



Law Futures Centre
**The Australian celebration of the 75th anniversary
of the United Nations Universal Declaration of
Human Rights**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Griffith University acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are meeting and pays respect to the Elders, past and present, and extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Jessie Street



Photo credit: [National Portrait Gallery](#)

Doc Evatt



Photo credit: [National Portrait Gallery](#)

Hilary Charlesworth



Photo credit: [ICJ](#)

Hilary Charlesworth

- Judge Hilary Charlesworth is a serving Judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
- Judge Charlesworth was elected Judge of the Court in 2021 and re-elected in 2023.
- Prior to joining the ICJ, Judge Charlesworth also served as Judge *ad hoc* for the ICJ on two occasions, in the cases of *Guyana v Venezuela* and *Australia v Japan*.

James Crawford



Photo credit: [Lowy Institute](#)

James Crawford

- Judge James Crawford was a Judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
- Judge Crawford was elected Judge of the Court in 2014 and commenced his position in 2015.
- He served until his death in 2021.
- Prior to joining the ICJ, Judge Crawford was the first Australian elected to the UN International Law Commission in 1992, where he shepherded through draft articles on the responsibility of states. He was also Special Rapporteur on State Responsibility (1997-2001).

Megan Davis



Photo credit: [ABC](#)

Megan Davis

- In 2017, Professor Megan Davis was elected by the UN Human Rights Council to the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Professor Davis currently serves as a UN expert with the UN Human Rights Council's Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Professor Davis is formerly Chair and expert member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2011-2016). As UNPFII expert she was the focal point for UN Women and UN AIDS. During this period of UN service, Megan was the Rapporteur of the UN EGM on an Optional Protocol to the UNDRIP in 2015, the Rapporteur of the UN EGM on Combating violence against Indigenous women and girls in 2011 and the UN Rapporteur for the International EGM on Indigenous Youth in 2012.
- Professor Davis has extensive experience as an international lawyer at the UN and participated in the drafting of the UNDRIP from 1999-2004 and is a former UN Indigenous Fellow of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Les Malezer



Photo credit: [Flickr](#)

Les Malezer

- Les Malezer is a former Expert member on the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
- Les Malezar was the Chair of the Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus when the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was officially adopted and was honoured to address the General Assembly on behalf of the Indigenous peoples of the world.

Hannah McGlade



Photo credit: [Western Australian Museum](#)

Hannah McGlade

- In 2016, Dr Hannah McGlade was appointed the Senior Indigenous Fellow at the Office of the High Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.
- Dr McGlade is currently a member of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues (2020-2022, 2023-).

Rosemary Kayess



Photo credit: [UNSW](#)

Rosemary Kayess

- Rosemary Kayess was first elected to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018.
- In 2019, Ms Kayess was elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson.
- In 2021, Ms Kayess was elected to the position of Chairperson.
- In 2022, Ms Kayess was re-elected to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and currently serves as Vice-Chairperson.

Ronald McCallum



Photo credit: [Peter Martin](#)

Ronald McCallum

- On 3 September 2008, the Australian Government nominated Professor Ronald McCallum as its candidate for election to the inaugural United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This Committee of Experts oversees the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This Convention came into force on 3 May 2008.
- On 3 November 2008, Professor McCallum was elected as one of twelve persons who served on the inaugural Committee of Experts. At its inaugural meeting in February 2009, Professor McCallum was made General Rapporteur for the Committee.
- At its second meeting in October 2009, Professor McCallum was unanimously elected as 2010 Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- On 1 September 2010, Professor McCallum was re-elected in New York to the Committee of experts for a four-year term which concluded on 31 December 2014.
- On 11 April 2011 at the Committee's 5th session, Professor McCallum was elected as Chair for a further two-year term which concluded at the beginning of the ninth session of the Committee which was held from 15 to 19 April 2013. Professor McCallum was Vice-Chairperson until his term on the Committee concluded in December 2014.

