



JELENA PIA-COMELLA

Throughout my career, I have been passionate and committed to promoting women's rights and gender justice. Starting my career in 1996 as a diplomat, I participated in the Conferences and negotiations that set new standards in international human rights law and international law; as a member of civil society and international organizations, I accompanied and advised States and civil society organizations in the implementation of these standards.

This rich experience has allowed me to continue my path in promoting gender equality. I have drafted gender policies for civil society organisations and network organisations. I was a member of the gender equality and education committee of the *Réseau Normalisation et Francophonie* that drafted the guidelines and norms on gender equality for schools' textbooks and learning materials. During the drafting of the norm, I advised and was part of a subgroup dedicated to draft provisions related to gender-based violence.

I have been very honored to continuing accompanying and advising governments, international organizations and civil society organizations. I drafted reports and strategies for the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF) promoting female leadership at multilateral decision-making fora and in the peace and security arena. I have also advised on strategies to mainstream gender in the Andorran foreign and humanitarian aid.

Currently, I develop curriculum and lecture on international human rights law and gender justice. I have developed the very first courses on gender justice for conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence and crimes for John Jay College and Hofstra University. I have developed the Women, Peace and Security Agenda training for diplomats and young professionals for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and have co-developed the very first online training on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda – Africa for the OIF and Senghor University. All my lectures and trainings feature CEDAW, and the gender provisions contained in international law. I also showcase key initiatives that promote women's leadership in the political arena, the armed and security forces and in mediation processes.

I would be very honored to serve as a CEDAW member to continue promoting gender equality. As a CEDAW member I will support and accompany States Parties in English, French and Spanish and I am committed to:

- Strengthening CEDAW's general recommendations towards a more robust response to sexual and gender-based violence and crimes.
- Continuing and invigorating the dialogue within CEDAW and with other treaty bodies so to draw synergies for an intersectionality approach to eliminating discrimination.
- Highlighting a human rights-based and survivor-centered approach to international law.

EXPERIENCE

Consultant and trainer, *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and Université Senghor (February 2023 – present)*

- Develop the curriculum of the training and train on the “women, peace and security” agenda.

Adjunct assistant professor, *Hofstra University, (August 2022 – present)*

- Develop and lecture on international human rights law.
- Develop and lecture on gender justice: an international framework for conflict-related sexual and gender-based crimes.

Adjunct lecturer, *John Jay College of Criminal Justice, (August 2020 – present)*

- Lecture on Human Rights Institutions; Human Rights: International and Domestic Legal Frameworks and Advanced Seminar on Human Rights.
- Have authored and implemented the course on gender justice for conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence and crimes.

Managing Coordinator, *Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (December 2019 – present)*

- Head GAAMAC’s Support Office.
- Implement operationalization of GAAMAC’s strategy for the period 2022-2024.
- Lead the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy.
- Submit reports to the President of the Association.

Faculty member of *the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) (August 2017– present)*

- Develop and lecture on the Responsibility to Protect and the Women Peace and Security Agenda for UNITAR’s Global Diplomacy Initiative.
- Develop and lecture trainings on the Responsibility to Protect and the Women Peace and Security Agenda to diplomats.

January 2020 – August 2021

Adviser, Permanent Observer Mission of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie to the United Nations

- Advised on policy on peace and security issues (peacekeeping, women, peace and security agenda), women’s rights, multilingualism.
- Edited content of and translated into English and Spanish all communications.
- Enhanced the Francophonie’s relationship and cooperation with its Member States represented at the United Nations.
- Represented the OIF Permanent Observer Mission at the United Nations, workshops.

June 2019 – November 2019

Senior Consultant, Permanent Observer Mission of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie to the United Nations

- Formulated systematic and documented approach to promote women’s leadership at the UN.
- Developed an operational approach to strengthen the positioning of the OIF on the “Women, peace and security” agenda.

