



CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INITIATIVE
CTI2024.ORG

CTI Online Workshop for Pacific States

*Building effective anti-torture regulatory
frameworks for fair systems of justice*

A close-up photograph of a wooden gavel resting on its sound block. The gavel is made of dark wood and is positioned diagonally. The background is a blurred image of a courtroom, showing a scale of justice and bookshelves filled with books.

18 - 20 May 2021 - Zoom Workshop

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CTI Online Workshop for Pacific States Building Effective Anti-Torture Regulatory Frameworks for Fair Systems of Justice.



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



The Commonwealth

Concept Note

Context and Focus

Effective legal and institutional frameworks to implement fundamental human rights principles, such as the prevention and prohibition of torture, play a central role in contributing to fair and well-functioning systems of justice. The UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) provides a framework for States to strengthen their legal, policy and administrative measures to ensure that safeguards are in place to prevent and prohibit the crime of torture, whilst elaborating on the ramifications and avenues for investigation, prosecution and redress when allegations of torture and ill-treatment do occur. UNCAT provides countries with a clear roadmap to initiate and implement justice sector and legislative reforms.

The Pacific Islands context is one rooted in strong democratic and rule of law traditions, enhanced by solid constitutional human rights frameworks and safeguards. This enabling environment has led to half of the region becoming fully fledged States Parties to UNCAT. All six of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) which have not yet ratified UNCAT have nonetheless signaled their commitment to doing so, reflecting their awareness of the benefits that becoming a State Party can bring.

Objectives and outcomes

Drawing on past positive dialogues on UNCAT with Pacific States, this workshop aims to enhance the capacity of senior government officials to:

build the case for UNCAT ratification and prepare associated Cabinet submission, stocktake on existing national legislative frameworks to achieve alignment with UNCAT, facilitate State reporting to the UN Committee against Torture, and reflects on how this can be managed by Small States with constrained capacities.

Through an online platform where the sharing of national experiences will be encouraged, participants at the end of the workshop will be:

- Fully familiar with UNCAT's legislative requirements as well as ratification procedures and reporting modalities;
- Have a bundle of good State practices to draw on for their own national ratification, legislative drafting or reporting processes;
- Able to identify elements needed to construct an effective anti-torture legislative framework, 'map' relevant national laws for conformity with UNCAT and take stock of areas where legislative changes may be required or recommended;
- Be equipped with technical skills to draft Cabinet submissions and/or legal provisions in the context of torture prevention, prohibition and redress.

¹ Six PSIDS Parties to UNCAT: Kiribati (2019), Samoa (2019), Marshall Islands (2018), Fiji (2016), Nauru (2012) and Vanuatu (2011). Six PSIDS not yet party to UNCAT: Micronesia, Palau (signed), Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu. Australia and New Zealand are also States parties.

Day 1: Tuesday 18 May 2021 All times are in GMT +12

10:30 - 11:00

Participants to connect to the Zoom platform and test audio and video

11:00 - 11:30

Opening Addresses: Pathways to effective justice systems and remedies for victims of torture

This opening session provides an opportunity to reflect on the central role that anti-torture institutional and regulatory frameworks play in delivering effective and fair justice, ending impunity, advancing the rule of law, and providing redress and justice for victims of torture and other inhumane treatment. The session will also explore how committing to and abiding by the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) bolsters and strengthens the strong democratic and rights culture of Pacific States.



Chaired by:

Dr. Alice Edwards

Head of CTI Secretariat



Welcoming and opening remarks from Fiji as Host and CTI Core State:

Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

Attorney General of Fiji

On Fiji's experience of ratifying and implementing UNCAT, and the Convention's impact on and reforms undertaken in law enforcement, institutions of justice and catalysing cultural changes.



Keynote speakers:

Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland QC

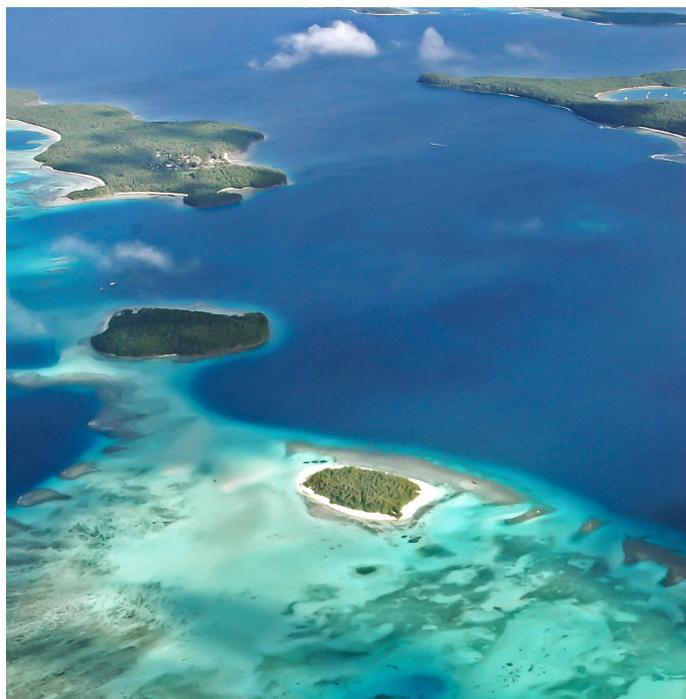
Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

On the role of the rule of law and human rights in the Pacific and Commonwealth underpinning democracy, good governance, and equal and fair justice, especially the prohibition against torture and ill-treatment and the right to liberty and security of persons.

