
Annual Venice Conference on the Global State of Human Rights

16 July 2021

Global Campus of Human Rights and the European Parliament

SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance on the programme)



European Parliament



Global Campus
of Human Rights

Paola MAR, City Councillor for Heritage, Territorial promotion and University relations, Municipality of Venice

Born in Venice in 1963, Councillor Paola MAR graduated in history with a thesis on historical cartography at Ca' Foscari University. She later specialised in research on urban, territorial and landscape history. For many years she was the administrative director and quality control manager of Studio Architetti Mar, founded by her father Gian Paolo. She puts at the disposal of the City of Venice the knowledge she has developed through her studies and work experience, aware that it is necessary to have a deep knowledge of the past in order to understand the present and be able to plan the future with passion, commitment and a sense of civic duty. She is councillor of the City of Venice since 2015.

David SASSOLI, President of the European Parliament

David SASSOLI was born in Florence on May 30, 1956. Since a young age, he was involved in educational associations, such as the Scouts and Catholic youth movements.

He started working as a journalist at small newspapers and news agencies, before moving to the editorial office of Il Giorno in Rome, where he worked for seven years. In 1992, he began working as a television news reporter and correspondent for TG3. Subsequently he worked on news programmes on Rai Uno and Rai Due, before joining the editorial staff of TG1 in 1999 as a special correspondent. Over the next 10 years, he was responsible for managing prime time news broadcasts, and covering major national and international events. In 2007, he became Deputy Director of TG1 and responsible for in-depth programmes TV7 and TG1 Special.

When the Partito Democratico (PD) was formed in 2007, he considered in the right place for his political commitment. On 7 June 2009, he was elected to the European Parliament as a member for central Italy. In the 2009-2014 legislature, he was head of delegation of the Partito Democratico in the European Parliament. In 2014, he was re-elected as an MEP and was elected Vice-President of the European Parliament, with responsibility for Mediterranean Policy, the budget, and buildings. He was a member of the Committee for Transport and Tourism, and led on European railway reform (4th Railway Package), and the Single European Sky.

In May 2019, he began his third term as an MEP for central Italy and on 3 July, he was elected President of the European Parliament.

Veronica GOMEZ, President of the Global Campus of Human Rights

Verónica GÓMEZ is the President of the Global Campus of Human Rights, an association that brings together a hundred universities worldwide, considered a flagship in the area of human rights education. In Argentina, she is the Director for Education of the International Centre for Political Studies at the National University of San Martín (UNSAM) where she is responsible for programs with regional impact such as the Master's in Human Rights and Democracy for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition to her work to promote human rights through academia, she has also served as an official at the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. and has contributed to State policies on human rights *vis-à-vis* the United Nations as an advisor at the Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Worship of Argentina. She is currently a candidate to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Heidi HAUTALA, Vice-President of the European Parliament

Heidi HAUTALA is Vice-President of the European Parliament, Member of the European Parliament in the Greens/EFA group.

She was elected as a Vice-President of the European Parliament in October 2017 and serves on the Committee on International Trade and the Subcommittee on Human Rights. In 2017, she established a Working Group on Responsible Business Conduct in the European Parliament.

Heidi HAUTALA holds a Master's degree in Agriculture and Forestry.

Dzidek KEDZIA, Honorary President of the Global Campus of Human Rights

Prof. Zdzisław (Dzidek) KĘDZIA teaches International Human Rights law and Constitutional Law at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Poland), High School of Banking in Wrocław (Poland), and at the European Masters in Human Rights and Democratization (EMA). He served as GC / EIUC President from May 2016 till December 2019 and, at present, is the Honorary President of Global Campus.

He has been the Minister-Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations in Geneva (1991-1994) among others: General Rapporteur of the II World Conference on Human Rights (1993), Rapporteur of the 54th session of the Commission on Human Rights, Chairman-Rapporteur of the Drafting Group of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. 1994-2005 – Senior Adviser to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, director of the Activities and Programmes Branch and of the Research and Right to Development Branch. He used to be a member and Chairperson of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from 2008 to 2020.

Claudelize SANTOS, Brazil, Sakharov Prize finalist 2019

Claudelize SILVA DOS SANTOS, a Brazilian environmentalist and human rights defender from Pará (Brazil), became an activist following the killing of her brother and sister-in-law, who fought against illegal logging and deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest.

Santos's relatives were among more than 1,500 people across 50 countries murdered in retaliation for protecting land, water, forests and other natural resources between 2002 and 2017. The annual death toll doubled over this 15-year period, with killings often taking place in countries with high levels of corruption and weak rule of law. Claudelize Santos struggles to have the masterminds of her relatives assassination tried and convicted by a court of law.

Brazil is the deadliest country in the world for leaders of indigenous, peasant, and traditional communities, with 57 reported killings in 2017. The Amazon is where most of the conflicts and killings of activists and environmental defenders are reported, summing up to 80 percent of deaths. According to the Global Witness report, the data on killings may be underestimated, especially in rural areas, where access to transport infrastructure is poor and limited and where areas are extremely vast.

Didier REYNDEERS, European Commissioner for Justice

Didier REYNDEERS is European Commissioner for justice in charge of rule of law and consumer protection, a position he has held since December 2019. He is known for his long tenure in successive Belgian federal governments. He was a Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, and of Defence.

He has a background in constitutional law, with a law degree from the University of Liège (1981). Reynders practised as a lawyer (1981-1985) and then served as chair of the Belgian Railways (1986-1991) and the airline Sabena (1991-1993).