August 2018 – November 2019

Senior Adviser, Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes

- Advised GAAMAC in the development of its strategy for the period 2019-2021.
- Developed the outline of strategies to expand GAAMAC's impact, network, and outreach.
- Developed and implemented a resource mobilization strategy.
- Participated at workshops, high-level meetings with the diplomatic community, Civil Society Organizations and the United Nations.

July 2008 – July 2018

Deputy executive director, World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy

- Set strategy and oversaw WFM-IGP's International Secretariat (including International Coalition for the RtoP and the Coalition for the ICC).
- Spearheaded fundraising and oversaw fundraising work.
- Secured strategic partnerships that allow the Organization to grow.
- Prepared and submitted reports to the Board of Directors.
- Represented the organization at governance meetings, high-level meetings with the diplomatic community, Civil Society Organizations and the United Nations.
- Incorporated and mainstreamed the women peace and security agenda into the Organization's strategic plans and programs.
- Appointed as the Secretary of the NGO Working Group on the Security Council.

January 2008 – June 2008

Consultant, Center for Women's Global Leadership and Women's Environment and Development Organization

- Spearheaded the overall coordination of the Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign (GEAR), a Coalition of 270 NGOs for the purpose of strengthening gender equality at the United Nations, which led to the creation of UNWomen.
- Provided strategy for the campaign advocacy, including drafting language to be included in the resolutions at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nations General Assembly.
- Liaised and coordinated communications with GEAR Coalition members.

September 1996 – August 2007

Deputy Permanent Representative, Govern d'Andorra, Andorran Foreign Service

- Oversaw Andorra's overall participation at the United Nations, expert focus areas included Sustainable development, human rights, finance, and budgetary issues: 2nd, 3rd and 5th Committees of the UN General Assembly.
- Represented Andorra at the Economic and Social Council during its tenure 2001-2003.
- Programmed and oversaw fund allocation for development cooperation of Andorra with the Funds and Programs of the United Nations targeting women and girls.
- Forged Andorra's relationships with other countries, especially in the areas of women's rights, UN reform, development cooperation and humanitarian aid.
- Appointed Chargé d'affaires a.i./Chief of Mission to the United States and Canada from 2001 to 2007.
- Responsibilities for bilateral relations with Canada included negotiations of education cooperation agreements with Francophone Universities and strengthening of the relationships at the multilateral level for like-minded initiatives.
- Responsibilities for bilateral relations with the United States and Washington-based international organizations (Organization of American States and the International

Monetary Fund) included liaising and supporting negotiations promoting tourism and education cooperation agreements with key US Universities.

EDUCATION

August 2000

Master of Arts Degree in International Political Economy and Development, Fordham University, New York

- Advanced certificate in emerging markets and country risk analysis
- Member of Omicron Delta Epsilon, The International Honor Society for Economics

February 1996

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics (*Cum Laude*), Université de Fribourg, Switzerland

SKILLS

- Public speaking
- Strategic planning and programming
- Training and course content creation
- Fluent in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Catalan

BOARD AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Board member and treasurer of Global Justice Center
- Member of the gender equality and education committee of the Réseau Normalisation et Francophonie
- Member of the Women Network on the Responsibility to Protect, Peace and Security of the British Academy for the humanities and social sciences of Leeds University
- Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Human Rights of John Jay College
- Member of the African Coordination of Human Rights for the Armed Forces (CADHA)

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

Pia-Comella, J. *The Force of Witness : contra femicide* by Rosa-Linda Fregoso. *Hum Rights Rev* **24**, 307-308 (2023).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12142-023-00689-1>

Pia-Comella, J (2020), L'agenda "Femmes, paix et sécurité": cadre normatif, bonnes pratiques de sa mise en œuvre. *Politorbis: Prévenir les atrocités: vers de nouveaux paradigmes? Preventing atrocities; towards new paradigms?* (N. 68 , pp. 65-70) Département fédéral des affaires étrangères DFAE (2021).

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/fdfa/publikationen/alle-publikationen.html/content/publikationen/en/eda/schweizer-aussenpolitik/reihe-politorbis/politorbis-681>