

CONFERENCE



**30 Years Of Child Rights:
Progress And Challenges**

20 SEPT., 2019

13:00 - 17:00

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PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

All presentations are in English, unless specified otherwise

13:00 WELCOME & REGISTRATION

13:30 OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Speech by François Crépeau

Full Professor and Hans & Tamar Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law, at the Faculty of Law of McGill University, Director of the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism & IBCR Board Member.

13:40 A MANDATE IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO FIGHT VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Najat Maalla M'jid

UN special representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children

14:00 DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS
Moderator: François Crépeau

14:30 BREAK

15:00 STRENGTHENING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN IN AFRICA

Théophane Nikyèma

IBCR Chairperson, former Executive Director of The African Child Policy Forum

15:15 LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE REFUGEE CRISIS IN EUROPE (IN FRENCH)

Jean-Claude Legrand

IBCR Board Member, expert in child protection and international advocate for children's rights

15:30 THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND CHILD PARTICIPATION: POLICIES AND PRACTICE

Consulting children in the development of public policies against violence & the right to be heard as victims of violence.

Roberta Cecchetti

IBCR Board Member, International Expert on Children's Rights

15:45 DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS
Moderator: François Crépeau

16:30 CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

SPEAKERS



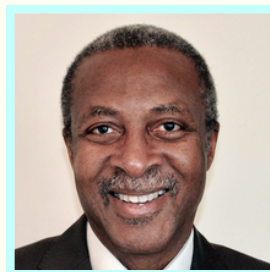
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NAJAT MAALLA M'JID

A paediatrician by training, Najat Maalla M'jid has been working to protect and defend the rights of the most vulnerable children for almost 25 years. In Morocco, she was involved in training social workers and drafting a national policy on child protection. Najat founded the organisation Bayti (My House), a non-governmental organisation whose mission it is to protect, care for, reintegrate and promote respect for the rights of children in difficulty in Morocco, particularly children living in the street, child domestic labourers and child victims of violence.

Najat is an international consultant and professor who teaches children's rights, social protection policies, human development and social engineering. She is a member of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee of Morocco, and is in charge of the commission for the protection, promotion and monitoring of children's rights. At the international level, her involvement in and dedication to the most vulnerable children is evident in her work with numerous non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations, in addition to various studies centred on children in difficulty, for example children who are the victims of violence, sexual exploitation or other forms of exploitation, abandoned children, unaccompanied child migrants and minors in detention.

Najat has held the position of United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography since May 2008, and has worked with the Bureau from 2011 to June 2019. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honours, including the Nathalie Masse Prize (International Centre for Childhood and the Family, Paris, 1997), the European Prize for Social Paediatrics (1997) and the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic (2000). In 2003, Najat was awarded the Legion of Honour.

On 30 May 2019, the United Nations Secretary-General appointed Ms. Najat Maalla M'jid as his Special Representative on Violence against Children.

JEAN-CLAUDE LEGRAND

Jean-Claude Legrand is a renowned expert in child protection and a strong advocate for children's rights, especially in emergency situations.

Over the last fifteen years, he has provided technical support to almost thirty governments in the development of their strategies for implementing child protection system reforms. His work focused particularly on the decentralization of child protection responsibilities to local actors, including municipalities, regions, social services, medical care, security forces, justice and the education sector.

For more than twenty years, Mr. Legrand worked with UNICEF, measuring the quality of their programs which allowed him to make a significant contribution to normative developments at both the national and regional levels particularly when it comes to children in armed conflict. Between 1993 and 2001, his mandates with UNICEF in Mozambique and New York allowed him to contribute to the development of the Cape Town Principles on Preventing Child Recruitment in the Armed Forces, and Demobilization and Reintegration. of child soldiers in Africa.

Mr. Legrand holds a bachelor's degree in Private Law as well as a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DEA) in Sociology. He is fluent in French and English and has basic knowledge of Portuguese

THÉOPHANE NIKYÈMA

Child rights advocate, Mr. Théophile Nikyèma has more than 20 years of experience in international affairs. He served in different senior level positions in non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations. He is a member of the Board of Directors "Keeping Children Safe's" a global network of organisations that work together to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation.

From August 2013 to January 2018, he was the Executive Director of the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) a non-profit and independent pan-African research centre focusing on advocacy and dialogue on the African child. He contributed to elevating the issue of violence against children in Africa and promoted the African Partnership to End Violence against Children.

Prior to that, he was UNICEF Representative ad interim in Mali, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Uganda, Deputy Regional Director of UNICEF for West and Central Africa, UNICEF Representative in Rwanda, UNICEF Senior Operations Officer in Tanzania, and Regional Operations Officer for UNICEF South-Asia.

A national of Burkina Faso, Mr. Nikyèma holds a Postgraduate diploma in Human Resources from the Institute of Policy Development and Management, the University of Manchester, UK; a Master of Business Administration from the Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management of Claremont Graduate University, USA and a bachelor degree in economics from the Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal.

ROBERTA CECCHETTI

Roberta Cecchetti is an expert on children's rights. She has worked for more than 20 years with large and small non-governmental organizations, including 15 years with Save the Children. More recently, she has worked with UNICEF, OHCHR and the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. She has specific expertise in the field of child protection, including child protection systems, violence against children, corporal punishment, alternative care and the protection of migrant/refugee children. Her areas of work include research, evaluation, strategic planning, policy and advocacy for children and child participation.

She served as Chair of the Executive Committee of Child Rights Connect for three years and is currently Chair and member of the Executive Committee of the Global Detention Project, based in Geneva. Ms. Cecchetti has worked throughout her career in various countries and speaks Italian, English, French and Spanish.