His career in the Belgian administration started as Director General of the Ministry of the Walloon Region (1985-1988) and Chief of Staff of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Institutional Reforms (1987-1988). In the federal government, his career has included the posts of Minister of Finance (1999-2011), Minister in charge of the National Lottery, the Federal Holding and Investment Company and the insurance companies (2007-2011), Minister in charge of the Belgian Buildings Agency (2003-2011), Minister of Institutional Reforms (2004-2011), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs (2011-2014), and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs (2014-2018). He has also served as a member of the Liège (1988-2012) and Uccle (2012-2018) local councils.

Mr REYNDERS is also a visiting professor at a number of Belgian universities. As a member (and former president) of the liberal Mouvement Réformateur (MR) party, affiliated to the Renew Europe Group (formerly ALDE) at European level.

Raphaël GLUCKSMANN, Member of the European Parliament

Raphaël GLUCKSMANN is an essayist and French Member of the European Parliament. He is Vice-President of the EP Subcommittee for Human Rights and President of the Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic processes in the EU. He is also full member of Parliamentary committees for Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Through his work in the EP, his commitments to human rights and his writings, Raphaël GLUCKSMANN proposes to give meaning to the Republic and the European Union through political ecology and humanism.

Radu MARES, Associate Professor, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Lund University

Prof. Radu MARES is senior researcher at Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights, at Lund University, Sweden. He is specialised in the area of business and human rights, with a focus on multinational enterprises and global supply chains. His work combines transnational law, corporate governance and corporate social responsibility perspectives.

María Soraya RODRIGUEZ RAMOS, Member of the European Parliament

María Soraya RODRIGUEZ RAMOS is a Spanish lawyer, currently a Member of the European Parliament in the Renew Europe Group. She was also a Member of the European Parliament during the fifth parliamentary term between 1999 and 2004. In this legislative term, she chairs the Delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament and is a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM). She is also the Coordinator of Renew Europe in the Subcommittee on Human Rights.

Before her current mandate in the European Parliament, Ms RODRIGUEZ RAMOS was a Member of the Spanish Congress of Deputies between 2016 and 2019. She was the Secretary of State for International Cooperation and Development of the Spanish Government (2008-2011). She is a lawyer by profession and has worked hard to defend women's rights.

HE Mr Thomas OSSOWSKI, German PSC Ambassador

HE Mr Thomas OSSOWSKI is German Ambassador at the Political and Security Committee of the EU since August 2020.

After joining the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1992, he has held several positions, including Special Representative for the Negotiations on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework and Deputy Director-General for European Affairs; Director of Relations with European Union Member States; Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, Palau, Micronesia and Marshall Islands; Deputy Chief of Staff and Deputy Head of the Minister's Office; Political Advisor and Director Governance, ISAF Headquarters in Kabul; Head of the German Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kunduz; Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy Kigali; and First Secretary, German Embassy Tel Aviv.

Mr Ossowski has completed his studies of Political Science in Paris and Florence.

James GOMME, Director of People and Society, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

James GOMME is Director of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). The business membership organization comprises some 200 multinational corporations that come together to coordinate and scale up solutions to create a sustainable future.

Mr GOMME heads up the organization's work on engaging members around the SDG agenda, supporting companies' efforts to integrate the SDGs into their strategic considerations, and working with individual industry sectors to develop detailed roadmaps exploring how they can maximize contributions to the SDGs on the road to 2030.

Mr GOMME joined WBCSD in March 2016 from long-standing WBCSD member company Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan's largest trading and investment company. During more than 10 years at Mitsubishi, James led teams across a variety of corporate sustainability, public affairs and investor relations roles in both Europe and Japan. He has an undergraduate degree from Durham University, an MBA from Madrid's IE Business School, and a Certificate in Investor Relations.

Gaëlle DUSEPULCHRE, Permanent Representative to the EU, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Dr Gaëlle DUSEPULCHRE is the International Federation for Human Rights' (FIDH) permanent representative to the European Union. Previously a lawyer at the Brussels Bar and researcher at the University of Brussels (ULB), she holds a Master in law, an additional Master in International law and a PhD in European law. She has taught European law, international economic law and international law.

Steven DONZINGER, US Human Rights lawyer

Steven DONZINGER is a renowned advocate, writer, and public speaker with a focus on addressing human rights abuses and corporate malfeasance. He is part of the team working with indigenous and farmer communities in an area of the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest suffering from high cancer rates and other health ailments related to the massive oil pollution caused by Texaco, now owned by Chevron.

In 2011, the affected communities won a historic \$9.5 billion judgment against Chevron for the environmental clean-up of what experts consider to be one of the worst oil-related catastrophes in the world. Known for his “Herculean tenacity” (Business Week), Steven has represented the affected communities since first visiting the region in 1993. Steven also founded Project Due Process, a legal advocacy group for Cuban detainees who arrived in the United States in the Mariel boatlift. He is the former director of the non-partisan National Criminal Justice Commission that in 1996 produced the landmark study, *The Real War On Crime*, published as a book by HarperPerennial.

Steven’s analysis and commentary on human rights, environmental, and criminal justice matters has been featured in numerous legal publications, academic journals, and news outlets. He is the former chief correspondent for United Press International in Nicaragua, where he reported for a variety of publications during the U.S.-backed contra war.