Elizabeth Evatt



Photo credit: [ALRC](#)

Elizabeth Evatt

- The Hon Elizabeth Evatt AC was a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women from 1984 to 1992 and chaired the Committee from 1989 to 1991.
- In 1992, Ms Evatt became the first Australian to be elected to the UN Human Rights Committee, serving from 1993 to 2000.

Ian Fry



Photo credit: [ANU](#)

Ian Fry

- Dr Ian Fry is the first Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. He was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council at its 49th session in March 2022 and started his mandate in May 2022.
- Dr Fry has represented the Tuvalu Government at numerous international fora including the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Commission for Sustainable Development, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations General Assembly and UN SIDS conferences.
- Dr Fry is the Pacific Regional Representative to the United Nations for the International Council on Environmental Law. He is also on the Bureau of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Annemarie Devereux



Photo credit: [ANU](#)

Annemarie Devereux

- Dr Annemarie Devereux has worked with three UN peacekeeping missions in East Timor, the UN Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in New York, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and Nepal, as well as with several International Commissions of Inquiry.

Alice Edwards



Photo credit: [OHCHR](#)

Alice Edwards

- Dr Alice Edwards is the seventh – and first woman – UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment appointed by the UN Human Rights Council. Her appointment was announced on 8 July 2022 and her tenure began on 1 August 2022.
- Previously, Dr Edwards was Chief of Section – Protection Policy and Legal Advice at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva (2010–15), following field assignments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda and Morocco.

Bina D'Costa



Photo credit: [OHCHR](#)

Bina D'Costa

- Bina D'Costa is currently a member of the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.
- At the height of Europe's refugee emergency, Bina moved to UNICEF's Office of Research-Innocenti as its senior migration and displacement research specialist to build its Migration and Displacement program (2016-2018).
- As a United Nations staff member, Bina has worked in regions including East Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and the Horn of Africa, where she served on three global emergency response teams for UNICEF. Most recently, she has served in UNICEF's Rohingya Emergency Response Team in Cox's Bazar Bangladesh.
- Bina has undertaken studies on refugees, stateless communities and IDPs, and has provided inputs and technical advice to Human Rights bodies, UN agencies and NGOs.
- Bina has worked as a policy analyst for the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Leigh Toomey



Photo credit: [OHCHR](#)

Leigh Toomey

- Leigh Toomey was a member of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (2015–2022).
- Her experience includes extensive field-based work in developing, conflict and post-conflict settings worldwide for UN agencies, NGOs, academic institutions and development organisations.
- Ms. Toomey was appointed to the Working Group on 1 August 2015. Since April 2016, she has served as Vice-Chair on Follow-Up, including initiating a new follow-up procedure from August 2016 in Working Group opinions, and strengthening the referral mechanism to share findings in opinions with other relevant Special Procedures mandate holders.

Natasha Stott Despoja



Photo credit: [ANU](#)

Natasha Stott Despoja

- In 2020, Natasha Stott Despoja was elected as a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- Ms Stott Despoja has previously served on the 2017 UN High Level Working Group on Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents, and has represented Australia at key international forums including at several sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

Elizabeth Broderick



Photo credit: [UN Women](#)

Elizabeth Broderick

- In 2017 Elizabeth Broderick was appointed by the United Nations in Geneva as a Special Rapporteur and Independent Expert of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls.
- In this role, she carried out UN country missions and had a global mandate to issue official UN communications to nation states drawing their attention to human rights violations, particularly against women and girls.
- Elizabeth's 6 year term concluded on 31 October 2023.

