



## UNIVERSITIES NETWORK FOR CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

### ADVANCED TRAINING COURSE

### INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AND CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

**10 -21 June 2024**

#### THE AIM OF THE COURSE

The Advanced Training Course organized by the Universities Network intends to develop the skills of academia and legal professionals in the field of international justice on issues related to children affected by armed conflicts.

In the past decade alone, armed conflicts are estimated to have claimed the lives of over two million children and physically maimed six million more. Conflict deprives children of parents, caregivers, basic social services, health care and education. There are some twenty million displaced and refugee children, as well as one million orphans, while others are held hostage, abducted, or trafficked. Thousands of boys and girls are used as soldiers in armed conflicts around the world. Children suffer specific harm as a result of armed conflict and have short- and long-term post-conflict needs, including redress and social reintegration, psycho-social rehabilitation, and right to justice at the national and international level.

The Advanced Training Course aims at bringing conceptual clarity to the issue of children and justice in times of armed conflict by analysing the evolution of the rights of children, the relevant legal provisions and the current status of the practice at the international level. The Course will focus on the phenomenon of children in armed conflict and present the legal basis for the protection of children in armed conflict in Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law. Specific attention will be given to the crimes committed against and affecting children, including sexual and gender-based crimes, as well as to the sociological and psychological approach to children affected by armed conflict.

#### STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

The Course will be held **in English**. The approach will be theoretical and practical.

Lessons will be given by leading international experts and practitioners with experience in national and international proceedings, including before international organizations, International Tribunals and the International Criminal Court. The sessions will consist of keynote lectures followed by discussions through questions and answer session aiming at stimulating interaction among participants. Each session will be broadcast live on a dedicated digital platform. In addition, during the Course, participants will have access to video recordings of all sessions via a dedicated online page.

The Course will take place online each day between 10 and 21 June 2024.

A Certificate will be issued at the end of the Course.



At the end of the Course, the Scientific Committee will award two scholarships to the best trainees evaluating the attendance to the Course and engagement and the performance during the Course. One of the scholarships is dedicated to the former Italian Ambassador to Australia, Mrs. Francesca Tardioli, who passed away prematurely in 2022, for her deep commitment to human rights protection.

#### REGISTRATION TO THE COURSE

**Registration to the Course is open from 1 April until 30 May.**

A maximum of 20 candidates will be admitted to the Course.

Candidates will have to complete the Registration Form available [here](#).

**Please note** that a good understanding of English (written and spoken) is essential to be admitted to the Course. Should the candidate have a Language Certificate(s), she/he should mention it in the Registration Form and provide such a Certificate.

Only a complete online application will be processed.

A complete online application consists of the completed Registration Form and the following documents:

- 1) Valid Identity Card (with photo);
- 2) *Curriculum Vitae* (CV) in English;
- 3) Motivation Letter in English (max 400 words) stating the relevant background and reasons for choosing to apply for the Course, as well as how the Course will support the candidate's future endeavours in the field of HRL, IHL or ICL.

All the mentioned documentation must be sent to the following email address:  
[networkadvancedcourse24@gmail.com](mailto:networkadvancedcourse24@gmail.com)

The Scientific Committee will evaluate applications on their completeness, persuasiveness, and professional presentation. If admitted to the Course, the candidate will be required to proceed with the payment of the relevant fees and she/he will need to provide proof of payment before the start of the Course.

#### FEES

250 EUROS (incl.VAT) for all candidates.

Students coming from disadvantaged areas, will be entitled of discounted rates.

