

Thomas Hammarberg

Thomas Hammarberg is the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. He was elected by the Parliamentary Assembly on 5 October 2005 and took up his duties on 1 April 2006.

Personal Data

Year and place of birth: 1942, Örnsköldsvik, Sweden

Nationality: Swedish

Family: Wife (Alfhild Petrén) and son (Filip)

Previous employments

- ▶ 2002 – 2005: Secretary General of Olof Palme International Center
- ▶ 1994 – 2002: Ambassador and Special Adviser to the Swedish Government on Humanitarian Affairs
- ▶ 1986 –1992: Secretary General of Swedish Save the Children
- ▶ 1980 – 1986: Secretary General of Amnesty International
- ▶ 1979 – 1980: Columnist, weekly "Vi". Teacher
- ▶ 1976 – 1979: Foreign Correspondent, Swedish Broadcasting
- ▶ 1973 – 1976: Foreign Editor, daily "Expressen"

Special assignments

- ▶ 2001-2003: Regional Adviser for Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- ▶ 1995-2003: Convener of the Aspen Institute roundtables on Human Rights in Peace Missions
- ▶ 1999-2002: Personal Representative of the Swedish Prime Minister for the UN Special Session on Children
- ▶ 1994-2002: Swedish representative in the Refugee Working Group within the multilateral Middle East Peace Process; Special Coordinator for children and youth programs
- ▶ 2001: Represented the Swedish EU Presidency in the dialogue meetings on human rights with the Chinese Government and represented Sweden at meetings within UNICEF, UNESCO, UNRWA, ILO and EU
- ▶ 1996-2000: Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia

Committees

- ▶ Board of Trustees for the UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Co-operation for Human Rights, member since 2000 and chair since 2003
- ▶ International Council on Human Rights Policy chair, 1996-2004
- ▶ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; member; 1991-96; vice chair, 1993-96
- ▶ UN Study on the Impact on Children of Armed Conflict, Chair of the Advisory Committee, 1994-96
- ▶ UNICEF Innocenti Centre, Children's Rights Advisory Council, 1992-95
- ▶ Swedish Commission on International Humanitarian Law, 1988-92
- ▶ Swedish UNICEF Committee, 1986-90
- ▶ Swedish UNESCO National Committee; 1977-80
- ▶ Swedish International Development Agency's Board for Humanitarian Aid, 1977-80 and 1986-92
- ▶ Chair of the International Executive Committee of Amnesty International, 1976-79

Conferences and missions

- ▶ UNRWA international conference 2004 on Palestinians refugees
- ▶ World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1993
- ▶ UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Region Consultation on the Rights of the Child, Beijing, 1992, Expert delegate
- ▶ UN Conference on Juvenile Delinquency, Beijing, 1988, Expert delegate
- ▶ UNICEF Executive Board, 1991, Swedish representative
- ▶ UN Working Group on the Draft Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1987-89, Save the Children representative
- ▶ UNESCO General Conference, 1980-86, Amnesty International representative
- ▶ UNESCO General Conference 1978-79, Swedish delegate

Books and articles

- ▶ Newspaper and magazine articles in English speaking press, including The International Herald Tribune since 1979
- ▶ Conference papers and publications in English on the rights of the child since 1989
- ▶ Newspaper and magazine articles in Swedish on international affairs, security, minority issues, human rights, the rights of the child and refugee policy since 1962
- ▶ Publications in Swedish on refugee policy, minority issues and xenophobia, Roma rights, human rights, the rights of the child and foreign reporting since 1970

Lectures, key note speeches

- ▶ Annual OSCE Human Dimension Meeting, October 2004
- ▶ Lecture on State Obligations for Children, Senate, Prague, February 2000
- ▶ Lecture on Education for a Culture of Peace, Semana Social, Luanda, 1999
- ▶ National Assembly, Cambodia, 1999
- ▶ Dorab Patel Lecture on Principles and Politics of Human Rights, London School of Economics, 1999
- ▶ Innocenti Lecture on the Right to Education, UNICEF Florence 1997
- ▶ UNICEF Middle East Regional Conference on Global Education, Beirut, 1995
- ▶ International Human Rights Colloquium, Gaza Centre for Rights and Law, Gaza City, 1994
- ▶ Government conference on the Rights of the Child, Hanoi, Vietnam, 1994
- ▶ Conference on the Rights of the Child in Armed Conflict, Dialogues Foundation, Amsterdam, 1994
- ▶ Comenius lecture, Prague, 1992
- ▶ Benigno Aquino Human Rights Lecture, Yale University, 1989
- ▶ Human Rights Lecture, New Delhi, 1986
- ▶ Arab Lawyers Union Congress, Sousse, 1984
- ▶ Los Angeles Foreign Affairs Council, 1983

Education

1969: B.S. (Civilekonom), Stockholm School of Economics

Languages

English: fluent

German and French: fair

Swedish: mother tongue