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NUREMBERG FORUM 2024

FOR EVERY CHILD: PROTECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN ARMED CONFLICT

INTERNATIONAL NUREMBERG PRINCIPLES ACADEMY

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The Nuremberg Forum 2024 brought together expert practitioners and academics from law and other disciplines working on the protection of children's rights in armed conflict. This included experts specialised in international criminal law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law whose scholarship and mandates complemented both the discussions and each other´s expertise. The resulting discussions surfaced new potential synergies between these inter-connected but sometimes detached fields of law as and showed the amplified need to ensure the adequate protection of children's rights amidst the harrowing realities of war.

The organisers of the Nuremberg Forum 2024 are grateful to these esteemed experts for sharing their experiences and expertise as well as for their ongoing to protect children and childhood in armed conflict. In particular, we are thankful to Professor Dr Stefanie Schmahl, Chair for German and Foreign Public Law, International Law and European Law at the Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg and Vice President of the Advisory Council of the Nuremberg Academy, who developed the idea of this conference together with us. We would also like to thank the various mandate and office holders who significantly enriched the conference with their participation. This esteemed list included (in alphabetical order) Dr Serge Brammertz, Chief Prosecutor, United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals; Professor Pablo de Greiff, Member, Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine; Karim A. A. Khan, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court; Judge Luz del Carmen Ibáñez Carranza, Judge, International Criminal Court; Professor Siobhán Mullaly, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; Dr Navi Pillay; former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ; Professor Ann Skelton, Chairperson, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and Alice Wairimu Nderitu, Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide.

The continued support of the Advisory Council and Foundation Board of the International Nuremberg Principles Academy has been most invaluable. We would also like to profusely thank all the Academy staff for the conceptualisation of this conference and for ensuring its professional and welcoming operation.

List of Abbreviations

ICC	International Criminal Court
ICL	International Criminal Law
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
OPAC	Optional Protocol to the UNCRC of 2002
OTP	ICC Office of the Prosecutor
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNSC	United Nations Security Council

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements 1

List of Abbreviations 2

Table of Contents 3

Introduction 4

Opening Remarks 5

Prof. Dr Christoph Safferling 5

Dr Thomas Dickert 5

Tania von Uslar-Gleichen 5

Prof. Dr Julia Lehner 5

Dr Navi Pillay 5

Opening Discussion 6

Keynote Addresses 9

Karim A. A. Khan 9

Prof. Dr Stefanie Schmahl 10

Panel I: Children and Armed Conflict: Rights and Realities 12

Panel II: Protecting Children against International Crimes: The Framework 15

Panel III: Prosecuting International Crimes against Children: Strategies and Experiences 18

Panel IV: Accountability and Reconciliation: Transitional Justice and Domestic Contexts 21

Panel V: Ways Forward: Protecting Future Generations 24

Special Closing Keynote 27

Dr Navi Pillay 27

Closing Remarks 27

Prof. Dr Christoph Safferling 27

Programme of the Nuremberg Forum 2024 29

Biographies of Contributors 33

Introduction

The International Nuremberg Principles Academy

The International Nuremberg Principles Academy (Nuremberg Academy) is a non-profit foundation dedicated to the advancement of international criminal law and human rights. It was established by the Federal Republic of Germany, the Free State of Bavaria and the City of Nuremberg in 2014. The foundation carries forward the legacy of the Nuremberg trials and the "Nuremberg Principles", recognised in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and the Tribunal's judgment. They were formulated by the International Law Commission of the United Nations General Assembly in 1950. The Nuremberg Academy upholds the spirit of the Nuremberg trial and principles by reinforcing efforts to hold perpetrators accountable for international crimes.

To this end, the Academy conducts applied research, provides capacity strengthening and facilitates public discourse. The Academy´s public discourse initiatives bring together leading scholars, practitioners, policy makers and members of civil society to discuss topical issues most pertinent to furthering accountability for international crimes.

The Nuremberg Forum

The Nuremberg Forum is the Academy's annual flagship conference. Bringing together leading scholars, practitioners, policy makers and members of civil society, the Forum facilitates critical discussion on topical issues most pertinent to furthering accountability for international crimes.

The Nuremberg Forum 2024

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the most ratified human rights treaty in history. Yet, despite such wide ratification, children across the world continue to live in vulnerable and fragile settings prone to the violations of a spectrum of rights enshrined in the Convention. The 2024 Nuremberg Forum examined international and domestic frameworks designed to protect children during armed conflict, evaluating their successes and shortcomings. Drawing lessons from past practices and experiences, the experts identified and proposed actionable solutions to address gaps and frailties in the legal and institutional structures protecting children across all spheres. The conference discussions also delved into the strategies and experiences most relevant to international courts when prosecuting crimes against children. Importantly, the exchanges incorporated the perspectives of domestic contexts and relevant transitional justice policies that enhance and amplify the protection of children's rights.

Disclaimer

This report is a summary version of the full conference proceedings based on the video recordings of the Nuremberg Forum 2024. The key recommendations included in this report are not attributable to any individual conference participant nor do they necessarily reflect the views of the International Nuremberg Principles Academy.

Opening Remarks

Prof. Dr Christoph Safferling

Director, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

In his welcome remarks, Professor Dr Christoph Safferling welcomed all participants, speakers and members of the audience that gathered in Courtroom 600 as well those participants who joined virtually, to the Nuremberg Forum 2024.

Dr Thomas Dickert

President, Higher Regional Court of Nuremberg

Dr Thomas Dickert reflected on the universality and scope of children's rights in international and national law, emphasising their importance due to children's heightened vulnerability in armed conflicts.

Tania von Uslar-Gleichen

Legal Advisor, Head of Legal Department, Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Tania von Uslar-Gleichen noted that despite the UNCRC's adoption 35 years ago, crimes against children continue to proliferate, making this year's topic especially pertinent. She emphasised that, beyond providing justice to child victims, it is essential to offer the help necessary to reintegrate them into society.

Prof. Dr Julia Lehner

Mayor, City of Nuremberg

In her speech, Professor Dr Julia Lehner highlighted armed conflicts' particular risks for children's physical and psychological health. In this context, she stressed the importance of national and international stakeholders ensuring that the protection of children is a core focus of the City of Nuremberg's initiatives.

Dr Navi Pillay

President, Advisory Council, International Nuremberg Principles Academy; former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; former President, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; former Judge, International Criminal Court

Dr Navi Pillay reminded the participants and audience that, in view of current developments and worsening human rights situation in various regions, the protection of children is of particular importance and interest. She further highlighted and commended the Nuremberg Academy's goal of advancing universal enforcement and acceptance of the Nuremberg Principles.

Opening Discussion

The opening discussion focused on bringing a holistic lens to the multifaceted and multi-generational experiences and trauma of children whose childhoods are appropriated by armed conflict. In addition to powerful evocations of the courage of survivors and contemporary witnesses, the discussion delved into the long-term personal and social impact of such experiences. The discussants highlighted the need for nuanced engagement with the wider public on these themes. Moderator Professor Dr Dr Patricia Wiater, Chair for Public Law, Public International Law and Human Rights at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, framed the discussion as an opportunity for a broader introduction to the Nuremberg Forum's themes. Going beyond the legal perspective provided a better understanding of the harm suffered and further emphasised the equally significant societal responsibility to protect children during armed conflicts.

Dr Yael Danieli

Founder and CEO, International Centre for MultiGenerational Legacies of Trauma;
Founding Director, Group Project for Holocaust Survivors and their Children,
and former President, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

Drawing from her past as a child of war, Dr Yael Danieli elaborated on the lifelong impact such an experience has on a victim, describing herself as still being partly driven by her inner, suffering child. Despite there being no formal training on how to work with victims at the time, Dr Danieli gathered her expertise by focusing on listening and learning from survivors. When it comes to trauma, she describes it as a rupture in the multi-dimensional continuity of life. Due to the victim's uniqueness and individuality, reactions to suffering vary, meaning that each dimension of life must be examined separately for possible ruptures. Remembering and verbalising not solely traumatic experiences but also positive moments constitute a large part of the healing process toward re-establishing the ruptured continuity. Similarly, Dr Danieli highlighted the importance of reparative justice: by bringing the full story together, the justice process is as important as its outcome. It facilitates the victim's right to truth and the process of vindication. Lastly, Dr Danieli explored the notion of multigenerational legacies of trauma. In this respect, she differentiated between three different post-trauma adaptational styles: the victim, fighter and numb styles. Each style becomes the sociological milieu of the victim's child and directly influences their later life. It is therefore all humanity's responsibility to prevent such multigenerational effects.

Jasminko Halilovic

Founder and Director-General, War Childhood Museum Sarajevo

Jasminko Halilovic emphasised the relevance of a child's age when experiencing war. Age has a significant influence on the child's level of awareness, resulting in younger children being less and older children being more conscious of a current conflict. These differences later result in different ways of dealing with such experiences. Mr Halilovic further elaborated on how the experience of war is both a universal and individual experience, depending on cultural differences and a conflict's intensity. Delving into the aspect of time, he explained that most victims are modest with their expectations of judicial justice and realise it may never come. As history proves that most perpetrators will never be prosecuted, survivors redefine justice for themselves and use other platforms to tell and share their stories. Furthermore, Halilovic focused on the existing need to listen to children and try to understand them in a respectful way. The image of a passive victim is misconceived, as every survivor wants to be seen with dignity and in the full picture. Finally, Halilovic stressed the utmost importance of not re-opening victims' wounds by, for example, denying their experiences.

Prof. Ann Skelton

Chairperson, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;
Chair for Children's Rights in a Sustainable World, Leiden University

Professor Ann Skelton assessed the role and possibilities of the law, specifically looking into the significance and limitations of the UNCRC. She explained that the impact of an armed conflict and the resulting responsibilities will differ depending on whether hostilities occur on a national or international level. Domestic conflicts tend to remain obscured due to the bias from a Western perspective. Professor Skelton further elaborated on the mission of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Committee's capacity is limited to reviewing all states that have ratified the UNCRC and to issuing statements in that context. Its scope covers all children in a country, including those in occupied territories. Due to international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights law being incorporated into the UNCRC, the Committee has even further possibilities to comment on current conflicts. Lastly, Professor Skelton pinpointed article 39 of the UNCRC: the right to recovery and social reintegration. This right not only exists amid an armed conflict but continues long after the cessation of hostilities. Most importantly, it not only obliges the State Party that suffered from the armed conflict but also the whole international community, for example by bringing cases before the International Court of Justice despite not being a direct party to the armed conflict.