After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1991, Steven worked as a trial attorney for the District of Columbia Public Defender Service. He currently serves on the Board of Advisors to the Fortune Society, the largest self-help organization for ex-offenders in the United States. In 1991, Steven led a mission to Iraq of lawyers, public health specialists, and military experts to assess the impact on civilians of the bombing during the first Gulf War. The group’s report, which found that an estimated 100,000 children would die following the cessation of hostilities because of damage to the Iraqi health care infrastructure, was adopted by the United Nations and attracted coverage in more than 400 newspaper and media outlets throughout the world.

(Note: In July 2018, consistent with the ongoing retaliatory litigation campaign, New York bar authorities suspended Steven’s license to practice law in New York. Steven is not currently practicing law in New York.)

Elżbieta KARSKA, Vice-Chair of the UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

Prof. Elżbieta KARSKA, PhD, is Vice-Chair of the UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

Professor of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Elżbieta KARSKA holds doctoral (PhD) and postdoctoral (Habilitation) degrees in law, and is Director of the university’s Doctoral School and the Head of the Department of Human Rights Protection and International Humanitarian Law at the Faculty of Law and Administration. Prof. Karska is the Vice-Chair and the former Chair-Rapporteur of the UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (also referred to as the Working Group on Business and Human Rights), and in the past she was the Chair-Rapporteur of the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries. She is former Director of the Faculty’s Institute of International Law, the European Union, and International Relations, and author of over 100 publications in the field of international law, European law, and human rights law.

Prof. KARSKA sits on the editorial boards and advisory boards of numerous academic legal journals. She is a member of the Management Board of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI). She is also a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague and ad hoc judge of the European Court of Human Rights. Prof. Karska is honorary professor and doctor honoris causa of several universities and research institutions.

Fabio CASTALDO, Vice-President of the European Parliament

Fabio Massimo CASTALDO has served as Vice-President of the European Parliament since 2017. He belongs to the Five Star Movement and sits in the Committees on Foreign Affairs, on Constitutional Affairs and the Subcommittee on Security and Defense.

Mr CASTALDO participates in a number of inter-parliamentary delegations and intergroups as well, and is a member of the Bureau of the LGBTI Rights Intergroup.

As Vice-President, he holds the portfolios for Human Rights and Democracy, and replaces the President of the EP for relations with South America, European business networks and multilateral bodies such as the U.N. and the W.T.O.

Maria Daniella MAROUDA, Assistant Professor at Panteion University Athens and Chair of European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

Prof. Maria Daniella MAROUDA is Chair of the European Committee against Racism and Intolerance since January 2020 (term of two years), and serves as an independent member of the European Committee against Racism and Intolerance (representing Greece, 2015-2025). She is Assistant Professor in International Law at Panteion University of Athens and Holder of the Jean Monnet Chair Holder on EU Solidarity in Civil Protection and Humanitarian Action (emphasis on Migration and the Covid19 pandemic) at Panteion University of Athens. Professor Marouda is also Project Coordinator and UNESCO Chair on Peace, Human Rights and Democracy as well as Head of EU and UNHCR research projects on mapping integration indicators for the inclusion of refugee and migrant children through education as well as on homeless unaccompanied children.

Professor MAROUDA has fifteen years of experience in humanitarian fieldwork, through OSCE, UNHCR and then International Committee of the Red Cross, in armed conflicts (1996 Bosnia Herzegovina, 1997 Albania, 1999 Kosovo, 1998-99 Sri Lanka, and then onwards based in Greece with short missions in areas in crisis or conflict) and is the Director of the Global Campus of Human Rights European Masters' Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation.

Denis MUKWEGE, Nobel Peace Prize Recipient 2018 and Sakharov Prize Laureate 2014

Dr Denis MUKWEGE is a Congolese (D.R.C.) gynaecologist, born on March 1, 1955 in Bukavu. He studied medicine and specialized in obstetrics and gynaecology in France. He holds a doctorate degree (PhD) in medical sciences from the Université Libre de Bruxelles where he is a Professor.

For over 20 years, Dr MUKWEGE has been treating survivors of sexual violence and women with severe gynaecological problems at the Panzi Hospital, which he founded in 1999. The Hospital and Panzi Foundation are renowned for their pioneering work in specialized responses to sexual gender based violence, and their work in advocating for the rights and empowerment of Congolese women.

Dr MUKWEGE is an outspoken advocate for the rights of survivors of sexual violence. He co-presides over the Global Survivors' Fund, which he co-founded in 2019. He also serves on the Scientific Council of the WHO.

His action and dedication has been recognised worldwide with various awards among which the United Nations Human Rights Prize (2008), the Sakharov Prize (2014), and the Nobel Peace Prize (2018) as well as honorary degrees from different Universities.

Lorent SALEH, Venezuela Sakharov Prize Laureate 2017

Lorent SALEH is a Venezuelan human rights activist and defender of human dignity, freedom and peace. Because of his activism, he has been a victim of political persecution for years, including threats, defamation, prosecution and torture by the Venezuelan state apparatus.

In September 2014, the Colombian National Police abducted him and illegally handed him over to the Venezuelan intelligence service. He was then jailed for more than four years, without ever being brought to trial until the present. During that period, he was subject to torture and ill prison conditions. The UN and the IACHR considered his imprisonment arbitrary, illegal and based on political reasons.

In 2017, he was awarded the European Parliament Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, as part of the laureate "Democratic Opposition in Venezuela." On 12 October 2018, following strong international pressure from international institutions such as the European Parliament, the Catholic Church and several governments and NGOs, he was released and handed over directly to the Spanish government, which granted him asylum in Spain, where he currently resides, and the Spanish nationality. The Senates of Chile and France also recognised his brave fight for democracy and human rights in 2019, by unanimously awarding him medals of honour.