Ms. Heike Alefsen

Regional Representative for the Pacific, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

On accountability for violations of human rights and the global fight to end torture and ill-treatment, with a focus on the Pacific.



11:30 - 11:45



Welcome and introduction to the programme:

Ms. Gayethri Pillay

Senior Adviser, CTI Secretariat

11:45 - 12:30



Session 1: Introduction to the UN Convention against Torture - UNCAT

Dr. Alice Edwards

Head of CTI Secretariat

This session will allow participants to gain an understanding of the scope and obligations under UNCAT and in particular, its legislative requirements. Reference will be provided to examples of good national anti-torture laws, and will highlight some key considerations for States in terms of legislative reform.

Key substantive provisions of UNCAT

Presentation and Showing of CTI's video on UNCAT



Q & A : 15 mins

12:30 - 12:40



Break

12:40 - 13:30



Session 2: Legislative drafting principles and anti-torture laws

This session recaps basic principles of good legislative drafting and refreshes drafting techniques. This session will include examples of good legal drafting (sample provisions) and participants exchange good practices and challenges.

Moderator:

Mr. Miles Young

Director, Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) Division



Speakers:

Mr. David Solvalu

Principal Legal Officer, Attorney General's Chambers, Fiji

Introduction to Legislative Drafting Principles

H.E. George Edgar

UK High Commissioner in Fiji

Sharing UK's experience of implementing UNCAT through law, especially Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and the Criminal Justice Act 1988



Roundtable:

Exchange of good laws and identifying gaps in legislation facilitated: 20 mins

13:30 - 14:00



Session 3: Breakout sessions on drafting legislation and Cabinet submissions



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Group 1: Legislative drafting for UNCAT States Parties

Noting the legislative requirements of UNCAT and, using previously circulated country legislation notes, participants will (i) identify gaps in their own national legal frameworks and priorities for specific reforms/amendments; (ii) draft nationally relevant concrete anti-torture provisions; (iii) time permitting, discuss strategies and next steps for invoking anti torture legislative reform processes.

Moderator:

Ms. Releshni Karan

National Legal Advisor, OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific

Intervention by:

Ms. Stella Duburiya

*Pleader (Human Rights Section)
Department of Justice and Border Control of Nauru, on Nauru's Crimes Act of 2016*

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Group 2: Cabinet submissions and legislative review processes to support ratification/accession to UNCAT: for UNCAT non-State Parties

Using previously circulated sample Cabinet submission materials, country legislation notes and CTI's UNCAT Ratification Tool, participants will (i) identify the main elements and arguments to be included in Cabinet submissions proposing UNCAT ratification/accession, as well as guiding decisions on reservations/declarations; (ii) draft key paragraphs of Cabinet submissions for UNCAT ratification/accession; (iii) discuss strategies and next steps for promoting UNCAT ratification/accession.

Moderator:

Mr. Steve Onwuasoanya

*Human Rights Adviser
Commonwealth Secretariat*

Intervention by:

Ms. Francella Strickland,

*Assistant Chief Executive Officer at
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
Samoa*

Sharing Samoa's journey to ratifying UNCAT

Day 2: Wednesday 19 May 2021 All times are in GMT +12

10:45 - 11:00

Opening Session:
Enabling participants to connect

11:00 - 12:00

Session 3 Continued: Breakout sessions on drafting legislation and Cabinet submissions

12:00 - 12:10

 **Break**



12:10 - 13:30



Session 4: Legislative drafting, Cabinet submissions and frameworks in justice and law enforcement: Best practices and take-aways from Session 3/Breakout groups, recapping and Q/A



Moderator:
Dr. Justin Pettit
Human Rights Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat

The Rapporteur of each breakout session summarises the main take-away messages of the session with the assistance of the participants.

Day 3: Thursday 20 May 2021 All times are in GMT +12

10:45 - 11:00

Opening Session:
Enabling participants to connect

11:00 - 11:40



Session 5: Reporting to UN Committee against Torture (CAT)

This session enables a better understanding of reporting timeframes, procedures and content of reports to the UN Committee against Torture. Explores good practices and challenges from ratified States with regards to meeting their reporting obligations.