Keynote Addresses

Karim A. A. Khan

Prosecutor, International Criminal Court

Karim A. A. Khan stressed that the relevance, potential and imperative of law must always be to protect the most vulnerable – especially children. In numerous locations and for so many people, the world is currently in agony. Furthermore, history shows that people who struggle with the fast-changing reality often fall back on basic instincts like antisemitism and islamophobia. Such developments cause difficulties at an international level and consequently highlight the importance of Nuremberg, the Nuremberg trials and their accompanying Principles. By focusing on the criminal conduct, victims who were previously deemed worthless were finally recognised by the law. This process combated the collective guilt of the victims and ended a cycle of violence and generational trauma, allowing for peace and justice to prosper. However, the Nuremberg trials were not perfect processes: they specifically failed to deal with children and investigate their stories. Also, in later tribunals, child victims were mostly conflated with the general civilian population and not highlighted or distinguished as they should have been.

Before being elected as Chief Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC), Khan had the privilege of dealing with child victims, including representing child victims of the most serious international crimes. In these processes, it became apparent to him that, compared to national systems, international law remains behind the curve when it comes to the representation of children. Internationally, the power of children to be competent and credible witnesses is not fully understood. International law's paternalistic approach does not correspond to the children's needs or capacities. Khan strongly asserted that a prosecutor fails when they ignore the "child" lens', by not putting forward the most relevant information and overlooking how the conduct directly affected children. During his term, Khan is focused on ensuring that that children's voices were heard during the everyday operation of a trial, either through testimony according to article 56 of the Rome Statute or video evidence, depending on which is the more appropriate method for the specific child. The simplicity of a child's speech tends to be strongly compelling for a judge.

Calling the ICC a child of Nuremberg, Khan stressed how all permanent and special tribunals derive a certain inspiration from the Nuremberg Principles. An improvement on Nuremberg can only be achieved by creating a better framework that gives special consideration to violence against children. The Rome Statute, where children are specifically mentioned in several articles, is a great example of such a process. Nevertheless, a paradigm shift is needed and can only be achieved through a fundamental change where children are placed at the centre of proceedings. To continue failing to see or hear them risks dishonouring Nuremberg's legacy.

Subsequently, Khan outlined some of the ICC's achievements in its jurisprudence on crimes committed against children. The *Lubanga* case, which dealt with the recruitment and conscription of children under the age of 15, delivered important first jurisprudence. In the *Ntaganda* case, the ICC ruled that an armed group can also be responsible for committing crimes against their own soldiers, including child soldiers. Lastly, the *Ongwen* case brought forward the finding that forced pregnancy and forced marriage constitute another inhumane act, including when perpetrated against children. All these decisions highlight that humility and dedication are not an option but rather an imperative. Further improvements have also been achieved by the publication of the ICC Office of the Prosecutor's (OTP) Policy on Children. This new policy considers and builds its best practice on new scientific findings on brain damage, memory and experience. By recognising the differences between children of different ages, the policy follows a disaggregated approach and offers a spectrum of how to deal with individuals. Further, it borrows proven methods from national systems on achieving best evidence, simple questioning, engagement and relationship-building with children. Next year, the OTP expects to release a guide on a trauma-informed approach to understanding how reality, life and criminality affect trauma. This guide accepts that there is no one-size-fits-all formula and that every child reacts differently to different stimuli. However, the awareness of a spectrum of responses and triggers allows for improvements in the work with children.

Lastly, Khan differentiated between crimes against children, for example, denying access to education, destroying education facilities or engaging them as child soldiers, and crimes affecting children such as hearing bomb explosions or being forced to find refuge. He points out that all these factors are essential to map, understand and analyse alleged criminality in situations before the ICC. In light of current conflicts, it is society's duty to do better by ensuring that empathy and humanity drive the law. In the future, states must choose whether they want to enforce the law for people or for power, for children or the state's interest and, consequently, for right or for wrong.

These decisions will determine whether Nuremberg, all the victims represented by the trials and future tribunals will be honoured. The purpose of these proceedings was not to create jobs for lawyers or topics for theses, but to ensure that the promise of "never again" is kept. Children's suffering must not and can never be the price of doing business for economic advancement or strategic interest. If all children worldwide were to be seen as our children, their suffering would stop much quicker. The legal aspect therefore requires will, determination and a groundswell of opinion from around the world, from those who demand to stand up for children. Together, we can make sure that children are seen and heard and that, in the name of their future, the hell on earth that is their experience finally stops.

Prof. Dr Stefanie Schmahl

Vice-President, Advisory Council, Nuremberg Academy and Chair for German and Foreign Public Law, International Law and European Law, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg

Professor Dr Stefanie Schmahl's keynote address focused on the public international law framework for the protection of children in armed conflict. She began by briefly recapitulating the major milestones in the history of international children's rights. In 1924, in response to the devastating effects of the First World War, the League of Nations adopted the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, setting out five fundamental provisions to safeguard children. These rights were expanded by the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 1959. However, similarly to a draft agreement from 1939 which dealt exclusively with the protection of children in armed conflict, both declarations remained legally non-binding. A genuine agreement was therefore only achieved after the Second World War. Whereas the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977 marked first turning points, it was the UNCRC of 1989 that had a much greater significance, becoming the most ratified human rights treaty and the first instrument delineating children's rights in a binding, comprehensive and child-sensitive manner. In this context, accepting children as independent holders of human rights and stipulating regulations that explicitly extend to armed conflict was a major step forward.

However, Professor Schmahl highlighted the Convention's shortcomings, especially relating to the use of children in hostilities, the recruitment of children into armed forces and the protection of children otherwise affected by armed conflicts. Firstly, she argued that article 38 (2) of the UNCRC was a major step backwards. By requiring that persons under the age of 15 do not take a direct part in hostilities, the regulation inevitably allows children – every human below the age of 18 years according to article 1 of the UNCRC – to be used in hostilities. This deficiency was only rectified by article 1 of the Optional Protocol to the UNCRC of 2002 (OPAC), which raised the minimum age to 18, finally improving on IHL regulations where 15 years was the permissive age. Furthermore, article 38 (2) of the UNCRC only addresses direct participation in conflicts. This requirement of directness is only fulfilled when a person is engaged or employed in an immediate combat situation.

Therefore, a child can be used in similarly dangerous acts as direct participation, for example, by transporting arms or transmitting military information, without violating the UNCRC. Due to these considerations, the General Comments call for children to be excluded from all participation, as the distinction between direct and indirect participation is rather fluid. Another approach could be a generous interpretation of the directness requirement, also including indirect acts that are temporally or geographically causal to a disadvantage for the adversary. Lastly, article 38 (2) of the UNCRC and article 1 of the OPAC relativise the standard of protection as they only require the State to take measures that are feasible.

Secondly, the UNCRC contains similar shortcomings in relation to its provisions on recruitment. Article 38 (3) of the UNCRC states that parties shall refrain from recruiting persons under 15, consequently allowing children to be recruited. Article 2 of the OPAC addresses this issue by raising the age requirement to 18 years. However, this regulation only applies to compulsory conscription. According to article 4 of the OPAC, voluntary enlistment remains possible if the child is at least 16 years old and certain fundamental safeguards are met. Professor Schmahl further addressed article 4 of the OPAC which stipulates that non-State armed forces are prohibited from recruiting persons under the age of 18. Considering such groups are not eligible to become parties to the treaty, it is the State Parties' obligation to take all feasible measures to prevent such recruitment (article 4 (2) of the OPAC). Courts and tribunals generally follow this line of reasoning as seen in the *Taylor* case at the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the *Lubanga*, *Ntaganda* and *Ongwen* cases at the ICC. These verdicts clearly convey the message that child recruitment constitutes a war crime, and perpetrators are held accountable. On the other hand, the criminal offences outlined in the statutes of the international criminal courts continue to be based on the age threshold of 15 years and therefore do not reflect the age increase of the OPAC, despite it having 173 contracting parties.

Finally, protection provisions for children otherwise affected by armed conflicts are not without deficiencies either. Article 38 (4) of the UNCRC requires State Parties to take all feasible measures to comply with IHL. This provision primarily targets child civilians but also extends to children associated with armed forces or groups. In summary, IHL contains a variety of provisions that aim to safeguard the safety and well-being of children. Nevertheless, as states are only obliged to take feasible measures, the UNCRC offers diminished protection in comparison to IHL.

These shortcomings are addressed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child through various means. In its opinions, it employs more vigorous language than the Convention itself, demanding "effective" efforts and actions. The Committee further recalls that all guarantees set forth in the UNCRC must be fundamentally respected at all times and do not include a general derogation clause. Lastly, it refrains from differentiating between categories of children in armed conflict, providing special protection also to child combatants and children in terrorist groups. With these demands, the Committee exceeds the standards of IHL as it is questionable whether this broad interpretation can be reconciled with the text of the UNCRC or recognised methods of treaty interpretation. Furthermore, even the ICJ repeatedly points out that protection under a convention does not automatically cease at times of war but is subsidiary when IHL constitutes *lex specialis*. Consequently, not every standard of the UNCRC can be applied in armed conflict without further consideration. Nevertheless, the Committee's work remains meaningful for a holistic protection of children and serves as a global conscience demonstrating how IHL and international criminal law (ICL) could be designed or interpreted in a more child-friendly manner.

Panel I — Children and Armed Conflict: Rights and Realities

A century after the Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child, the legal framework protecting children in armed conflict is today entrenched in the structure and discourse of international law. This evolution, shaped by varying historical and regional contexts, has led to the gradual development of specialised norms protecting both children and childhood in times of armed conflict. Nevertheless, critiques have highlighted that the framework remains too fragmented, with some of its crucial provisions unfit to deal with changing notions of contemporary warfare. Moderated by Darleen Seda, Senior Officer for Training and Capacity Strengthening at the Nuremberg Academy, this panel explored how international law continues to advance the protection of children in armed conflict. Focusing on international human rights law, it identified the law's possibilities and limitations in this regard. The discussions also highlighted relevant gaps and shortcomings in the framework, requiring both substantive recalibration and a collective reinforcement from the international community and domestic institutions.