#### CREDITS

Academic credits will be recognized by the Participants Universities



## **PROGRAMME**

**10 June 2024**

**14.30 - 15.00 CET**

### ***INAUGURAL SESSION***

- Welcoming address from members of the Scientific Committee of the Universities Network
- Address by Ms Virginia Gamba de Potgieter, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
- Address by H. E. Judge Reine Alapini-Gansou, Second Vice-President International Criminal Court (ICC)

**15.00-17.30 CET**

### **The phenomenon of children in armed conflict**

1. *The United Nations system on children and armed conflict and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG CAAC)* - Ms Federica SOLA, Political Affairs Officer, UN Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Europe Liaison Office
2. *Children in armed conflicts: current data and analysis of the geopolitical situation* - Mr Ljubomir PETRULJESKOV, Program Lead Eastern Europe and Central Asia at International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
3. *The Regional systems to combat the phenomenon of children in armed conflict* – Prof. Vasilka SANCIN, Professor at the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

**11 June 2024**

**14.30-17.30 CET**

### **The development of international provisions protecting children**

1. *The protection of children under IHL and IHRL* - Prof. Ahmed Al FATLAWI, Professor at University of Kufa (Iraq)
2. *The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols* – Dr. Mikiko OTANI, Member and former Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
3. *The six grave violations of children's rights in armed conflict and the instruments in the CoE framework protecting children in armed conflict* – Prof. Laura GUERCIO, Counsel before the ICC, Secretary - General UNETCHAC

**12 June 2024**

**14.30 -17.30 CET**

### **What is justice for Children?**

1. *Challenges to justice for children* - Prof. Yvonne M. VISSING, Director Center for Childhood and Youth Studies, Salem State University (USA)



2. *Ending Impunity and Addressing Children's Accountability* - Prof. Jan Marie FRITZ, Professor at the University of Cincinnati (USA)
3. *Maximizing justice for children* - Dr. Sanar Taha DARWISH, Legal Adviser, ICRC Baghdad, Iraq Delegation

**13 June 2024**

**14.30-17.30 CET**

**Accountability mechanisms for children affected by armed conflict at the international level**

1. *Ad hoc tribunals: Children before the ICTY and ICTR* - Prof. Fausto POCAR, former Judge at ICTY and ICTR, President UNETCHAC
2. *Hybrid courts: Children before the Special Court for Sierra Leone* - Ms Dato' Shyamala ALAGENDRA, International Criminal Lawyer and former Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions of Fiji
3. *Non-judicial mechanisms* - Ms Dato' Shyamala ALAGENDRA, International Criminal Lawyer and former Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions of Fiji

**14 June 2024**

**14.30-17.30 CET**

**The role of the ICC in advancing the investigation and prosecution of crimes against or affecting children**

1. *The ICC legal framework for the investigation and prosecution of crimes against or affecting children* – Ms Paolina MASSIDDA, Principal Counsel OPCV, ICC
2. *The OTP Policy on Children* - Ms Dato' Shyamala ALAGENDRA, International Criminal Lawyer and former Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions of Fiji

**17 June 2024**

**11.30 – 13.30 CET**

**CONFERENCE**

**“Children Affected by Armed Conflict”**

**18 June 2024**

**14.30-16.30 CET**

**Impact of crimes on children exposed to armed conflict**

Prof. Ilse DERLUYN, Department of Social Work and Social Pedagogy - Ghent University (Belgium)

1. *How exposure to violence and armed conflict impact on the development of children?*
2. *Which are the short term and long-term effects of the exposure of children to violence and armed conflict?*
3. *Which programmes can be put in place to alleviate the effects of the exposure of children to violence and armed conflict?*



**19 June 2024**

**14.30-16.30 CET**

**Support and protection to children in judicial proceedings and non-judicial processes**

Ms An MICHELS, Psychologist Victims and Witnesses Section, Registry, ICC

1. *Challenges regarding the participation of children in judicial proceedings and non-judicial processes.*
2. *Protective and special measures in judicial proceedings.*
3. *The rights of the child during judicial proceedings and the concept of a child-friendly justice*

**20 June 2024**

**14.30-17.30 CET**

**Participation of children in ICC proceedings and reparations**

1. *The innovative feature of the Rome Statute: victims' participation in ICC proceedings* - Mr Philipp AMBACH, Head Victims Participation and Reparations Section, Registry ICC
2. *Participatory regime under article 68(3) Rome Statute* - Ms Ludovica VETRUCIO, Legal Officer, OPCV, ICC
3. *Reparations for children* - Ms Adeline BEDOUCHE, Legal Officer, Trust Fund for Victims, ICC