Moderator:
Mr. Steve Onwuasoanya
Human Rights Adviser Commonwealth Secretariat



Interventions:

Ms. Momoko Nomura
Human Rights Officer, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Overview of reporting requirements specific to UNCAT

Ms. Gayethri Pillay
CTI Senior Adviser (formerly Head of Seychelles Mission in Geneva)

Preparing to report to UNCAT – Experience of Seychelles as a SIDS

Opening up the floor for participants to include their experiences, advice and questions.

Day 3: Thursday 20 May 2021 All times are in GMT +12

11:40 - 12:10



Session 6: Facilitating implementation, reporting and follow-up to UNCAT

This session explores the usefulness of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF) in the context of reporting to Treaty Bodies including UNCAT, and the 'Pacific Practice Principles'. States will also share the particular experiences and challenges of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific and internationally on how NMIRFs function in practice.

Moderator:

Ms. Rose Martin,
Human Rights Adviser, HRSD



Interventions:

Mr. Marc Limon
Executive Director
Universal Rights Group

NMIRFs and the Pacific Principles

Mr. Aretaake Ientaake
Director of Human Rights at the Kiribati
Ministry of Justice

Kiribati's experience with NMIRF

Opening up the floor for participants to include their experiences, advice and questions.

12:10 - 12:20



Break

12:20 - 13:00



Session 7: Way forward for building strong anti-torture legal frameworks and Pacific-wide ratification/accession to UNCAT

Moderator:

Ms. Gayethri Pillay, *Senior Adviser, CTI*

In this session, each participating State will summarise key lessons learnt from the workshop; and propose a way forward and action points for their country towards ratification and/or implementation of UNCAT.

Participants will also share requests and suggestions for additional capacity building or technical support.

13:00 - 13:10



Feedback/Forms to be completed by participants

13:10 - 13:30

Closing ceremony

Chaired by:

Dr. Alice Edwards
Head of CTI Secretariat



Interventions:

H.E. Karim Medrek
Ambassador of Morocco covering
Australia, New Zealand and Pacific
States

H.E. Hugo Ignacio Llanos Mardones
Ambassador of Chile to New Zealand

Statement from Host State, Fiji



Speakers

In Alphabetical Order



Heike Alefsen

*Regional Representative
for the Pacific, UN Human Rights (OHCHR)*

Heike Alefsen has almost 30 years of human rights, legal, political and development work experience with the United Nations, the Council of Europe and civil society. Until 2020, she was Senior Human Rights Adviser to the UN Country Team in Bangladesh and to the UN Development Group Asia-Pacific in Bangkok. As Deputy Head of the OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia, she established a country programme for Myanmar. Prior to that, she coordinated policy and information of the Human Rights Council's special procedures at OHCHR Geneva. She also served with the UN Division for the Advancement of Women and the UN Development Fund for Women in New York, as Council of Europe Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with Amnesty International's Legal Office in London.



H.E. George Edgar

*British High Commissioner to Fiji, also accredited to Kiribati,
Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Federated States of
Micronesia*

H.E. George Edgar is currently the British High Commissioner to Fiji, also accredited to Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia, since August 2020. From 2015 to 2019 he served as the European Union Ambassador to Cambodia. From 2012 to 2015, he was the British Ambassador to Uzbekistan. Prior to that, he has also served as British Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia and to Cambodia.



Dr. Alice Edwards

Head, CTI Secretariat

Dr. Edwards has been Head of the Convention against Torture Initiative Secretariat since January 2016, providing strategic and policy advice to the CTI Core States and delivering the annual programme of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. Dr. Edwards has over 20 years' experience working in the human rights and social justice sectors. Prior to taking up her CTI appointment, she was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Chief of Protection Policy and Legal Advice, based in Geneva. She has held academic appointments in law at the universities of Oxford and Nottingham and is widely published. She has worked in diverse countries with the United Nations and non-governmental organisations, such as in Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, Switzerland and the UK (the latter with Amnesty International).

She holds degrees in law and political science from the University of Tasmania (UTAS), an LLM (Distinction/1st class) in Public International Law from the University of Nottingham, and obtained a PhD in Public International Law from the Australian National University. She is admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor before the Supreme Court of Victoria and the High Court of Australia.



Mr. Aretaake Ientaake

Director of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice Kiribati

Mr. Aretaake Ientaake, is the Director of Human Rights within the Ministry of Justice in Kiribati. His responsibilities include the implementation of the UN conventions that the Government of Kiribati has ratified with the Human Rights Council which are CEDAW, CRC, CRPD; UNCAT; working with budgets and monitoring of Human Rights in Kiribati as well as conducting advocacy programs and formalizing policies with stakeholders. Overseeing all propose enacted legislations to be align with fundamental human rights in the Country's Constitution. And finally designing of capacity building for human rights staff; tapping funding assistance to Kiribati and working with the Kiribati National Human Rights taskforce established by Cabinet. His past employments include working as the Consumer Affairs officer within the Ministry of Commerce in 1991-2009; as a Deputy Clerk with the House of Parliament in 2009 -2013; as an Assistant Peoples' Lawyer within the Office of the People's

Lawyer Office in 2013-2015; and as a Senior Assistant Secretary within the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources in 2015-2017. He is a graduate from the University of the South Pacific with BA/LLB (Public Administration) and PDLP; also awarded with certificate in Master Business Administration (MBA).