Amb. Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Switzerland, Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Ambassador Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme focused on the situation of children in armed conflict in the African context. The history of exploitative colonialism in many parts of the continent has led to long-lasting unequal power relations, persistent imbalances and competition for resources. Besides constituting major causes for armed conflicts, these factors impact children in further negative ways. The resulting weakened governance and fragile institutions are not strong enough to enforce laws protecting children. Likewise, the lack of functional systems hinders the delivery of child protection services, education or health care. Moreover, the overarching regional instability and festering transnational conflicts further impede coordinated responses that prioritise children across multiple jurisdictions. In this context, Ambassador Molokomme brought special attention to the two guiding principles regulating the work of the African Union in relation to children in armed conflict. The first principle states that children, in light of their age and evolving capacities, are by default victims of circumstances. Even if they commit offenses, their vulnerability to instrumentalization, manipulation and exploitation mitigates culpability as perpetrators and therefore provides no basis for punitive measures. The second principle deals with the presumption of childhood in unclear cases. This principle applies irrespective of contradicting local practices or social norms that attribute majority to children under the age of 18.

Prof. Siobhán Mullally

Director, Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Galway and United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

In her role as Special Rapporteur, Professor Siobhán Mullally stated that globally one in three victims of trafficking is a child and the risk further increases in situations of armed conflict. Children can be trafficked for various forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour and recruitment and use in armed conflict. Professor Mullally further addressed the gendered nature of trafficking and pointed out that affected children are often not identified as victims and can, therefore, be subject to punishment. Various reasons, such as a lack of capacity and fragmentation of legal regimes, lead to a critical gap in identification, prevention and assistance in protection and accountability when it comes to child trafficking. To recognise these trends and prevent trafficking, the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict released a Study on Child Trafficking and the Six Grave Violations against Children in International Law. Besides giving a brief overview of the observations and specific challenges faced in affected countries, Professor Mullally summarised some of the study's findings. She noted that major improvement is needed in the age and credibility assessments of children. Treating children as adults can have a critical impact on their potential right to asylum or international protection. Further, the long-term impact of trafficking must be considered more thoroughly to guarantee access to child-friendly justice and procedures.

Oleksandra Romantsova

Executive Director, Centre for Civil Liberties

Oleksandra Romantsova described the founding of the Centre for Civil Liberties in 2013 as a result of the need to collect further information about war crimes in Ukraine. The Centre discovered that, from 2014 onwards, Ukrainian children were not only kidnapped but also put into a strategically planned system of indoctrination. The consequences are not limited to these children now fighting for the Russian army but will also heavily impact them and their decisions in their adult lives. According to Romantsova, not knowing how many children have been forcibly transferred to Russia makes it harder to locate them. Also, Russian indoctrination disconnects the children from their Ukrainian identity and further complicates their reintegration. To secure their return and rehabilitation, a negotiation and specialised programme must be prepared. The rehabilitation cannot be limited to a refutation of the indoctrination but must also include psychological methods that target the induced trauma. In addition, through its involvement in the documentation of violations against children, the Centre found that 2,654 schools have been destroyed in Ukraine. This systematic destruction targets children's security and their mental health. To prevent a further flow of hate and killing, it will therefore be crucial to offer these children an understandable and acceptable justice system that includes their voices.

Prof. Ann Skelton

Chairperson, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;
Chair for Children's Rights in a Sustainable World, Leiden University

Remaining optimistic that international human rights law can still provide tangible solutions, Professor Ann Skelton explained the Committee on the Rights of the Child's procedure of periodically reviewing State Parties through written questions, in-person dialogues and the publication of concluding observations. Further, she elaborated on the legal system protecting children in armed conflict: whereas the OPAC only focuses on recruitment, article 38 of the UNCRC covers all children's rights and therefore requires a deep understanding of IHL. In this context, Professor Skelton raised serious concerns about the increase in the Six Grave Violations against children in times of war identified by the UN Security Council (UNSC), including on such grave concerns as escalation in the number of Wounded Children with No Surviving Family (WCNSF) and the militarisation of schools. Lastly, she explained how the Committee tries to implement article 12 of the UNCRC by incorporating the voices of children in their reports. Before meeting with the state party, the Committee hears civil society and especially child representatives. Even though these children only portray a selective group, they often represent the views and perceptions of many more. Importantly, the Committee conducts far more consultations with children for the drafting of General Comments that may even include direct observations from children. Nevertheless, in both situations, it remains challenging to receive written or oral reports from children in armed conflict situations.

Panel II — Protecting Children against International Crimes: The Framework

The panel addressed the character and growth of the international criminal justice framework protecting children in armed conflict. It assessed various policies and proceedings that have determined the current shape of international criminal law provisions focusing on children. Moderated by Dr Pablo Gavira Díaz, Project Officer at the Nuremberg Academy, the discussions explored whether the substantive law remains aptly child-sensitive and identified areas where it requires greater sensitisation and adaptation. The panellists also traced the intricacies of international criminal law's successes and shortcomings in confronting child-specific international crimes and assessed whether the law's approach to dealing with victim-perpetrators has been sufficiently nuanced. Other themes under the panel's focus included international criminal law´s responses to sexual violence against children, child soldiering and forced conscription, as well as specific protections of child witnesses and testimonies by children.

Prof. Cécile Aptel

Deputy Director, Innocenti Global Office of Research and Foresight, UNICEF

Professor Cécile Aptel assessed the evolution of the international criminal justice framework regarding the protection of children. Whereas the establishment of the UN and UNICEF can be seen as early milestones, the more recent adoption of the UNCRC constituted a pivotal moment in child protection. In the 1990s, special attention was brought to children in armed conflict, resulting in the UNSC creating a Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism to gather evidence on the recruitment of children in armed conflict (now referred to as the Six Grave Violations). Such a focus, however, left a long-lasting blind spot concerning all other children affected by armed conflict. This has only recently been addressed by an effort to grasp the full scope of victimisation. Coming to the issue of age limits, Professor Aptel elaborated that they must find the right balance between protection and agency, guided by the evolving capacity of a child. Showing alternatives to the chronological definition, she presented the subjective (defined as a child by others) and the self-reflective (defining themselves as a child) definitions. Lastly, Professor Aptel underscored that classifications of armed conflict should not prevent victims of crimes against humanity and genocide from receiving justice, as these crimes can occur outside armed conflicts and even precede such conflicts.

Prof. Mark Drumbl

Class of 1975 Alumni Professor, Washington and Lee University School of Law

Professor Mark Drumbl questioned the limits of the framework, especially in contexts beyond armed conflicts where children must operate in environments of endemic criminality and gang violence. He further doubted whether society is ready to listen to young people's needs, as they may differ from societal expectations. Professor Drumbl also elaborated on the problematic simplicity of a chronological and purely age-based approach to defining children. Even if it may be necessary for the legal system, it negates neurobiological developments after reaching majority and oversimplifies the complexities of life. Hence, even if these categories are kept, they must not police or determine other areas such as communication, reintegration programmes and so on. Later, Professor Drumbl focused on the ambiguity of children's experiences with violence: a holistic approach needs to consider that violence can be perceived in a mixed context, also including elements of independence and learning experiences, sometimes even offering an escape from an abusive family. Therefore, it would be wrong to always consider an armed conflict as totally determinative in one way. Lastly, he highlighted how young people have recently turned to courts to claim preventative measures against climate change under constitutional and international law. This demonstrates that children and young people can have agency in legal processes and need not be confined to the role of victim.

Prof. Kim Thuy Seelinger

Research Associate Professor, Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis; Senior Coordinator for Gender-Based Crimes and Crimes against Children in the ICC OTP; Former Special Adviser on Sexual Violence in Conflict to the ICC Prosecutor

Professor Kim Thuy Seelinger metaphorically described the ICC OTP's current situation as being in its own adolescence when it comes to the integration of children. More concretely, the OTP finds itself in a "socialization phase" where it engages with national actors, civil society and others to gain insights and strengthen its skills. Even though the Rome Statute anticipates the importance of children in crimes or proceedings and children have been included since the ICC's first case, it is important to distinguish between looking at crimes involving children and truly taking a child-sensitive approach. Importantly, article 21 of the Rome Statute compels its actors to pull from inter-disciplinary sources and learn from instruments such as the UNCRC. This, for example, includes strategies on how to understand the child's right to participation, prepare child-relevant information in a child-friendly format and further see their role as material elements of a crime. Professor Seelinger particularly mentioned internal tools developed to ensure the best interests of the child during the proceedings. These tools intend to facilitate adaptive individual, cultural and contextual assessments regarding a child's role in individual societies and thereby enable safe and ethical ways of working with children.

Dr Shelly Whitman

Executive Director, Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security

Dr Shelly Whitman stressed the political agenda's impact in maintaining global peace and preventing the commission of international crimes against children. She explained how working with security sector partners and communities can give civil society organisations a unique, dual-lens perspective on the protection of children. From that experience, it has been proven that frameworks must be drafted in a realistic way that ensures their effective implementation. The Vancouver Principles serve as an example of how an international framework can be established through implementation at the national level. Furthermore, Dr Whitman demonstrated how the notion of a continuum of violence challenges the current international frameworks. She used the example of Colombia, because it is defined not only by a context of armed conflict, but also by a context of armed violence disconnected from full-scale armed conflict. Differentiating between these contexts and working across these elements has proven difficult. Future frameworks must, therefore, address the issue of prosecuting and punishing affected individuals by introducing new mechanisms. Finding common ground, such as the primacy and protection of children, could offer a starting point. Even so, potential findings will only be implemented if the political agenda gives space, visibility and resources to these issues.

Panel III — Prosecuting International Crimes against Children: Strategies and Experiences

The third panel, moderated by Dr Gurgen Petrossian, Senior Officer for International Criminal Law at the Nuremberg Academy, examined the strategies and experiences that have defined the prosecution of international crimes against children. In this regard, the panel analysed the current practices and past approaches of the ICC, international and hybrid courts and tribunals as well as special investigative mechanisms. Shedding light on the journey from an investigation to a courtroom, experts distilled the innovations that have most influenced specialised investigative standards, prosecutorial strategies and procedural challenges concerning children and international crimes. The participants emphasised the importance of survivor-centric and intersectional approaches in developing such practices as well as the invaluable role of civil society, international cooperation and child-centric outreach.