**21 June 2024**

**14.30 – 16.30 CET**

**Analysis of Case Law**

**Responsible for the Course**

Laura Guercio  
Paolina Massidda

**Tutors**

Simona Lanzellotto  
Giovanna Gnerre Landini

**Secretariat**

Andrea Ciommei  
Antonino Pola

**Media and Communication**

Elena Rossi  
Lisa Faccin

**Scientific Committee**

Laura Guercio,  
Paolina Massidda, Fausto Pocar



## **TRAINERS' CV**

**Mr Ahmed Aubais Neima AL-FATLAWI**, *Lawyer and Professor of International Criminal Law at University of Kufa (Iraq)*

Ahmed Aubais Al-Fatlawi is a specialist in international criminal law and holds PhD in law from the Higher Institute at the Lebanese University 2012 also holds a diploma in IHL from the Geneva Academy for IHL and human rights in 2017. He is a full professor at the Faculty of Law/University of Kufa. Prof. Al Fatlawi has been engaged in several international academic forums as his participation in the advanced seminar studies in IHL, launched by the ICRC in 2017. Prof. Al-Fatlawi participated with experts from prestigious academies worldwide in updating guidelines for protecting the natural environment in times of armed conflicts. Published by the ICRC in 2020. He also participated with several international experts in updating and re-commenting on the Third Geneva Convention, published by Cambridge University Press 2021. Author of more than ten books on international criminal law and international humanitarian law, as well as preparing legal studies in cooperation with the Universities Network for the Protection of Children in Armed Conflicts. He currently supervises several dissertations, theses in level doctoral and master's students in public international law. Finally, he is now a member of the scientific committee in the national committee of IHL, Prime Minister Office of Iraq.

**Ms Dato' Shyamala ALAGENDRA**, *International Criminal Lawyer and former Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions of Fiji*

Dato' Shyamala Alagendra is a Malaysian lawyer with over 24 years domestic and international criminal law experience. She has served as a Prosecution Trial Lawyer at the International Criminal Court (ICC), Special Court for Sierra Leone and before the Special Panel for Serious Crimes in East Timor. At the SCSL, she worked closely with former child soldiers and led their testimonies in three out of the four trials. During her time as the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions of Fiji between 2018-2019, she led prosecutions of child rape cases and secured the first life sentence for child rape ever to be imposed in Fiji and the Pacific. She led the investigations into allegations of human rights violations (including killings, torture and sexual violence) by regional peacekeeping troops deployed to Sierra Leone during the conflict and submitted a fundamental rights petition before the Supreme Court in 2018 on their behalf. Some of the victims were children at the time of the violations and some were children born out of rapes by these peacekeepers.

This case was featured in a documentary by Al Jazeera "Peacekillers": <https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/peopleandpower/2018/09/peacekillers180913060801441.html>

Between 2016-2017, she successfully represented child victims in cases of historical sexual abuse by foreign clergy in Sierra Leone. Most recently, she was the Gender & Child Rights Adviser to the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) and is presently the Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes Legal Consultant to the OHCHR Sri Lanka accountability project. She has also represented accused persons as Counsel at the ICC, STL and EULEX Court in Kosovo.

**Mr Philipp AMBACH**, *Head Victims Participation and Reparations Section, Registry ICC*

Philipp Ambach is the Head of the Victims Participation and Reparations Section at the ICC. He previously served as the ICC President's Special Assistant for over six years. Before that, he worked at the UN ad hoc tribunals ICTY and ICTR as a legal adviser to the Judges of the Appeals Chamber. Prior to that, he worked as an associate legal officer in the ICTY Registry. Mr. Ambach holds a Ph.D. in international criminal law from Free University of Berlin and has been admitted as prosecutor in the prosecutor's office of Cologne, Germany. He obtained his Master Degree in law in 2004 from Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany. He is a guest





lecturer in international criminal and humanitarian law at various legal institutions and has published a number of academic contributions in these fields.

