

Bios of the speakers:

William Spence Spencer

Executive Director, Institute for International Law and Human Rights

William Spence Spencer has more than 22 years of professional experience in international diplomacy, human rights, democracy and governance, international law, and crisis management and response, both in and out of government. In 1996 Mr. Spencer, serving as Senior Political Advisor at the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, helped to configure Bosnia's first post-war elections and oversaw implementation of human rights aspects of the Dayton Agreement. As a career foreign service officer with the US State Department, he coordinated policy and resource support for human rights initiatives in the former Yugoslavia and the Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal. He served as a delegate to the Rome Conference to establish an International Criminal Court in 1999. Mr. Spencer is currently executive director of the Institute for International Law and Human Rights. Mr. Spencer has extensive experience in Afghanistan and Iraq, from providing assistance in drafting Iraq's Constitution of 2005 to reporting on Afghanistan's human rights and democracy landscape in the aftermath of the fall of the Taliban. In Iraq, he has advised the government of Iraq, the international community and Iraqi activists on a wide range of Constitutional and legislative issues since 2005; he has also taken leadership roles on key human rights matters in Iraq, including gender issues and minority rights.

Alison Smith

Legal Counsel and Director, International Criminal Justice Programme

No Peace Without Justice

Alison Smith is the Legal Counsel and International Justice Program Director for No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ), having formerly worked as NPWJ's Country Director in Sierra Leone. Prior to joining NPWJ, Alison served as chief legal adviser to the Vice President of Sierra Leone on international humanitarian law, particularly on the establishment and operations of the Special Court for Sierra Leone; as international legal adviser to a number of clients including the Tibetan Government in Exile, the Government of Thailand and Kosovar politicians; as an international legal officer for the International Crisis Group's Humanitarian Law Documentation Project, which gathered statements from victims and witnesses of international humanitarian law violations in Kosovo; and as a researcher at the Kennedy School of Government's Carr Centre for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University. Alison is an Australian barrister and holds a Masters Degree in International Law from the Australian National University. She is an expert on children and international justice, having contributed to several publications on the topic, including most recently a joint UNICEF-Harvard Law School publication on Children and Transitional Justice.