



**Expert Group Meeting on**

**“AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS FOR ALL TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS”**

22 -24 May 2019  
Conference Room 11  
United Nations Office at Nairobi

**Presenters’ Biographies**

**Cecilia ANDERSSON**

Ms. Andersson is an urban and regional planner working on public space in the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat. The Global Public Space Programme supports cities and local governments in ensuring a better quality of life for all through capacity building, knowledge sharing, developing guides and tools, supporting the development of city-wide strategies and policies, conducting advocacy and of course supports local governments and communities in actual implementation of public space projects. Prior to working with the Urban Planning and Design Branch, she with the Safer Cities Programme also with UN-Habitat, focusing on women and girls’ safety in cities in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe.

**David AYUKU**

Dr. Ayuku is a clinical psychologist with over fifteen years of research experience and clinical work with marginalized children and adolescents in Eldoret, Kenya. His activities have included both administrative leadership positions and leading research teams to support his interest in adolescent mental health and sexual risk behaviors among street children. He has collaborated in various research projects including the ongoing R01 grant, “Orphaned and Separated Children’s Assessment Related to Their Health and Well-Being (OSCAR)” phase II, that includes street children and youth. His previous work involved children living on the streets, a vulnerable and neglected population around the world, but particularly in Kenya. He was a Principal investigator for a nine-year study conducting an intensive comparative field study in Eldoret, Kenya examining the social, physical, and mental health of street children. This research generated new descriptions of the characteristics of children living on the street and their social networks, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of health challenges and the development of appropriate intervention methods.

**Christina BEHRENDT**

Ms. Behrendt is Head of the Social Policy Unit in the ILO’s Social Protection Department in Geneva. Her earlier work experience includes assignments as regional social security specialist at the ILO Regional Office for Arab States in Beirut (Lebanon), as consultant at the International Social Security Association (ISSA), and as lecturer and research fellow at the University of Konstanz. She has worked and published on various aspects of social security in both developed and developing country contexts. Having studied in Konstanz and Edinburgh, she earned her Master’s degree in Politics and Public Administration and her Ph.D. in Social Policy from the University of Konstanz (Germany). Her current work focuses on the extension



of social security in low- and middle-income countries and its impact on social and economic development.

**Dame Louise CASEY, DBE CB**

Over the last 20 years, Dame Louise has been instrumental in the development of a number of bespoke social policy programmes for the UK Government. Drawing on her previous experiences leading the UK homeless charity Shelter, Dame Louise has consistently delivered brave and innovative solutions to long standing social problems ranging from homelessness to anti-social behavior to troubled families.

Appointed as UK Homelessness Czar in 1999, Dame Casey led a successful strategy to reduce the number of people sleeping rough on the streets. She went on to lead the Troubled Families Programme and Respect Taskforce, and also served as the first Victims Commissioner where she led flagship reviews into child sexual exploitation and social integration in some of the UK's most isolated communities. Throughout her career, Dame Louise has maintained her commitment to the charity sector and has been a driving force in the establishment of the Institute of Global Homelessness, with the aim of delivering an international solution to street homelessness across the world. Dame Louise currently serves as the Board Chair for the Institute of Global Homelessness. Dame Louise was awarded the Companion of the Order of Bath (CB) in the Queen's birthday honours list in 2008, and made Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) in the Queen's birthday honours list in 2016.

**Roberta Mélega CORTIZO**

Roberta Mélega Cortizo, a Social Policy Analyst in Brazil, has been working for ten years in the Ministry of Citizenship (former Ministry of Social Development). Journalist and Master's Degree in Social Anthropology from the University of São Paulo.

**Leilani FARHA**

Ms. Farha (from Canada) was appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing in May 2014. Ms. Farha is the Executive Director of the NGO Canada Without Poverty, based in Ottawa, Canada. A lawyer by training, for the past 20 years, Ms. Farha has worked both internationally and domestically on the implementation of the right to adequate housing for the most marginalized groups.

In Canada, Ms. Farha worked on housing rights issues as the Executive Director of the Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation. In that capacity, she helped to launch a historic legal challenge seeking the implementation of UN recommendations for addressing homelessness as a violation of human rights. In her current work she continues to promote a human rights-based approach to poverty. Internationally, Ms. Farha has actively participated in a number of missions around the world to examine the status of housing rights and to assist in developing policy responses for the implementation of these rights. Within the UN human rights system, she helped spearhead the first resolution regarding women and the right to adequate housing. Ms. Farha has also undertaken numerous consultancies related to housing rights; she has appeared before various UN human rights mechanisms to address economic, social and cultural rights issues; and she was a member of the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions for UN-Habitat.



