

BIOGRAPHIES

THE DANISH
INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS



PERMANENT MISSION
OF DENMARK TO THE UN
Geneva



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA



TRACKING & CELEBRATING HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

An online event prior to 46th session of the Human Rights Council.

Human rights education is vital for achieving the 2030 Agenda. Join the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and the launch of a new tool which can help States keep track of progress in implementation.

ONLINE EVENT

11 February 2021

11AM-12AM CET

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(in order of appearance)



Morten Jespersen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

Morten Jespersen has served as Denmark's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva since 1st of September 2018.

Prior to this he has held the position of Under-Secretary for Global Development and Cooperation in Danida, the Danish development organisation within the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Centre for Global Development and Cooperation has overall responsibility for safeguarding and promoting Danish interests within priority areas of foreign and development policy, including Danish development policy cooperation across bilateral and multilateral activities. The Centre also promotes green growth and employment in developing countries and emerging economies, development and implementation of humanitarian efforts, as well as development cooperation through well known organisations.

Prior to August 2013, Mr. Jespersen was Denmark's Ambassador to Nepal at the Danish Embassy in Kathmandu from 2010 to 2013. Mr. Jespersen has a Master of Political Science and a Post Graduate Degree in East Asian studies.



Blanka Jamnišek, Ambassador Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia

Blanka Jamnišek, M.A. graduated in Psychology (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, 1982), specialized in International Relations-Diplomatic Academy (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, 1999) and completed her Master of Arts Degree in International Politics (CERIS, Bruxelles and Faculté Jean Monet, Université de Paris XI, 2001). She completed the trainings in Neuro-Linguistic Programming and became a Master Coach in NLP (NLP Institute Ljubljana, 2019). In 2020 she concluded education for a mediator (Zavod Rakmo, Ljubljana) and is a certified mediator.

After the declaration of independence of the Republic of Slovenia in 1991 she worked for the new Government in the Ministry of Information, later Public Relations Office. She held the post of the Head of Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Defense in 1994-1996. In 1996 she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as desk for bilateral relations with the USA, Canada, UK and Ireland. From 1998 to 2003 she was posted to the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to NATO and WEU in Brussels as a diplomatic counsellor. From 2004-2011 she was a member of diplomatic teams for chairing the OSCE (2005) and Council of Europe (2008). She also led the Department of OSCE and Council of Europe. From 2011 till 2015 she served in Austria as an Ambassador-Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations, OSCE and other international organizations in Vienna.

Ambassador Jamnišek introduced the promotion of human rights education into Slovenian foreign policy in 2005 during the Chairmanship of OSCE. She founded a new human rights education project for children and became the co-author of the publication "OUR RIGHTS". This human rights education tool for children was operationalized as a pilot project in a variety of countries and is still ongoing. To date the "OUR RIGHTS" project has been implemented due to its universality for over 250.000 children worldwide in almost all continents in 26 countries in 23 languages. Human rights education has since become one of the Slovenian priority foreign affairs topics.

In 2015 she was appointed by the Government of Slovenia as the National Contact Point for Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and currently serves as a member of the Steering Group within the Global R2P Focal Points Network. Her efforts are focused on awareness raising and prevention of processes that may lead to mass atrocities, as R2P is one of Slovenia's foreign affairs priorities. Ambassador Jamnišek is also the Deputy Head of the Slovenian Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which promotes education, research and remembrance.

Human rights education and R2P were adopted by the Parliament and the Government as foreign affairs priorities included both the Declaration and Strategy of the Slovenian Foreign Policy.



Elena Ippoliti, OHCHR, Coordinator, Human Rights Education and Training Unit

Ms. Elena Ippoliti coordinates the Human Rights Education and Training Unit of the Methodology, Education and Training Section at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. Her responsibilities include designing and organizing human rights training programmes, developing educational materials and assisting United Nations initiatives in the area of human rights education, in cooperation or partnership with governmental and civil society actors.

Before joining the United Nations in 1995, Ms. Ippoliti worked at the university level (LUISS University and La Sapienza University, Rome) and with several organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the Italian Refugee Council. Ms. Ippoliti holds a Bachelor's degree in sociology, a Master's degree in international human rights law as well as a postgraduate diploma in international affairs.



Cecilia Barbieri, UNESCO, Chief of Section, Global Citizenship and Peace Education

In September 2019, Cecilia joined the Section of Global Citizenship and Peace Education as chief, coming from the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile, where she was in charge of the Education 2030 Section.

Before joining UNESCO Santiago, she has worked as Education Specialist with UNESCO since 1999, mainly in Africa and Asia.

