

Education and academic and other qualifications

Spring 1994: Advanced International Program in Conflict Resolution, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden

Autumn 1993: Honorary Visiting Research Fellow in Baltic Studies, Department of European Studies, University of Bradford, UK

1983-1988: M.Phil. English language, English and American literature, English language, University of Latvia, Riga

Professional activities

(a) Present positions

February 2011 to date, Director of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights (LCHR)

Work field: human rights in places of detention, human rights and law enforcement bodies, freedoms, minority rights, citizenship, asylum seekers, refugees, irregular migrants, prevention of discrimination, hate crimes/hate speech and intolerance, supervising a staff of eight.

Monitors developments in fundamental rights, including non-discrimination, hate crimes/hate speech, participates in government working groups, analyses legislation, provides opinions on different fundamental rights issues, conducts research and training, edits reports, provides consultancy, drafts project proposals/supervises projects, engages in fund-raising activities.

Manager of EU FRA FRANET project in eight fundamental rights areas (since 2011) – equality and non-discrimination; racism, xenophobia and related intolerance, information society, privacy and data protection; rights of the child, access to justice, rights of crime victims, asylum/immigration, visas/border control); represents the LCHR in the International Network against Cyberhate.

(b) Work at national level

October 1993-February 2011, Researcher, project manager, deputy director, Latvian Centre for Human Rights

Responsibilities: managed projects related to different human rights issues (fundamental rights, places of detention, hate crimes, minority rights, gender equality issues, etc.); conducted research on a wide range of human rights issues, edited reports.

Monitored places of detention (prisons, police stations, illegal migrant detention facility), drafted reports, organised various types of training for police and prison staff, including on international human rights standards related to police/prisons.

December 2002-June 2006, Programme director, Criminal Justice Programme, Centre for Public Policy “Providus”

Responsibilities: initiated and managed projects on criminal justice issues (bail supervision, non-custodial sanctions, prison based programmes, victims' rights, domestic violence).

December 1994-December 2002 - Programme director, Soros Foundation - Latvia

Responsibilities: managed numerous projects related to criminal justice reform (alternatives to custody (community service), prison reform, victim support, probation service), minority rights and integration (including Latvian language training to prisoners, prison staff, development of bilingual education in kindergartens/primary school), administered grants for women's rights' issues.

Coordinated the development of community service as a non-custodial sanction in Latvia; organised training and study visits; drafted guidelines, raised funding for community service pilot projects (1999-2002). Promoted community service as an alternative to imprisonment in Mongolia, Romania and Moldova by conducting training for judges, placement providers, local governments, etc., and organising study visits.

Participated in a government working group on the establishment of probation service to draft legislation governing the operation of probation service.

(c) International work

December 2011-present - European Legal Network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination (EU)

Main responsibilities: Drafting annual reports on non-discrimination directives (grounds of race/ethnic origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, religious or other belief); thematic reports on different issues; reports on legal developments, case law concerning discrimination in Latvia.

December 2000-2004 - Member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) in respect of Latvia.

January-March 2001- short-term consultant on the legal aspects of trafficking in women in Latvia for the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

May 1997, October 1995 - short-term consultant on Latvian Language Training and the Fourth World Conference on Women. Provided support to the NGO Sector in Latvia for the UNDP Office in Latvia.

1996 - expert consultant, working group for the OSCE High Commissioner on the OSLO Recommendations on Minority Language Use in Public and Private.

Publications

Kamenska, A. (2015), Country Report. Non-Discrimination Latvia, EU Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers.

Kamenska, A., Olsena, S. (2015), Improving Prison Conditions by Strengthening the Monitoring of HIV, HCV, TB and Harm Reduction. Mapping Report Latvia. Riga: Latvian Centre for Human Rights.

Kamenska, A. (2014), Civil and Political Rights (Ch.3), Civilian Control of the Military and Police (ch.9) in: How Democratic is Latvia: Audit of Democracy 2005-2014. Ed. Juris Rozenvalds. Riga: University of Latvia Advanced Social and Political Research Institute. 2014. P. 65-84.

Co-author, Latvijas Cilvēktiesību centrs (2014). Use of Situation Testing in Proving Discrimination (Situācijas testēšanas izmantošana diskriminācijas pierādīšanai), in Latvian.

Kamenska A., Laganovska K. (2014), Legal Study on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Latvia. Legal Update. Contracted by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Kamenska, A. (2014), Report on measures to combat discrimination - Directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC – Latvia.

Kamenska, A. (2013), Report on measures to combat discrimination - Directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC – Latvia.

Study on the legal framework applicable to racist or xenophobic hate speech and hate crime in the EU (National Report on Latvia, 2013) for EC DG Justice (lead partner Milieu Ltd), unpublished.

Co-author, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2013). Shadow Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Rights of National Minorities in Latvia.

Latvian Centre for Humans Rights (2011), Combating Discrimination in Latvia – From Legislation to Court Practice II, Riga (co-author).

Kamenska, A., Brands, Kehris I. (2008), Hate Crimes in Latvia: Legislation and Police Practice. (Latvian and English editions) Riga: LCHR:

Authored the following reports for EU FRALEX (from 1 April 2009-2010):

- Latvia report “Thematic Legal Study on the impact of the Race Equality Directive” (2009)

- Latvia report “Thematic Legal Study on the assessment of Access to Justice in Civil Cases in the European Union” (2009)

- Update on Latvia “Legal Study on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation” (2010)

- Latvia report “Thematic Study on specific fundamental rights issues in the MAF areas: national level (2010)

Co-authored with Brands-Kehris, Ilze, the National Report for Latvia in the Comparative study on access to justice in gender equality and anti-discrimination law for Milieu Ltd., under contract to the European Commission, DG Employment (Study Contract No VC/2009/0288) (2010).

Language skills

Latvian – mother tongue

Russian – proficient

English – proficient

French – independent user (understanding), basic user (speaking, writing)

Spanish – basic user

Awards

Society Integration Fund award for her contribution to the promotion of ethnic integration, February 2005.

Award ‘Justice for All’ by the Latvian Prison Administration for her contribution to the promotion of prison reform, July 1998.

Member of different Latvian government working groups on fundamental rights and integration issues (1998-until present).