Andrew Byrnes



Photo credit: [Australian Public Law](#)

Andrew Byrnes

- Andrew Byrnes was involved in the drafting of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and has acted as pro bono adviser to the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions during the drafting of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in the context of the United Nations General Assembly Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.
- Andrew has acted as a consultant to the United Nations on human rights, most recently as a consultant in the preparation of two studies by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on older persons and the international human rights framework and for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in a project on the harmonization of national laws in the Asia and Pacific region with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Bill Mitchell



Photo credit: [James Cook University](#)

Bill Mitchell

- Bill has represented the National Association of Community Legal Centres in various UN processes including ten times before the United Nations in New York in debates around a new Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

Jane Connors



Photo credit: [National Library of Australia](#)

Jane Connors

- Jane Connors has worked on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.
- In 1996, Jane was appointed Chief of the Women's Rights Section in the Division for the Advancement of Women in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN.
- In 2002, Jane joined the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, where she worked in the Human Rights Treaties Division. In 2009 she became Chief of the Special Procedures Branch of the OHCHR; she was also later Director of the Research and Right to Development Division.
- Jane is currently the Victims' Rights Advocate for the United Nations, a new post at Assistant Secretary General level, to which she was appointed in August 2017.

Erika Feller



Photo credit: [Melbourne Law School](#)

Erika Feller

- In 1980, Erika Feller was posted as the First Secretary at the Australian Mission to the United Nations, and then promoted to Counsellor. Erika represented Australia as a lead drafter in the United Nations Convention against Torture.
- In 1982, Erika returned to Geneva and accepted a secondment with the Protection Division of the UNHCR; it included roles as Senior Legal Advisor and Chief of the General Legal Advice Section.
- From 1993 to 1995, Erika was the UNHCR High Commissioner's Regional Representative for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.
- In 1996, Erika rejoined the Division of International Protection, as its Deputy Director. She took over management of the Division as its Director in 1999.
- Erika was the initiator and manager of the 2001-2 Global Consultations on International Protection, which generated the Agenda for Protection, the internationally endorsed global "road map" on protection policy for refugees.
- From 2005 to April 2013, Erika Feller held the post of Assistant High Commissioner (Protection), one of the four top management positions with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This was the culmination of a 26 year long career with UNHCR.

Gillian Triggs



Photo credit: [UN](#)

Gillian Triggs

- In 2019, Gillian Triggs was appointed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres as Assistant Secretary-General to serve as the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Philip Alston