Véronique Aubert

Lead on Children and Armed Conflict, Save the Children; Special Adviser on Crimes against and Affecting Children to the ICC Prosecutor

Véronique Aubert demonstrated the necessity of prioritising children in the prosecution of international crimes. According to her research, international justice should have the same standards as national systems, which often have sophisticated ways of realising the child's right to participation and involvement in proceedings. Importantly, participating in such processes can be empowering and healing to the child. Moreover, justice serves as a deterrent and helps build a society of rule of law by breaking the cycle of violence. Prioritising children will also help end the adult-centric approach in ICL, where crimes against children are only addressed as part of broader crimes. Lastly, it will prevent children's experiences from being treated in a reductionist way. On a related note, she presented key principles on handling cases with child involvement from the OTP's 2023 Policy on Children. This policy highlights that children's rights, safety, well-being and development must be at the forefront of all action and all steps must be balanced with what procedural steps serve their best interests. Further, the multidimensional aspect that stems from children's varying experiences needs to be addressed and analysed. Hence, the OTP must follow a survivor-centred and trauma-informed approach as well as collaborate with external experts to comply with all these principles.

Dr Serge Brammertz

Chief Prosecutor, United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

Focusing on the challenges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Dr Serge Brammertz contrasted the non-participation of victims as parties to the proceedings of ad hoc tribunals and their role in ICC cases. Even though they contributed to the ad hoc tribunals as witnesses, this role did not always fully meet their expectations. Furthermore, despite child victims being at the centre of or at least part of the proceedings, the ad hoc tribunals had only a few cases based on child-related issues. For example, in Rwanda, children were killed based on ethnicity and in the former Yugoslavia the genocide is directly linked to the killing of young boys. This appalling targeting of children served as an important factor from a prosecutorial perspective as it helped to prove criminal intent. Proving the specific targeting of children also made it easier for the prosecutor to establish genocidal intent. Subsequently, Dr Brammertz elaborated on the role of children's testimonies during proceedings before international courts, noting that the ad hoc tribunals made engagement with survivors central to their work. Even if children should have played an even more important role, it is undeniable that the evidence concerning child victims was, nonetheless, presented in court and seen as an aggravating circumstance.

Luz del Carmen Ibáñez Carranza

Judge, International Criminal Court

Judge Luz del Carmen Ibáñez Carranza brought forth complex issues that arise during the prosecution of crimes against children. Aggravating factors include, for example, difficulties with legal characterisation, gaps in accountability and the lack of explicit stipulation of sexual and gender-based crimes against children in the Rome Statute. Also, the prosecution of child soldiers, who are victims and perpetrators at the same time, poses a challenging task. Sharing a personal experience from her time as a prosecutor in Peru, Judge Ibáñez Carranza highlighted that in many instances neither state, society, nor the child soldiers themselves are aware that individuals punished for belonging to armed terrorist groups may simultaneously be victims. In many instances, parents who are also part of such groups include their children in these organisations and raise them to become soldiers. Therefore, it is equally important to qualify the crimes committed by these parents. Lastly, Judge Ibáñez Carranza warned that justice processes need to be deeply aware of the risk of retraumatising victims, in particular young victims, who should be provided with specialised psychological support in such situations. As such, children's involvement in truth-finding efforts should be a measure of last resort as children primarily need to be cared for.

Natalie von Wistinghausen

Victims Counsel, International Criminal Court

Natalie von Wistinghausen emphasised the spectrum of challenges that confront prosecutors and victims' representatives in prosecuting crimes against children in both international and domestic courts. In this respect, securing evidence of crimes against children poses a great difficulty. However, this issue is sometimes alleviated in situations of armed conflict, as children are affected in the same way as adults. Turning to the expectations of child victims and their relatives, von Wistinghausen differentiated between personal and broader expectations. On a personal level, victims wish to tell their stories and fight for their rights. In a broader context, they want to bring attention to the destruction of their community and culture and to the long-term consequences of displacement.
Also, von Wistinghausen explained the lack of focus on children from a procedural standpoint: prosecutors must make strategic decisions about which charges to bring to build a successful case. As less international jurisprudence exists on crimes against children, prosecutors favour crimes against adults to reduce the risk of any convictions being overturned on appeal. Therefore, it is mostly the victim's legal representative who seeks to introduce child-specific evidence. Lastly, she raised attention to the importance of acknowledging cases of transgenerational harm wherein children are harmed without being at the centre of the case itself.

Panel IV — Accountability and Reconciliation: Transitional Justice and Domestic Contexts

This panel highlighted the crucial role of transitional justice and related notions of the right to truth, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence for children in armed conflicts and atrocity situations. Moderated by Dr Pauline Martini, Project Officer at the Nuremberg Academy, it assessed how transitional justice policies interact with the needs and vulnerabilities of children and how such initiatives can grow empowered by child participation and engagement. The best approaches to further the rehabilitation and reintegration of child survivors were also explored. The panel further analysed the complementary and resurgent role of domestic prosecutions for addressing international crimes against children. In this regard, the experts focused on the question of how can child rights-friendly developments in domestic processes better foster developments at an international level and vice versa?

Prof. Pablo de Greiff

Founding United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence and Member, Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine

Professor Pablo de Greiff explained that transitional justice is a continuing task that inherently relies on child participation and consultation. The needs and rights of children are best addressed with a combination of judicial and non-judicial measures, meaning that the mere integration of children in judicial procedures is insufficient. Currently, states are slowly committing to address children's needs through transitional justice. Significant progress has been achieved in the ideas of participation, consultation and inclusion of children. These instruments are important as they not only provide courts with useful information but also legitimise their work by including all affected groups of conflict. Furthermore, reparation programmes can be designed to include a more child-friendly approach. According to Professor de Greiff, Chile serves as an example as a percentage of the monetary compensation is distributed to children and accompanied by other measures, including educational support or exemptions from military service. Such national experiences can influence soft law instruments and, in the future, serve as lessons for international tribunals. Lastly, he postulated that the preventive intent of international frameworks has often been undermined. As some violations can never be fully redressed, it is imperative to bring prevention back to the core of such frameworks.

Duscha Gmel

Federal Prosecutor, Head of the Crimes against International Law Unit, Office of the Federal Public Prosecutor General of Germany

Duscha Gmel illustrated that domestic prosecutions play a complementary and resurgent role when it comes to addressing international crimes against children. With three war crime units and eighteen prosecutors, Germany has effective tools to gather evidence in structured investigations to hold perpetrators accountable. As an example, German prosecutors have achieved landmark decisions in cases where women travelled to Syria and sent their children to ISIS training camps. The courts decided that merely handing over a child to ISIS training camps constitutes the war crime of enlisting and that the use of child soldiers does not require a connection between the perpetrator and a military entity, meaning that mothers can enlist their own children. Gmel further provided insight on the specialised measures implemented in German legal proceedings to protect child victims and witnesses. In criminal proceedings, every victim has the right to participate as a private accessory prosecutor. This status grants them special rights such as the reimbursement of legal fees, psychological assistance and participation rights. Further, Germany has adopted best practices for interviewing children which include avoiding double questioning, the exemption from cross-examination and possible removal of the public or the accused. Finally, Gmel explained that the issue of children as perpetrators can be addressed through special consideration of such circumstances in sentencing.

Alice Wairimu Nderitu

Special Adviser of the United Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, United Nations

Stressing the importance of accountability for prevention, Alice Wairimu Nderitu highlighted the significance of the inclusion of children for the success of any transitional justice process. She underlined the role of adults in the integration of children in transitional justice missions, enabling them to take charge of the narrative and increase their awareness of the impact of the crimes committed against them. Additionally, involving children in truth-seeking procedures helps them express their grief and share the stories of the affected communities. Reconciliation processes further help to situate risk factors in current life. Nderitu then came to the topic of violations in post-conflict states that hinder such processes. Currently, a dynamic of genocide denial accompanied by hate speech and glorification of war criminals can be observed in Srebrenica and Rwanda. This situation has a strong impact on the upbringing of victims' children as they not only have to cope with the fact that these crimes were committed against their relatives but must also continually push back against ongoing denial. Lastly, she brought attention to the importance of education on international tribunals and the crimes they prosecuted. More global actors should produce such information, find diverse means of distribution and thereby reach a wide audience of underinformed children and adults.

Panel V — Ways Forward: Protecting Future Generations

The final panel offered holistic and forward-looking approaches that can strengthen the protection of children's rights in the context of armed conflict. Moderated by Dr Angar Verma, Senior Officer at the Nuremberg Academy, the discussions detailed the collaborative efforts required at domestic, regional and international levels to strengthen the relevant legal and institutional architecture protecting children. At a time when multilateral initiatives face increased pushback and contestation, the panel emphasised the importance of supporting domestic initiatives, engaging with special procedures and strengthening the law's capabilities and enforcement potential to address new and urgent needs. The panel also focused on interconnected initiatives such as those strengthening educational rights and structures, ensuring expressions of culture and identity as well as providing tailor-made psychosocial support.

Prof. Diane Marie Amann

Research Visitor, Oxford University Faculty of Law Bonavero Institute of Human Rights; Regents' Professor of International Law, University of Georgia School of Law; former Special Adviser on Crimes against and affecting Children to the ICC Prosecutor

Focusing on legal frameworks, Professor Diane Marie Amann expressed her scepticism toward the proposal for a new comprehensive treaty specifically aimed at protecting children in armed conflict. More concretely, the effort of developing such a comprehensive and all-encompassing treaty and treaty body that responds to all dynamic events of an armed conflict appears unrealistic. Furthermore, a new treaty also presents a significant resource burden. Available resources may be better invested in the effective implementation of existing treaties, for example, by interpreting words in more creative, open or contemporary ways. Therefore, instead of drafting a new treaty, the international community should focus on resource allocation and making the best of existing treaties. Professor Amann also explained the criminal phenomenon of child-taking in which a state or a similar powerful entity takes a child and endeavours to alter, erase or remake the child's identity. Even though the idea evolved in light of recent events in Ukraine, child-taking knows no borders and is not limited by time, dating back to the situation of indigenous peoples in North America and other places. Importantly, Professor Amann referred to various existing legal provisions that could be adapted to counter this phenomenon. She concluded by detailing the collaborative efforts required at domestic, regional and international levels to strengthen the relevant legal and institutional architecture protecting children.

