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11/2024 - 05/2025



Gouvernement Princier  
PRINCIPAUTÉ DE MONACO



start to talk

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport  
**epas**  
Accord partiel élargi sur le sport



Strasbourg, 11 March 2025

## **Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)**

### **Safe sport as a space for human rights education**

### **Event on the sidelines of the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Wednesday 12 March 2025  
2.00pm – 3.00pm CET**

**Room XXII  
Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**Working language: English**

### **Speakers' biographies**

## Mama Fatima Singhateh



### [Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children](#)

Mama Fatima Singhateh (The Gambia) was appointed as the UN Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children by the UN Human Rights Council in March 2020. She started her mandate on 1 May 2020.

Ms. Singhateh is a trained lawyer with over 20 years of experience, currently working as an international Consultant on human rights and legal and institutional reforms. She holds a master's degree in International Business Law from the University of Hull and has undergone numerous trainings in child rights programming, arbitration and mediation, and legislative drafting. She is a member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, in the UK.

Ms Singhateh has held a number of high-level positions in public service in the Gambia. She is a former Justice Minister and has held positions as prosecutor, legislative draftsman, High Court Judge and Justice of Appeal. She has drafted laws, organized and conducted many training sessions, delivered presentations at both national and international fora and written articles and reports on many issues relating to protection and promotion of human rights, particularly on the rights of the child. As Minister of Justice, Ms Singhateh personally supervised and oversaw the drafting of the laws that prohibit and criminalize female genital mutilation and child marriage, and successfully presented them in Parliament for enactment in 2016.

Between 2002 and 2007, she headed the Child's Rights Unit within the Ministry of Justice, which was established to enhance the promotion and protection of the rights of children in The Gambia, particularly the girl child. Ms. Singhateh also served as project coordinator within the Ministry for the UNICEF–Government of The Gambia Country Programme of Cooperation. As project coordinator she was also chairperson of the technical advisory committee which under her leadership oversaw the successful drafting and enactment of the Children's Act, the implementation of the Children's Act, the establishment of the Children's Court, and the drafting of the Trafficking in Person Bill (now Act).

Ms. Singhateh has served as a member of the Board of Directors of Ecpat International in Thailand and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Child Protection Alliance in The Gambia. She has also served as a nominated member and legal advisor to the National Women's Council in The Gambia.

## Jonathan Todres



Distinguished University Professor and the Catherine C. Henson Professor of Law at Georgia State University College of Law. He is a leading expert on children's rights. His research focuses, in particular, on the implementation of children's rights law, human rights education, youth participation, and human trafficking.

His recent books include: *Children's Rights and Child Development: An Integrated Approach* (NYU Press, 2025) (coedited with Ursula Kilkelly); *The Oxford Handbook of Children's Rights Law* (Oxford University Press, 2020) (co-edited with Shani King); *Preventing Child Trafficking: A Public Health Approach* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019) (with Angela Diaz); and *Human Rights in Children's Literature: Imagination and the Narrative of Law* (Oxford University Press, 2016) (with Sarah Higinbotham).

He is also co-editor of the new edition of the *Children and the Law: Doctrine, Policy, and Practice* textbook (8th edition, 2024, with Douglas Abrams et al.). Professor Todres has advised numerous nongovernmental organizations on projects aimed at advancing the rights and well-being of children. He currently serves as Chair of the Board on Children, Youth, and Families of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. In 2018, Professor Todres served as a Fulbright Scholar in residence at University College Cork in Ireland. For the 2024-2025 academic year, he has been named Rotating Honorary Chair in Enforcement of Children's Rights at Leiden University.

He holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School and a B.A. (International Development) from Clark University, and he served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand.

## **Claudia Villa-Hughes**



Claudia is an International Safeguarding Specialist & Consultant with experiences working with International Sport Federations and National Governing Bodies to develop and implement safeguarding best practices.