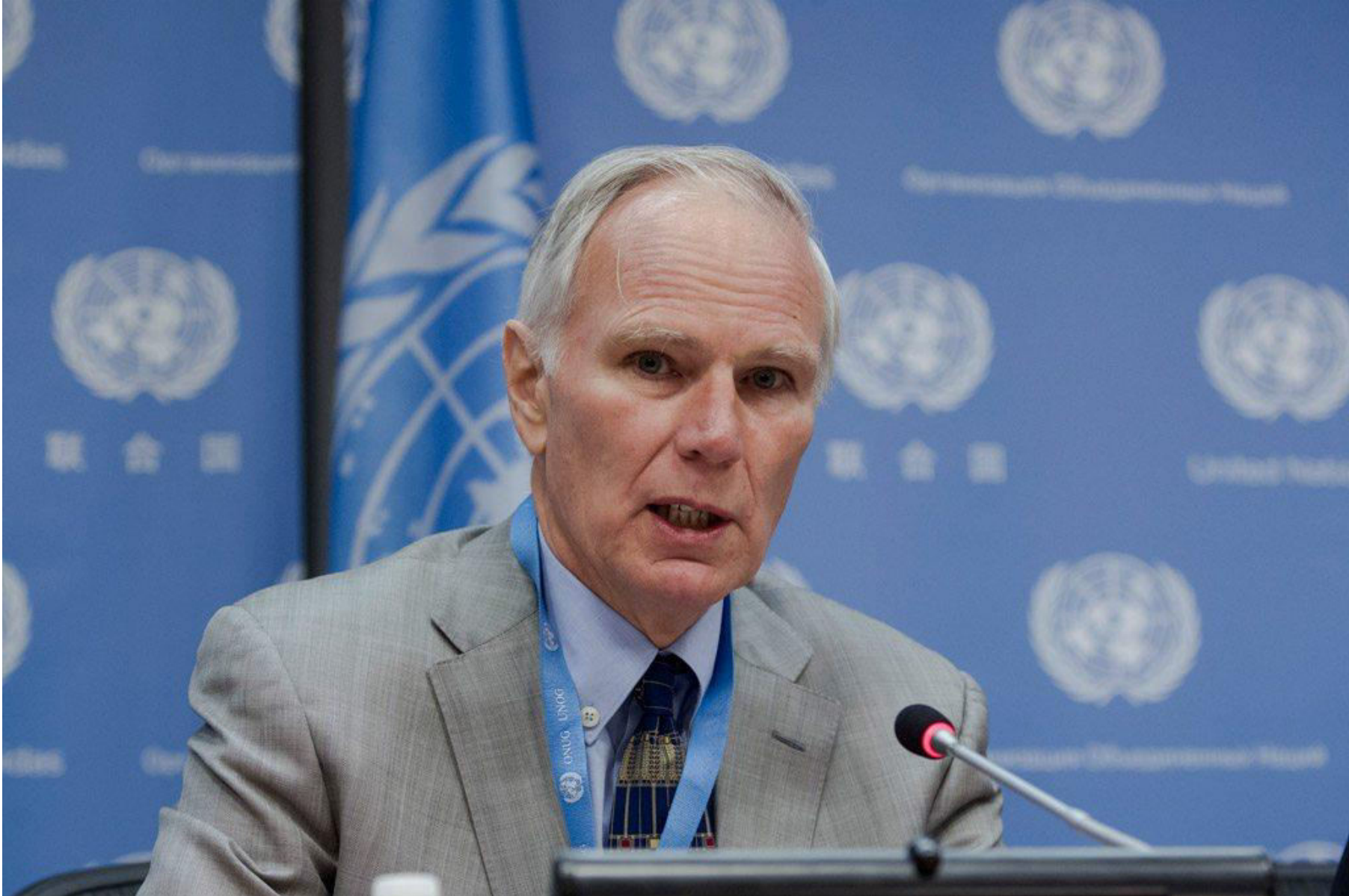


Photo credit: [UN](#)

Philip Alston

- Philip Alston has served the United Nations in various capacities since the 1980s. He was the first Rapporteur of the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights from 1987 until 1990, and then chaired the Committee for eight years until the end of 1998. During this period, he played a central role in efforts to reform and streamline the UN treaty body system and, as an Independent Expert appointed by the UN Secretary-General, he reported to the General Assembly on measures to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the UN human rights treaty bodies (reports in 1989, 1993 and 1997).
- Between 2002 and 2007, he served as Special Adviser to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Millennium Development Goals, and between 2004 and 2010, as Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions. He was also UNICEF's legal adviser throughout the process of drafting the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Between 2014 and 2020, Philip served as Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