Lorent SALEH has been advocating for his causes in Europe and Latin America. Among them, political persecution, state terrorism, torture, criminalisation of protest and dissidence, attacks on freedom of conscience and freedom of expression, the attacks of terrorist groups in Latin America, the lack of electoral guarantees and the non-compliance with international standard prison conditions.

Today he works closely with the European Parliament and the Sakharov Community on the promotion of human rights, the prevention of torture and strong European legislation against those responsible for human rights violations and crimes against humanity. He also created the Saleh Institute, through which he carries out educational and artistic activities with schools and universities across Europe, as well as with civil society and governmental groups. The purpose is to depart from his story as a victim of torture and a human rights defender, and make people reflect on freedom, human rights, democracy, political polarisation and hate speech.

As a victim of torture, Lorent SALEH has been campaigning to defy people's perceptions about torture. In particular, he has been targeting young audiences to counter the idea among them that torture and mistreatment are acceptable under certain circumstances. He has also been using art to advocate against torture, of which the performance "White Torture - underground poetry" and the documentary "Torture26" are fine examples.

From a philosophical and spiritual angle, he further offers lectures on individual empowerment, the essentials of life that are often invisible to our eyes, and the ability of human beings to overcome adversity.

Michelle BACHELET, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

On September 1, 2018 Michelle BACHELET assumed her functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was established in 1993 and Ms. Bachelet is the seventh Commissioner.

Ms BACHELET was elected President of Chile on two occasions (2006 – 2010 and 2014 – 2018). She was the first female president of Chile. She served as Health Minister (2000-2002) as well as Chile's and Latin America's first female Defense Minister (2002 – 2004).

During her presidential tenures, she promoted the rights of all but particularly those of the most vulnerable. Among her many achievements, education and tax reforms, as well as the creation of the

National Institute for Human Rights and the Museum of Memory and Human Rights stand out, as do the establishment of the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, the adoption of quotas to increase women's political participation, and the approval of Civil Union Act legislation, granting rights to same sex couples and thus, advancing LGBT rights.

Since the early 1990s, Ms BACHELET has worked closely with many international organizations. In 2010 she chaired the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group, a joint International Labor Organization (ILO) and World Health Organization (WHO) initiative, which sought to promote social policies to stimulate economic growth and social cohesion.

In 2011, she was named the first Director of UN Women, an organization dedicated to fighting for the rights of women and girls internationally. Economic empowerment and ending violence against women were two of her priorities during her tenure. She has recently pledged to be a Gender Champion, committing to advance gender equality in OHCHR and in international fora.

After finishing her second term in March 2018, she was named Chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, an alliance of more than 1000 organizations in 192 countries from the sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health communities. As Co-Chair of the High-Level Steering Group for Every Woman Every Child, Ms. Bachelet launched Every Woman Every Child Latin America and the Caribbean, the first platform for tailored, regional implementation of the EWEK Global Strategy.

Michelle BACHELET has a Medical Degree in Surgery, with a specialization in Pediatrics and Public Health. She also studied military strategy at Chile's National Academy of Strategy and Policy and at the Inter-American Defense College in the United States.

Jutta URPILAINEN, European Commissioner for International Partnerships

As European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta URPILAINEN oversees the European Commission's work on international cooperation and sustainable development.

Before joining the Commission, Ms URPILAINEN served as a Member of the Finnish Parliament from 2003 to 2019. In 2008, she became the first woman leader of the Social Democratic Party of Finland. From 2011 to 2014, she served as Finland's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister. During that time, she became closely involved in development issues, joining the Development Committee of the World Bank Group and IMF and chairing the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development. She served as the Foreign Minister's Special Representative on Mediation (2017-19) and chaired the Finnish National Commission for UNESCO (2015-18).

Isabel SANTOS, Member of the European Parliament

Isabel SANTOS is since 2019 a Member of the European Parliament where she performs, among others, the role of Chair of the Delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Subcommittee on Human Rights, the Delegation to the Eurolat Parliamentary Assembly and is the European Parliament Rapporteur for Albania.

Previously, Ms SANTOS was a Member of the Portuguese Parliament (between 2005-2011 and 2015-2019) having, simultaneously, carried out the roles of both Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and President of the Commission on Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions of the OSCE.

Within Ms SANTOS' areas of interest there are, among others, Human Rights, Foreign Affairs, the Rule of Law, and Migrations.

Jorge Enrique TAIANA, Director General of Global Campus Latin America, Senator and President of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina

Jorge E. TAIANA holds a degree in Sociology (UBA). Professor at the University of San Martin (UNSAM). Between 1996 and 2001 he was the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington DC. After that, he served as Secretary of Human Rights of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Between 2005 and 2010 he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Commerce and Worship of Argentina. In 2015 he was elected to the Parliament of MERCOSUR and he chaired that body during 2016.

He has shared his expertise in international affairs in numerous conferences and publications around the world. He has also been distinguished and decorated by several countries and institutions.

Karol KARSKI, Member of the European Parliament

Prof. Karol KARSKI, PhD, is Member and Quaestor of the European Parliament, Rapporteur on the report "The persecution of minorities on the ground of religion or belief".

