

WUS100 – Global Conference on the Human Right to Quality Education

Speakers at the Conference

BENEDEK, Wolfgang

Prof. em. Dr. Wolfgang Benedek is the former director of the Institute of International Law and International Relations and of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC) of the University of Graz. He is lecturer at the Vienna Diplomatic Academy, University of Ljubljana and at the European Master Programmes on Human Rights and Democracy in Venice and Sarajevo. Benedek is OSCE rapporteur under the Moscow Mechanism on Chechnya (2018) and on Belarus (2019). He received Doctorates h.c. from Universities of Sarajevo and Pristina for leading the assistance to those universities during and after the war. He is also co-founder and long-time head of WUS Austria, presently chair of its supervisory board.

BERGAN, Sjur

Sjur Bergan is Head of the Council of Europe's Education Department and leads the current Council of Europe projects on [Competences for Democratic Culture](#) and the [European Qualifications Passport for Refugees](#). He has represented the Council of Europe in the Bologna Follow Up Group and Board since 2000 and chaired three successive working groups on structural reforms in 2007 - 15. Sjur was a member of the editorial group for the Council's White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue and a main author of the [Lisbon Recognition Convention](#) as well as of recommendations on the [public responsibility for higher education](#); [academic freedom and institutional autonomy](#); and [ensuring quality education](#). Sjur Bergan is series editor of the [Council of Europe Higher Education Series](#) and the author of *Qualifications: Introduction to a Concept* and *Not by Bread Alone* as well as of numerous book chapters and articles on education and higher education policy. Sjur was also one of the editors of the *Raabe Handbook on Leadership and Governance in Higher Education* (2009 – 15) and one of the session coordinators at the Bologna Process Researchers' Conferences in 2015, 2018 and 2020. He is the recipient of the [2019 European Association for International Education Award](#) for [Vision and Leadership](#).

BEZWAN, Naif

Dr Naif Bezwan, associated expert at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights, Department of Constitutional and Administrative Law at the University of Vienna. He has worked, conducted research, and taught

at diverse universities in Germany, Turkey, Austria, and the UK. Bezwan was a signatory to the Peace Petition, a public statement signed by 1128 in January 2016 academics, demanding the cessation of the war and the resumption of the peace process in Turkey. He was first suspended from his position due to a critical expert interview about the Turkish military incursion into Syria in August 2016 and then entirely dismissed from University through an emergency decree issued in September 2016.

Bezwan has published on politics, the political system and the modern history of Turkey, Kurdish politics, and the self-determination conflict in multiple languages. His areas of interest include Turkish foreign and domestic politics, Kurdish politics and the self-determination conflict, the Middle East, comparative migration and diaspora, political theory, and comparative politics.

BIELIAUSKAITĖ, Jolanta

Dr. Jolanta Bieliauskaitė is the head of the Academic Department of Social Sciences at the European Humanities University - Belarussian university in exile currently operating in Vilnius (Lithuania). Prior to that, she was an adviser for education issues at the Office of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and an associate professor at Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania). She is also a member of the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy, Central and Eastern European Network of Jurisprudence, and European Deans Council for Sustainable Development.

BURNS, Robin

Dr Robin Burns was the International Officer for WUS Australia in the late 1960s/early 1970s, and attended 6 WUS General Assemblies. In 1972 she was elected to the international executive committee. Robin participated in the 1966 workcamp in Burundi and the 1968 Juelsminde Seminar and in 1974 undertook an international survey of development education for WUS under contract to the FAO. Following time in the Australian Diplomatic Service, she held academic positions in Comparative Education, Public Health and Women's Studies.

BUSEK, Erhard

Dr. Erhard Busek (born 1941 in Vienna) was Minister of Science and Research, Minister of Education, Vice-Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Special Coordinator of the Austrian Government for EU Enlargement, Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, President of the European Forum

Alpbach, Rector of the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences and Chairman of the University Council of the Medical University of Vienna.

At the moment he is Chairman of the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe, Coordinator of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, President of the Austrian Economic Senate and Jean Monnet Professor ad personam.

CROSIER, David

David has been working for Eurydice, the European Union's education information network, since 2008. He leads the work on higher education. This includes the production of four Bologna Process Implementation Reports (2012, 2015, 2018 and 2020) which have informed discussions of the Ministerial Conferences as well as thematic reports and other information related to European priorities.