Kristin Hausler

Director, Centre for International Law, British Institute of International and Comparative Law

Kristin Hausler delved deeply into an issue of particular relevance to children: the protection of education in armed conflict. She emphasised the relevance of cultural heritage and the establishment of remembrance sites for affected groups' education. Further, even the protection of education requires a multifaceted observation: this includes considering what specific education is protected and raising the question of indoctrination at the international level. Therefore, education's importance should be considered more intensively in future reparations orders. Also, she drew attention to how existing frameworks are implemented and interpreted since IHL applies not only to states, but also to armed groups. In this context, she distinguished between two types of armed groups: those that openly disregard IHL and those groups that, in their quest for international legitimacy, are prepared to commit themselves to respecting the law of armed conflict. It is important to thoroughly engage with the latter by building their capacity and offering procedures in which they can demonstrate their commitment to the rules. Whereas significant interest in receiving such training exists, states seem reluctant to provide it, leaving on-the-ground actors with a lack of funding. Turning to children's access to justice, Hausler suggested the possibility of temporarily changing the seat of a court to better enable the inclusion of children as witnesses.

Betty Kaari Murungi

Former Commissioner, Kenya Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission; former Chairperson, United Nations International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia

Betty Kaari Murungi explained that the international community is still far from affording universal protection to children. She emphasised the need to shift from viewing children as passive victims and a vulnerable population to recognising them as agents of change. Accepting the expected bias in media coverage and attention, she strongly criticised the continued silence around children killed in, for example, Sudan or Gaza. She contended that another issue lies in humanitarian responses. For example, as South Africa is not accepting refugees from other African countries, these individuals are often hosted in states undergoing post-conflict reconstruction. According to Murungi, humanitarian responses must adapt to regional contexts, taking into account the nuanced experiences of children affected by armed conflict. Though international frameworks provide solid foundations for regional mechanisms, domestic legal systems require further strengthening on the ground. The recently introduced African Union policies target this problem by providing guidelines on how to implement certain child-specific policies. Lastly, Murungi delved into the issue of access to justice: due to plural justice systems in many countries, the actual access to formal justice mechanisms reaches only 10-15%. As such, informal justice mechanisms available to the vast majority of the population need greater focus and strengthening.

Leila Zerrougui

Former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and former Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Leila Zerrougui shared her experience as the former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. In particular, she recalled how effectively communicating with local leaders or perpetrators can have a significant impact on reducing the recruitment of child soldiers. However, such communication can only be achieved by finding an entry point in the field and a trust-building strategy. From her experience, this first requires a way of sparking the leader's interest in the proposal by demonstrating that it is in their best interest. Secondly, it is important to emphasise that one's mission is to support and guide, as mere lectures are mostly unwanted. Lastly, it is crucial to deliver by helping the country achieve tangible results. Even though the high ratification of the UNCRC and OPAC confers broad legitimacy on these treaties, it is important to check the practical reality and status of implementation. Field visits, special country assessments and the development of pragmatic solutions are essential to enable all countries to comply with their international obligations. Finally, Zerrougui mentioned that as the space for peacekeeping missions is seemingly closing, treaty bodies are once again becoming increasingly important.

Special Closing Keynote

Dr Navi Pillay

President, Advisory Council, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, former President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, former Judge of the International Criminal Court

Giving a brief overview of the existing legal frameworks protecting children, Dr Navi Pillay began her special closing keynote by highlighting the responsibility of adults to ensure that children are able to exercise the rights granted to them by international treaties. The conference presented many solutions and explored various dimensions that must be addressed to ensure that children can exercise these rights. Furthermore, the discussions outlined how the law's capabilities and enforcement potential can be strengthened to better protect children's rights during armed conflicts. For this purpose, the speakers addressed the experiences of international and hybrid tribunals, national and domestic courts, but also transitional justice bodies and human rights mechanisms. Reflecting on her past perspectives and actions, Dr Pillay remembered various instances where she unintentionally neglected children's rights. As a judge at the ICTR, the court's admirable jurisprudence nevertheless failed to mention specific crimes against children despite seeing such evidence. As UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, she mostly addressed children in the context of the rights of women and children. Today, Dr Pillay understands her responsibility to speak for the voiceless and give children's views the visibility they deserve, despite facing potential repercussions for doing so. After noting that the Nuremberg trials and subsequent proceedings were not entirely silent on experiences of children, she highlighted how the jurisprudence of the tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda advanced understandings of the nuance and gravity of crimes against and affecting children. Dr Pillay concluded by calling for a seismic change in the substance and capabilities of the law to ensure it can better respond to the seismic scale of the crimes committed against children across the world today.

Closing Remarks

Prof. Dr Christoph Safferling

Director, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

In his closing remarks, Professor Dr Christoph Safferling expressed his belief that the world belongs in the hands of children. He was uplifted to see that the attending experts dedicate their professional lives to enhancing the lives of children all over the world. Thanking the team and all the participating experts for their work and sharing their experiences, he invited all present to stay in touch with the Nuremberg Academy.

Programme of the Nuremberg Forum 2024

10 October 2024

Day 1

3–3.40 pm

Opening Remarks

Prof. Dr Christoph Safferling, Director, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Dr Thomas Dickert, President, Higher Regional Court of Nuremberg

Tania von Uslar-Gleichen, Legal Advisor, Head of Legal Department, Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Prof. Dr Julia Lehner, Mayor, City of Nuremberg

Dr Navi Pillay, President, Advisory Council of the International Nuremberg Principles Academy; former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; former President, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; former Judge, International Criminal Court

3.40–4.50 pm

Opening Discussion

Moderator: **Prof. Dr Patricia Wiater**, Chair for Public Law, Public International Law and Human Rights, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

Speakers:

Dr Yael Danieli, Founder and CEO, International Center for MultiGenerational Legacies of Trauma; Founding Director, Group Project for Holocaust Survivors and their Children and Former President, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

Jasminko Halilovic, Founder and Director-General, War Childhood Museum Sarajevo

Prof. Ann Skelton, Chairperson, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child; Chair for Children's Rights in a Sustainable World, Leiden University

4.50–5.30 pm

Keynote Addresses

Karim A. A. Khan, Prosecutor, International Criminal Court

Prof. Dr Stefanie Schmahl, Vice-President of the Advisory Council, International Nuremberg Principles Academy; Chair for German and Foreign Public Law, International Law and European Law, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg

7 pm

Reception by the City of Nuremberg given by the Lord Mayor
Historischer Rathaussaal

11 October 2024

Day 2 Frameworks, Prosecutorial Strategies and Experiences

Morning Session

10–11.30 am

Panel I: Children and Armed Conflict: Rights and Realities

Moderator: **Darleen Seda**, Senior Officer for Training and Capacity Strengthening, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Speakers:

Amb. Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Prof. Siobhán Mullally, Director, Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Galway; United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

Oleksandra Romantsova, Executive Director, Center for Civil Liberties

Prof. Ann Skelton, Chairperson, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child; Chair for Children's Rights in a Sustainable World, Leiden University

Discussion and Q&A

11.30 am–12 pm — **Coffee Break**

12–1.30 pm

Panel II: Protecting Children against International Crimes: The Framework

Moderator: **Dr Pablo Gavira Díaz**, Project Officer, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Speakers:

Prof. Cécile Aptel, Deputy Director, Innocenti Global Office of Research and Foresight, UNICEF

Prof. Mark Drumbl, Class of 1975 Alumni Professor and Director, Transnational Law Institute, Washington and Lee University

Prof. Kim Thuy Seelinger, Research Associate Professor, Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis; Senior Coordinator for Gender-Based Crimes and Crimes against Children to the ICC Prosecutor; Former Special Adviser on Sexual Violence in Conflict to the ICC Prosecutor

Dr Shelly Whitman, Executive Director, Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security

Discussion and Q&A

1.30–2.30 pm — **Lunch**

Afternoon Session

2.30–4 pm

Panel III: Prosecuting International Crimes against Children: Strategies and Experiences

Moderator: **Dr Gurgen Petrossian**, Senior Officer for International Criminal Law, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Speakers:

Véronique Aubert, Lead on Children and Armed Conflict, Save the Children; Special Adviser on Crimes against and affecting children to the ICC Prosecutor

Dr Serge Brammertz, Chief Prosecutor, United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

Judge Luz del Carmen Ibáñez Carranza, Judge, International Criminal Court

Natalie von Wistinghausen, Victims Counsel, International Criminal Court

Discussion and Q&A

12 October 2024

Day 3 Transitional Justice, Domestic Contexts, Way Forward and Closing Remarks

Morning Session

10.30 am–12 pm

Panel IV: Accountability and Reconciliation: Transitional Justice and Domestic Contexts

Moderator: **Dr Pauline Martini**, Project Officer, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Speakers:

Prof. Pablo de Greiff, Founding United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence; Member, Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine

Duscha Gmel, Federal Public Prosecutor, Head of War Crimes Unit S5, Office of the Federal Public Prosecutor General of Germany

Alice Wairimu Nderitu, Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

Discussion and Q&A

12–1 pm — **Lunch**

1–2.30 pm

Panel V: Ways Forward: Protecting Future Generations

Moderator: **Dr Angar Verma**, Senior Officer, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Speakers:

Prof. Diane Marie Amann, Research Visitor, Oxford University Faculty of Law, Bonavero Institute of Human Rights; Regents' Professor of International Law, University of Georgia School of Law; former Special Adviser on Crimes against and affecting children to the ICC Prosecutor

Kristin Hausler, Dorset Senior Research Fellow in Public International Law and Director, Centre for International Law, British Institute of International and Comparative Law

Betty Kaari Murungi, Former Commissioner, Kenya Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission; former Chairperson, United Nations International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia

Leila Zerrougui, Former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; former Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

2.30–2.50 pm

Special Closing Keynote

Dr Navi Pillay, President, Advisory Council of the International Nuremberg Principles Academy; former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; former President, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; former Judge, International Criminal Court

2.50–3 pm

Closing Remarks

Prof. Dr Christoph Safferling, Director, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

3–4 pm — **Visit to the Memorium Nuremberg Trials**

Biographies of Contributors

Prof. Diane Marie Amann

Former Special Adviser on Crimes against and affecting Children to the ICC Prosecutor

Professor Diane Marie Amann, currently a Research Visitor at the Oxford University Faculty of Law Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, is Regents' Professor, Emily & Ernest Woodruff Chair in International Law and Faculty Co-Director of the Dean Rusk International Law Center at the University of Georgia School of Law. She was ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's Special Adviser on Children in and affected by Armed Conflict (2012–2021) and has served, since 2023, as a member of the Bring Back Kids UA Task Force. Her recent publications in this field include 'Child-Taking', *Michigan Journal of International Law* 45 (2024), 305 and 'International Child Law and the Settlement of Ukraine-Russia and Other Conflicts', *International Law Studies 99* (2022), 559. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Professor Amann has held leadership posts in both the American and the European societies of international law. Under contract with Oxford University Press, she is writing a book on lawyers and other women professionals at the 1945–1946 International Military Tribunal trial at Nuremberg.