**Ms Adeline BEDOUCHA, Associate Legal Officer, Trust Fund for Victims (TFV), ICC**

Adeline Bedoucha is Associate Legal Officer, Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) at the ICC. In that capacity she advises on the legal aspects of the assistance and reparations programmes of the Fund. She was in charge of the implementation of the reparations programme in the Al Madhi case in Mali.

**Mr Sanar Taha DARWISH, Legal Adviser, ICRC Baghdad, Iraq Delegation**

Sanar Taha Darwish, PhD in International Humanitarian Law, Iraqi lawyer and currently National Legal Adviser of the ICRC in Baghdad (Iraq). He provides legal analyses and consultations on applicable national and international legal framework and support the national implementation of International Humanitarian Law in the domestic legislation.

**Ms Ilse DELRUYN, Professor at Ghent University (Belgium)**

Ilse Derluyn is full professor at the Department of Social Work and Social Pedagogy at Ghent University (Belgium). Her main research topics concern the psychosocial wellbeing of young refugees and migrants, unaccompanied refugee minors, victims of trafficking and war-affected children, both in the Global North and South. She has widely published and is also active in trainings and support for practitioners and policymakers. Ilse also gives counselling to refugees. Ilse is ERC-grant holder of the research project ChildMove ([www.childmove.eu](http://www.childmove.eu)) and coordinates the H2020-project RefugeesWellSchool ([www.refugeeswellschool.org](http://www.refugeeswellschool.org)). She is director of the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR) at Ghent University, and co-director of the Centre for Children in Vulnerable Situations (CCVS).

**Ms Jan Marie FRITZ, Professor at the University of Cincinnati (USA)**

Jan Marie Fritz, Ph.D., Certified Clinical Sociologist (C.C.S.), is a professor in the School of Planning at the University of Cincinnati (USA) and is affiliated there with the Department of Sociology and the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. She also is Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg (South Africa) and a mediator for the City of Cincinnati. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Sociological Association (ISA), the lead ISA representative to the United Nations, and a member of the Steering Committee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. She also is the editor of Springer's Clinical Sociology book series and a co-editor of the Clinical Sociology Review. She is a docent at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Cincinnati and is a Fulbright Specialist (consultant) for a four-year term (2021-2025). She has been a Distinguished Visiting Professor with the Honors College at the University of South Florida, and, for many years, a special education mediator for the state of Kentucky. She also has been a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, a Woodrow Wilson Fellow in Washington, D.C., a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in Human Rights and International Studies at the Danish Institute for Human Rights and a Fulbright-National Science Foundation Arctic Scholar in Iceland. Her work has won a number of awards including the Ohio Mediation Association's Better World Award and the American Sociological Association's Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology. She has published extensively about the national action plans based on UNSCR 1325 women, peace and security and the protection of children in armed conflict.

**Ms Laura GUERCIO, Counsel before the ICC, Secretary-General UNETCHAC**

Ms. Guercio is a lawyer in Rome and Genoa, with experience in other jurisdictions (namely, Great Britain/Republic of Ireland). Professor of International Relations and Intelligence Systems at University "Niccolò Cusano" (Italy). Member of the Council of the European Law Institute in Vienna (Austria); Expert



Consultant of the Italian National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty (NIHMP); Italian Agent of the Management Board of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (2015- 2020); Secretary-General of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights at the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (2016-2020); Expert for the Human Dimension Mechanism - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); Assistant to Counsel (for victims) before the International Criminal Court. Since 2010, Legal Consultant/Expert in international Projects developed in Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Afghanistan, Swaziland, Kosovo, Jordan, and Palestine. She holds an international Ph.D. in Social Science (Trinity College Dublin - Genoa University); she holds a Master's Degree of Law at the University of Rome La Sapienza, a Master's Degree of Political Science, Politics and Economics of the Mediterranean Region at the University of Genoa (Italy), and a Master's Degree of International Relations at the Queen Mary University London (UK).