David was co-chair of the Task Force that was responsible for producing the [statement on academic freedom](#) that was adopted by the EHEA ministers at their meeting in Rome 2020. Before joining Eurydice, David worked for the European University Association and the Council of Europe.

DARMANIN, Martina

As President of the European Students' Union (ESU), Martina's role is to guide the organizations' policy development on the social dimension, its advocacy towards the BFUG, and its project coordination in relation to access to (higher) education and academic freedom. As a representative of ESU, Martina is also Vice President of the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL) and Board Member of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE). As a student and graduate in the field of Health Sciences, Martina joined the student movement through the Malta Health Students' Association (MHSA) that led her to represent students on the national level with the National Student Council in Malta (KSU).

DE VARNES, Fernand

Dr Fernand de Varnes is since 2017 the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues. As part of his mandate, he is the reference point on the protection of the human rights of national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. He is also Extraordinary Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Pretoria (South Africa), Adjunct Professor at the National University of Ireland-Galway (Ireland), and Cheng Yu Tung Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong (China). He is renowned as one of the world's leading experts on the international human rights of minorities.

He completed his law degrees in Canada (LLB, Moncton), the United Kingdom (LLM, London School of Economics and Political Science), and the Netherlands (Doctorate in Law, Maastricht).

Dr de Varennes' research and publications record spans over 200 publications in more than 30 languages. In recognition of his work and achievements in the field of human rights and the protection of minorities, he has received accolades from Africa, Asia, and Europe, including the 2021 Prize of the Federalist Union of European Nationalities, the 2004 Linguapax Award (Barcelona, Spain), the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, and the Tip O'Neill Peace Fellowship (Northern Ireland, UK).

EATON, Chris

Chris Eaton is the Executive Director of World University Service of Canada (WUSC). With a diverse background in international development, Chris has worked extensively in Canada, Eastern and Southern Africa and South and Central Asia on governance, education, and economic development issues.

Prior to joining WUSC, Chris Eaton was Chief Executive Officer of Aga Khan Foundation Afghanistan from 2005 to 2009. Eaton holds a bachelor's degree in International Development and a master's degree in Political Science, both from the University of Toronto. Eaton was appointed Executive Director of WUSC in 2009, coming full circle after volunteering in Lesotho in the late 1980s.

EGBE, Daniel Ayuk Mbi

Professor Daniel Ayuk Mbi Egbe is of Cameroonian origin. He obtained a BSc in Physics and Chemistry at the University of Yaounde, Cameroon, before moving to Jena, Germany, in 1992, where he did a habilitation in Chemistry in 2006 at the Friedrich-Schiller University Jena. Since 2009 he is based scientifically at the Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria. He is a member of WUS Germany since 1994 and board member of the same for more than 20 years. Contact: daniel.egbe@ansole.org.

FERNANDO, Laksiri

Laksiri Fernando served as Associate Secretary for Asia/Pacific, WUS International between 1984 and 1991. He was a Senior Lecturer in Political Science in Sri Lanka before. After WUSI, he has served as Executive Director, Diplomacy Training Program (DTP), University of New South Wales, Australia, among other academic positions. He returned to Sri Lanka in 1997 and served as Professor in Political Science and Public Policy until retirement in 2010. He now lives in Australia on

retirement. He has a BA (Economics, Ceylon), MA (Political Science, Canada) and PhD (Human Rights, Sydney).

FREMUTH, Michael Lysander

Michael Lysander Fremuth is professor for Fundamental and Human Rights at the Institute of Constitutional and Administrative Law, University of Vienna, as well as Scientific Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights (since 2019); Scientific Director of the Human Rights Master program of the University of Vienna (since 2021). Habilitation (2017), PhD (2009). He is interim Professor at the Universities in Trier, Freiburg, Berlin and Bayreuth and Visiting Researcher in the United States, Russian Federation, Turkey and South Africa.

GHAWAMI, Kambiz

Dr. Kambiz Ghawami studied business administration and then received his doctorate in law. Since 1981 he is a board member of WUS Germany and since 1983 chairperson of the German Committee of WUS. He has published numerous works on global learning, foreign students and development policy.

He is a member of, among others, the University Council of the Vietnamese-German University (VGU), the Board of Trustees of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the University Section of the National Platform on Education for Sustainable Development of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Contact: ghawami@wusgermany.de

HICKS, Peggy

Since January 2016, Peggy Hicks has served as director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division of the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR). She provides strategic direction to the UN Human Rights Office's work on a broad range of pressing human rights issues, including human rights in the digital age, and expanding civic space. From 2005 to 2015, she was global advocacy director at Human Rights Watch, where she was responsible for managing Human Rights Watch's advocacy team and providing direction to its advocacy worldwide.