Prof. Dr Cécile Aptel

Deputy Director, Innocenti Global Office of Research and Foresight, UNICEF

Dr Cécile Aptel is an international legal practitioner with expertise in international justice, IHL, human rights and child rights. She has over 20 years of experience in international affairs, working for several UN entities, think tanks and non-governmental organisations, at headquarters and in Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans. She is currently the deputy director of the UNICEF Global Office of Research and Foresight. Previously, she served as the Deputy Director of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research; Director and acting Under-Secretary General at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Geneva; and senior advisor to UN High Commissioners for Human Rights. She also led the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' global work on rule of law and democracy and directed the establishment of the UN International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism on Syria. Earlier, she worked for the UN International Independent Investigation Commission and helped establish the Court of Bosnia-Herzegovina. From 1996 to 2005, she worked for the ICTY and ICTR, participating in the drafting of key judgments, including the *Akayesu* judgment, the first on genocide. A former professor of international law, she remains professor of practice of International Law at the Fletcher School, visiting professor at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and visiting scientist at Harvard University. She holds a PhD in law and has authored over 30 publications, including her recent book: *Atrocity Crimes, Children and International Criminal Courts: Killing Childhood*.

Véronique Aubert

Lead on Children and Armed Conflict, Save the Children UK and Special Adviser on Crimes against and affecting children to the ICC Prosecutor

Véronique Aubert is a senior human rights expert with over 20 years of experience in fact-finding missions investigating gross violations against children in conflict settings and promoting governments and armed actors' compliance with international law standards. She is the Lead on Children and Armed Conflict at Save the Children UK, where she provides policy analysis, child rights expertise and leads talks with senior government officials and donors. She co-authored with Oxford University the report, *Advancing Justice for Children* (March 2021) that explores the

barriers—and potential solutions—regarding accountability for crimes and violations against children in conflict. She also served (2012–2021) as Co-Chair of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, being actively involved in advocacy to develop and implement the Safe Schools Declaration, while also involved in the publication of the *Education under Attack* flagship report. She currently serves as Special Adviser on Crimes Against and Affecting Children to the ICC Prosecutor in her independent capacity and co-authored the ICC Policy on Children published in December 2023. Ms Aubert also regularly serves as a child rights expert for Justice Rapid Response to investigate international crimes against children and as a member of the Technical Advisory Panel for the Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. She was awarded an OBE in 2021 as a reward for her contribution to protecting children in armed conflict.

Dr Serge Brammertz

Chief Prosecutor, International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

Dr Serge Brammertz is Chief Prosecutor of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT). Dr Brammertz also served as Chief Prosecutor of the ICTY from 2008 to 2017. He oversaw the arrest and prosecution of key political and military leaders, including Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić. From January 2006 to the end of 2007, he served as the Commissioner of the UN International Independent Investigation Commission into the murder of the former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Previously, he was Deputy Prosecutor of the ICC, in charge of the Investigations Division of the OTP. Before this, he was the Head of the Federal Prosecution of the Kingdom of Belgium, where he supervised numerous investigations and trials related to cases of organised crime, terrorism and violations of IHL. Dr Brammertz was also a Professor of Law at the University of Liège. He has written on organised crime and international cooperation in criminal matters and published in international journals. He holds a law degree from the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, a degree in Criminology from the University of Liège and a PhD in International Law from the Albert Ludwig University in Freiburg.

Dr Yael Danieli

Founder, International Centre for Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma

Dr Yael Danieli is a clinical psychologist, pioneer traumatologist, psychohistorian, victimologist and Founder/Director of the International Center for Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma. As Founder/ Director of the Group Project for Holocaust Survivors and their Children, she conducted extensive psychotherapeutic work with survivors and offspring on individual, family, group and community bases. In this regard, Dr Danieli studied post-war responses and attitudes toward these individuals as well as the impact the Holocaust and responses to it had on their lives. She has published on life-long and intergenerational post-trauma adaptation, optimal care and training for working with massively traumatised victim/survivor populations as well as reparative justice. The Danieli Inventory for Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma allows a scientifically valid assessment and comparative international study. Emerita Distinguished Professor of International Psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, she built the first PhD program in international psychology. Dr Danieli also participated in the creation of all international instruments on behalf of victims' rights and optimal care and served as a consultant/expert to the ICTY, ICTR and the ICC on victims and staff care. She has also been a Consultant to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and worked in, *inter alia*, Northern Ireland and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2008, she was appointed Advisor on Victims of Terrorism for the office of the UN Secretary-General.

Prof. Pablo de Greiff

Founding United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence

Professor Pablo de Greiff is currently a Human Rights Expert Member of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine. He is also Rapporteur of the intersessional seminars on the contribution of the Human Rights Council to the prevention of human rights violations; the founding and former UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence (2012–2018); a former Member of the UN Independent Investigation on Burundi (2015–2016); and Director of the Transitional Justice Program and of the Prevention Project at the Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice at the School of Law of New York University. Professor de Greiff has also served as the Director of Research at the International Centre for Transitional Justice (2001–2014). He has provided advice to a wide range of governments, the UN and non-governmental organisations, particularly victims' organisations, truth commissions and multilateral institutions in transitional justice, gender issues and the linkages between justice, security and development. He is on the board of editors of the International Journal of Transitional Justice and has published extensively on the topic.

Dr Thomas Dickert

President, Higher Regional Court of Nuremberg

Dr Thomas Dickert is the President of the Higher Regional Court of Nuremberg. Dr Dickert represents the Free State of Bavaria on the Foundation Board of the International Nuremberg Principles Academy. From 2011 to April 2018, he was Head of the Budget, Construction, IT, Organisation, Security and Statistics Department at the Bavarian State Ministry of Justice. Prior to this position, Dr Dickert held several other positions at the Bavarian State Ministry and at different courts in Bavaria, including the High Regional Court of Munich and the Regional Court of Ingolstadt. He studied law at Universität Regensburg and completed his legal traineeship in Regensburg.

Prof. Mark Drumbl

Class of 1975 Alumni Professor, Washington and Lee University School of Law

Professor Mark A. Drumbl is the Class of 1975 Alumni Professor and Director of the Transnational Law Institute at Washington and Lee University. He has held visiting appointments and has taught at law schools world-wide, including Queen's University Belfast, Oxford University (University College), Université de Paris II (Panthéon-Assas), Free University of Amsterdam, University of Melbourne, Masaryk University and John Cabot University in Rome. His work has been relied upon by national and international courts. He has also served as a defence lawyer in genocide trials; co-authored an amicus brief to the ICC in the *Ongwen* case; and has been an expert in litigation including on international terrorism, with the UN in matters involving child soldiers and with the UN Human Rights Council in the drafting of a global convention to criminalise racist hate speech. His books include *Atrocity, Punishment, and International Law* (Cambridge 2007), *Reimagining Child Soldiers in International Law and Policy* (Oxford 2012) and *Informers Up Close: Stories from Communist Prague* (Oxford 2024, with Barbora Holá); and co-edited volumes *Research Handbook of Child Soldiers* (Elgar 2019, with Jastine Barrett), *Sights, Sounds, and Sensibilities of Atrocity Prosecutions* (Brill 2024, with Caroline Fournet) and *Children and Violence* (Routledge 2024, with Christelle Molima and Mohamed Kamara et al).

Dr Pablo Gavira Díaz

Project Officer, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Dr Pablo Gavira Díaz is a Project Officer at the International Nuremberg Principles Academy, where he contributes to a wide variety of matters, including legal research, policy analysis, event management as well as public dissemination of knowledge in the field of international criminal justice. He is a Spanish lawyer, specialised in IHL and ICL. He received his doctorate in International Law from the Walther Schücking Institute for International Law at the University of Kiel, where his doctoral research focused on the international protection of immovable cultural property and the criminal liability for attacks against those objects in ICL. Dr Gavira Díaz has also worked in academic environments, namely the Walther Schücking Institute for International Law and the European Centre for Minority Issues. In addition, he provided legal support to the planning and execution of NATO military operations at the Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE).

Duscha Gmel

Federal Public Prosecutor, Head of War Crimes Unit S5,
Office of the Federal Public Prosecutor General of Germany

After studying law at Albrecht-Ludwigs-University in Freiburg, Germany, Duscha Gmel worked as a prosecutor and judge. In 2000, she was delegated as an assistant prosecutor to the Federal Prosecutor's Office. From 2003 to 2006, she served as a judge at the Dresden Higher Regional Court. In 2006, she returned to the Federal Prosecutor's Office. There, she worked for more than ten years in the Terrorism Unit. Afterwards, she was appointed to the Legal Audit Unit and conducted, inter alia, legal audits in the sphere of state security and ICL. In 2018, Ms Gmel became the head of the newly founded "Crimes against International Law" Unit. Additionally, she is a board member of the Karlsruhe Legal Research Association.

