

## Notes on contributors

**Olivia Ball** was a psychologist working with refugees in her hometown of Melbourne prior to completing the MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights in 2002. She also worked as a teaching assistant on the programme in 2002. During her MA student placement at the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, she wrote *Every Morning, Just like Coffee: Torture in Cameroon* (2002), a report described by Africanist Milton Krieger as ‘crucial on the Cameroon human rights front’. In 2006, she co-authored *The No-Nonsense Guide to Human Rights* (New Internationalist Publications 2006) with Institute of Commonwealth Studies then senior lecturer Paul Gready, which was described by the *Law Institute Journal* as ‘by far the best condensed summation of the modern human rights movement anywhere’. In 2013, she completed a PhD in human rights at Monash Law School and in 2014 she co-founded Remedy Australia.

**José-Manuel Barreto** graduated from the MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights in 2000. He is currently based at the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, Frankfurt. Most recently he was a fellow at the Käte Hamburger Center for Advanced Study in the Humanities ‘Law as Culture’, University of Bonn. He works on the epistemological decolonisation of human rights and international law, and explores their history and theory in the context of modern imperialism. His research also addresses questions about art, the ‘turn to emotions’ and the human rights culture, and about how to defend human rights telling stories. He edited *Human Rights from a Third World Perspective: Critique, History and International Law* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing 2013). He has been a visiting lecturer at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogota, and a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Goldsmiths, University of London and at the Humboldt University of Berlin. He has also eight years of experience as a human rights lawyer in Colombia. He studied philosophy and law at the National University and the Externado University of Colombia, respectively. After finishing the MA at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, he obtained a PhD in law from Birkbeck, University of London.

**Bridget Burrows** is currently ActionAid international campaigner on tax justice. ActionAid’s Tax Power campaign is working in 20 countries across the world. ActionAid is part of the Global Alliance for Tax Justice. Bridget

previously worked at Amnesty International as the Africa Regional Campaigner on Slums, working with residents of informal settlements in six African countries to defend their housing rights, and specialises in international social and economic justice campaigning. She worked in Nairobi, Kenya for five years, and graduated with an MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights in 2003, with a dissertation on economic and social rights in Uganda.

**David James Cantor** is director and founder of the Refugee Law Initiative and a reader in human rights law at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London. He is an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Future Research Leader and editor-in-chief of the International Refugee Law book series published by Martinus Nijhoff. David worked as a Legal Officer for the Refugee Legal Centre and also with UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He has undertaken extensive fieldwork in Colombia, where his work has influenced law and policy, as well as in other countries in the Andean region, Central America, Southern Cone and Mexico. He has trained governments from across the globe, participated in UNHCR expert meetings and runs a new distance-learning MA in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies at the University of London.

**Sumi Dhanarajan** is an international development practitioner specialising in the impacts of the private sector upon poverty and human rights. Currently undertaking a PhD in law at the National University of Singapore (NUS), she has previously served as a researcher at the Centre on Asia and Globalisation at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at NUS, senior policy advisor on the private sector at Oxfam GB, a senior legal advisor to the Hong Kong Democratic Party's Secretariat for Legislative Councillors and as Human Rights Officer to the Malaysian Bar Council. She is a Trustee of the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre. Sumi holds an LLB from Durham University, an MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (1997/98) and an LLM from the National University of Singapore. She was called to the Bar in 1998.

**Par Engstrom** is lecturer in human rights at the Institute of the Americas, University College London. He worked previously at the Human Rights Consortium (HRC) at the School of Advanced Study, University of London, from the creation of the HRC in 2009 until 2012, where he also taught on the MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights. He is currently leading a major research project on the impact of the Inter-American Human Rights System. His other research interests include torture prevention, transitional justice, and the International Relations of the Americas. Prior to entering academia he worked at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Paul Gready** is the director of the Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York, and co-editor of the *Journal of Human Rights Practice*. Prior to moving to York he convened the MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London. His research interests include transitional justice, development and human rights, and culture/the arts and human rights. Paul is currently lead researcher on two multi-year grants: 'Transformative Justice in Egypt and Tunisia' (ESRC); and the 'Transitional Justice Barometer in Tunisia' (NWO).