Ms. Hicks previously served as the director of the Office of Returns and Communities in the UN mission in Kosovo and as Deputy High Representative for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She has also worked as the Director of Programs for the International Human Rights Law Group, and as clinical professor of human rights and refugee law at the University of Minnesota Law School. Ms. Hicks is a graduate of Columbia Law School and the University of Michigan.

JANKOVIC, Patrizia

Patrizia Jankovic was born in Vienna and is a graduate from the University of Vienna (Humanities). After working at the Austrian Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium, she was a public relations officer and project manager for educational courses, language projects and projects in the field of adult education at the SOCRATES National Agency in Vienna. In 2005 she started to work at the Federal Ministry of Education and was in charge of adult education, National Qualifications Framework and Lifelong Learning Policies. In 2014 she was promoted to head of unit for Human Resources – international at the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and was programme delegate to the H2020 Committee in charge of the European Research Council, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and Future Emerging Technologies. Currently she is Secretary-General of the Austrian National Commission for UNESCO.

KERNEGGER, Bernhard

Bernhard Kernegger has been working at the University of Applied Arts Vienna since 2005, in different functions. From 2019 on he acts as the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and Development. He is a co-founder of the Austrian UniNEtZ project, an endeavour of most Austrian universities that is dedicated to translating the UN Agenda 2030 into research based, action-oriented options, in order to contribute to the necessary transformation of our society.

KINZELBACH, Katrin

Prof. Dr. Katrin Kinzelbach teaches the international politics of human rights at Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) and co-directs FAU's MA Human Rights. She engages on academic freedom in various functions, for example by serving on the selection committee of the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, on the advisory board of the Academy in Exile and on the Academic Freedom Committee of the International Studies Association. She also initiated the Academic Freedom Index in a collaborative effort with colleagues at the V-Dem Institute/ University of Gothenburg, the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) and the Scholars at Risk Network. Before joining FAU in September 2019, Prof. Dr. Kinzelbach was associate director of GPPi and taught as a visiting professor at the Central European University in Budapest, heading a practice-oriented human rights clinic for several years. From 2007-2010, she worked as a research associate at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights in Vienna. Outside of think tanks and academia, Professor Kinzelbach has also worked for the United

Nations Development Programme, serving at various duty stations around the world between 2001 and 2007.

KÓCZÉ, Angéla

Angéla Kóczé is sociologist, Chair of Romani Studies, and Academic Director of the Roma Graduate Preparation Program at Central European University in Budapest and Vienna. In 2013, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, honoured Kóczé with the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award for her interdisciplinary research approach, which combines community engagement and policymaking with in-depth participatory research about the Roma.

KOHLBERGER, Judith

Judith Kohlenberger is a post-doctoral researcher working and teaching on forced migration. Her research focuses on health, education and gender in refugee integration and has been published in international journals such *PLOS One*, *Refugee Survey Quarterly* and *Health Policy*. In 2015, she was a contributor to the “Displaced Persons in Austria Survey” (DiPAS), one of the first European studies on the human capital of refugees, which was awarded the Kurt-Rothschild-Prize. Judith regularly publishes in the Austrian weekly *Falter* and serves on the board of the *Diskus – Das Wissenschaftsnetzwerk*, the Schumpeter Society Vienna and *migrant.at*. Her book *Wir* on pluralism in the (post-)migration society was published in February 2021 with Kremayr & Scheriau.

KOVAČEVIĆ, Almir

Almir Adi Kovačević has more than 22 years of expertise in Education Management with focus on policy analysis, strategy development, legal reform and quality assurance and management in education. Furthermore, he has extensive experience in development of NQF (occupational standards, qualifications, competency-based curricula including labor market needs assessment), and technology and knowledge transfer between Education and private sector. He is familiar with state-of-the-art methods and techniques related to change management, organizational development, and institutional and capacity building. He studied in Sarajevo and Graz and took part in trainings at more than 30 Universities in Europe, USA, Austria, and Asia. He is Executive Director at WUS Austria (Graz, Austria) and Team Leader of the Education for Employment Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina which is funded by the European Union.

LANGTHALER, Margarita

Dr. Margarita Langthaler is a Senior Researcher with the Austrian Foundation for Development Research (ÖFSE). Her work focuses on global education policies and education policies in developing countries, education strategies in development cooperation and technical and vocational education and training in developmental contexts.