Jasminko Halilovic

Founder, War Childhood Museum Sarajevo

Jasminko Halilovic is the Founder and Director-General of the War Childhood Museum (WCM), the world's only museum dedicated to the experiences of children affected by war. The WCM received the Council of Europe Museum Prize as part of the European Museum of the Year program. He has written and edited several books, including *Sarajevo – My City, a Place to Meet* and the award-winning *War Childhood*, translated into six languages. Halilovic holds a master's degree in financial management and is pursuing a PhD in museum management. He has served as a keynote speaker at conferences in over 15 countries on museums, peacebuilding and entrepreneurship. He frequently presents and lectures at universities worldwide and has contributed to outlets like The Huffington Post, Asahi Shimbun and Politico. In 2018, he became the first Bosnian on Forbes' Europe "30 under 30" list and, in 2023, he was named a European Young Leader (EYL40). An entrepreneur since age 16, Mr Halilovic co-founded several businesses before dedicating himself fully to his not-for-profit initiative, the War Childhood Museum. He is an avid traveller, having visited over 90 countries.

Kristin Hausler

Director of the Centre for International Law, British Institute of International and Comparative Law

Kristin Hausler, Dorset Senior Fellow, is the Director of the Centre for International Law at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, where she has developed and led several research projects on human rights, IHL and ICL. Ms Hausler's expertise lies in cultural heritage matters, including issues related to conflict. She has conducted legislative reviews in post-conflict contexts in the Middle East and Africa and analysed the legal frameworks applicable to the armed conflict in Ukraine. She has spoken at events around the world, including at the UN, and is regularly invited to teach on cultural heritage. She has also provided training on heritage protection, including for military personnel and blue helmets (with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation [UNESCO]), police officers (with International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property [ICCROM] and Interpol) and armed groups (with Geneva Call). At present, she is one of the experts developing a training programme on heritage protection with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law.

Luz del Carmen Ibáñez Carranza

Judge, International Criminal Court

Judge Luz del Carmen Ibáñez Carranza has served as a Judge in the Appeals Division of the ICC since 2018. Prior to joining the ICC, she served as a Senior National Prosecutor in Peru's specialised system for the prosecution of crimes such as terrorism, grave violations of human rights and crimes against humanity. As a Public Prosecutor, Judge Ibáñez Carranza implemented a number of measures towards victims' reparations, including supporting searches for missing persons, recovering and identifying human remains in mass graves, organising public ceremonies for the declaration of public apologies from the Peruvian State to the victims, the restitution of the human remains to the relatives of the victims and rescuing children abducted by armed groups. During her career, she was appointed several times as a Peruvian delegate before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism and other international bodies. Judge Ibáñez Carranza was also a professor of criminal law, criminal procedure and human rights law for 22 years.

Karim A. A. Khan. KC

Prosecutor, International Criminal Court

Karim A. A. Khan KC was elected as Prosecutor of the ICC at the nineteenth session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute on 12 February 2021. Previously, he was an Assistant Secretary-General of the UN and served as the first Special Adviser and Head of the UN Investigative Team to promote accountability for crimes committed by Da'esh/ISIL in Iraq (UNITAD) between 2018 and 2021. He is also a UK barrister and King's Counsel. Mr Khan has extensive experience as a prosecutor, victim's counsel and defence lawyer in domestic and international criminal tribunals, including, but not limited to, the ICC, ICTR, ICTY, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) and the Special Court for Sierra Leone. He has also represented victims of human rights violations in Africa and Asia. He is a worldwide Ambassador of the African Bar Association. He has published a number of leading texts on ICL and is the co-author of *International Criminal Courts* (Archbold, 2018).

Prof. Dr Julia Lehner

Mayor, City of Nuremberg

Professor Dr Julia Lehner is mayor of the City of Nuremberg with the Department of Culture since her election in May 2020. From 1996 to 2002, she was an honorary city councillor of the CSU in the Nuremberg City Council with a focus on cultural and school policy. In 2002, she moved to the Office of the Cultural Officer as a professional city councillor, where she served four terms in office. She studied German, history, social studies and art history at FAU, completing her doctorate in 1984. In 2000, she was appointed honorary professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Nuremberg.

Dr Pauline Martini

Project Officer, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Dr Pauline Martini is a Project Officer at the International Nuremberg Principles Academy, where she works in the Training and Capacity Strengthening Department. She specialises in ICL and transitional justice. She holds a master's degree in criminal law from the Université de Liège, an LLM in Public International Law from Leiden University and a PhD in International Criminal Law from Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). Her doctoral research explored the impacts of the decision of the Prosecutor of the ICC to close the preliminary examination of the Situation in Colombia on running narratives in international criminal justice. She also has a research interest in the prosecution of environmental crimes under the ICC Statute. Dr Martini has worked for different institutions, including the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. In October 2021, she co-submitted a communication to the ICC Prosecutor on the commission of crimes against humanity in the Brazilian Amazon. Dr Martini has teaching experience at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, QMUL and the University of Oxford.

Kiran Mohandas Menon

Senior Officer, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Kiran Mohandas Menon is a lawyer specialised in ICL, public international law, international human rights law and transitional justice. Apart from his long association with the International Nuremberg Principles Academy (including a stint with its Founding Office), Mr Menon has extensive international experience having worked on international law and human rights matters in Sri Lanka, Spain, Greece, Ireland and Germany. He has also prepared briefs for universal jurisdiction proceedings for a British-Spanish law firm and taught courses on international human rights law at the University of Galway's Irish Centre for Human Rights. At the Nuremberg Academy, Mr Menon leads the public discourse stream, which is responsible for the Academy's workshops, lectures and conferences, including the Nuremberg Forum. He holds degrees in international law and international relations.

Ambassador Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations in Geneva

Athaliah Molokomme is the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva and Ambassador to Switzerland since 2017. In this role, she has served on and chaired a number of international meetings and committees, including the WTO Dispute Settlement Body and the General Council. Before her appointment as Ambassador, she served as a High Court Judge and, for 11 years, as the first female Attorney General of the Republic of Botswana, where she was a member and head of the Botswana delegation to the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree (University of Botswana and Swaziland), a Master of Laws degree (Yale Law School) and a PhD in Law (Leiden University). Dr Molokomme also taught law at the University of Botswana, where she authored many journal articles and book chapters. She is also one of the founding members of several human rights organisations. Dr Molokomme is the recipient of several honours, including the Presidential Order of Meritorious Service for Exceptional Service to Botswana and was most recently awarded the highest national honour of 'Naledi Ya Botswana'. She serves on a number of international boards including the Advisory Council of the Nuremberg Academy, Justice Rapid Response and the International Gender Champions Global Board. She is also a founding member of the Justice Leadership Group and the Africa Group on Justice and Accountability.

Prof. Siobhán Mullally

United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; Director, Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Galway

Professor Siobhán Mullally is the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. She has led UN missions to South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Bangladesh, Colombia and Tajikistan. She is the Established Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the University of Galway. She is also the Chairperson of the newly established UN Platform of Independent Experts on Rights of Refugees and a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. Professor Mullally previously served as President of the Council of Europe treaty monitoring body, the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. She has worked as an advisor on human rights, gender equality, child rights and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations. She is the Programme Director of the LLM in International Human Rights Law at the University of Galway and has published widely on gender, human rights law, migration and refugee law.

Betty Kaari Murungi

Former Commissioner, Kenya Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission; former Chairperson, United Nations International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia

Betty Kaari Murungi is Professor of Practice at the Centre for Gender Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. She has served as member of the Independent Commission of Inquiry for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, appointed by the UN Human Rights Council (2018–2019); Vice Chairperson and Commissioner to the Kenya Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission (2009–2010); Africa representative on the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims at the ICC (2009–2013); Transitional Justice Advisor to President Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana; Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, South Sudan (2016–2018); and Chairperson, UN International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia. She is currently a member of the Africa Group on Justice and Accountability. Ms Murungi was educated at the University of Nairobi and the Kenya School of Law and is a member of the Kenyan Bar. A past Visiting Fellow at Harvard Law School, she has broad experience in transitional justice processes and women's human rights in the context of violent conflict. She has experience in international criminal justice and accountability mechanisms and has worked to promote gender justice in Kenya, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan.

Alice Wairimu Nderitu

Special Adviser of the United Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, United Nations

Alice Wairimu Nderitu of Kenya is the UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. Ms Nderitu is a recognised voice in the field of peacebuilding and violence prevention, having led as a mediator and senior adviser in reconciliation processes. She served as Commissioner of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission in Kenya, as well as Founding Member and Co-Chair of the Uwiano Platform for Peace, a prevention agency linking early warning to early response. She was also one of the founders of the Community Voices for Peace and Pluralism, a network of African women professionals preventing, transforming and solving violent, ethnic, racial and religious conflicts worldwide. Widely published, she is the recipient of awards recognising her commitment to peaceful conflict transformation throughout Africa and her innovative approach to mediation.

Dr Gurgen Petrossian

Senior Officer for International Criminal Law, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Dr Gurgen Petrossian is a Senior Officer at the International Nuremberg Principles Academy. He obtained an LLB from Yerevan State University, followed by an LLM from Universität Heidelberg and ultimately a PhD from the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU). He holds teaching positions at FAU, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt and Yerevan State University. Prior to rejoining the Nuremberg Academy, Dr Petrossian consulted for one of Germany's largest textile companies, focusing on business and human rights in accordance with the German Act on Due Diligence in Supply Chains. Previously, he worked as the head of the International Criminal Law Research Unit at FAU. Dr Petrossian has provided assistance to the Republic of Armenia and the Iraqi Kurdistan Autonomous Region in incorporating ICL into their respective legal systems. Dr Petrossian also served as legal advisor in Armenia, where he made significant contributions to the prison facility investigation project of the NGO Helsinki Association for Human Rights.

Dr Navi Pillay

President of the Advisory Council, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, former President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, former Judge of the International Criminal Court

Dr Navi Pillay was elected President of the Advisory Council of the International Nuremberg Principles Academy in 2017. She served as the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the UN from 2008 to 2014. After studying law at the University of Natal, she worked on behalf of the victims of racial segregation as a criminal defence lawyer and as an activist for the anti-Apartheid movement. Later, she earned a master's degree and a Doctorate in Juridical Science (1982 and 1988 respectively) from Harvard University. In 1995, after the Apartheid's end, Dr Pillay was appointed to the High Court of South Africa as a limited-term judge. In the same year, she was elected by the UN General Assembly as a Judge to the ICTR, where she served for a total of eight years, including four years as President. Later, she served on the ICC for five years. Dr Pillay plays an active role in numerous human rights organisations. Among other roles, she is the Co-founder of Equality Now, an international women's rights organisation.

