

Who deserves to stay on the UN Human Rights Council? The record on women's rights

Liesl Gerntholtz, *Women's Rights Director, Human Rights Watch*
Dr Saladin Meckled-Garcia, *Director, UCL Institute for Human Rights*
Martha Jean Baker, *International Vice-President, WILPF*
Mr Akin Oyateru, *High Commission for the Federal Republic of Nigeria*
Ms M. Subhashini, *High Commission for India*

Monday 10 May at 6.30pm

The UN Human Rights Council, now 5 years old, has failed to provide the higher degree of transparency we hoped for from its Member States. Prior to its formal review (March 2011), we examine its record and invite the views of some of its members on their contribution to its work and development and to related advances in their domestic legislation, especially regarding women's rights. A reception will follow the meeting to which all are invited.

Liesl Gerntholtz, a member of the Johannesburg bar, joined the South African Human Rights Commission and is still linked with organisations in Southern Africa working on health, HIV/AIDS and women's issues on which she has written extensively. Her work at Human Rights Watch has included documenting access to safe and legal abortion in Ireland and sexual and gender-based violence in Haiti following the earthquake.

Dr. Meckled-Garcia is the founder of the Human Rights programme at UCL's School of Public Policy. He is also co-founder and co-director of the new UCL Institute for Human Rights. His research focuses on the ethical foundations of human rights, and on theories of international justice. He is on the editorial board of *Imprints, Journal of Egalitarian Theory and Policy* and a referee for a variety of journals.

Martha Jean Baker qualified as lawyer in the USA and completed her LLM in public international law and human rights law in the UK. She is a partner in Malcolm Katz Law Offices, a founder member of Gender Action for Peace & Security (GAPS) and serves as International Vice-President of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF).

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