Ivan Shearer

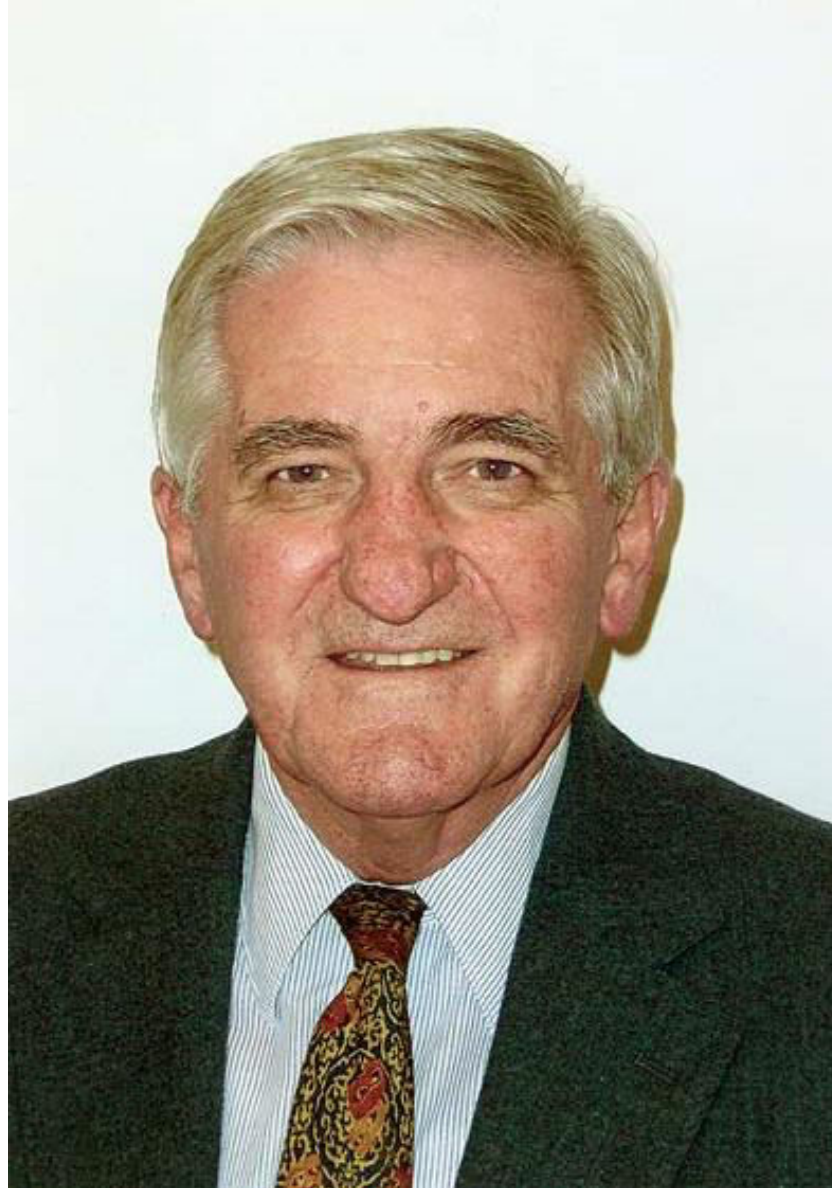


Photo credit: [University of Adelaide](#)

Ivan Shearer

- Professor Ivan Shearer was the International Law Adviser to the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho under the UN Development Programme (1971-1972 and 1974) and in this capacity was a member of the Lesotho delegation to UN conferences.
- Professor Shearer was elected to the UN Human Rights Committee on 14 September 2000 and re-elected on 9 September. He served on the Committee from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2008, including serving as a Vice-Chair of the Committee for a period.
- Professor Shearer also had an active role as ad hoc judge or arbitrator. He was a Member of the Panel of Arbitrators maintained by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and also of the Australian National Group which nominates persons for election to the International Court of Justice. He was also on the list of arbitrators under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). He was ad hoc judge nominated by Australia in several cases under UNCLOS, served as a member of an Annex VII arbitration panel in one case, and chaired another.

Michelle Jarvis



Photo credit: [IIM](#)

Michelle Jarvis

- Michelle Jarvis has worked in the international criminal justice field for 22 years and is presently the Deputy Head of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (Syria), having taken up the post in December 2017.
- Prior to that she was the Deputy to the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT), where she had oversight of legal issues across the Office of the Prosecutor. She acted as counsel in a series of cases before the ICTY and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda setting significant international criminal law precedents.