**Ms Paolina MASSIDDA, *Principal Counsel, Independent Office of Public Counsel for Victims (OPCV), ICC***

Paolina Massidda is the Principal Counsel of the independent Office of Public Counsel for Victims (OPCV) at the ICC since its creation in 2005. In this capacity, she has represented victims in the proceedings before the Court in almost all situations and cases, gaining a specific experience in gender crimes and crimes against or affecting children, victims' rights and in handling cases with high numbers of victims involved. Before joining the Court, she practised before national and international tribunals, representing accused and victims. She worked as Legal Adviser for the International Federation of the Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross and participated as expert in several European Union training programmes for judges and lawyers. Member of the Genoa Bar (Italy) since 1992, she is specialised in human rights and international humanitarian law and holds a LL.M. in international criminal law. Member of the Scientific Committee UNETCHAC. She has published extensively on matters related to international criminal law and the rights of victims.

**Ms An MICHELS, *Psychologist, Victims and Witnesses Unit (VWU), Registry, ICC***

An Michels is a clinical psychologist with an additional degree in family and systemic psychotherapy. As the Psychologist/Trauma Expert of the Victims and Witnesses Section of the International Criminal Court and Head of the Section's Psychosocial Support Team, she is responsible for guidance in relation to the protection of psychosocial well-being of witnesses and victims interacting with the Court. She also advises the Court on the development of survivor-centred approaches; on issues related to mental health, trauma and sexual and gender-based violence. The mandate of the team of psychologists based in The Hague and in the field is to focus on preventing psychological harm as a result of witnesses' and victims' involvement with the ICC, providing psychological and other assistance as well as to facilitate testimony of vulnerable witnesses. Under her guidance various tools, protocols and policies were developed shaping the ICC's protection and support of vulnerable witnesses and victims. Prior to joining the ICC in 2009, An Michels was responsible for the psychosocial team at the Witnesses and Victims Support Section of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown. She further served as a Clinical Psychologist and Project Coordinator for Doctors Without Borders in Rwanda, Burundi and Indonesia where her work focused on the development of psychosocial support methodologies for victims of war, in particular victims of sexual and gender-based violence and former child soldiers. She also worked as a consultant and researcher for UNICEF, WFP, OHCHR, UNODC and various INGO's on topics related to war-related trauma, CRSV, prevention of SEA and the role of vulnerable witnesses in transitional justice mechanisms. She wrote several articles and book-contributions on the topic and is currently a visiting researcher at the Amsterdam - Laboratory for Legal Psychology at the VU University Amsterdam.





**Ms Mikiko OTANI, Member and former Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**

Dr. Mikiko Otani is a member and former Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The areas of her focus include children and armed conflict, girl child, human trafficking, children's access to justice and right to remedies. She has been particularly active in strengthening the work of the CRC concerning children and armed conflict. She is an international human rights lawyer and a practicing lawyer of family law in Japan since 1990, with a focus on women's and children's rights. She is a Commissioner and a Member of the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists, a Vice-President of the Asian Society of International Law, and a former Chair of the Committee on International Human Rights of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations. She is a visiting professor at Leiden University as the Rotating Honorary Chair 'Enforcement of Children's Rights' for the academic year 2023/2024. She holds Doctor of Law (Public International Law) from Aoyamagakuin University in Japan, M.I.A. (Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs) from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs in USA, LL.M. (Public International Law) from University of Tokyo in Japan, and B.A. in Law from Sophia University in Japan.

**Mr Ljubomir PETRULJESKOV, Program Lead Eastern Europe and Central Asia at International Development Law Organization (IDLO)**

Ljubomir Petruljeskov is Program Lead at the International Development Law Organization and Weinstein JAMS International fellow. He has an MBA degree from UBI Belgium. He is responsible for IDLO projects in the Eastern Europe and South East Asia.

**Mr Fausto POCAR, Former Judge at ICTY and ICTR, President UNETCHAC**

Fausto Pocar is Professor Emeritus of International Law at the University of Milan (Italy). Since 2017, he is ad hoc Judge at the ICJ. He has been Member of the UN Human Rights Committee under the ICCPR (1984-2000, President 1991-92). He was Judge at the ICTY (2000-2017, President 2005-2008) and Appeals Judge at the ICTR (2000-2015). Between 2012 and 2019, he was President of the International Institute Humanitarian Law, of which he is Honorary President since 2019. Since 1997, he is Member of the Institut de droit international (Treasurer and Bureau Member since 2001). He was also President of the Italian Society International Law (2018-2021) and he is ELI Council Member (2019- to date).

