



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

The Human Rights of Stateless People

Panel I

Mr. Simon Henshaw, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Department of State



Mr. Henshaw is a career officer in the U.S. Foreign Service, currently serving as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. His previous assignment was Director of Andean Affairs in the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. From 2008 to 2011, he was the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Mr. Henshaw joined the State Department in 1985. Prior to Tegucigalpa, he served overseas in Brasilia, St. Petersburg, San Salvador, Abidjan, and Manila. In Washington, he worked in the State Department's Office of Cuban Affairs, Central American Affairs, and in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. He attended the National War College, where he earned a Master of Science in National Security Affairs, and has a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Panel II

Ms. Jana Mason, Senior Advisor, Government Relations and External Affairs, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



Jana Mason is Senior Advisor for Government Relations and External Affairs at the Washington, D.C. office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In that capacity, she acts as a liaison for UNHCR and represents the agency's interests with the U.S. government—particularly the State Department and Congress—and with nongovernmental organizations and other entities. Prior to joining UNHCR in 2008, Jana was Director of Government Relations and Advocacy at the International Rescue Committee (IRC), where she advocated for humane international and U.S. policies toward refugees and other forced migrants.

Prior to her work at IRC, Jana was with the U.S. Committee for Refugees for 11 years, where she served as policy analyst for the Asia/Pacific region and advocated for refugee protection and assistance. Jana has worked in the refugee arena since 1983, which included a position as assistant director of refugee programs for the State of Virginia. She has a bachelor's degree from Boston University, a master's degree from the University of Virginia, and a law degree from Georgetown University.

Ms. Julia Harrington Reddy, Senior Legal Officer, Equality and Citizenship, Open Society Justice Initiative



Julia Harrington Reddy is Senior Legal Officer for Equality and Citizenship with the Open Society Justice Initiative, in New York. Under her leadership, the Equality and Citizenship program of the Justice Initiative has pioneered work on the right to citizenship, identifying citizenship as a gateway to the enjoyment of other rights, substantiating the links between ethnic discrimination and denial of citizenship, and understanding the role of documentation of identity as an instrument for realizing citizenship rights. In the field of anti-discrimination and equality law and policy, she has overseen initiatives including the application of new and more credible methods to quantify ethnic profiling, impact litigation in areas such as segregation in education; and development of diverse policy approaches to respond to discrimination and promote substantive equality. The Equality and Citizenship program works on all continents, chiefly outside the United States. Prior to joining the Open Society Justice Initiative, she was Executive Director of the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa, based in The Gambia, which she co-founded with Alpha Fall in 1997 (and with whom she won an Ashok Fellowship for the Institute's work). The Institute has been recognized as a leader in litigation, documentation and training in the African regional human rights system. Previously she worked with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, supported by an Echoing Green fellowship. She was educated at Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Ms. Sarnata Reynolds, Senior Adviser on Human Rights, Refugees International



Sarnata Reynolds joined Refugees International in October 2011 and serves as the principal liaison and focal point with United Nations agencies, the U.S. government, and focus countries on human rights issues. She has traveled to Bangladesh, Haiti, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Myanmar, and South Sudan, among other countries, to document the situation of displaced populations and advocate for the protection of their human rights. Sarnata has also served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center, where she taught a seminar on statelessness and a human rights fact-finding course on the repatriation of people with mental disabilities. Sarnata has served as a member of the National Lawyers Committee for Human Rights' Mexico Advisory Team, as the Vice-Chair of Refugee Council USA, and as Chair of the Iraqi Refugee Working Group during the height of displacement in that country. Sarnata has appeared before Congress many times and represented the NGO community before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the anniversaries of the Refugee and Statelessness Conventions. Prior to joining RI, Sarnata worked as the Policy and Advocacy Director for Refugee and Migrants' Rights at Amnesty International USA. In this position she promoted the enforcement of international human rights standards pertaining to refugees, asylum seekers, the stateless, migrants, and other uprooted people. Sarnata has also litigated asylum and deportation defense cases before the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, United States District Courts, and the Executive Office for Immigration Review. She has published multiple articles on international human rights and U.S. immigration issues, and she is currently writing a book on "theoretical" nationality. Sarnata completed her Women's Studies degree magna cum laude at the University of Minnesota and the University of Ulster in Belfast, Northern Ireland. She completed her law degree at the University of Minnesota, and studied European Union law at University College Dublin.