Ben Saul



Photo credit: [OHCHR](#)

Ben Saul

- Ben Saul has been involved in cases before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Special Tribunal for Lebanon, and Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.
- He was lead counsel in five successful national security cases before the UN Human Rights Committee, including FJ (2016), FKAG (2013), and MMM (2013) (involving the illegal indefinite detention and inhuman treatment of 51 refugees); Hicks (2016) (unfair military trial at Guantanamo Bay); and Leghaei (2015) (secret security expulsion interfering in family rights).
- Ben has advised or consulted to the United Nations (including UNODC, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNESCO, OHCHR, ICRC, and UNOCT). He co-drafted the UN Model Legislative Provisions on Victims of Terrorism (UNODC/UNOCT/IPU) and the professional training curriculum on terrorism and international law (UNODC).
- In 2023, Ben was appointed as Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

Surya Deva



Photo credit: [OHCHR](#)

Surya Deva

- Surya Deva took up the role of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development on 1 May 2023.
- Surya served as a member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (2016-22). He has advised UN agencies on issues related to business and human rights.

John Langmore

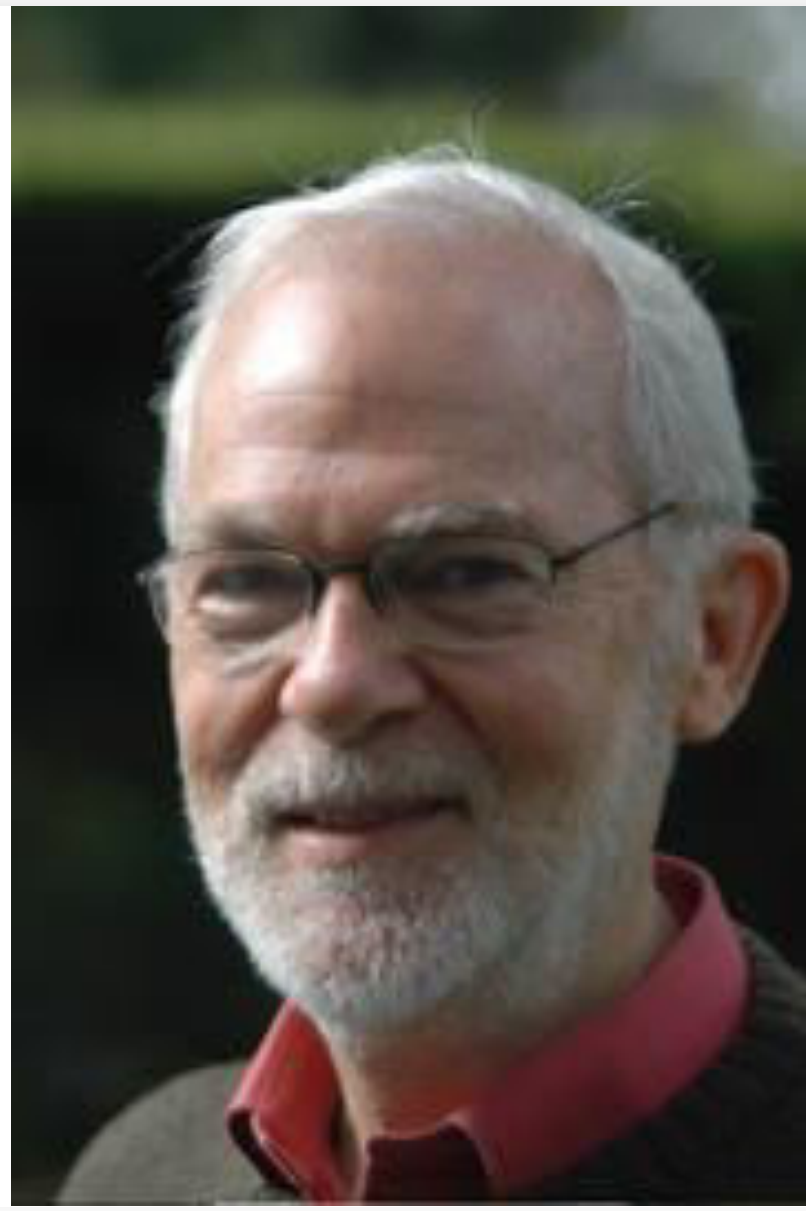


Photo credit: [University of Melbourne](#)

John Langmore

- John Langmore was the Director of the UN Division for Social Policy and Development in New York for five years from 1997 and then Representative of the International Labour Organization to the United Nations for two. One of his principal responsibilities while in the UN Secretariat was organisation of the 24th special session of the General Assembly which was the first world conference to agree on a global target for halving serious poverty.