**Ashley GROMIS**

Dr. Gromis is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Eviction Lab at Princeton University. She joined the Lab after completing her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles in 2017. Her work in the Lab focuses on estimating the prevalence of rental housing eviction in the United States and how the frequency of eviction changes over time and varies across communities. More broadly, her research interests focus on how social networks and local communities provide the social context for individual decisions and events that aggregate to form macro-level patterns across space and time.

**Roseline KIHUMBA**

Ms. Kihumba is International and Regional Policies Coordinator at HelpAge International – Africa Regional Office. She leads and coordinates seven HelpAge country offices and over 100 network organizations in delivering campaigns, advocacy and policy influencing actions around SDGs, African Union Protocol on the Rights of Older people, United Nations Convention on the rights of older people and Agenda 2063 in more than 35 countries in Africa and contribute to similar HelpAge global commitments internationally.

She has established and nurtured partnership between HelpAge with Africa Population, Health and Research Center and African Union (AU), Department of Social Affairs resulting to the development of the AU Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for AU Policy Framework on Action on Ageing and the AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa. As a co-chair of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA) – Africa (coalition bringing together individuals, civil society organisations and academia to engage Sustainable Development Goals and promote inclusion and rights of older people), she provided co-leadership establishment of SGA-Africa governance and coordination mechanism of more than 100 members across more than 35 countries in Africa. This platform has become a force to reckon in African and international forums on sustainable development and human rights discussions.

**Taina MERILUOTO**

Dr. Meriluoto holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. In her dissertation, she studied the phenomenon of expertise-by-experience in various social welfare organisations. Her work focuses on civic participation and democracy, which she approaches both empirically through ethnographic methods, as well as theoretically with a particular focus on radical and critical democratic theories. She is currently working as a postdoctoral researcher and a project coordinator in Tampere University, in a project entitled *Imagi(ni)ng Democracy: European youth becoming citizens by visual participation*, funded by the ERC.

**Emeka OBIOHA**

Prof. Obioha is full Professor of Sociology in the Department of Social Sciences and Research Chair, Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Law at Walter Sisulu University, South Africa. He had previously worked as a Social Development Researcher/Expert at the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) and as Professor/lecturer at various universities in Lesotho, Nigeria and South Africa.



He is a Research Laureate of Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) - 1998, 2004 and 2008; an African Senior Researcher Awardee of Volkswagen Stiftung Germany, on Resources, Livelihood Management, Reforms and Processes of Structural Change (2008 – 2013). He had consulted for World Bank; USAID; Department for International Development (Dfid) United Kingdom; Family Health International; World Health Organisation (WHO); UNICEF; SOS Southern Africa; Government of Federal Republic of Nigeria and Government of Kingdom of Lesotho among others, on social and economic policy research projects. He is trained as an anthropologist/sociologist and criminologist at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria where he obtained his BA (Hons), MSc and Ph. D. degree qualifications.

### **Ifeyinwa OFONG**

Dr. Ofong started her career as a lecturer at the Department of Geography and Regional Planning, University of Jos, Nigeria. She then progressed to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Nigeria, where she held various positions, including Senior Lecturer, Head of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Senior Research Fellow and Course Coordinator at the Institute for Development Studies.

As National Coordinator of Women in Development and Environment, she has been committed to empowering women to speak for themselves and participate in decision making and governance. Her work has since spread across many civil society committees and organizations including the NGO Committee on Social Development and Board Member of Habitat International Coalition. She is a member of the NGO Working Group to End Homelessness, as well as a member of the Global Coalition on Social Protection Floors. As a member of the Steering Committee of the African Network of Women's Shelters, which is part of the Global Network of Women's Shelters, she is working with other civil society groups to provide safe spaces and shelters for women survivors of violence abuse. As a Development Consultant, she has carried out many studies and analysis for donors on many social issues, including the Situation Analysis of women and children in urban slums in Nigeria.

### **Marissa PLOUIN**

Marissa Plouin coordinates the OECD's work on affordable housing policies and the OECD Affordable Housing Database (<http://oe.cd/ahd>) in the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs. In more than eight years at the OECD, she has worked with national, regional and city governments around housing and urban policies, climate change, inclusive growth and metropolitan governance. Prior to her current role, she led the OECD Champion Mayors initiative and contributed to the OECD's cross-cutting work on Inclusive Growth in the Office of the Secretary-General. Before joining the OECD, she advised local and national governments in France and in the United States on housing affordability, sustainability and urban policy. She completed her graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris.