As former Head of Safeguarding for Commonwealth Sport, Claudia has driven the Commonwealth Sport Movement' Safeguarding Agenda, developing their first ever Global Safeguarding Policy and Commonwealth-wide safeguarding training programme. In this role, Claudia has led the development and implementation of the Safeguarding Framework for Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and Trinidad & Tobago 2023 Youth Games using a multi-agency approach that sees local and international organisations embedded in the response mechanisms.

Claudia's safeguarding approach has been shaped by over a decade of leading services to support children who were trafficked and suffered abuse and exploitation. Working closely with Local Governments, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Education, Claudia covered strategic advisory roles for Safeguarding Children Partnerships where she has been able to influence and support the development of local governments' policies and procedures on child sexual abuse and exploitation, including criminal exploitation.

Claudia is also a recognised humanitarian sector expert; leading and developing support services for refugees and asylum seekers at both the UN Migration Agency (IOM) and British Red Cross where she still volunteers as a member of the Psychosocial Support Team to support people in crisis. Her passion and dedication in this field has been recognised with the Queen's Award.

## Elena Casero



Elena Casero is a Senior Programme Manager at the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), an intergovernmental platform of co-operation of the Council of Europe on sports policies. EPAS currently counts 41 member states and up to 30 partner sports organisations.

At EPAS, Ms Casero is responsible for the “Start to Talk” project on child safeguarding in sport. She also coordinates the Council of Europe’s Network of Magistrates / Prosecutors Responsible for Sports (the MARS Network) and the DACCS database on alleged cases of corruption in sport.

She is a qualified lawyer with experience in private practice in Sport and Entertainment, Litigation and Arbitration at the Spanish law firm, Garrigues. She has also served as an assistant lawyer at the European Court of Human Rights.

Ms Casero has written articles on child safeguarding in sport, anti-doping, dispute resolution and commercial rights in the field of sport, and on the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the rights of persons with migrant and refugee backgrounds and persons with disabilities. She has participated as a speaker in numerous conferences and seminars and has taught Master’s level courses.

Ms Casero holds a Bachelor and Master of Laws and a BSc and Master of Management and Business Administration from the Carlos III University (Madrid, Spain).

## **Kirsty Burrows**



Kirsty Burrows is Associate Director of Health, Medicine and Science at the International Olympic Committee, overseeing the IOC's commitment, strategy and approach to addressing interpersonal violence in and through sport and the protection and promotion of mental health and well-being across the Olympic Movement.

An internationally recognised expert in her field, Kirsty serves as a member of the Council of Europe's Pool of Experts in Safe Sport, represents the IOC on the Board of the International Safeguards for Children in Sport, and was Academic Director for the IOC Certificate: Safeguarding Officer in Sport programme from 2021 to 2024.

Kirsty holds a first-class honours degree in Physiotherapy and a master's in Management, Law, and Humanities of Sport. Alongside her work at the IOC, Kirsty is pursuing a PhD at Canterbury Christ Church University.

## Anne Goedert



Ms. Anne Goedert is Ambassador-at-large for human rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg. Previously, Ms. Goedert was Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg in Geneva and was in charge of human rights, labour and migration issues. She was also Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Luxembourg in Brussels and has held several other positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Luxembourg.

## **Presilia Mpanu-Mpanu**



Presilia is a British-Congolese citizen specialised in international human rights and public international law.

She currently holds the position of Social & Environmental Sustainability Expert at UEFA. She works on the development of the 7 human rights policies (anti-racism, child and youth protection, equality and inclusion, football for all abilities, health and wellbeing, refugee support and solidarity and rights) of UEFA's Strength Through Unity strategy through the implementation of projects tailored and targeted to reach UEFA's short, medium and long term objectives.

Previous to this, Presilia was a member of cabinet for European Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, who was responsible for strengthening Europe's commitment to inclusion and equality in all of its senses, irrespective of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation as well as tackling discrimination on multiple grounds. Previous to this, Presilia worked in the European Parliament on issues relating to human rights, Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, and in the Council of Europe Liaison Office to the EU.

Presilia holds a Master's degree in Human Rights Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).