Chris Sidoti



Photo credit: [ACU](#)

Chris Sidoti

- Chris Sidoti is an international human rights consultant, specialising in the international human rights system and in national human rights institutions who, since 2000, has provided consultancy services on human rights law and practices to OHCHR, UNDP, and UNICEF.
- He was a member of the Board of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights from 2012 to 2017.
- He was also a member of the UN Human Rights Council's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar from 2017 to 2019.

Elizabeth Reid



Photo credit: [AIIA](#)

Elizabeth Reid

- Elizabeth Reid was the Australian Representative to the UN Forum on the Role of Women in Population and Development, held in New York in February 1974.
- Elizabeth was the Leader of the Australian Delegation to, and Vice-Chairman of, the Preparatory United Nations Consultative Committee, held in New York in March 1975.
- Elizabeth was the Founding Director and Project Manager of the UN Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development (1977-1979). She then worked as Principal Officer in the UN Secretariat for the 1980 World Conference of the Decade for Women.
- From 1989 to 1997 , Elizabeth worked out of New York in the United Nations Development Programme, originally as Programme Director for Women in Development, then as Policy Adviser to the Administrator on HIV/AIDS and Development, and from 1992 was Director of the HIV and Development Programme.
- From 1998-2000, she was Resident Coordinator of the United Nations, and Resident Representative of the UNDP in Papua New Guinea

Michael Kirby



Photo credit: [UNSW](#)

Michael Kirby

- In addition to his judicial duties, Michael Kirby has served as member of the World Health Organisation's Global Commission on AIDS (1988-1991); UN Special Representative for Human Rights in Cambodia (1993-6); as a member of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee (1995-2005); as a member of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Judicial Reference Group (2007- 9); and as a member of the UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV and Human Rights (2004-). He was also a Commissioner of the UNDP Global Commission of HIV and the Law in 2011-2012.
- In 2013- 2014, he was appointed Chair of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights Violations in North Korea. He was a Commissioner of the UNAIDS Lancet Commission on AIDS to the Right to Health (2013-2014); the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Access to Essential Medicines (2015-16); and UNAIDS/OHCHR's panel on overreach of criminal law (2017).

Penelope Wensley



Photo credit: [UQ](#)

Penelope Wensley

- In 1974 and 1975, Penelope Wensley was posted as a junior (First Secretary) delegate to the UN General Assembly Third Committee.
- In 1975, Penelope attended the first UN Conference on Women, in Mexico City.
- Penelope was appointed as Australian Ambassador to the UN in Geneva between 1993 and 1996. She was then appointed Australian Ambassador to the UN in New York between 1997 and 2001.
- Penelope has led Australian delegations to more than 50 major international meetings and conferences. She has also held a number of international positions, including as Vice Chairman of the UN Climate Change Convention Negotiations, 1993-1996; Coordinator of the Western Group for Negotiation of the UN Conventions on Biodiversity and Desertification, (1994-1996); Chairman of the Preparatory Process of the UN Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, (1993-1994); Chairman of the International Coral Reef Initiative Conference, (1995); Member of the World Health Organisation High Level Advisory Council on Health and the Environment since 1994 and Vice-Chairman of the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) since 1995.

Phil Lynch



Photo credit: [ISHR](#)

Philip Lynch

- Philip Lynch has been the Executive Director of the International Service for Human Rights in Geneva since 2013.

Imogen Kane



Photo credit: [UN Youth](#)

Imogen Kane

- Imogen Kane is the current Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations.

THANK YOU