Professor of the University of Warsaw, Karol KARSKI holds doctoral (PhD) and postdoctoral (Habilitation) degrees in law. He is the Head of the Department of Public International Law at the Faculty of Law and Administration and author of over 100 publications in the field of international law and European law. Prof. Karski was, inter alia, President of the Council of the Capital City of Warsaw, Chair of the European Policy Committee of the Association of Polish Counties, Member of the European Policy Commission of the Joint Commission of Government and Territorial Self-Government, Vice-Chair of the Sustainable Development Forum of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions of the EU, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Chair of the Committee for EU Affairs of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, Vice-Chair of the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Karol KARSKI is a Member and Quaestor of the European Parliament, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and its Sub-Committee on Human Rights, and Rapporteur on the report "The persecution of minorities on the ground of religion or belief". He is honorary professor and doctor honoris causa of over a dozen universities and research institutions.

Anja MIHR, DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Prof. Anja MIHR (Ph.D.) is DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. She is a professor of Human Rights, Governance, Public Policy, and Transitional Justice. She is also the Founder and Program Director of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Center on Governance through Human Rights in Berlin in Germany. She has held professorships at the Willy-Brandt School of Public Policy, Erfurt University, Germany, and at the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM), University of Utrecht, Netherlands.

Ms MIHR has been Head of the Rule of Law department at The Hague Institute for Global Justice and carried out several Visiting Professorships for Human Rights and Public Policy such as at Peking University Law School in China together with the Raoul Wallenberg Research Institute on

Human Rights, Lund University in 2008 as well as at SIPA, Columbia University in New York. From 2006-2008 she was the European Program Director for the European MA Degree in Human Rights and Democratization (E.MA) at the European Inter-University Center for Human Rights in Venice (EIUC), Italy. She received her Ph.D. in Political Sciences from the Free University in Berlin, Germany, in 2001.

Lotte LEICHT, EU Director at Human Rights Watch

Lotte LEICHT, Human Rights Watch's European Union Director since 1994, has specialized expertise in international human rights and humanitarian law, international criminal law, and in international advocacy. Leicht, a Danish jurist, has conducted numerous human rights and humanitarian law investigations in various conflict zones, and written extensively on human rights, international humanitarian law and international justice issues for major publications. She frequently testifies before international bodies and inter-governmental organizations.

Ms LEICHT also serves as the Chairwoman of the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights. Leicht serves on the advisory board of the Global Campus of Human Rights, the international advisory board of Reconnect, a four-year multidisciplinary research project on 'Reconciling Europe with its Citizens through democracy and Rule of Law' and on the board of Danish Institute Against Torture (Dignity). Ms LEICHT is a law graduate from Copenhagen University, and speaks English, French, German, Danish and Swedish.

Hiba ISMAEL ALHAMED, Member of the Coalition of Families of Persons Kidnapped by ISIS (Massar)

Hiba ISMAEL ALHAMED is a 26-year-old Syrian refugee, living in France. Her father, Ismail, went missing in 2013. Hiba and her family continue their search for her father every day.

She is a founding member of the Coalition of Families of Persons Kidnapped by ISIS (Massar), an organisation formed in 2019 to search for the missing.

Niccolò FIGÀ-TALAMANCA, Secretary-General of No Peace Without Justice

Niccolò FIGÀ-TALAMANCA is the Secretary General of No Peace Without Justice. He has extensive experience on the ground, having led large-scale human rights and humanitarian law operations in conflict and post-conflict environments, and in the political and diplomatic field. He has advised numerous governments and institutions on the establishment and operating methodology of international criminal justice institutions and other accountability processes.

In July 1998, he represented the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Diplomatic Conference that adopted the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and at subsequent sessions of the Preparatory Commissions and the Assembly of States Parties. Before joining No Peace Without Justice, he was a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University in New York and worked for the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (now Human Rights First) as their International Criminal Court consultant. From 1995 to 1997, he clerked for Judge Sir Ninian Stephen, at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Niccolò holds a PhD and an LL.M in International Law.

Maria ARENA, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights

Maria ARENA was born on December 17, 1966, in Mons. After graduating in economic sciences, she decided to enter politics at 33 years old.

Within the Belgian Socialist Party, she quickly assumed the position of Minister of Training and Employment. After this first political experience, Maria ARENA got another ministerial post in 2003. In the following years, she became Minister President of the French Community in charge of education, social promotion and professional training in Wallonia. She is the second woman in the history of Belgium to exercise that position.

European affairs have always occupied an important place in the life of Maria ARENA. Early in her career, she created an "EU funding" service at FOREM and managed its funding while negotiating with the European authorities.

In 2009, after another ministerial post, she became Senator and became particularly interested in international issues (Europe, development cooperation, foreign relations and defence).

Therefore, it is natural that in 2014, Maria ARENA became an S&D MEP and a member and substitute member of the following committees and delegations:

- Member: Committee on International Trade; Committee on Women's rights and gender equality; and Committee on Employment and social affairs;
- Substitute: Delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament; and Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

For the 2019-2024 term, Maria ARENA will be Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights and she will be member and substitute member of the following committees and delegations:

- Member: Committee on Foreign Affairs; Delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament; and Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly;
- Substitute: Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

Manfred NOWAK, Secretary-General of the Global Campus of Human Rights

Manfred NOWAK is Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice, Professor of International Human Rights at Vienna University and Director of the Vienna Master of Arts in Human Rights.