### **Jean QUINN, DW**

Jean Quinn, DW is a member of the International Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom. She has a degree in Nursing, as a Family Therapist, and completed Addiction Studies in TCD Dublin and Social Housing Studies with the Irish Council for Social Housing. As well as



holding many congregational and professional leadership roles throughout her career she has been actively involved in International Social Justice through a range of facets for many years. Jean has spent a vast number of years working with the homeless in Dublin, Ireland and is the Founder of Sophia Housing in Ireland. Her vision and leadership brought strength and growth to Sophia, which is now celebrating its 21st year as an organisation committed to providing a holistic approach in supporting people, specifically women and children on their journey from Homelessness. She is currently the Executive Director of UNANIMA International where her passion for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation are certainly utilized in her international advocacy. Through this role she sits as the Co-Chair of the NGO Working Group to End Homelessness.

### **Jesus SALCEDO**

Jesús Salcedo Villanueva is an urban manager currently working as an associate expert for the Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch, from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in Nairobi Kenya. Mr. Salcedo manages the UN-Habitat's Global Network for Sustainable Housing, and the Mediterranean City to City Migration project, providing technical expertise on the access to basic services and adequate housing for vulnerable groups. Mr. Salcedo is specialized on urban growth management strategies and community development projects. The further focus of his work is on housing policy, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. Previously, Mr. Salcedo Villanueva has worked on specialized consultancies for the governments of Al Buraimi, Oman; L'Aquila, Italy; and Chiapas, Mexico; as well as for organisations including the Cities Alliance, and G.I.Z. Additionally, Mr. Salcedo is a trained architect and has built community development infrastructure projects, and social housing in Mexico with the NGO Natura y Ecosistemas Mexicanos, and with World Vision International respectively. One of his projects was selected to be represented at the Venice Biennale for Architecture in 2015 for its strong community development approach.

### **Valérie SCHMITT**

Ms. Schmitt is the Deputy Director of the Social Protection Department of ILO Geneva. She is also leading ILO's Flagship programme on building social protection floors for all. She joined the ILO in 2003. She has 22 years of progressively responsible professional experience in the field of social protection, combining both headquarters and field experience in various types of organizations: the ILO at Headquarters, in Africa and Asia, the corporate sector in France, and an NGO in Africa.

Born in 1972, Ms. Schmitt holds a Master of Advanced Studies (first year of doctoral studies programme) in quantitative economics from Paris Sciences Economiques (Laboratoire du Delta) and a Master of Business Administration with honours from HEC (Europe's highest ranked MBA programme by the Financial Times). She also holds a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the University of Paris IV – La Sorbonne.

### **Suzanne SPEAK**

Dr. Speak is Senior lecturer in International Spatial Planning at the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, Newcastle University. She has been researching housing and homelessness in the developing world since 2000. Her work is qualitative, involving detailed



interviews, oral histories and storytelling with homeless people, as well as interviews with officials and policy analysis. She has undertaken this work in 12 countries (India, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Egypt, Jordan, Nigeria, South Africa, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia and Iraq). Suzanne has published widely on homelessness in the developing world and teaches modules on housing and homelessness and globalisation and social justice to post graduate students.

### **Fariha TARIQ**

Dr. Tariq is Chairperson of the Department of City and Regional Planning, Founder of Future Cities Centre as well as Director of the Housing Research Centre at the School of Architecture and Planning, University of Management and Technology in Lahore, Pakistan.

She holds a Ph.D. in Design from North Carolina State University, USA. The expertise she gained during her doctoral studies were in the line of housing affordability and low income house design, with the research entitled “Investigation of Incremental Housing Processes Based on Microfinance: Implications for Policies and Practice”. In the meanwhile, Dr. Tariq got Certification in Geographic Information System from North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA in December 2010. She was also associated with UN-Habitat as a Researcher where she made feasibility report on current urban housing issues and solutions, outlined terms and conditions for disbursing housing micro-loans and conducted surveys and focal group discussions in different areas of Pakistan. For now, Dr. Tariq is associated with the Government of Pakistan in putting their agenda of delivering 5 million houses to low income people, to the actual canvas. She is also serving as Rural Development Committee Head of Punjab, Pakistan for which she has developed a model village design for low-income group.

### **Ken Chamuva SHAWA**

Mr. Shawa is a Senior Economist at the ILO's Regional Office for Africa. He supports the development and implementation of policy frameworks, leads the work on future of work, and coordinates regional research for the Africa region. His research interests include the economics of labour markets, the health-labour relationship, saving and investment, industry and trade, debt, the growth-environment nexus, and agricultural policy. Prior to joining the ILO, he worked at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the African Union Commission (AU-IBAR). He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Nairobi and currently studies a PhD in Health Economics and Policy at the University of Lancaster.