

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



PANEL EVENT

4 February 2019

13:00 – 14:30

Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Access to justice for children is a right in itself, but also a concrete pathway to uphold and fulfil all of the rights that are assured under international law to each and every child around the world. The Convention on the Rights of the Child codifies a wide range of rights for which rule of law and access justice are key. More broadly, the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015, highlight the importance of ensuring 'equal access to justice for all' (Goal 16.3).

Organised during the 80th Pre-Sessional Working Group of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and in anticipation of the 40th Session of the Human Rights Council, this special event will highlight achievements in advancing young people's rights by investing in rule of law and access to justice programmes, as well as continuing challenges.

The event is co-organised by the Rule of Law Core Group of the United Nations Human Rights Council – Ethiopia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco and the United Kingdom - and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO).

Moderator:

Ms. Mona Rishmawi, Chief of the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Panellists:

- Ms. Diahann Gordon Harrison, Children's Advocate of Jamaica and National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons;
- Hon. Dunstan Mlambo, Judge President, Gauteng Division, High Court of South Africa;
- Ms. Aijan Muktar, Swiss Youth Delegate to the United Nations; and
- Ms. Mikiko Otani, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The moderator and panellists will engage in interactive discussion with time for audience participation.

For those who do not have a badge to enter the Palais des Nations, the link to register is as follows: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/27818/> - click the blue button "register now" and follow the instructions on the page.

#JusticeforChildren | #ChampionsofJustice | #HRC40

BIOGRAPHIES

Mona Rishmawi - Chief of the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Moderator)



Ms. Mona Rishmawi is the Chief of the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Her UN experience include serving as the Executive Director of the UN International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur in 2004-2005, resulting in the first referral of a situation by the Security Council to the ICC. She was also the UN Independent Expert on Human Rights in Somalia from 1996 to 2000. Before joining the UN, she was for nine years the Director of the Geneva-based Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers of the International Commission of Jurists. Earlier, she was the director of al Haq, the first Palestinian human rights organization and practiced law in the West Bank until 1991.

Diahann Gordon Harrison - Children's Advocate of Jamaica & National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons



Ms. Diahann Gordon Harrison is the Children's Advocate of Jamaica. Appointed in 2012, she is charged with safeguarding and advancing the best interests and the rights of all children in Jamaica; reviewing policies and laws that may impact upon children and making recommendations to Parliament and Ministers of Government. Since 2015, she has also served as National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons. Ms. Gordon Harrison began her career as a public prosecutor. She is also a Director of the National Parenting Support Commission and an external reviewer for the British Council in Jamaica.

Dunstan Mlambo - Judge President, High Court of South Africa, Gauteng Division



The Honorable Justice Mlambo served as Judge President of the Labour and Labour Appeal Courts from 2010 until his appointment as Judge President of the Gauteng Division of the High Court of South Africa in 2012. Since 2002, he has served as Chairperson of Legal Aid South Africa. Justice Mlambo has over three decades of experience as a lawyer and judge in South Africa. He has chaired intergovernmental expert groups in the areas of standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners and strengthening access to legal aid in criminal justice systems.

Aijan Muktar - Swiss Youth Delegate to the United Nations



Ms. Aijan Muktar, a 20 year old law student at the University of Geneva, is a Swiss Youth Delegate to the UN. She developed an interest in international politics from a young age and has rich experience in multicultural environments. Ms. Muktar is a volunteer with the Geneva Red Cross Youth, a member of the Geneva Youth Parliament, where she chaired the integration commission for young migrants, and is also a volunteer with the European Youth Parliament. As a youth representative, Ms. Muktar would like to promote the Sustainable Development Goals to young people in Switzerland and promote youth's awareness on the impact that they can have in international decision-making.

Mikiko Otani - Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child



Ms. Mikiko Otani is Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, Council Member of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists and former Chair of the Committee on International Human Rights of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations. She is also the country representative of Japan for the Family Law and Family Rights Section of The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific and served as a Regional Council member of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development.