



A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PHENOMENA OF VOLUNTOURISM

10 OCTOBER 2023



PANEL SPEAKERS



Ms. Mama Fatima Singhateh
Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children

Ms. Mama Fatima Singhateh (The Gambia) was appointed as the UN Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children by the UN Human Rights Council in March 2020. She started her mandate on 1 May 2020. Ms. Singhateh is a trained lawyer with over 20 years of experience, currently working as an international Consultant on human rights and legal and institutional reforms. She holds a master's degree in International Business Law from the University of Hull and has undergone numerous trainings in child rights programming, arbitration and mediation, and legislative drafting. She is a member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, in the UK.

Ms Singhateh has held a number of high-level positions in public service in the Gambia. She is a former Justice Minister and has held positions as prosecutor, legislative draftsman, High Court Judge and Justice of Appeal. She has drafted laws, organised and conducted many training sessions, delivered presentations at both national and international fora and written articles and reports on many issues relating to protection and promotion of human rights, particularly on the rights of the child. As Minister of Justice, Ms Singhateh personally supervised and oversaw the drafting of the laws that prohibit and criminalise female genital mutilation and child marriage, and successfully presented them in Parliament for enactment in 2016.

Between 2002 and 2007, she headed the Child's Rights Unit within the Ministry of Justice, which was established to enhance the promotion and protection of the rights of children in The Gambia, particularly the girl child. Ms. Singhateh also served as project coordinator within the Ministry for the UNICEF–Government of The Gambia Country Programme of Cooperation. As project coordinator she was also chairperson of the technical advisory committee which under her leadership oversaw the successful drafting and enactment of the Children's Act, the implementation of the Children's Act, the establishment of the Children's Court, and the drafting of the Trafficking in Person Bill (now Act).

Ms. Singhateh has served as a member of the Board of Directors of Ecpat International in Thailand and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Child Protection Alliance in The Gambia. She has also served as a nominated member and legal advisor to the National Women's Council in The Gambia.



Antje Monshause

Head of Sustainability and Economic Development Desk, Brot fuer die Welt (Bread for the World)

Antje Monshause holds a Diploma in Geography, with political science and public health as minor subjects. She has research experiences in Guatemala and Bolivia, and conducted various projects, and activities with different organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America. For ten years (2012-2022) Antje Monshause was head of [Tourism Watch](#), a specialised unit at [Brot fuer die Welt](#) on tourism and development. She is chairwoman of the international multi-stakeholder initiative Roundtable Human Rights in Tourism e.V, vice-chair of the children's rights organisation ECPAT Germany, and a member of the certification council of TourCert. Further, she is active in the international "Transforming Tourism

Initiative" in which civil society organisations from all around the world are demanding the transformation of tourism in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Cherise Charleswell

Director of Development, PACT – Protect All Children from Trafficking

Cherise is a public health practitioner and thought leader, with a multidisciplinary educational background, and an Indirect Survivor of CSEC. She has worked in the nonprofit, development, and human services sector for over 10 years. She is a fellow of The Abshire-Inamori Leadership Academy (AILA) International Fellow - Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and now serves as the Development Director of PACT (formerly ECPAT-USA).



Laura Steden

Director Corporate Responsibility, DER Touristik Group GmbH, Germany

Laura Steden has 15 years of experience within the REWE Group where she worked in different capacities. In March 2022, she joined DER Touristik Group as Director Corporate Responsibility. Previously, she worked in Inhouse Consulting and as Head of Business Development at REWE Far East in Bangkok. Before joining DER Touristik, Laura was in charge of the sustainability department at REWE where she was responsible for the development and management of REWE's sustainability strategy.



Rebecca Nhep

Senior Technical Advisor, Better Care Network

Rebecca is the Senior Technical Advisor for Better Care Network, the preeminent information hub and global convenor to influence action for children without parental care. Rebecca has 22 years' experience working in the international development and child protection sectors, focusing on care reforms, transitioning residential care services, and combatting orphanage trafficking and orphanage tourism.

Rebecca is the co-founder of ReThink Orphanages Network Australia and co-chair of ReThink Orphanages Global. Rebecca is also a member of the Australian Institute of Criminology's expert advisory group for the monitoring of the Australian Government National Action Plan to Combat

Modern Slavery and the Australian Institute of Criminology's Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Research Network. Rebecca is the co-chair of several expert working groups under the Transforming Children's Care Global Platform, including the Transitioning Residential Care Working Group, and Orphanage Tourism, Voluntourism and Trafficking Task Force.

Rebecca holds post graduate degrees in International Development and Anthropology and is a PhD in Law Candidate with Griffith University Australia. Her primary research areas include child institutionalisation, deinstitutionalisation, orphanage tourism/voluntourism and orphanage trafficking.

PANEL MODERATOR



Guillaume Landry

Executive Director, ECPAT International

Guillaume Landry is the Executive Director of ECPAT International. He has over two decades of professional experience in the field of organisational development, interagency collaboration, and multidisciplinary research in child protection and children's rights. Mr. Landry is a specialist in child protection. He was the Youth Mine Action Ambassador against anti-personnel mines (2002—2003) for UNICEF Quebec. Also, he was a Child Protection Advisor for the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a Research Specialist and Project Manager in West Africa on behalf of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, and consultant for UNICEF, the World Bank, the United Nations Department of Peace Operations, GIZ, Save the Children and the

Canadian International Development Agency. He became Director of Programmes and Development at the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) in September 2006 and was named Director General in April 2014.

His background in child protection and child rights has seen him lead the implementation of programs in over 70 countries. He has also supervised, coordinated, and authored more than 50 reports analysing the status of children's rights worldwide, while he has built relationships in his collaboration with experts and stakeholders

in local, regional, and international contexts. Mr. Landry's connection with ECPAT is not new, as he previously worked as a Regional Assistant for the Americas and the MENA region at the start of his professional career. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that children all over the world are protected.