MATEI, Liviu

Liviu Matei is Provost of Central European University and a Professor of Higher Education Policy. He taught at universities in Europe and the U.S., consulted extensively and conducted applied policy research projects for the World Bank, UNESCO, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and other international organizations, national authorities and universities from Europe and Asia. He is the founder of the Global Observatory on Academic Freedom.

NAGAVCI, Arbërie

Ms. Nagavci began her professional career as a primary school teacher of Albanian Language and Literature. Subsequently, Ms. Nagavci served as a school principal in the same school where she taught, and as Director of the Municipal Department of Education in Kosovo's capital Pristina. In addition, Ms. Nagavci is a certified trainer in educational leadership, human and children's rights and interculturalization, and she has served as chief facilitator in many programs at home and abroad.

In her political career, Ms. Nagavci has served as a member of the Kosovo Assembly for two terms, during which time she was also a member of the Education Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee. In 2020, Ms. Nagavci was nominated and voted the first Deputy Chairwoman of the Kosovo Assembly. Ms. Nagavci assumed her current role as the Minister of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation of Kosovo in March 2021.

NIES, Wolfgang

Wolfgang Nies joined WUS in 1960 when a student in Heidelberg as a staff member of the local committee there. At the General Assembly in Heidelberg in 1961 he was elected to the Executive Board of the German Committee of WUS, where he served until the General Assembly in Hamburg in 1964. He then moved to the main committee, which at that time was to deal with longer-term aspects of the work and tasks of WUS. Also, during his professional activity as a banker (Deutsche Bank AG, Helaba Luxembourg and Helaba Dublin as Managing Director), he

remained connected to WUS as a personal member and took over the task of the internal cash audit of the association for some time.

NITSCHKE, Veronika

Veronika Nitsche has been working for WUS Austria since 2001. The key qualifications of Veronika Nitsche are international project management, organizational development and fundraising and she has a profound knowledge of trends and developments in higher education. Consequently, her main tasks are the development and implementation of projects in the field of higher education in South-Eastern Europe. Additionally, through her long experience in the non-profit-sector, she contributes as a member of the Executive Board to the strategic objectives of the organization. Veronika Nitsche earned a degree in "International Project Management" and the MBA in General Management from the University of Graz.

NOWAK, Manfred

Manfred Nowak is Professor of Human Rights in Vienna and Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice. He was member of the Board of WUS Austria and WUS International (1988-1998).

OBERLEITNER, Gerd

Gerd Oberleitner is UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security and Director of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz. He worked in the Office of the Legal Advisor of the Austrian Foreign Ministry and was Lecturer at LSE's Centre for the Study of Human Rights.

PHILLIPS, Alan

Dr. Alan Phillips was the General Secretary of WUS UK (1973-81) developing major refugee scholarship programmes for refugees in the UK and for black students in Zimbabwe. He became Deputy Director of the new British Refugee Council in 1982 and then Director of Minority Rights Group International in 1989. He was appointed the UK expert to the COE on national minorities in 1998 and was elected President of the treaty monitoring body on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities from 2006-10. He then worked in the Balkans- primarily with Roma- until his retirement in 2015.

PICHL, Elmar

Elmar Pichl, was born in Styria in 1973. After occupations at the University of Graz and for World University Service Austria in Tetovo (FYROM) / Prishtina (Kosova), in 2000 he began to work in Vienna in the headquarter of the Austrian People's Party (last: Political Director).

In 2007 he became Chief of Cabinet and served for two Federal Ministers for Science and Research. Between 2010 and 2013 he held the position of a Deputy Director General of the DG Higher Education. In August 2013 he has been appointed as Director General of the mentioned DG.

Since 2010 he is Chairman of the Board of the Austrian Agency for International Mobility and Cooperation in Education, Science and Research (OeAD GmbH). He is active in boards and committees of others scientific resp. educational institutions and regularly publishes in his fields of competences, i.a. in the ambit of Higher Education Management, Law and Governance. Contact: elmar.pichl@bmbwf.gv.at

QUINN, Robert

Robert Quinn is a human rights advocate, lecturer, lawyer and executive director of Scholars at Risk (SAR). SAR is an international network of more than 500 higher education institutions and thousands of individuals in 40 countries dedicated to protecting at-risk scholars, promoting academic freedom and defending everyone's freedom to think, question and share ideas.