**Farid Hamdan** started his career with Amnesty International in Palestine from 1995 to 2002. After obtaining his MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights in 2002–3, he worked with the Palestine Central Election Commission as a Coordinator for one of the election districts from 2003–4. He later moved to work as a Civil Society Specialist at Care International, West Bank & Gaza. In 2005, he worked as a Legal Coordinator and Outreach Specialist in ARKAN for a Rule of Law Project between Chemonics International and Massar Associates. In 2006, he joined the UN mission in Sudan as a human rights officer and served in the Darfur region. In 2010, he joined the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional Training Centre in Qatar and is currently leading the Technical Cooperation Project for Saudi Arabia.

**Sally Holt** is a senior research fellow at the University of East London's Centre on Human Rights in Conflict specialising in minority rights and the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups. Her recent research and publications have focused on the management of cultural diversity and conflict prevention and on the participation of women in conflict-affected contexts. From 2000–4 she was legal officer at the office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and was contracted in 2010 as consultant in developing the HCNM *Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies*. As an adviser to the Initiative on Quiet Diplomacy (2008–12) she oversaw the development of a 'toolkit' of conflict prevention resources for policy-makers and practitioners. She has also managed a research programme for the Aga Khan Foundation (UK) on the social inclusion of Muslim populations in Europe (2007–8), and carried out policy-oriented research on peacebuilding and security challenges at Bradford University (2004–7). She regularly undertakes consultancies for NGOs and IGOs including the UN, European Commission and OSCE. She was awarded her MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights (with distinction) in 1998.

**Catherine Klirodotakou** graduated from the MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights in 2006 and has worked in the field of human rights and international development since. Her specific areas of expertise are in securing women's human rights and gender equality in sub-Saharan Africa and

Latin America. Currently she works at Womankind Worldwide, supporting programmes and partnerships with women's rights organisations in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Peru and Bolivia, to help build a strong and vibrant women's movement and deliver gender transformative programming in women, peace and security, reducing violence against women and increasing women's civil and political participation. She is also a trustee and treasurer of the UK Gender and Development Network. Prior to Womankind, Catherine worked at ChildHope UK and in education.

**Corinne Lennox** is senior lecturer in human rights in the Institute of Commonwealth Studies and associate director of the Human Rights Consortium at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. Her research focuses on issues of minority and indigenous rights protection, civil society mobilisation for human rights and on human rights and development. She has worked for many years as a human rights practitioner with various NGOs, including at Minority Rights Group International, and has been a consultant on minority rights for the UNDP, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues. She is co-editor of the *Handbook of Indigenous Peoples' Rights* (Routledge 2015) and co-editor of *Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity in the Commonwealth: Struggles for Decriminalisation and Change* (Institute of Commonwealth Studies/Human Rights Consortium 2013).

**James Manor** established the MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights when he was director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies during the mid-1990s. He has also taught at Yale, Harvard and Leicester Universities and at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex. He is now Emeka Anyaoku professor emeritus in the Institute of Commonwealth Studies where he coordinates a major international research programme on recently intensified efforts to tackle poverty and inequality in Brazil, India, China and South Africa.

**Gaia Marcus** graduated from the MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights in 2010. She manages Centrepoint's Youth Homelessness Databank, which aims to provide the youth homelessness sector with sustainable ways of measuring its scale, impact and outcomes. In her previous role as senior researcher at the Royal Society for Arts (RSA), Gaia led research for the Connected Communities programme and the organisation's social network analysis. Gaia's work examined the role of social networks in building resilient, empowered communities in promoting mental wellbeing and in building human capabilities in everything from education to social entrepreneurship. Gaia has experience with community-based practice and research ranging from the meaning of torture in Chile, to working on social innovation with

the UnMonastery project in Matera, Italy, one of the world's oldest cities. She cycles for fun, and sings because she needs to.

**Esther Ojulari** is a PhD student within the interdisciplinary programme on human rights at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London. Her research is an analysis of the social construction of group rights for Afro-descendant people in Colombia. Esther has an MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights (2010) in which she focused on Afro-descendant children's rights and an undergraduate degree in sociology focused on race, ethnicity and multiculturalism. Esther has worked previously for ChildHope UK and for several years as a consultant for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the area of human rights for people of African descent.

**M. Siraj Sait** is professor of law and director of the Centre for Islamic Finance, Law and Communities at University of East London (UEL). A graduate of Universities of Madras and Harvard, he was a Chevening scholar at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies in 1997–9. He is a well-known human rights lawyer with a background as a government official and Human Rights Prosecutor in India. His development expertise includes land and housing policies, refugee and post-conflict studies, gender equality and rights in the Muslim world. An ex UN-Habitat official, he helped set up the Global Land Tool Network and has been consultant to UNHCR, UNICEF and FAO. His recent work includes drafting laws for Somalia, head of evaluation of UN projects in Iraq and the UN Advisory Group on Gender Issues. His research and impact study was highly rated in the UK Research Excellence Framework exercise 2014.

