

# Speakers Biographies

---

**Manuel Tornare** hails from Fribourg (on his mother's side) and Geneva (on his father's side). Went to school in Geneva and obtained his high school degree from Collège Calvin in Geneva. His university degree is in literature. He has taught classes in Philosophy and French Literature at the Collège Sismondi from 1978 to 1993. He later on became the Director of the Collège de Candolle from 1993 to 1999. Mr. Tornare held a seat in the Municipal Council of Geneva from 1979 to 1999, before being elected to the Administrative Council on May 2, 1999. He is very engaged in local civil society and cultural activities, most notably in the Université populaire de Genève, in the LICRA (the League against Racism and Anti-Semitism), in the theatre "La Comédie" and the theatre "du Poche" and in the foundation "Grand Théâtre de Genève".

**Charlotte Petri Gornitzka** began her human rights career in the Swedish Red Cross as Head of Communications and subsequently Undersecretary General. She joined Save the Children Sweden in November 2003 as Secretary General and was appointed to her current role as Secretary General of the International Save the Children Alliance in March 2008. In this role, she leads the implementation of the Alliance's global strategy and the coordination of the work of national Alliance Members around the world.

**Dr. Pascal Villeneuve** is Associate Director, Programme Division, UNICEF. In this capacity he oversees UNICEF engagement in global programmes. Prior to his current position, he served as Chief of Health at UNICEF headquarters between 2003 and 2006. Dr. Villeneuve joined UNICEF in 1987 as Assistant Programme Officer in Brazzaville, Congo. In 1993, he transferred to UNICEF headquarters in New York where he served until his appointment as UNICEF Representative in Yaounde, Cameroon, in 1998. Dr Villeneuve also served as UNICEF representative in Mali between 2000 and 2003. Prior to joining UNICEF, Dr. Villeneuve served as a nutrition adviser for the League of the Red Cross Societies in Mali in 1985 and in Niger in 1986.

Dr Villeneuve, a national of France, was awarded a degree in Medicine from Rennes School of Medicine, France, in 1985, and a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in Human Nutrition from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1984.

**Ariel Dulitzky** is a Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Human Rights Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law. He is a leading expert in the inter-American human rights system. Prior to joining the University of Texas, he was Assistant Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (ICHR). Professor Dulitzky is an honors graduate of the University of Buenos Aires, School of Law and he received his LL.M. from Harvard Law School in 1999. In 2007 he received the Gary Bellow Public Service Award from Harvard Law School for his career in human rights. Working with different NGOs, Professor Dulitzky has participated in the litigation of more than a 100 cases in front of the Inter-American Commission and Court on Human Rights.

**Elizabeth Dahlin** is the Secretary General of Save the Children Sweden (SCS), the largest child rights organization in Sweden with approx 90 000 individual members. Prior to joining SCS she served as Director and Ambassador for the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, for the last 3 years in charge of the Partnership for Global Responsibility, focusing on Business and Human Rights. In the early 2000's she served as deputy director general of the National Board of Trade and, among other things published reports on the effects of the WTO agreements for developing countries as well as setting up a structure to solve technical obstacles to trade for developing countries. She has served in the Swedish Mission to the UN, the Swedish Embassies in Zambia, Brazil and Vietnam. As a youth leader she served for four years as Secretary General of the National Council of Swedish Youth and was at the same time responsible for Human Rights Training of young Europeans at the Council of Europe.

**Marius Emberland** is attorney at the Office of the Attorney General (Civil Affairs) and acting agent for the Norwegian Government at the European Court of Human Rights. Former associate professor at the University of Oslo, Faculty of Law and senior legal adviser at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Emberland is master of laws from the University of Oslo and Harvard Law School, and holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford on a thesis on the European Convention on Human Rights.

