

Against Ageism and Towards Active Social Citizenship for Older Persons. The Current Use and Future Potential of the European Social Charter and other European Instruments

11th Meeting of the COE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Platform on Social and Economic Rights

27 September 2021, 14:00 – 16:00 CET

Presentation of the speakers (per order of appearance in the programme)



Gerard Quinn is the UN Special rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities with a special interest in intersectionality between age and disability. He previously served as a member of the European Committee on Social Rights. He now holds part-time chairs in the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (Universality of Lund, Sweden) and Leeds University (UK). He has held honorary chairs at Wuhan University (China), NALSAR (India), UNSW (Sydney) and Deakin University (Melbourne) and visiting fellowships at Harvard Law School and the University of Haifa. His current research interests include theories of personhood and community living as applied to persons with disabilities and older persons. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School, Kings Inns Dublin (Barrister-at-Law) and the National University of Ireland.



Israel (Issi) Doron, LL.B.; LL.M.; Ph.D.: Currently Prof. Doron is the Head of the Centre for Research and Study of Aging at the University of Haifa, the Past President of the Israeli Gerontological Society, and the Past Head of the Department of Gerontology. He specializes in the fields of law and ageing, social policy, human rights and ageism. Prof. Doron has studied and written extensively on topics such as socio-legal construction of old age, human rights of older persons, and is the editor/co-editor of key books in the field. Finally, Prof. Doron is a social activist, and the founder of "Law in the Service of the Elderly" association.



Aoife Nolan is Professor of International Human Rights Law and Co-Director of the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham. Professor Nolan's professional experience in human rights and constitutional law straddles the legal, policy, practitioner and academic fields. She is Vice-President of the Council of Europe's European Committee of Social Rights, which she joined in 2017. She has published extensively in the areas of human rights and constitutional law, particularly in relation to children's rights and economic and social rights. She currently leads a major three-year international research project on 'Advancing Child Rights Strategic Litigation'. Professor Nolan has acted as an expert advisor to a wide range of international and national organisations and bodies working on human rights issues, including numerous UN Special Procedures, UN treaty bodies, the Council of Europe, multiple NHRIs and NGOs. She has held visiting positions at academic

institutions in Europe, Africa, the US and Australia. She is an Academic Expert member at Doughty Street Chambers where she co-leads the Children's Rights Group.



Tatiana Puiu is an Attorney at Law in the Republic of Moldova and member of the European Committee of Social Rights, which she joined in 2019. Her professional experience in human rights and rule of law straddles the legal, policy, and practitioner fields. Tatiana has acted as an expert advisor to a wide range of international and national organisations and bodies working on human rights issues, including the Council of Europe, National Human Rights Institutions, and non-governmental organisations.



Boglárka Benkó is a Hungarian lawyer. She holds a Master's degree in law from Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest), a Master in Human Rights from the University of Strasbourg and a Master of European Law from the College of Europe (Bruges). Before joining the Registry as a lawyer of the European Court of Human Rights in 2012 she worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary as Desk Officer for International organisations and at the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina as Human Rights Officer. She was an election observer for number of EU/OSCE election observation missions. Her previous work experience also includes working as a lawyer at a non-governmental organisation representing persons with disabilities.



Patrycja Pogodzinska (PhD) is a legal expert at the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), in the Research and Data Unit. Her areas of expertise with respect to the FRA's work include: European human rights law, non-discrimination, LGBTI rights, business and human rights, citizens' rights and freedom of movement and social rights. Before joining FRA in 2016, she worked for several years as a lawyer at the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the CoE Department of the European Social Charter and the CoE Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), and subsequently at the European Parliament in the Directorate for Legislative Acts. Earlier she had worked in Poland in a solicitor's office and as a university lecturer. She is a qualified lawyer (Barrister) and holds a PhD in international law; she is author of numerous publications in the area of international law and human rights, in particular on non-discrimination and LGBTI rights.



Claudia Mahler (Austria) has been working for the German Institute for Human Rights as a senior researcher in the field of economic, social and cultural rights since 2010. She was a visiting professor at the Alice Salomon Hochschule. From 2001 to 2009, Ms. Mahler conducted research at the Human Rights Centre of the University of Potsdam where her main fields were in human rights education, minority rights and the law of asylum. She was working for a monitoring body on persons deprived of liberty. In addition, she has been a lecturer in the field of human rights law.



Tena Šimonović Einwalter is the fifth serving Ombudsperson since the establishment of the institution in 1990. In 2003 she graduated magna cum laude from the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Law and in 2005 was awarded with a diploma from the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg. In 2007 she received her Master's degree in European and Comparative Law from the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford and in 2013 a Master's degree in International Relations from the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb. As an expert in the area of combating discrimination she is currently serving as the representative of the Republic of Croatia before the Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and chairs the Executive Board of the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET) in her second two-year term after being reappointed to that position in 2019.



Gabriel Toggenburg coordinates FRA's activities related to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, including the regular Fundamental Rights Report chapter on the use of the Charter at national level. He also deals with matters related to the rule of law and provides advice on various EU matters, including the Agency's mandate. He is the contact point for FRA's Scientific Committee. Before joining FRA, Gabriel worked for ten years as a senior legal researcher at the European Academy in Bolzano, where he also provided policy advice, and has been a visiting academic at universities in the United States and Austria. He holds a Master of Law (University of Innsbruck), an LLM in European law (Danube University Krems) and a PhD in law (European University Institute Florence). He has published widely on a range of human rights issues.



Jacqueline Hoogendam is the coordinator for international affairs on dementia, long-term care and ageing at the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport of the Netherlands. As a part of her responsibilities on dementia, Jacqueline represents the Dutch government in the Executive Board of the EU Joint Programme Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND), in the World Dementia Council and in the European Governmental Expert Group on Dementia. She is also a member of UN Economic Commission for Europe Standing Working Group on Ageing and a representative of the Netherlands to the UN Open-ended group on Ageing.



Anna Chabiera is a sociologist and a senior specialist in the Department of Equal Treatment in the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Warsaw (a Polish National Human Rights Institution), where since 2011 she organizes social research on discrimination based on grounds of disability, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity and beliefs. Her tasks enclose also monitoring the state's policy on ageing and the works of UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. She is a member of the group of experts on the rights of older persons advising the Polish Commissioner on older persons issues.



Nena Georgantzi is a lawyer specialized in human rights and social protection and an expert on the rights of older persons. She has more than 10 years of experience in the NGO sector, with a focus on strategic human rights advocacy, research and policy analysis. She is Policy Coordinator for AGE Platform Europe, the largest EU network representing older persons. Her PhD thesis was a comparative empirical study on the meaning of human rights in old age and the value of a new UN treaty. She has participated in the drafting of the Council of Europe recommendation on the rights of older persons and has consulted the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She is actively involved in the political process around a new UN convention on the rights of older persons and has served until recently as Deputy Chair of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older Persons.



Colm O'Connell is Professor of Constitutional and Human Rights Law at University College London (UCL). A graduate of University College Cork, he has published extensively in the field of comparative constitutional, human rights and anti-discrimination law. He has also acted as specialist legal adviser to the Joint Committee on Human Rights and the Women & Equalities Committee of the UK Parliament, and advised a range of international organisations including the UN, ILO and the European Commission. He also was from 2006-16 a member of the European Committee on Social Rights of the Council of Europe (serving as Vice-President of the Committee from 2010-4), and since 2008 has been a member of the academic advisory board of Blackstone Chambers in London.