

**14th Annual Student Human Rights Conference 2013**

**Human Rights and Democracy: Two Sides of the Same Coin**

**Saturday 9 March 2013**

**Law and Social Sciences Building, University of Nottingham**

**Keynote Speakers**

**Short Biographies**

## **Alfred M. de Zayas**

Alfred M. de Zayas studied history and law at Harvard, where he obtained his J.D. He practiced corporate law with the New York law firm Simpson Thacher and Bartlett and is a retired member of the New York and Florida Bar. He obtained a doctorate in history from the University of Göttingen in Germany.

Mr. de Zayas has been visiting professor of law at numerous universities including the University of British Columbia in Canada, the Graduate Institute of the University of Geneva, and the University of Trier (Germany). At present he teaches international law at the Geneva School of Diplomacy.

In 2009 de Zayas was a member of the UN workshop that drafted a report on the human right to peace, which was subsequently discussed and further elaborated by the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council. He is also a signatory of the Declaración de Bilbao and Declaración de Santiago de Compostela on the Human Right to Peace. He served as a consultant to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the issue of mercenaries. De Zayas is an expert for civil and political rights and has published nine books on a variety of legal and historical issues, *including United Nations Human Rights Committee Case Law* (together with Jakob th. Möller, N.P. Engel 2009), and has been co-author and co-editor of numerous other books, including *International Human Rights Monitoring Mechanisms* (together with Gudmundur Alfredsson and Bertrand Ramcharan). His scholarly articles in the Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law, Oxford Encyclopedia of Human Rights and Macmillan Encyclopedia of Genocide, encompass the prohibition of aggression, universal jurisdiction, the right to the homeland, mass population transfers, minority rights, refugee law, repatriation, legal aspects of the Spanish Civil War, indefinite detention, Guantanamo and the right to peace. He is fluent in six languages and has published a book of Rilke translations with commentary ("Larenopfer", Red Hen Press 2008) and is now completing the translation of Hermann Hesse's *Das Lied des Lebens*.

From 2002-2006 he was Secretary-General, from 2006-2010 President of PEN International, Centre Suisse romand. He is member of several advisory boards, including of the International Society of Human Rights (Frankfurt a.M.), Zentrum gegen Vertreibungen (Berlin), the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (Canada) and of the conseil scientifique of the Académie Internationale de droit constitutionnel (Tunis).

He has received several awards, most recently the *Educators Award 2011* of Canadians for Genocide Education.

## **Professor Todd Landman**

Professor Todd Landman is Director of the Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution at the University of Essex. He has been at Essex since 1993 in the Department of Government and before being appointed Director of the Institute, he served as the Deputy Director (1999-2003) and Co-Director (2003-2005) of the Human Rights Centre and Director (2007-2010) of the Centre for Democratic Governance.

Professor Landman is a political scientist and author of *Democracy and Human Rights: The Precarious Triumph of Ideals* (forthcoming Bloomsbury), *Protecting Human Rights* (Georgetown 2005), *Studying Human Rights* (Routledge 2006), and *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics* (Routledge 2000, 2003, 2008); co-author of *Measuring Human Rights* (Routledge 2009), *Assessing the Quality of Democracy* (International IDEA 2008); *Governing Latin America* (2003), and *Citizenship Rights and Social Movements* (Oxford 1997, 2000); editor of *Human Rights Volumes I-IV* (Sage 2009), and co-editor of the *Sage Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Sage 2009) and *Real Social Science: Applied Phronesis* (Cambridge 2012).

He is former President (2009-2010), Vice-President (2008-2009), Vice President-Elect and Programme Chair (2007-2008), and Treasurer (2002-2005) of the Human Rights Section of the American Political Science Association. He has numerous articles published in *International Studies Quarterly*, *The British Journal of Political Science*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *Democratization*, *Political Studies*, *The Journal of Human Rights*, *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, *Electoral Studies*, *Human Rights and Human Welfare*, *Public Law* and *The California Western International Law Journal*.

In addition to these academic activities, Professor Landman has carried out numerous projects on the analysis and synthesis of data and complex governmental information, preparation of reports, and the development of assessment and measurement frameworks for significant inter-governmental organisations, governments, and non-governmental organisations. These include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the UK Department for International Development (DFID), The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), The Danish Foreign Ministry, The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), The European Commission, The Inter-Parliamentary Union, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, International Capacity Building (InWent), Minority Rights Group International, The International Council for Human Rights Policy, Amnesty International, and the World Organisation Against Torture.

### **Mervat Rishmawi**

Mervat Rishmawi is a Palestinian human rights activist. She is currently a Human Rights Consultant specialising in the Middle East and North Africa. Prior to that, she worked with the International Secretariat of Amnesty International for approximately 12 years, most of which as the Legal Advisor to the Middle East and North Africa Region. During that period, she developed most of the organisation's work in relation to the League of Arab States. Before that, she acted as a consultant for a number of UN agencies and the OHCHR, and worked for prominent national and regional organisations.

As a Human Rights Consultant, Mervat Rishmawi carries out research; publishes manuals, articles, and other studies; supports development of organisations through evaluation of projects; carrying out needs assessment and strategic planning; and conducts training. One of her main areas of focus is assisting civil society organisations to strengthen their engagement with the League of Arab States.

Ms. Rishmawi has published on a number of human rights issues relating to the Middle East and North Africa, and on the human rights standards and mechanisms of the League of Arab States.

She is a Fellow at both the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham, and the Human Rights Centre of the University of Essex. She also sits on boards and advisory councils of several international and regional organisations.

### **Louise de Sousa**

Louise de Sousa joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) after a short period in the private sector following completion of her degree at Bristol University in ancient history and archaeology.

In London, Louise has worked on bilateral relations with Greece and Turkey, environment policy, international drugs and crime policy and the Overseas Territories Citizenship Bill. Her first posting was to Brasilia, where she covered human rights, indigenous issues and environmental issues. She served as Deputy High Commissioner in Mozambique from 2003-2006, and in Kenya as Deputy High Commissioner between 2007 - 2011. In both places she had the opportunity to observe significant elections and assist in democracy support work.

Since June 2011, Louise has been Head of the Human Rights and Democracy Department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, responsible for the UK's human rights policy in the multilateral institutions, pursuit of the UK's thematic human rights priorities and the FCO's democracy support work, and production of the FCO's Annual Report to Parliament on Human Rights and Democracy.