Ms. Releshni Karan

National Legal Adviser Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Pacific Regional Office

Releshni Karan is the National Legal Advisor at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Regional Office for the Pacific. She provides an advisory role in human rights protection in all fields of work for the Regional Office including providing legal advice, conducting legislative reviews, capacity building of Government and stakeholders on promoting and protecting human rights. She is the focal point for Rule of Law and Democracy as well as for Gender issues for the Regional Office for the Pacific.

She holds a Masters in Law and a Masters in International Relations and Diplomacy. She has a Bachelors in Law and Professional Diploma in Legal Practice. She also has various Australian accredited qualifications in Leadership and Management. She has presented papers in International conferences and facilitated several regional workshops. She has trained law enforcement officers on prohibition of torture and use of excessive force in the Pacific as well as trained INTERPOL based in Singapore.

She brings a wealth of experience and skills in the fields of law, policy, strategic planning and research & management having been a practicing lawyer for over 10 years and a Director of the largest Government ministry in Fiji for 4 years.



Mr. Marc Limon

Executive Director, Universal Rights Group

Marc Limon worked as a diplomat (rank of Counsellor) at the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council from the body's establishment in 2006 until the end of 2012. This included participating in the negotiations on the institution-building package (which determined how the Council would operate), on the Council's mid-term review, and on a wide-range of thematic and country-specific issues over the course of twenty-one regular sessions and nineteen special sessions.

During his time as a diplomat at the Council, Marc consistently worked to improve the body's effectiveness, visibility and accessibility. This included working on the establishment of three UN Trust Funds designed to increase the participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Council and its mechanisms. It also included establishing a cross-regional political group at the Council called the Article 4 Dialogue, designed to strengthen dialogue as well as the output of the body. During his time as a representative of a Member state of the Council, Marc was lead negotiator on nine different UN resolutions dealing with issues including human rights and climate change, human rights and the environment, freedom of assembly and association, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Between 2006 and 2012, Marc also prepared reports for and interacted with all UN human rights treaty bodies, drafted national reports under the Universal Periodic Review, and organised five Special Procedure country missions. He therefore possesses first-hand knowledge of the international human rights system, how it works, its weaknesses and the challenges it faces to improve its effectiveness.

In addition to his work on human rights policy, Marc was also a lead negotiator during the COP15 and COP16 climate change negotiations in Copenhagen and Cancun, securing the inclusion of human rights principles and safeguards in the Cancun Agreements. He also played a key role in the establishment of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, a head of state level grouping of the world's most environmentally vulnerable states. Finally, he chaired negotiations in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the strengthening of United Nations support for SIDS, and was facilitator of the SIDS group during negotiations leading up to UNCTAD XIII (2012).

Prior to coming to Geneva, Marc worked as a government affairs and media relations consultant in Brussels, focusing on EU policy-making in the areas of international relations, human rights, trade and the environment. He also advised a range of clients, from the public and private sectors, on communications and public relations.



H.E. Hüge Ignacio Llanos Mardones

Ambassador of Chile to New Zealand

He is a lawyer and holder of a Law Degree from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. He is graduated from the "Andrés Bello" Diplomatic Academy and has a Ph.D. in Public International Law from the Graduate Institute of International Studies of the University of Geneva. He has been Visiting Researcher at Harvard Law School.

He has held functions in the Permanent Mission of Chile to the International Organizations in Geneva, in the Chilean Embassies in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, as well as the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations, in New York.

Ambassador Llanos has been Deputy Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization and Political Coordinator of Chile in the United Nations Security Council.

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Santiago, he has been Chief of the United Nations Department and Chief of the Security Council Unit. From July 2015 to December 2017, he was Director of Multilateral Policy, and before his appointment, he was Ambassador of Chile to Iran.



Ms. Rose Martin
Human Rights Adviser
SPC, HRSD Division

Originally from the Solomon Islands, Rose has worked in the social development sector for more than 20 years across different Pacific Island countries on gender and women's issues, youth development and child rights. Her experience encompasses managing social development programs, providing technical advice, and building capacity of governments and non-government organisations in the areas of human rights, gender and women's development, youth development and child rights. Rose joined SPC in 2007 and has held various advisory roles across different areas of work.



H.E. Karim Medrek
Ambassador of Morocco covering Australia,
New Zealand and Pacific States

Mr. Karim MEDREK, a career diplomat, was nominated Ambassador of His Majesty the King in Australia, New Zealand and to several Pacific States. Prior to this nomination, Mr. MEDREK had been Director/First Assistant Secretary in charge of Communication, Public Diplomacy and Non-State Actors within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation headquarters since 24 March 2009.