**Smita Shah** is a senior teaching fellow with the Centre for Access to Justice at University College London (UCL) Faculty of Laws. She is a barrister at the Bar of England and Wales and for over 10 years practised in the areas of family law, international human rights and international humanitarian law. Her specialism in practice was representing legally aided vulnerable clients in child protection and domestic violence cases. Her international work has a focus on child rights and women's rights; she has been an invited member of UNICEF UK research advisory board and undertaken child protection capacity building for UNICEF Nigeria. She has carried out rule of law projects in Palestine and Myanmar and undertaken workshops in Algeria and Turkey on women's rights. She is the co-founder of the Freedom of Expression Student Law Clinic. She graduated from the MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights in 2001 and has an LLM in International and Comparative Law from Columbia University.

**Damien Short** is director of the Human Rights Consortium (HRC) and a reader in human rights at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study. He has researched and published extensively in the areas of indigenous peoples' rights, genocide studies, reconciliation projects and environmental human rights. He is currently researching the human rights impacts of extreme energy processes (e.g Tar Sands and Fracking – see the designated HRC website <http://extremeenergy.org>). He is a regular academic contributor to the United Nation's 'Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' and an academic consultant for the 'Ethical Trade Task Force' of the Soil Association. He is also assistant editor of the *International Journal of Human Rights* and convenor of the British Sociological Association's Sociology of Rights Study Group and an active member of the International Network of Genocide Scholars.

**James Souter** is a post-doctoral research fellow in the School of Politics and International Studies at the University of Leeds, where he is contributing to a project entitled 'The Responsibility to Protect in the Context of the Continuing "War on Terror": A Study of Liberal Interventionism and the Syrian Crisis', funded by Research Councils UK (grant number ES/L013355/1). Since graduating from the MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights in 2009, James has interned and worked for the Immigration Advisory Service in London and Bristol, and completed an MSc and a DPhil at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford. He has published articles in *Political Studies*, the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, and (with Jason Ralph) *International Affairs*. James defended his thesis, entitled 'Asylum as Reparation', in 2014.

**Laila Sumpton** graduated from the MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights in 2012, and currently divides her time between working as a youth engagement officer at international children's charity Plan UK and as a freelance poet. Laila is working on her first collection and regularly performs her poetry on human rights themes, with a particular focus on conflict and refugee rights. She co-edited the Human Rights Consortium's anthology *In Protest: 150 poems for Human Rights* (Human Rights Consortium 2013) and delivers poetry workshops at universities, schools, hospitals, museums and charities. She is a trustee of Bosnian youth arts NGO Most Mira along with fellow MA alumna Sue MacMillan and is a member of the Keats House Poets.

**Tanja Venisnik** is a qualified lawyer and human rights specialist with over 10 years of professional experience in both the private sector and the international public sector. Her career as a lawyer includes a rich variety of experiences, ranging from representing corporate clients in intellectual property cases to practicing EU law at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. After shifting her career towards human rights, Tanja became involved in human rights research, advocacy and training, focused on minority and indigenous

peoples' rights. She conducted human rights training for Rakhine migrant students in Mae Sot, Thailand, and later moved to the Philippines to work as a Human Rights and Accountability Advisor for an NGO responding to the devastating effects of Typhoon Haiyan. Tanja currently works for EarthRights International as a Mekong legal coordinator, focusing on the development and implementation of legal strategies in human rights and environmental advocacy. She is especially interested in issues surrounding the right to information and public participation in connection to large-scale development projects. Tanja holds an MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights (2013).

**Divine Waiti** is Legal Counsel for the Parliament of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. He graduated from the MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights in 2005, where he was a Chevening Scholar from the Solomon Islands, the country of his birth. The Marshall Islands is a small island state located at the center of the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and Australia. Since graduating from the MA, he has worked in various legal fields including in-house legal counsel for governments, as a public defender representing people in court, and now parliamentary counsel. In his role as the Parliamentary Counsel for the Marshall Islands, he has drafted laws relating to human rights, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He also responds to government consultations and parliamentary inquiries, undertaking drafting and review of policies and laws relating to the human rights treaties.