He previously served in various expert functions, such as UN Expert on enforced disappearances (1993-2006), UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (2004-2010), judge at the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina (1996-2003) and Vice Chairperson of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (2013-2018). In 2016 he was appointed Independent Expert leading the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. He was Director of the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights at Utrecht University (SIM, 1987-1989) and of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights at Vienna University (BIM, 1992-2019) as well as Visiting Professor at the University of Lund (2002-2003), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva (2008-2009), and at Stanford University in Palo Alto (2014). He is author of more than 600 publications in the fields of public international law and human rights.

Jewher ILHAM, Uyghur activist and daughter of 2019 Sakharov Prize laureate Ilham TOHTI, China

Jewher ILHAM graduated with a B.A from Indiana University in the U.S in May of 2019 in political science, Near Eastern languages and cultures, and Central Eurasian studies.

As an advocate for her imprisoned father Ilham TOHTI, she testified before the U.S. Congressional-Executive Committee on China, wrote op-eds in the New York Times and the Guardian, met with a number of government officials including former Secretary of State John Kerry, and the current Secretary of State Antony BLINKEN and received numerous awards worldwide on behalf of her father. In 2015, she recounted her experiences in her book, Jewher ILHAM: A Uyghur's Fight to Free Her Father (University of New Orleans Press). She was invited to be the key speaker at 2019 Ministerial to advance religious freedom hosted by Pompeo, the former Secretary of State. During the week of the 2019 Ministerial to Advance religious freedom event, she was also invited to the White House to speak to former POTUS on the Uyghur issue. Following that, she had the opportunity to speak at the UN general assembly on the atrocities the Chinese government is committing on the Uyghurs.

In December 2019, she accepted the Sakharov Price on behalf of her father and urged the European Parliament to take a stand and hold the Chinese government accountable. In 2020, she was invited to be the key speaker at the Geneva summit to discuss the Uyghur plight.

She is currently working at the Worker Rights Consortium as an associate/Project to Combat Forced Labour. She is also assisting on a documentary film (Static and Noise) about Uyghurs as well as to continue to advocate on behalf of her father.

Her second book Because I have to: the path to survival, the Uyghur struggle (Broken Silence Series) will be released on 15 November 2021.

Congressman Gregory MEEKS, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, US Congress

Congressman Gregory W. MEEKS, now in his eleventh term, has devoted his energy and skill to serving one of the most diverse constituencies in the nation. His efforts on behalf of his district, New York City and State, and the nation as a whole have earned Rep. Meeks the respect of his constituents, New Yorkers, and Democrats and Republicans alike. He is known for being an effective, principled, and common sense leader. As a fervent supporter of the Affordable Care Act enacted under President Obama, Congressman MEEKS believes that it should be enhanced. Congressman Meeks is one of sixty-one forward-thinking, pro-growth Democratic members who comprise the New Democrat Coalition (NDC). He co-chairs the NDCC Trade Task Force.

Congressman MEEKS is a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, where he serves as the Chairmen of the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions which oversees all financial regulators such as, FDIC, Federal Reserve and all matters pertaining to consumer credit and the stability of the banking system. Rep. MEEKS previously served as a Dodd-Frank conferee. Key provisions in the Wall Street reform law – including its stress testing requirement, the creation of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion at the financial regulatory agencies, and the requirement that U.S. public companies who use natural resources to report their due diligence in stamping out conflict minerals– were authored by Congressman MEEKS and remain in the law today. Rep. MEEKS introduced a bill that would require government contractors and public companies to submit data on the racial, ethnic, and gender composition of their corporate boards.

Congressman MEEKS is also a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where he serves as an influential member on both the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy and the Environment and the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security and Trade. MEEKS is a multilateralist with decades of experience in foreign policy. He believes that the United States should build coalitions around our interests and work with other countries to build a stable and prosperous future. Additionally, Congressman MEEKS is the co-chair of several international organization caucuses, such as the European Union Caucus.

Agnès CALLAMARD, Secretary General of Amnesty International

Dr Agnès CALLAMARD is Secretary General at Amnesty International. She leads the organization's human rights work and is its chief spokesperson. She is responsible for providing overall leadership of the International Secretariat, including setting the strategic direction for the organisation and managing relations with Amnesty International's national entities.

She has been a prominent figure in the human rights world for decades. In 2016, she was appointed as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary killings. Along with her UN work, she was also the Director of Global Freedom of Expression at Columbia University in New York.

Previously she was Executive Director of the freedom of expression organization Article 19. She returns to Amnesty after twenty years having previously held the role of Chef de Cabinet for then Secretary General Pierre Sané. As a leading advocate for freedom of expression, a feminist and an anti-racism activist, she pushes out the frontiers of rights through her scholarship and advocacy.

Isabel WISELER-LIMA, Member of the European Parliament

Isabel WISELER-LIMA is an elected member of the European Parliament from Luxembourg who sits within the EPP Group (European People's Party). She is the EPP Group Coordinator for the Subcommittee on Human Rights, and, in particular, also a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.

Eamon GILMORE, EU Special Representative for Human Rights

Eamon GILMORE is the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights (since March 2019) and has also served as EU Special Envoy for the Colombian Peace Process since October 2015. In his role as EU Special Representative for Human Rights, he acts to enhance the European Union's effectiveness, presence and visibility in protecting and promoting human rights in the world.

He was Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade from 2011 until July 2014 in a coalition government which succeeded in steering Ireland from an IMF bailout to become one of the fastest growing economies in the European Union. During this time, he also led Ireland's successful Presidency of the European Union, was President of the EU's General Affairs Council and was Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE. He has long been a campaigner for peace. As Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, he managed the Northern Ireland Peace Process on behalf of the Irish Government.