Mr. Quinn is the author of, among others, *The Fight to Protect--and Define--Academic Freedom*, in *Academe*, the magazine of the AAUP, October 2019; *Free speech is not enough*, in AAC&U, Diversity & Democracy, summer 2017; and *V.E.R.I.T.A.S.*, opening remarks at the Scholars at Risk 2018 Global Congress. He is a co-editor on *Free to Think*, SAR's annual report on attacks on universities worldwide (forthcoming, November 2021), and co-lead instructor on SAR's free online course *Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters*. Mr. Quinn received an A.B. cum laude from Princeton University, a J.D. cum laude from Fordham University, and an honorary doctorate from Illinois Wesleyan University. In 2012, Mr. Quinn and Scholars at Risk received the University of Oslo's human rights award, the Lisl and Leo Eitingger Prize, for "relentless work to protect the human rights of academics and for having inspired and engaged others to stress the importance of academic freedom."

REMIDDI, Adriano

Adriano Remiddi (Global Campus of Human Rights), is a professional in the field of development cooperation for higher education, committed to furthering democracy

and human rights education in post-conflict, developing and transitional societies. He holds a diversified experience characterized by a merger of a classic academic profile with a managerial one, gained over 10 years of both academic and work experience in Southeast Europe, and most recently in the Asia-Pacific.

RIALLANT, Cécile

Cécile Riallant is a senior migration, displacement and development expert with 23 years of experience. Currently based in Geneva, she is leading the work of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on migration and sustainable development as Head of Unit and Team Leader for IOM's dedicated institutional strategy. Previously, she was seconded to UNDP to manage the UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI), the largest global UN programme on migration and development involving seven agencies. She is also leading IOM's work to support governments and UN Country Teams with the Global Compact on Migration implementation in the context of the UN Network on Migration.

She joined the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2000, after three years working as a researcher. She has managed for IOM numerous programmes and projects in the field of migration and displacement with geographical scope in the Great Lakes (Africa), Afghanistan, the Balkans and Europe. She was also Deputy Chief of Mission of the IOM Mission in Indonesia, working to support populations internally displaced by the 2004 tsunami and the conflict in North Sumatra.

Ms. Riallant is a founding member of the Mayoral Forum now integrated in the GFMD. She also led the development of IOM's flagship publication, Migration and the 2030 Agenda, and was a contributor to the 2015 World Migration Report on Migrants and Cities and the OECD report Perspectives on Global development 2017. She is a member of the Editorial Board of Migration Policy Practice. She holds a Bachelor degree in Political Science from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Science Po), a Master of Science in European Studies from the University of Strasbourg and a Master of Science in Social Policies from the London School of Economics.

RITCHIE, Cyril

Cyril Ritchie is President of the Union of International Associations (2017-2023). He was President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) from 2011-2018 and is currently First Vice President of CoNGO (2018-2021). Ritchie's other roles in international Civil Society have

included Associate Secretary, World University Service; Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies; Director, International Schools Association; President of the World Civil Society Conference; President of the International Civil Society Forum for Democracy; Chair, World Child Strategy, NGO Committee on UNICEF; and President, Expert Council on NGO Law, Council of Europe. Ritchie has been for six years a Visiting Professor at Kyung Hee University, Seoul.

SACCO, Annalaura

Annalaura brings 20 years of experience on humanitarian and development issues in the Middle-East, Europe, Africa, with extensive expertise on refugee protection and solutions, strategic vision and planning for new opportunities through multi-stakeholders' coordination. In her current role as the regional protection coordinator for the UNHCR Middle East and North Africa Bureau, Annalaura provides protection and solutions' guidance, support and oversight to UNHCR country teams located in over 19 country operations across the MENA region. Her work serves asylum-seekers, refugees, internally displaced, stateless people and other persons of concern in close coordination with governments, UN agencies, civil society, humanitarian and development actors, communities of concern, including the hosts, and through area-based interventions.