**Jean Zermatten** was President and Dean of the juvenile Court of the canton of Valais (Switzerland) since 1980 to 2005; he is also the Founder and Director of the International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE) in Sion/Switzerland and has been Lecturer at the University of Fribourg (Arts Faculty, Social Work and Law Faculty). He has initiated and launched the Executive Master on Children's Rights, in collaboration with the University of Fribourg and the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch. He was the President of the Swiss society for the criminal law for juveniles as well as the President of the International Association of Magistrates for Youth and Family (IAMYF). He is currently a Member of the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child since 2005 and Vice-Chair since 2007

**Edo Korljan** is the Secretary of the Family Law Committee of the Council of Europe, where he works on a number of children's rights issues, including adoption and development of guidelines for child-friendly justice. He served before that with the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), where he visited more than twenty European states to meet people deprived of their liberty, including juveniles in conflict with law. He has been working with the United Nations in Cambodia, Palestine and Iraq, as well as with the then Yugoslav Government. At the moment, he is actively involved in preparation of the Conference on Adoption.

**Savitri Goonesekere** is a Professor of Law at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. She is also a Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), former member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and a leading human rights practitioner in Sri Lanka. A consultant of international repute in the areas of human rights, law and development, she has been a consultant for the ILO, ESCAP, UNICEF and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

**Nevena Vuckovic-Sahovic** is a lawyer focused on children's rights, a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child between 2003 and 2009, and board member of the Rights of the Child Center of Belgrade. From 1985 to 1992 she worked as an advisor to the Serbian government in matters of international relations. For the following five years, she worked as a practicing human rights lawyer. In 1997, she founded the Children's Law Center of Belgrade, where she filled the position of Director for ten years. Since 2007, Nevena Vuckovic-Sahovic has been Associate Professor at the Law Faculty of the University UNION in Belgrade.

**Susanna Villarán** started her first term in the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2008. She has extensive experience in the human rights field with a special focus on the rights of women and children. She has been a member of the Interamerican Commission for Human Rights, where she held the position of rapporteur on women's rights and held a wide variety of positions within the Peruvian human rights civil society. As an active politician, she has held the position of Minister of Women's Promotion and Social Development and has also run for the Peruvian presidency.

**Lilla Farkas** started working for the Budapest based Legal Defence Bureau for National and Ethnic Minorities in 1995, as a fresh graduate from Eötvös Lóránd University Law. In 1998 Ms. Farkas became a member of the Budapest Bar Association and took up the position of staff attorney at the Hungarian Helsinki Committee. In 2002, she earned an LLM with merit from the University of London, King's College. At the end of 2005 Ms. Farkas went on to work for the Chance for Children Foundation, an NGO specializing in *actio popularis* based strategic litigation combating the segregation of Roma children in primary schools. Since the summer of 2005 she has also been serving as president of the Hungarian Equal Treatment Authority's Advisory Board and as Roma, later race ground coordinator for the European Commission's Network of Independent Experts in the Non-discrimination Field. Since October 2007 she has been the Migration Policy Group's part time legal policy analyst and senior legal expert for the Hungarian team producing legal analysis for the Fundamental Rights Agency.

**Gisela De León** earned her Law degree from the Universidad Santa María La Antigua in Panama City, Panama in 1999 and a specialization in Labor Law, from the same University in 2001. She also has an LL.M. Degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Notre Dame, which she obtained in 2003. From 1998 until 2000 she worked in the Panamanian Ombudsman's Office as Legal Analyst and in Panama's Truth Commission between 2001 and 2002. She has been working for the Center of Justice and International Law (CEJIL) since 2003, where she currently is the Legal Coordinator of the Mesoamerica Program. While working at CEJIL she has successfully litigated several cases before the Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court on Human Rights.

**Peter Newell** coordinates the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment. He chairs the Council of CRIN, is vice-president of the NGO Group for the CRC and Adviser to the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children. He is co-author of UNICEF's Implementation Handbook for the CRC.

Mr. Newell has been involved in successful applications to the European Court of Human Rights, concerning corporal punishment and other children's rights issues, and in collective

complaints under the European Social Charters. He is co-convenor of the NGO working group campaigning for an Optional Protocol to provide a communications procedure for the CRC.