**Ms Vasilka SANCIN, Professor at the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)**

Vasilka Sancin is a Full Professor of International Law, Head of Department of International Law and Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations at University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law (Slovenia). She is currently a member of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (2022-2025) and its Vice-Chair and previously (2019-2022) served as a member and Vice-Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Committee and its Special Rapporteur for the Follow-up process to Concluding observations. Among others, she serves as ad hoc judge at the European Court of Human Rights; an arbitrator and a Bureau member of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within OSCE; an expert of the OSCE Moscow mechanism on Human Rights; and a member of the Executive Council of the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict (UNETCHAC).

**Ms Federica SOLA, Political Affairs Officer, UN Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Europe Liaison Office**

Federica Sola is a Political Affairs Officer in the Europe Liaison Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG CAAC), based in Brussels. As part of her role, she engages on the issue of children and armed conflict with different partners based in Europe and, in particular, with the European Union institutions and its Member States and Geneva-based Human Rights mechanisms. Before joining the OSRSG CAAC, she worked with Save the Children as an international partnerships advisor in different offices at the



headquarters and country levels. Federica holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Sciences and International Relations from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, a Master's Degree in International Relations from the University LUISS Guido Carli and an LL.M in Human Rights Law from the University of Edinburgh.

**Ms Ludovica VETRUCIO, *Legal Officer, Independent Office of Public Counsel for Victims, ICC***

Ludovica Vetrucio is a lawyer qualified in Italy, and also a member of the ICC Bar Association. She has more than fifteen years of experience in the national judiciary and in various international jurisdictions, including the ICTR and ICTY, the ECCC and the STL. She is a Legal Officer at the independent Office of Public Counsel for Victims which she joined in 2011. She has been part of the team representing the victims in the Gbagbo and Blé Goudé case and in the Yekatom and Ngaïssona case. She has previously worked in the Simone Gbagbo case and in the situations of the Registered Vessels and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. She holds a post graduate degree in law from the University of Bologna in Italy, the University of Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne in France and the University of Montreal in Canada. She also holds an LL.M. in European Criminal Law from the College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium. Ms Vetrucio is among the authors of the Manual for Legal Representatives – Representing Victims before the Criminal Court, published yearly by the Office and she contributed to several publications on international criminal law and the rights of victims.

**Ms Yvonne M. VISSING, *Professor at Salem State University (USA)***

Yvonne Vissing, Ph.D., is a sociologist, Professor of Healthcare Studies, and founding director of the Center for Childhood & Youth Studies at Salem State University where she teaches research methodology, statistics, and policy courses. She is the author of 20 books, including two on homeless young people (*Changing the Paradigm of Homelessness* and *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*), two on unaccompanied and refugee youth, and others on children's wellbeing from a psychosocial perspective. Her book on *Children's Human Rights: Challenges and Opportunities* (Springer) has just been released. Vissing has authored dozens of book chapters about child abuse and child wellbeing globally and domestically, and hundreds of articles, reports, presentations, films, and publications. She is the US policy chair for the United Nation's Hope for Children Convention on the Rights of the Child Policy Center, located in Cyprus, and is a member of the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict -UNETCHAC, the first network of universities and research institutes working in the world to protect children in situations of armed conflict, and the Children On The Move project. She is on the Human Rights Council for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Steering Committee and Regional Representative for Human Rights Educators USA, and is a national consultant for the American Sociological Association. She is a National Institute of Mental Health Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Whiting Foundation fellow, former mental health and substance abuse counselor, New Hampshire Juvenile Parole Board member, board member of the National Coalition for the Homeless, New Hampshire Coalition for the Homeless, and is on the New Hampshire Youth Homelessness Task Force. She is a guardian ad litem and mediator in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, founded a Training 4 Excellence website, has created award-winning films, and training guides and dialogue trainings for public officials.