In 2016, he was appointed adjunct professor at the School of Law and Government in Dublin City University. In 2017, he was Visiting Practitioner Professor at the School of Public Policy in the Central European University, Budapest. He has also lectured at universities, think tanks and public policy conferences throughout Europe, the UK, the USA, Latin America, China and Africa. He has written two books; "Inside the Room" tells of his experience in Ireland's Crisis Government (2011 – 2014). He has been

honored with awards for his leading role in the promotion of human rights. The Government of France has made him an Officier of the Legion d'Honneur. Colombia has honoured him with the Order of San Carlos (Gran Cruz) for his work on the Colombian Peace Process.

Morten KJÆRUM, Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Morten KJÆRUM is the Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and adjunct Professor at Aalborg University.

He currently serves as Chair of The Board of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) as well as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and of the Universal Periodic Review Trust Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance.

He was the first Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and was founding director of the Danish Institute for Human Rights. He has also been director of the Danish Refugee Council and a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as well as Chair of the Network of Directors of EU Agencies and Chair of the International Coordinating Committee for National Human Rights Institutions. He has published extensively on a variety of human rights issues and in particular on topics related to refugee protection and inclusion.

Tineke STRIK, Member of the European Parliament

In the European Parliament, Tineke STRIK is Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and substitute Member in the Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI). In the LIBE Committee, she is the co-coordinator for the Greens/EFA Group, Rapporteur on the Recast Return Directive (COM) 2018, 634). She is also Rapporteur on the implementation report on the Return Directive (2019/2208 (INI), and Rapporteur on the report on Human Rights and the External Dimension of the EU Migration Policy (INI).

She is Member of the Delegation to the EU-North Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee and a substitute member of the EU-Morocco, EU-Tunisia and EU-Algeria Joint Parliamentary Committees. She is also one of the Vice-Chairs in the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

Prior to her election as a MEP, she worked as an associate professor on migration law and sociology of law at the Law Faculty of the Radboud University. Since May 2020, she has been Professor for Citizenship and Migration law at the Centre for Migration Law of the same university.

Besides her academic career, she was a Member of the Dutch Senate from 2007 to 2019, representing the Dutch Greens, becoming the leader of the Parliamentary delegation in 2015. In the Senate, she was a spokesperson on Justice, Social Affairs, Foreign and European Affairs, and she was the Chair of the standing Committee on European Affairs. During the whole period of her membership of the Senate, she represented the Dutch Parliament in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), where she was active as a Rapporteur for the Committee on Migration as well as the Committee on Legal Affairs.

Between 2002 and 2006, she was a Deputy Mayor of the municipality of Wageningen on behalf of GroenLinks. Her portfolio included a.o. Work, Income and Participation, Social Affairs, Culture, minority and integration policies

HE Mr Marco PERONACI, Italian PSC Ambassador

Marco PERONACI was born in Pavia in 1965. He graduated *cum laude* in Political Sciences from the University "La Sapienza" in Rome in 1987, and obtained a Master in International Studies at SIOI Rome the following year before successfully undertaking the national competition to become a diplomat in 1988.

In 2018, he was bestowed the honour of Commander of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic; in 1998 he received the Japanese Order of the Sacred Treasures, Golden rays with Great Collar. As of February 2020, Mr Peronaci is Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the Political and Security Committee of the European Union in Brussels.

Previously, he worked as:

- Special Envoy for Brexit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2018-2020);
- Spokesperson and Head of the communication and press office at Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (2017-2018);
- Diplomatic Advisor to the Italian Minister of Internal Affairs (2015-2017);
- Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative in Brussels and Chair of Coreper I during the Italian presidency of the EU in 2014 (2012-2015);
- Diplomatic Advisor to the Italian Minister of Justice (2009-2012).

In Rome, Mr PERONACI worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in three Directorates-General (Political Affairs, Personnel and Administration, and Migration and Social Affairs). He pursued his career overseas at the Italian Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels (2006-2009) and at Italian Embassies in Paris (2002-2006), Tokyo (1993-1998) and Kampala (in Uganda, with accreditation in Rwanda and Burundi) (1991-1993).

Mr PERONACI speaks English, French, Spanish and Japanese. He is the author of essays and publications on European and Asian policy issues.

Jeremy GUNN, Representative for Global Campus Arab World and Professor at University of Rabat

Dr T. Jeremy GUNN, University Professor, International University of Rabat (Morocco), holds a doctorate from Harvard University, a juris doctor from Boston University School of Law, a master of arts in humanities from the University of Chicago, and a bachelor of arts in international relations and humanities from Brigham Young University. His subject areas are law, human rights, religion and politics, and history of the Middle East. He teaches human rights on the Arab Masters in Democracy and Human Rights coordinated by Saint Joseph University, Beirut. Professor Gunn is a former Director of the Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief at the American Civil Liberties Union and former Senior Adviser with the Office of Religious Freedom (US Department of State).

His publications include: "The Human Rights Encounter between the European Union and its Southern Mediterranean Partners: Soft Values versus Hard Interests," (with Alvaro Lagresa), in *The European Union and Human Rights: Law and Policy*, Jan Wouters, Manfred Nowak, Anna-Luise Chané and Nicolas Hachez, eds., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 244-264; "Do Human Rights Have a Secular, Individualistic & Anti-Islamic Bias?" *Daedalus* 149 (3) Summer, 2020), 148-169; *The European Court of Human Rights and the Freedom of Religion or Belief* (2019), "The Principle of Secularism and the European Court of Human Rights" (2019); "The Quran: A Legal System or a Path for Flourishing?" (2019); "Islam and the Concept of the Separation of Religion and the State" (2016); and "The Complexity of Religion and the Definition of 'Religion' in International Law" (2003).