Oleksandra Romantsova

Executive Director, Centre for Civil Liberties

Oleksandra Romantsova studied at the University of Economics and Law KROK in Kyiv, where she obtained a master's degree in international economics from the Faculty of International Relations. She also holds a second master's degree in project management. At the end of 2021, she obtained a master's degree in conflict management and mediation. Since May 2014, she has pursued her professional career as a human rights defender at the Centre for Civil Liberties (CCL). Ms Romantsova's first project involved monitoring and documenting human rights violations and political persecution in Russian-occupied Crimea. From May 2014 until the end of 2016, she coordinated mobile observation of human rights violations and war crimes in eastern Ukraine and has continued monitoring political persecution in occupied Crimea. Since September 2017, Ms Romantsova has served as Executive Director of the CCL and, from 24 February 2022, she has also worked to coordinate the documentation of war crimes and advocacy as part of the global initiative "Tribunal for Putin". She participates in field missions in the Kyiv region.

Prof. Dr Christoph Safferling

Director, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Professor Dr Christoph Safferling (Dr jur., LLM) is a Professor of Criminal Law, Criminal Law Procedure, International Criminal Law and Public International Law at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU). He studied law in Munich and London, received his doctoral degree at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München in 1999 and his Habilitation at FAU in 2006. He is the Director of the International Criminal Law Research Unit at FAU. Moreover, he is the Whitney R. Harris International Law Fellow of the Robert H. Jackson Centre in Jamestown, New York. In 2018, Professor Dr Safferling was a visiting scholar at the Stanford Centre for Human Rights and International Justice. He was a member of the Independent Academic Commission at the Federal Ministry of Justice for the Critical Study of the National Socialist Past from 2012 to 2017 and has undertaken a study on the history of the Federal General Public Prosecutor.

Prof. Dr Stefanie Schmahl

Vice-President of the Advisory Council, Nuremberg Academy and Chair for German and Foreign Public Law, International Law and European Law, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg

Professor Dr Stefanie Schmahl has held the chair for German and Foreign Public Law, International Law and European Law at the Julius-Maximilians University of Würzburg since 2007. Between 2008 and 2010, she was appointed Legal Expert on "Child-Friendly Justice" at the Council of Europe. Between 2012 and 2018, she was a deputy member of the Administrative Board of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. Professor Dr Schmahl is a Member of the Advisory Council to the International Nuremberg Principles Academy since 2015 and has served as its Vice President since 2023. The same year, she became a Member of the Committee "Enforcement of the Rights of Children in Migration" of the International Law Association. Professor Schmahl publishes on numerous topics of German and European public law and international law. In 2013, her commentary on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Additional Protocols was published.

Darleen Seda

Senior Officer for Training and Capacity Strengthening, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Darleen Seda is a Senior Officer for Training and Capacity Strengthening at the International Nuremberg Principles Academy. She is a Kenyan lawyer with a specialisation in ICL, international human rights law and transitional justice. She holds a (joint) master's degree from the University of Western Cape and Humbolt-Universität zu Berlin and a bachelor's degree from Kenyatta University. Ms Seda has substantial experience working with domestic and international research and policy institutions, including the Nuremberg Academy, where she worked as Project Officer from 2016 to 2017. Before re-joining the Nuremberg Academy, Darleen Seda worked at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law and the Kenyan Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. She also supported the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan as a Junior Consultant.

Prof. Kim Thuy Seelinger

Research Associate Professor, Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis; Senior Coordinator for Gender-Based Crimes and Crimes against Children to the ICC Prosecutor; former Special Adviser on Sexual Violence in Conflict to the ICC Prosecutor

Professor Kim Thuy Seelinger served as Special Adviser on Sexual Violence to the ICC Prosecutor from 2021 to 2023. In 2024, she became the OTP's first senior coordinator for gender-based crimes and crimes against children. Professor Seelinger is also a research associate professor at the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis, visiting professor at the School of Law and director of the Center for Human Rights, Gender and Migration at the Institute for Public Health. Drawing from her interdisciplinary research in law and social science in Central America, the Mediterranean and Africa, she provides technical assistance to international and national actors working on war crimes trials, legislative reform and support services for survivors. Professor Seelinger is also a technical advisor to the Global Survivors' Fund which aims to enhance access to reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence around the globe.

Prof. Ann Skelton

Chairwoman, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

Professor Ann Skelton is a Professor of Law at the University of Pretoria and at Leiden University, where she holds the Chair entitled Children's Rights in a Sustainable World. She teaches in the International Human Rights Law Master's at Oxford University and is a Visiting Professor at the University of Strathclyde. Professor Skelton worked as a children's rights lawyer in South Africa for 30 years, where she pioneered strategic litigation on children's rights and appeared as counsel in twelve landmark cases before the South African Constitutional Court. Her global influence has been recognised through several awards, including the Honorary World's Children's Prize and the Juvenile Justice Without Borders Award. She has chaired several international drafting bodies, including the Advisory Board for the Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty. Professor Skelton has been a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child since 2017 and is currently the Committee's Chairperson. The Committee has reviewed several states involved in armed conflict during her term of office, including Russia and Israel, and she was chair of the Working Group on Communications when the Committee issued its decisions in cases relating to repatriation of children in the camps in Northeast Syria.

Dr Angar Verma

Senior Officer, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Dr Angar Verma is a Senior Officer at the International Nuremberg Principles Academy. His interests include the relationship between politics and international law, international legal theory, ICL, transnational organised crime, human rights law and peace and conflict studies. He studied law at Universität Bonn and at Universität zu Köln, specialising in international law, ICL and European law. Additionally, he obtained an LLM at the European University Institute. He completed his doctoral studies at Universität zu Köln, which included a research stay at New York University as a Gibson Dunn Fellow, with a dissertation entitled "Methodology and the Identification of International Crimes." Prior to joining the Nuremberg Academy, Dr Verma worked as Research Associate at the Institute for International Peace and Security Law in Cologne, the German Consulate General in Mumbai, the German Aerospace Centre in Bonn, the European Journal of International Law in Florence and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna.

Tania von Uslar-Gleichen

Legal Advisor and Head of Legal Department, Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Tania von Uslar-Gleichen is currently the Head of the Legal Department of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. Prior to this position, she was Vice President of the Federal Intelligence Services between 2019 and 2022. Ms von Uslar-Gleichen has decades of experience in diplomacy. In 1993, after finishing her law degree and state exams, she began her career in the German Federal Foreign Office and worked at the Office of the Minister of State for European Affairs. In 2004, she became the Deputy Head of the Crisis Prevention Unit of the Federal Foreign Office's UN Department and, in 2006, the Chief of Staff to the Director of the Policy Unit of the General Council Secretariat of the European Union. She has also served as Head of the European Policy Relations Unit at the German Chancellery.

Natalie von Wistinghausen

Victims Counsel, International Criminal Court

Natalie von Wistinghausen specialises in criminal law as a trial advocate and has acquired wide-ranging experience in domestic and international legal criminal work. She was admitted to the List of Counsel at the ICC, the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (MICT). She was a Legal Assistant in a defence team before the ICTR and Lead Counsel in Germany in a case against a Rwandan who was accused of charges relating to the Rwandan genocide. Besides her domestic work, she was assigned to protect the interests and rights of one of the accused in the *in absentia* proceedings of the STL. Since 2019, she has been representing Yazidi women in universal jurisdiction cases against alleged ISIS members before Higher Regional Courts in Germany. She has also filed criminal complaints on behalf of NGOs who are representing victims of chemical attacks in Syria as well as victims of international crimes committed in Ukraine. Ms von Wistinghausen has also been the Co-Chair of the War Crimes Committee (WCC) of the International Bar Association (IBA) and was a member of the Executive Council of the ICC Bar Association (ICCBA). In October 2021, she was appointed as Common Legal Representative of Victims in the case against Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman (situation in Darfur, Sudan) at the ICC.

Dr Shelly Whitman

Executive Director, Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security

Dr Shelly Whitman took up the post of Executive Director of the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative in January 2010, now the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security. In the 12 years since, she has spearheaded the establishment and growth of the organisation as an internationally recognised institute. Dr Whitman has been instrumental in creating a number of key international agreements and policies on the protection of children. Recognised as a subject matter expert, she is regularly called upon to speak to global forums and provide media commentary on the issues of children, peace and security. Prior to her work with the Dallaire Institute, Dr Whitman worked on the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Rwanda Genocide Report. She has also enjoyed an academic career teaching in International Development Studies and Political Science at Dalhousie University, Saint Mary's University and the University of Botswana.

Prof. Dr Dr Patricia Wiater

Chair for Public Law, Public International Law and Human Rights, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

Professor Dr Dr Patricia Wiater holds the Chair for Public Law, Public International Law and Human Rights at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and is a member of the Centre for Human Rights Erlangen Nuremberg. She earned a Franco-German doctorate in law from the University of Strasbourg and Leipzig on European human rights law and a second doctorate in political science from the University of Freiburg. Her Habilitation at LMU Munich focused on international economic law. Professor Dr Wiater's research covers a broad range of topics, including the impact of legal pluralism and cultural diversity on human rights, the role of businesses in human rights compliance and the relationship between national security policies and legal frameworks. Before joining academia, she worked for the Bavarian government and is now involved in different human rights advisory roles.

Leila Zerrougui

Former Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

Leila Zerrougui was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict at the Under Secretary-General level in September 2012, a position she held until 2017. Throughout her term, she served as an independent advocate to build awareness and give prominence to the rights and protection of boys and girls affected by armed conflict. Prior to this appointment, she was the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Deputy Head of the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) where, from 2008, she spearheaded the Mission's efforts in strengthening the rule of law and protection of civilians. As a legal expert in human rights and the administration of justice, Ms Zerrougui has had a distinguished career in strengthening the rule of law and championing strategies and actions for the protection of vulnerable groups, especially women and children. A trained lawyer, Ms Zerrougui was a member of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention under the UN Human Rights Council from 2001 and served as the Working Group's Chairperson-Rapporteur from 2003 until May 2008.

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