



Claire MAHON
(Australia / New Zealand)

Claire Mahon is an international human rights lawyer based in Geneva, Switzerland. She is the joint Coordinator of the Project on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and an Adjunct Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School. She regularly teaches as a guest lecturer in various university courses on the topics of international human rights law, international organisations and public international law. She has experience in designing and providing training on international human rights law and practice to diplomats, advocates, field officers, and students in over 20 countries, including Australia, Canada, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the USA and Vietnam.

She currently co-teaches an intensive masters course on “The Defence of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Theory and Practice” at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) as part of the International Masters of Advanced Studies (IMAS) program. Along with her colleague, Christophe Golay, she co-organises an annual Executive Education Training Course on “Monitoring Economic, Social and Cultural Rights”, jointly hosted by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and the NGO HURIDOCS. She also teaches a semester-long course to US graduate law students on “International Organisations and International Law”.

Claire has previously worked for NGOs such as Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists, the International Service for Human Rights, the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, and the UN, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme. From 2007-2008 Claire worked with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food at the Research Unit on the Right to Food. Prior to moving to Geneva in 2004, Claire worked as a mergers and acquisitions lawyer for a top-tier corporate law firm in Melbourne, Australia. She was admitted to practice as a solicitor and barrister in Australia in 2000.

In 2007 Claire was identified as a *personnalité d'avenir* (future world leader) by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, only the second to be selected for work in global affairs. In 2003 she was awarded the Paul Baker Memorial Prize by the Law Institute of Victoria for her contribution to human rights law in Australia. She writes a monthly column as ‘Foreign Correspondent’ on human rights issues at the UN in the *Australian Human Rights Law Resource Centre Bulletin*.

Claire holds a Diplôme d'études approfondies (Masters equivalent) in International Law from the Graduate Institute of International Studies; a Bachelor of Laws (with Honours) from the Australian National University (ANU); a Bachelor of Arts (International Relations and Development Studies) from ANU; and is completing a PhD on the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Publications:

The Right to Food: Challenges and Prospects, co-authored with Jean Ziegler, Christophe Golay and Sally-Anne Way (forthcoming 2008)

Realizing the Right to Health, co-edited with Andrew Clapham, Mary Robinson and Scott Jerbi (Zurich: Rüffer & Rub, forthcoming May 2009)

"Sexual orientation, gender identity, and the right to health" in Andrew Clapham, Mary Robinson, Claire Mahon and Scott Jerbi (eds) *Realizing the Right to Health* (Zurich: Rüffer & Rub, forthcoming May 2009)

"Progress at the Front: The draft Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights", *Human Rights Law Review*, Volume 8(4), Oxford University Press, forthcoming December 2008

"Playing fair with housing rights during mega-events", *Human Rights Defender*, Volume 16(3), University of NSW, 2007

Fair Play for Housing Rights: Mega-Events, Olympic Games and Housing Rights, primary author (Geneva: Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, 2007) originally published in English, Chapter 2 republished in Chinese

Multi-Stakeholder Guidelines on Mega Events and the Protection and Promotion of Housing Rights, author (Geneva: Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, 2007) published in English, French, Spanish and Chinese

Hosting the 2012 Games: London's Olympic Preparations and Housing Rights Concerns, author (Geneva: Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, 2007)

Human Rights Monitor 2006, co-author (Geneva: International Service for Human Rights, 2007, published in English and French)

"Council Daily Updates" and "Council Monitor", author and editor of multiple editions (Geneva: ISHR, 2006)

"Joint NGO Submission to the 2006 Open-Ended Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the ICESCR", editor and co-author, UN Doc. E/CN.4/2005/WG.23/CRP.4, 2006

"ESCR Protocol Now! Advocacy Kit for the Campaign for international justice for economic, social and cultural rights", co-author and editor (NGO Coalition for an OP-ICESCR, 2005)

"ESCR Facts Sheets", co-author & editor (Geneva: International Commission of Jurists, 2005)

"Joint NGO Submission to the 2005 Open-Ended Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the ICESCR", co-author, UN Doc E/CN.4/2004/WG.23/CRP.4, 2004

"International Justice for Victims of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Violations", presentation at Conference on Globalization and the Future of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Lisbon, Portugal, November 2005, published in Centro Internacional de Direitos Económicos, Sociais e Culturais, *Globalisation and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (Lisbon: CIDESC, 2006)

"NGO perspectives on an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Time to move from discussion to action", presentation at High Level Expert Seminar on the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Nantes, France, September 2005, published in *The Spirit of Nantes: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for all citizens* (Paris: Ministre des affaires étrangères, France, 2005), published in English and French

"Terrorising Human Rights: A Rights Based Critique of the Commonwealth Anti-Terrorism Laws", paper presented at Australia New Zealand Society of International Law Annual Conference in Wellington, New Zealand, July 2003, published in *Australia New Zealand Society of International Law Proceedings of Annual Conference* (Canberra: ANZSIL, 2003)