Prior to joining the organization, she worked in the field of technical and vocational training and institutional capacity building and was engaged for many years in culture of peace, human rights, and intercultural education.

A social sciences graduate from the University of Bologna, Italy, she continued education in international humanitarian law, education psychology and educational policy and planning.



Sille Stidsen, Senior Adviser, Human Rights and Development Department, the Danish Institute for Human Rights

Sille Stidsen works with the human rights dimension of sustainable development and coordinates a team that works with sector- and theme specific tool development and analysis with a view to facilitating strategic work at country level to integrate a human rights dimension and approach when implementing the SDGs. The team also engages in international dialogues to enhance the human rights community's awareness of the SDGs as drivers of human rights implementation in relation to the specific theme or right. Finally, we support National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in applying their mandate to promote

human rights in relation to specific SDG themes and processes, and we cooperate with a broad range of actors operating at the national level, including line ministries and local governance bodies, civil society actors, UN Country Teams, UN Specialised Agencies and rights-holders. The team is currently working with NHRIs on SDG 4.7 and human rights education in six countries in Africa, and is frequently in dialogue with NHRIs in Latin America, Europe, the MENA region and Asia too.



Mizanie Abate Tadesse, Senior Advisor, Human Rights Commission, Ethiopia

Dr. Mizanie Abate Tadesse is currently a Senior Advisor for Human Rights Promotion at the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and an Associate Professor of Human Rights Law at Addis Ababa University (AAU) School of Law. He obtained his degree in law from the Faculty of Law of Addis Ababa University in July 2004. He went to the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (South Africa) in 2007 and earned his LL.M in Human Rights and Democratization in Africa. He obtained his PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies in December 2012 from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA. Dr. Mizanie wrote his PhD dissertation on a title 'A Rights-Based Approach to HIV Prevention, Care, Support and Treatment: A Review of Its Implementation in Ethiopia' which is published as a book by Pro quest and available online at: http://libcontent1.lib.ua.edu/content/u0015/0000001/0001073/u0015_0000001_0001073.pdf

As a Senior Advisor for Human Rights Promotion at (EHRC), Dr. Mizanie is responsible for designing, implementation and evaluation of Human Rights promotion activities, leading the development of innovative human rights education activities including training and promotional materials for various target groups.

Dr. Mizanie has immense experience of teaching and research in human rights as well as supervision of law school legal clinics. He has also presented research papers at national and international conferences. Moreover, Dr. Mizanie has rendered consultancy services to Ethiopian and international organizations on diverse issues of human rights. The courses he handles in law schools of Ethiopia and abroad includes: African Human Rights System, International Human Rights Law and Ethiopian Human Rights System. Most of his areas of research interests are socio-economic rights, business and human rights and clinical legal education and access to justice. A complete list of his publications can be viewed at: <http://www.aau.edu.et/clgs/mizanie-abate-tadesse/>



Ms. Uche Okwuobi, Assistant Director, Research, National Human Rights Commission, Nigeria



Ms. Nana Amua-Sekyi, Director, Public Education Department, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Ghana

Ms. Nana Amua-Sekyi is a lawyer by profession holding a Barrister-at-law certificate obtained from the Ghana School of Law in 1996, after obtaining Ordinary and Advance level certificates.

She holds a Masters' Degree in Democracy, Governance and Law from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

Serving as Western Regional Director of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, she worked at the Commission for twenty years, rising the ranks to Deputy Chief Legal Officer within the period.



Medea Gugeshashvili, Head of Human Rights Education Department, Office of Public Defender of Georgia

Medea Gugeshashvili is the Head of Human Rights Education Department at the Office of Public Defender of Georgia. Her academic and professional background is related to the protection and promotion of human rights. After graduating from Essex University with MA degree in Human Rights Theory and Practice, Medea was involved in the protection of rights of persons affected by conflict. Currently, her main focus of work is peace education and the promotion of universal values of human rights through formal and non-formal education.

MODERATOR BIOGRAPHIES

(in order of appearance)



Cecilia Decara, Chief Advisor at The Danish Institute for Human Rights

Cecilia Decara is a leading DIHR expert in human rights education (HRE), strategic planning and agenda setting in the field of HRE at national, regional and global levels.

Her areas of expertise include monitoring and reporting, development and implementation of effective policies for HRE, development of global and national indicators for measuring progress under the SDGs, HRE for police services, children's rights, youth empowerment, curricula development, design of learning programmes, documentation of learning effect, development of blended learning programmes for different levels and professions.

She has experience from working with local partners on human rights issues and particularly HRE in all regions of the world, including Denmark, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Liberia, Honduras, Jordan, Egypt, Yemen, Albania, China and Greenland.