Having graduated from the "Ecole Nationale d'Administration" and then from the Institute of Management in Atlanta USA (1990) with a degree in international negotiations, Mr. MEDREK began his career at the United Nations and International Organizations Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation – Rabat, Morocco, before being posted to

the Moroccan Embassy in London in September 1991, to be in charge of International Organizations.

In 1996, Mr. MEDREK was elected Vice-Chairman of the Diplomatic Conference for the Revision of the MARPOL Convention 73/78 of the International Maritime Organization. He was also member of the Moroccan Delegation to the Conferences on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership - follow-up to the Barcelona Conference (1997-1998).

In August 2000, Mr. MEDREK joined the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations (UN) in New York as Counsellor in charge of the Committee on Legal Affairs.

During his stay in New York, Mr. Karim MEDREK also assumed Vice-Chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property from February 2001 through February 2004.

In the same vein, Mr Medrek was elected, in October 2003, Rapporteur of the UN Legal Committee, then Chairman of the Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization in February 2008.



Ms. Momoko Nomura

*Human Rights Officer,
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Regional Office for the Pacific*

Ms. Momoko Nomura has been working for human rights since 2004 in NGOs and government, and with the UN Human Rights Office since 2009. In 2020, she transferred from headquarters in Geneva – where she was providing legal support to the UN treaty bodies – to the Regional Office for the Pacific. She leads the Treaty Bodies Capacity Building Programme, which provides support to States to engage effectively with the international human rights mechanisms, including through the timely submission of reports. Momoko holds a joint Hons. B.A degree in International Relations and Peace and Conflict Studies and an LL.M in international human rights law.



Mr. Steve Onwuasoanya

Human Rights Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat

Steve Onwuasoanya is a seasoned Lawyer and international human rights law advocate, currently serving as a Human Rights Adviser at the Commonwealth Secretariat, London. Steve holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) degree from the University of Lagos and Master of Laws degree (International Law and Justice) from Fordham University Law School, New York, USA. Steve is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. After several years in private legal practice, Steve joined the United Nations.

Steve has had an extensive international career working for the United Nations Secretariat, New York and other UN agencies (UNDP, OHCHR, UNHCR, UN Missions) on issues of rule of law and development, access to justice and promotion and protection of human rights.

Steve has a demonstrated global experience in driving in-country sustainable human rights initiatives, practices and standards in collaboration with member governments, inter-governmental, regional and international human rights institutions, spanning across North America, Europe, Africa, Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific.

Steve is an engaging communicator skilled in building positive relationships with stakeholders and a senior level change-making background in organizational transformation.



Dr. Justin Pettit

*Human Rights Adviser,
Commonwealth Secretariat*

Justin Pettit is an Adviser in the Human Rights Unit at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. He has extensive experience in the international human rights sector. Justin currently supports Commonwealth states in Africa, Asia, Caribbean and Pacific to effectively engage with international human rights mechanisms, provides strategic guidance on establishing and strengthening national human rights institutions and protection frameworks, and gives expert technical advice on human rights matters to Commonwealth states on legislation, policies, and programmes. Before joining the Commonwealth Secretariat, Justin was a Lecturer at the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Roehampton where he taught courses on international human rights law, public international law, and global political economy. He has been a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Essex School of

Law, and has also worked with non-governmental organisations, such as the International Diplomacy Council and the Bay Area Immigrant and Refugee Services. He holds a PhD in Law from the University of Essex.



Ms. Gayethri Pillay

*Senior Adviser,
CTI Secretariat*

Gayethri Pillay joined the CTI Secretariat in February 2021 as Senior Adviser and is responsible for CTI's technical assistance and capacity building support on ratification, implementation and reporting for SIDS – Small Island Developing States, in particular in the Caribbean and Pacific which make up over half of the remaining non-States-parties to the UN Convention against Torture. She will also be overseeing CTI's engagement with the UN human rights system, managing a range of regional seminars and conferences, managing CTI's internship and consultancy programmes, and coordinating the CTI Advice Hub. Prior to joining CTI, Gayethri was Chargée D'affaires e.p and Head of Seychelles' Permanent Mission in Geneva. Ms Pillay has worked in numerous capacities within the Government of Seychelles, including as Director of the International Law and Human Rights Unit, and as the Director of Seychelles' National Committee on Trafficking in Persons. As a diplomat and legal expert, Ms Pillay has extensive experience in the national coordination and implementation of international human obligations. Ms Pillay holds a LLM in Public Law and Human Rights Law from the University College of London (UCL) and a LLB from the University of Kent. Speaks English, French, Seychellois Creole and Tamil.



Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

Attorney General of Fiji

The Attorney-General is a lawyer by profession and is admitted to the Supreme Court of New South Wales and to the High Courts of Australia and Fiji.

He obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree majoring in Political Science and Development Studies from the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

He later obtained his Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales, Australia and completed his Masters in Law from the University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong).

Mr Sayed-Khaiyum has extensive experience working for corporate organizations, both in Fiji and internationally. Whilst in Australia he worked as a lawyer with Minter Ellison Lawyers and in Fiji he was the General Manager, Group Legal & Compliance and Company

Secretary of the Colonial Group of Companies in Suva, Fiji. He also worked as a senior legal officer at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

He is currently the Fijian Attorney General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communications and Minister responsible for Human Rights.



Rt.Hon Patricia Scotland QC *Secretary-General of the Commonwealth*

Patricia Scotland was born in the Commonwealth of Dominica. She is the tenth of twelve children and grew up in London. She completed her LLB (Hons) London University at the age of twenty and was called to the Bar at Middle Temple at the age of twenty-one.

Her career has been marked by achieving a number of extraordinary firsts, not least of which was to be the first woman in the more than 700-year history of the office to serve as Her Majesty's Attorney-General for England and Wales and for Northern Ireland.

While holding these and other senior ministerial office she was given responsibility, inter alia, for gender equality, domestic violence, forced marriage, and international child abduction, and from these positions promoted diversity and equality of opportunity, particularly for women and girls.

As the only woman to have been appointed Secretary-General of Commonwealth she is placing special emphasis on mobilising the 54 nations of the Commonwealth to tackle climate change – including its disproportionate impact on women – and, through women's enterprise, to build the resilience of smaller or more vulnerable countries. Eliminating domestic violence and violence against women and girls is another area of focus.



Mr. David Solvalu *Principal Legal Officer Attorney General's Chambers Fiji*

Mr Solvalu is a Principal Legal Officer at the Office of the Solicitor-General in Fiji, Attorney-General's Chambers ('Office'). He is based in the Legislative Drafting Department of the Office and as such, his key responsibility is the drafting of primary and subsidiary instruments of principal and amending legislation.

These include legislation governing a variety of fields; such as human rights, transport, criminal law, environmental and climate change law, taxation, international arbitration, employment, family and succession law, commercial law and intellectual property.

He is also admitted to practise in the High Court of Fiji and has litigated complex judicial review and constitutional redress matters in the High Court.

Mr Solvalu is also a trained climate change negotiator representing Fiji in the climate change negotiations at the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a board member of the Fijian Film Control Board and the Solicitor-General's nominee to the Security Industry Licensing and Registration Board.

Mr Solvalu is a graduate of the University of the South Pacific where he attained a Bachelor's Degree in Law, a Professional Diploma in Legal Practice and a Professional Diploma in Legislative Drafting.



Ms. Francella Strickland
Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa

Francella Strickland is a senior official in the public service and is in her second term as the Assistant Chief Executive Officer for the International Relations Division of the Samoa Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade. Prior to that she was the Senior Adviser, Office of the President of the UN General Assembly for the 71st Session in New York from August 2016 – to June 2017; and was the Deputy Permanent Representative for Samoa Mission to the UN, New York from 2011 to 2016. She has worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade since January 2001.

Francella was the lead negotiator for Samoa on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, SAMOA pathway, Addis Ababa Action Accord and on the Arms Trade Treaty. She led the First UN Oceans Conference team for the UN President of the General Assembly and represented Samoa as Bureau member for the ICC and Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

Her current work includes the analysis, follow up and reporting on the implementation of UN conventions including the six core human rights conventions Samoa has signed up to. This includes UNCAT. She currently heads the Secretariat supporting the national taskforces for the Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights.

Francella holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Administration in Economics and Money and Finance from Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand and a Postgraduate Diploma in Contemporary Diplomacy from the University of Malta.



Mr. Miles Young
Director
SPC, HRSD Division

Born and raised in Fiji, Miles has over 25 years of professional experience, largely working as a rule of law development practitioner across the Pacific, Asia and Africa. He joined SPC following roles with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Western Sydney University in Australia, the Australian Government-funded Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice Programme in Indonesia, and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) in Australia and Italy, as well as in private legal practice in Fiji, Australia and Indonesia. Miles has worked on a wide range of substantive areas, including: access to justice / legal aid; legal and economic empowerment of communities; women's rights and gender equality; constitution making; judicial administration; human rights; international trade law; and agriculture law / food security.

Miles holds degrees in politics and law from the University of Sydney.