HE Ms Christina KOKKINAKIS, Austrian PSC Ambassador

Christina KOKKINAKIS was appointed Ambassador and Representative of Austria to the Political and Security Committee of the European Union on 21 August 2019.

Prior to that assignment Ms KOKKINAKIS served as Director for the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) at the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs in March 2017. In this function Ms KOKKINAKIS was responsible for the Minister's brief for the EU Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) as well as for the Austrian positions in PSC. Before that, Ms KOKKINAKIS worked as Director for the EU Single Market and COREPER I at the Austrian MFA where she coordinated the Federal government's position at COREPER I. From 2012 until 2016 Ms KOKKINAKIS worked for the European External Action Service (EEAS) where she was heading the Political Section – Human Rights at the European Union Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva. In this capacity, Ms KOKKINAKIS served as the permanent chair of EU coordination meetings in the field of Human Rights in Geneva, amounting to over 400 meetings in 4 years. She was also responsible for the European Union's policy setting in the field of Human Rights at the United Nations in Geneva.

Ms KOKKINAKIS joined the Austrian diplomatic service in 1995 and has been active on a range of multilateral, both United Nations and European Union, as well as bilateral issues. From 2009 to 2012, she served as Head of Political Section at the Permanent Representation of Austria to the European Union responsible for Brussels based foreign policy working parties such as ia. RELEX and RELEX sanctions, Western Balkans, Middle East, Enlargement, Development, Asia, Africa and Latin America. From 2005 to 2009, Ms KOKKINAKIS was the Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva and Chargée d'affaires a.i. (February 2008 - July 2008) being responsible for delivering on Austria's contribution to the United Nations in terms of human rights, humanitarian affairs, health, labour issues, development and disarmament.

Prior to that position Ms KOKKINAKIS served as Senior Foreign Policy advisor on UN, OSCE and Council of Europe related matters as well as on bilateral relations with a special focus on the Middle East and Latin America to two Austrian Foreign Ministers (1998-2001 and 2003-2005). Ms KOKKINAKIS has had a variety of other responsibilities with the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, including serving as Deputy Head of Mission at the Austrian Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic (2001-2003).

Ms KOKKINAKIS has furthermore worked in the Department for United Nations (1997-1998) where she was responsible for the UN's 5th Committee, the Middle East and UN Security Council related matters as well as in the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Vienna (1996-1997) and in the Permanent Mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). From 1996 to 1997 Ms Kokkinakis served as Attachée at the Austrian Cultural Forum in London, UK.

Ms KOKKINAKIS holds a degree in International Relations (1995), and a Master's of Arts degree in History and French literature (1993). Aside from her mother tongue, she is fluent in five languages, English, French, Spanish, Italian and Modern Greek and has some basic knowledge of Dutch. She has published scientific articles on Austrian Social History of the 19th and early 20th century. She is a recipient of the Greek Order of the Phoenix.

Benedetto DELLA VEDOVA, Italian Deputy Minister Foreign Affairs (Human Rights mandate)

After graduating in economics and social sciences from L. Bocconi University in Milan (1988), he became a researcher at IEFE (Institute for the Economics of Energy Resources, 1987-1990) and later a researcher at IRER (Research Institute of the Lombardy Region, 1990-1996). He has written for a number of daily newspapers, such as Il Sole24Ore, Corriere Economica and Il Foglio; he has also created and presented columns on economic issues for Radio Radicale.

He served as national Secretary (1994-1997) and Treasurer (1994-1996) of the Club Pannella-Reformers movement, and an executive of Lista Pannella (1997-1999).

In October 2005 he founded the “Riformatori Liberali” party, of which he became the Chair.

Elected to the European Parliament between 1999 and 2004, he served as a Member of the Italian Parliament between 2006 and 2013 and Senator between 2013 and 2018.

A member of the Radical Party for 30 years, from January 2019 to March 2021 he served as Secretary of Più Europa, the movement he helped found together with Emma Bonino.

He previously held the position of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2014 to 2018.

Stefano SANNINO, Secretary-General of the European External Action Service

Stefano SANNINO is the Secretary-General of the European External Action Service (EEAS) of the European Union since 1 January 2021.

He held the post of the Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Global Issues at the EEAS from April 2020 to December 2021. From March 2016 to April 2020 he was Ambassador of Italy to Spain and Andorra. From July 2013 until March 2016 he held the position of Permanent Representative of Italy to the EU in Brussels.

After a period at the Cabinet of the President of the Commission (from 2002 to 2004) he joined the Directorate General for External Relations as Director for Crisis Management and Representative at PSC (2004-2006), then Director for Latin America (2008-2009) and finally as Deputy Director General for Asia and Latin America (2009-2010). In 2010 he moved to the Directorate General for Enlargement as Deputy Director General and later as Director General, a position he held until June 2013.

From 2006 to 2008 he was the Diplomatic Advisor to the Italian Prime Minister and his Personal Representative to G8 summits. He has also held the position of Ambassador and Head of the OSCE Mission in Belgrade from 2001 to 2002 and within the Italian Diplomatic Service: Deputy Head of Mission of the Italian Embassy in Belgrade (1994-1996), Head of the Secretariat of the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (1996-1998), Diplomatic Advisor and Head of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Trade (1998-2001).