served as an assistant lawyer with the European Court of Human Rights.

### **Lohman, Diederik**

Mr. Lohman is a senior researcher with the Health and Human Rights Division at Human Rights Watch. His work focuses on access to palliative care, including controlled medicines for the treatment of pain and international drug control policy. Former Moscow office Director, he also served as senior researcher in Human Rights Watch's Europe and Central Asia Division. Mr Lohman founded the Russian Justice Initiative (previously



Chechnya Justice Initiative), an organization that helps victims of the conflict in Chechnya seek justice through domestic institutions in Russia and the European Court of Human Rights. He holds a master's degree in Russian studies.

### **Manjoo, Rashida**

South African lawyer Rashida Manjoo assumed her mandate as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences in August 2009. In April 2011, the Human Rights Council extended the mandate for a period of three years (HRC resolution 16/7). Ms. Manjoo is a Professor in the Department of Public Law of the University of Cape Town. She has held numerous visiting professorships including at the University of Virginia, in the United States. She served as the Des Lee Distinguished Visiting Professor at Webster University, in the United States and was the Eleanor Roosevelt Fellow with the Human Rights Program at Harvard Law School where she also served as a clinical instructor. Former advocate of the High Court of South Africa and the country's Parliamentary Commission on Gender Equality, Ms Manjoo has also been involved in social context training of judges and lawyers during her time at the Law, Race and Gender Research Unit, University of Cape Town and at the University of Natal, Durban.

### **Minkowitz, Tina**

Ms. Minkowitz was one of the individuals most responsible for a paradigm shift in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on the issue of legal capacity. She was a member of the 40-person working group that produced a text for negotiation, and represented the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry throughout the negotiations. Ms. Minkowitz was active in the creation and leadership of the International Disability Caucus which represented the disability community in the elaboration of the CRPD, and coordinated the work of the Caucus on issues including legal capacity, liberty and free and informed consent in health care. She subsequently convened the Legal Capacity Task Force, as a project of the International Disability Alliance CRPD Forum. The LCTF maintains English and Spanish discussion forums and has drafted position papers and organized collective advocacy. Ms. Minkowitz is a lawyer and is founder and president of the Center for the Human Rights of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, which includes in its mission a commitment to work for legal capacity for all.

### **Sepúlveda Carmona, Magdalena**

Ms. Sepulveda is the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights since May 2008. Ms. Sepulveda is a Chilean lawyer and is currently working as Research



**DESA**  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs



**UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS**  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy. She holds a Ph.D 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. She lectures at several universities in Latin America and has provided technical assistance and training on human rights to NGOs, international governmental organizations and governments. Ms. Sepulveda has worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, as a 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. She also served as a consultant to the Department of International Protection of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and more recently to the Norwegian Refugee Council in Colombia. She was appointed as Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty by the Human Rights Council in March 2008 and took her functions on 1 May 2008. In June 2011, the Human Rights Council extended the mandate on extreme poverty and human rights, and changed its title to Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (HRC resolution 17/13).

### **Sivonen, Lauri**

Lauri Sivonen is adviser to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and acts as thematic coordinator in the Commissioner's Office. His specific fields of expertise include non-discrimination, also on the ground of age, and systematic work for implementing human rights. Mr Sivonen represents the Commissioner on the Council's Drafting Group on the Human Rights of the Elderly. Before joining the Commissioner's Office in 2005, he worked in different sectors of the Council of Europe dealing with questions related to the prevention of violence, consumer rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. Mr Sivonen holds university degrees in international law, political history and social anthropology.

### **Sleap, Bridget**

Bridget Sleap is the Senior Rights Policy Adviser at HelpAge International, a global network of ninety affiliated organisations, over two hundred partners and hundreds of older people's associations. After working at Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique for 3 years, Bridget completed a Masters Degree in International Human Rights at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London. Since then she has worked on rights and development related policy, research, publications, advocacy and project management at the Panos Institute, International Family Health and now HelpAge International where she focuses on strengthening the rights of older people through the use of human rights mechanisms.



**DESA**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



**UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER**

## **Williams, John**

John Williams is a Professor of Law in the Department of Law and Criminology at Aberystwyth University. His main area of research is examining how the law affects older people with a particular emphasis on human rights, social care, the criminal justice system and elder abuse. He is the author of many academic and practitioner papers on topics such as the rights of older prisoners, social care of older prisoners, the case for a public law on the protection of adults at risk, care home design and human rights, and international human rights and older people. Most recently, he authored Protection of older people in Wales: a guide to the Law. This guide was published by the Older People's Commissioner for Wales and is designed to assist practitioners working with older people at risk of abuse. He has presented papers at many international conferences including the American Bar Association, the British Psychological Society, the International Association of Law and Mental Health, the Irish-Scottish Forum, and the International Congress of Psychology and Law. In addition, he has lectured in Malaysia, China, Kenya, Canada, Australia, Poland, and the United States of America on older people and the law. Since 2006, John has presented an annual seminar as part of the Harvard Medical School's Program in Psychiatry and the Law. John is currently advising the Welsh Government on framing a new law on adult protection. He is a trustee of Age UK, Age Scotland, and Ceredigion CAB, and a board member of Consumer Focus Wales.