List of Participants (as of 18 May 2021)

Fiji

Mr Itendra Nair
Deputy Commissioner of the Fiji Police Force

Ms. Seema Chand
*Senior Legal Officer,
Office of the Attorney-General*

Mr David Solvalu
*Principal Legal Officer,
Office of the Attorney-General*

Mr Ashwin Raj
*Director of the Fiji Human Rights and
Anti-Discrimination Commission*

Kiribati

Mr. Tearinaki Tanielu
*Director for Multilateral Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration*

Mr Aretaake Ientaake
*Director of Human Rights
Kiribati Ministry of Justice*

Ms. Aileen Bauro
Human Rights Officer- Ministry of Justice

Mr. Amberoti Nikora
Country Focal Officer- HRSD staff

Ms. Henty Pine
Human Rights Officer - Ministry of Justice

Dr. Arite Katherine Torote
Ministry of Health and Medical Services

Marshall Islands

Captain Bouliej Peter Kabua
Marshall Islands Police Department

Mr Samuel Lanwi
DPR RMI Mission to Geneva

Federated States of Micronesia

Mr. Leonito Bacalando Jr
Assistant Attorney General

Mr. Kenneth Welles
*First Secretary,
Micronesia Permanent Mission to the UN*

Nauru

Ms. Catherine Belong

Ms. Stella Dubriya
*Pleader (Human Rights Section)
Department of Justice and Border Control
Republic of Nauru*

Ms. Francis Pulemai
*Senior Government Lawyer,
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
under the Department of Justice*

Palau

Hon. Ernestine Rengiil
Attorney General

Ms. Hila Asanuma
Assistant Attorney General

Papua New Guinea

Ms. Lois Stanley
*Director in charge of Advisory & Drafts.
Constitutional and Law Reform Commission*

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About the CTI



CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INITIATIVE
CTI2024.ORG

Created in 2014, the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) is a ten-year global initiative of the Governments of Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco (Core States), to support and facilitate universal ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) by 2024.

Our vision

We want, once and for all, to remove torture from the toolkit of terror and oppression and to put an end to the profound traumas and societal wounds caused by this violent practice.

Objectives

The CTI aspires to strengthen institutions, policies and practices for dignified and rule-based governance and to reduce and prevent the risks of torture and ill-treatment through

- dialogue and exchange,
- technical assistance, capacity-building support and institution-strengthening,
- sharing evidence-based recommendations, expert advice and best practices,
- developing, compiling and translating practical examples, experiences, tools, resources and other materials,
- convening seminars, conferences and workshops,
- hosting a platform for information and knowledge dissemination and awareness raising.

The CTI's website, www.cti2024.org, provides an important repository of tools and information on CTI activities.

The **Association for the Prevention of Torture** (APT) is a strategic partner of the CTI, collaborating and advising the CTI on many of its activities.

Operating principles

The work of the CTI is guided by three fundamental principles:

Constructive. The CTI takes a constructive approach. It is not the role of CTI to “name and shame” but rather to support Governments in their efforts to pursue ratification of and to implement the Convention.

Twinning. CTI is an initiative by and for Governments, based on mutual respect and equality, seeking to enhance the exchange of experiences and knowledge – typically in regional settings.

Inspirational. CTI inspires, it does not prescribe. CTI hopes to inspire countries by exposing them to the experiences of other countries, and through learning from those experiences.

Organisation

The Initiative is spearheaded by the Governments of Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco and supported by a full-time Secretariat, based in Geneva. The CTI Secretariat provides policy and strategic advice to the CTI Core States, friends and partners, and delivers an ambitious, tailored annual programme of activities providing capacity building, know-how and technical assistance to States and other stakeholders.

The CTI's work is encouraged and bolstered through a [Group of Friends](#), a network based on cooperation, allowing for the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas regarding how best to overcome obstacles to full implementation of UNCAT. All UN Member States and relevant NGOs, experts and academia are invited to join the CTI's Group of Friends.

How the CTI Can Help

There are a number of ways that the CTI can assist States. This includes States that are considering ratification and those that have already ratified but want help to implement the Convention more effectively.

Regional meetings

As a cross-regional initiative, CTI sees the advantages of regional and sub-regional exchanges between States that share legal traditions, practical similarities and friendship. Annually the CTI works with national counterparts to arrange a number of peer-to-peer government dialogues on themes of relevance to States in a region. These confidential meetings offer a unique opportunity for States to share experiences on the challenges and opportunities provided by ratification and implementation of the Convention with a view to building strong relationships between States at regional level.

Study visits

The CTI can arrange “study visits” to Geneva for delegations from non-States-parties to the Convention who have shown an interest in learning more about what it means to be a State party. The visits generally consist of expert briefings on the Convention, meetings with high level UN and other Government officials, including the UN Committee against Torture, to explain and share views, and there are opportunities to observe a session of the Committee against Torture in their review of a State party report and the State party’s replies.

Country diplomatic and/or technical visits: CTI carries out a number of high-level diplomatic and/or technical delegation visits each year to States to provide assistance on a range of issues relating to ratification and implementation of the Convention. A seminar with national stakeholders may be included in such a visit. Visits are tailored to the needs and wishes of the individual Government, and are not used to lobby or pressure. The CTI will work in close partnership with the State in question to meet its exact needs.

High-level UN and regional events

The CTI holds regular meetings at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and the UN General Assembly in New York, and also at regional fora. Through these meetings, the CTI brings together States and torture prevention experts to discuss progress and opportunities for increased ratification and better implementation of the Convention.