**Ann Skelton** obtained her BA LLB in 1985 and was admitted as an advocate of the High Court in 1998. She worked for Lawyers for Human Rights for 11 years where she established the Children's Rights project. After 4 years with the United Nations, she established a Children's Litigation Project at the Centre for Child Law at the University of Pretoria where she is currently the Director. She regularly appears in the superior courts arguing children's rights impact cases.

**Sheela Ramanathan** is an advocate working in Bangalore, India, appearing in all courts including High Court. She is presently the Director, Human Rights Law Net work, Bangalore unit. The HRLN works for the underprivileged and disadvantaged sections of the society. Ms. Ramanathan has presented papers in National and International forums. She writes on various issues for the local newspapers, attends and organizes seminars and workshops on the rights of people. In Bangalore, the HRLN has filed numerous public interest litigations against the State to access rights of various groups of people.

**Felix C. Morka** is the founder and Executive Director of the Social and Economic Rights Action Center (SERAC), a nongovernmental organization concerned with the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights in Nigeria. Under Mr. Morka's leadership, SERAC has gained wide recognition for its people-centered research, education, litigation, advocacy and mobilization on economic, social and cultural rights. Prior to earning his LL.M. degree from the Harvard Law School, Morka served as the Washington, D.C.-based International Human Rights Law Group's Legal Officer for Africa, and was the Legal Director of Nigeria's Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO). He has presented testimony before the United States Congress and meets regularly with policy makers to raise human rights concerns.

**Edmund Amarkwei Foley** obtained his LLB Degree from the University of Ghana, Legon in 2000 and LLM Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa from the University of Pretoria in 2004. He was an Associate in the law firm of Sam Okudzeto and Associates from 2002 to 2007 and was also the Project Manager for the Police Accountability Project of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Africa Regional Office based in Accra, Ghana. Since 2007, he has been working as a Legal Officer at the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) and is responsible for child rights.

**Vipin Bhatt** is a trained social worker and lawyer from India. His current position is Program Coordinator with the Indian NGO HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, where he also serves as an in-house lawyer, providing legal aid and manages the Child Protection Unit. In this position he has conducted numerous capacity building programmes with of law enforcement agencies on child protection issues. He has also acted as National Campaign Coordinator of the Campaign Against Child Trafficking (CACT) in India, a nationwide campaign against all forms of child trafficking.

Previous to his position with HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, he has worked for the national child rights NGO - Butterflies, working with street children and working children.

**Solomon Areda Waktolla** holds a bachelor's degree in Law from the Addis Ababa University and a LLM from the Amsterdam University on International Economic Law. Mr. Waktolla served as judge for 11 years in the Ethiopian High Courts, both regional and federal and currently serves in the Federal First Instance Court. He has served as a part-time lecturer in Universities. Currently he is the Vice-President of the Federal First Instance Court of Ethiopia. He is also responsible for coordinating various projects with NGOs and Government offices geared towards promoting child justice through child friendly courts, among others. He has also moderated workshops on the topic of child friendly justice systems.

**Renato Roseno** is a lawyer. He was coordinator of CEDECA Ceará (Centre for Defense of Children Rights in Ceará, Brazil, 2000-2006), coordinator of ANCED (National Association of Centers for Defense of Children Rights, Brazil, 2002-2004), local coordinator of PESTRAF (Research on Trafficking of Women and Children for sexual purposes, Ceará, 2001-2002) and member of CONANDA (National Council of Child Rights in Brazil, on behalf of ANCED, 2004-2006). He worked in the elaboration of Brazilian alternative report on the CRC in 2004 and 2008. Now, he is in charge of ANCED's project to strength the capacities of juridical protection of children rights by the centers for defense (CEDECAs) affiliated to ANCED in Brazil. Main issues of interests: justiciability of human rights, human rights monitoring processes, international system of human rights, public policies against sexual violence and measures against lethal violence of children. He develops a Master degree in Public Policies in UERJ (Rio de Janeiro State University).