SCHMIDT, Bettina

Dr. Bettina Schmidt is a cultural anthropologist, project manager and lecturer for international programmes on development issues, human resource development and diversity management. She trained as a nurse, studied cultural anthropology and African Studies at the University of Mainz and Zimbabwe, holds a PhD from the University of Nijmegen, Netherlands, and holds a diploma in business management (Johannesburg). Her book, *Creating order: culture as politics in 19th and 20th century South Africa* was published 1996 by the University of Nijmegen. From 1991 to 1997 she was visiting research fellow at the University of Zimbabwe and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, was lecturer and researcher at the University of Mainz as well as consultant and project coordinator in adult education. Since 2012 she is a board-member of WUS Germany and volunteers in various of its activities. She is retired and works as external expert for the Africa section of the ethnological Lindenmuseum in Stuttgart focussing on colonialism and restitution, and volunteers with WUS Germany. She published widely on the colonial and post-colonial period in Southern Africa. Contact: dr.bettina.schmidt@t-online.de

SCHNITZLER, Tobias

Tobias Schnitzler joined WUS Austria as a project coordinator in March 2021. He is responsible for strategic coordination, project development and project management. Tobias has more than ten years of work experience as a project manager, consultant, and technical expert in the areas of environmental education, change management, results-based management, and inter-agency cooperation. Tobias has previously worked with the United Nations (UNESCO, RAUN) and different non-governmental organizations and cooperated with a wide range of stakeholders (national and EU authorities, educational organizations, quasi-international organizations, etc.).

Tobias holds a Doctoral Degree in Social and Economic Sciences from the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU). His research focuses on collaborative learning and aims to investigate success factors of transformative learning for sustainable development in organizations.

SPANNAGEL, Janika

Janika Spannagel is a research fellow at the Global Public Policy Institute, where she co-developed the Academic Freedom Index, a new methodology to assess academic freedom across the world. The systematization of data on international human rights topics is one of her key research interests, which she also explored as part of her PhD thesis on the international protection of human rights defenders. In this and other contexts, she has collaborated with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. She studied political science in a joint program between the University of Freiburg and Sciences Po Aix.

TALKERS, Alison

Alison Talkers is a Programme Analyst on Migration and Sustainable Development based in the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Regional Office in Brussels. Alison is currently working on a global programme funded by the European Union that is focused on mainstreaming migration into international cooperation and development. Together with other UN partners, Alison is supporting the creation of operational guidance and tools to support development practitioners integrate migration within education interventions.

TRIGGS, Gillian

Gillian Triggs is a UN Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant High Commissioner for Protection with UNHCR, taking up her appointment in September 2019. She is

a public international lawyer who has held a number of appointments in service to human rights and the refugee cause, including as President of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Gillian oversees UNHCR's protection work in support of millions of refugees, asylum-seekers, those who have been forcibly displaced within their own country and stateless.

A dual national of Britain and Australia, Gillian has held a number of leadership roles, including as Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in London, President of the Asian Development Bank Administrative Tribunal, Chair of the UN Independent Expert Panel of Inquiry into Abuse of Office and Harassment in UNAIDS, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Challis Professor (Emerita) of International Law at the University of Sydney, and Professorial Fellow of the University of Melbourne.

Gillian has supported many not-for-profit groups, including most recently as Chair of Justice Connect, which connects 10,000 lawyers to provide pro bono advice to asylum-seekers and others needing legal support. She is also the author of many books and papers on international law, including 'International Law: Contemporary Principles and Practice, (2nd ed. 2011) and Speaking Up (2018).


In July 2021 Gillian was awarded a Ruth Bader Ginsberg Inaugural Medal of Honour in recognition of her fight for the rule of law and gender equality.

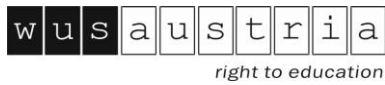
WINTERSTEINER, Werner

Professor (ret.) Werner Wintersteiner, Ph.D., was the founding director of the "Centre for Peace Research and Peace Education" at Klagenfurt University, Austria. Research fields: peace and global citizenship education, culture and peace, the Alps-Adriatic region, literature and peace, literature education. Last Book: "Die Welt neu denken lernen – Plädoyer für eine planetare Politik" (transcript 2021). [Learning to rethink the world – a plea for planetary politics.]

WULFF, Klavs

More than 50 years' experience in International Cooperation. Among other posts: Head of Danish WUS and member of International WUS Excom 1970/76; General Secretary, International WUS 1980/84; Regional Director (Central America) for Ibis Denmark former WUS 2004/11.

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ZADIĆ, Alma

Dr. Alma Zadić, LL.M. is Federal Minister of Justice of the Republic of Austria. Previously, she worked as a member of the Austrian National Council and as a lawyer in Vienna. She completed her doctoral studies in law at the University of Vienna and a postgraduate degree (LL.M.) at Columbia University in New York, USA. In her professional and academic positions, women empowerment has always been a matter of great importance to her.