Tools and Guides

The CTI works with expert partners to prepare tools intended to assist officials to understand and implement the Convention more effectively. These tools are practical and share good State practices.

Non-English language versions are also available.

The CTI Secretariat is also available to support States through:

- A **remote Advice Hub**, responding to technical queries relating to ratification or implementation of the Convention: advicehub@cti2024.org;
- A **referral service**, connecting State requests for technical advice and support with appropriate partners and friends if the CTI is not best placed to support or advise;
- **Partnering** with a diverse range of partners and experts – CTI will keep up dated with the latest knowledge, analysis and expertise relevant to the prohibition and prevention of torture and ill-treatment.

If you would like to learn more about any of the above, please contact the CTI Secretariat.

CTI Group of Friends

The Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI)

CTI is a 10-year inter-governmental, cross-regional initiative of the Governments of Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco, launched at the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) in March 2014.

The Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) provides technical advice, support and cooperation among States parties as well as non-States-parties to the Convention – in order to help States overcome technical and capacity-related obstacles to ratification and implementation of the Convention.

CTI Group of Friends

The CTI is achieving progress with the help of its many Friends. Governments, international, regional and non-governmental organisations and experts sharing the vision and the ambition of the CTI are invited to join the Initiative by becoming members of the CTI Group of Friends.

Who: The CTI Group of Friends consists of UN Member States and Non-Governmental Friends. All 193 UN Member States are invited to participate in the Group of Friends. NGOs, international and regional organisations, experts, researchers and academics are invited on the basis of expertise, track-record and potential for contributing to the objectives of the CTI.

What: The Group of Friends serves as a platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas on how to overcome obstacles to ratification and implementation of the UNCAT.

Friends of the CTI are involved in the achievements, progress and development of the CTI through various forums. In particular, Friends are invited to attend the CTI's Annual Forum which provides an opportunity for Friends to inter alia provide input and advice on the overall strategic direction of the CTI, as well as to address specific regional and thematic challenges in the ratification and/or implementation of the Convention.

Membership of the Group of Friends does not come with specific obligations or commitments; however, Friends are expected to share the vision and goals of the CTI and to work positively to those ends. The CTI Secretariat welcomes specific offers of support.

Current members (updated on a rolling basis):

States: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Costa Rica, Egypt, Finland, France, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA.

Non-Governmental, International and Regional Organisations: ACAT France, African Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV - Uganda), Amnesty International, Center for Victims of Torture (USA), Centre for Civil and Political Rights, DIGNITY (Denmark), FIACAT, International Aid Network, International Bar Association, International Commission of Jurists, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Omega Research Foundation, Penal Reform International, REDRESS Trust, SAVE CONGO, Shield for Justice Foundation (Kenya), Universal Rights Group, University of Bristol, UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

Experts: A wide number of experts working in the field of torture prevention and response, as well as the policing, intelligence, corrections and justice sectors are included in the CTI Friends.

The full list of CTI Friends can be found at: <https://cti2024.org/en/group-of-friends/>

How: Interest in joining the CTI Group of Friends can be indicated by letter or email to the CTI Secretariat info@cti2024.org.

Our Partners



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

The Human Rights and Social Development Division (HRSD): The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principle scientific and technical organization in the Pacific region, owned and governed by 26 countries and territories. The Human Rights and Social Development Division of SPC brings together the previous Social Development Programme (SDP) and Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT). As separate programmes, SDP was focused on gender equality, youth development and cultural development, and RRRT on promotion and protection of human rights in the region. Both programmes built credibility for their work in partnership with members, civil society and other partners. The merger of these programmes occurred with the objective to amplify impact on these related areas of work across Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) and SPC.

HRSD's vision is for a 'just, equitable and resilient Pacific Island societies,' which will be achieved by advancing human rights, gender equality and social inclusion for all Pacific people, ground in cultural values and principles, and people-centered approaches. HRSD work focuses on strengthening institutional capacities to uphold human rights and social development; lead SPC to bring 'people to the center' across scientific and technical divisions; enhancing participation, inclusion, capabilities, leadership, and access to opportunities for civil society, especially women and young people; culturally and contextually responsive practice, and cultural protection; and generation and application of data, knowledge and innovation.



The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent and equal countries. The Commonwealth Secretariat is the intergovernmental organisation that supports member countries to achieve the Commonwealth's aims of development, democracy and peace. The Commonwealth works with member countries in different thematic areas, including: promoting democracy; promotion and protection of human rights in the Commonwealth; promoting the rule of law; strengthening public sector governance; and tackling corruption, among others. The Commonwealth has a dedicated Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform, helping member countries through the creation of fair and effective national laws. The Commonwealth provides examples of good legislation practices from across the Commonwealth through model laws, standards, templates and legal insight and legal network and facilitates knowledge and information sharing to member countries based on these resources.



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