

Michael O'Flaherty

Personal

Nationality: Irish

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Languages: English and French.

Present Appointment:

- Professor of Applied Human Rights and Co-Director of the Human Rights Law Centre at the School of Law, University of Nottingham.

Other Current Professional Engagements:

- Member, The United Nations Human Rights Committee. Elected on the nomination of the Government of Ireland by the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

- Member of international advisory boards: Diplomacy Training Programme, Sydney; UN-UK Association, London; University of Sarajevo Human Rights Centre, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Hilda Back Education Fund, Nairobi.

- Member of the Management Committee of EU Research Fund on Human Rights, Human Security and EU External Policy ("COST Action 28").

- Member of the International Research Network on Human Rights and Conflict Resolution.

- Visiting Professor: the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa and the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization, Venice

- Fellow, Kingston University.

- Member, editorial boards: The Human Rights Law Review; EIUC Studies in Human Rights and Democratization Book Series; The Irish Yearbook of International Law.

- Advisor to: UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); UNICEF;

The Sierra Leone Special Court; the UN Mission in Afghanistan; Several human rights non-governmental organisations.

- Director, "Consolidating a Profession: The Human Rights Field Officer". An international and inter-institutional project of research, capacity building and training to map the professional identity and functions of the human rights field worker.

- Expert Witness: During 2005/2007 gave expert evidence on a number of occasions before trials at the Sierra Leone Special Court.

Previous Appointments:

2002- 2003: Senior Research Officer (Child Rights), UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence, Italy.

2000-2002: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): Coordinator, OHCHR programmes in the Asia-Pacific region; Acting Deputy Director of the Office of the High Commissioner at UN Headquarters, New York; Chairperson of the UN Task Force on Human Rights and Humanitarian Action.

1998-2000: Chief of the UN human rights programme in Sierra Leone, UN Mission in Sierra Leone.

1997-1998: Independent Consultant in Human Rights.

1996-1997: Seconded to the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, OHCHR (Sarajevo): Expert Advisor on Human Rights under the Dayton Peace Accords; Field-Based focal point for the UN human rights Special Rapporteur for Former Yugoslavia.

1995-1996: UN Centre for Human Rights, Geneva: Secretary, (UN) Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Coordinator, Human Rights Programme, UN Graduate Studies.

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1993-1995: UN Centre for Human Rights, Geneva, Zagreb and Sarajevo: Desk Officer for Former Yugoslavia; Initiator and first field-based coordinator of the UN human rights field presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1987-1992: Coordination of the international human rights activities of the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace; Development of support schemes for marginalized young people and the juvenile prisoners; Coordination of the national youth programmes on justice, peace and human rights.

1980-1983: Apprentice Solicitor, Ireland.

Qualifications:

1993: University of Amsterdam, Netherlands: Master of Philosophy (human rights)

1992-1993: University of Amsterdam / Amsterdam School of International Relations, Netherlands: Master of Arts in International Relations

1984-1987: Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome: Bachelor of Theology

1983-1984: Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome: Bachelor of Philosophy

1980-1983: Law Society of Ireland, Dublin: Solicitor

1977-1980: University College Dublin (National University of Ireland): Bachelor of Civil Law.

Publications:

Extensive range of publications detailed in annex focusing inter alia on Human Rights Training, field operations, humanitarian and international criminal law, and the UN treaty monitoring system.

Conference Presentations 2003-2007:

Keynote speaker/panellist at events organized by the governments of Ireland, UK, China, Germany, Norway, Monaco, Liechtenstein, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Solomon Islands and Fiji and at numerous conferences run by intergovernmental bodies, universities and non-governmental organizations.