**Annex III**

**Biographical data form of candidates to the**

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

**Nam**e (family name, first name): de Silva de Alwis, Rangita

**Nationality**: Sri Lankan

**Date and place of birth**: January 9, 1966. Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Working languages**: English, Sinhala

**Current position/function:**

Associate Dean of International Affairs, University of Pennsylvania Law School

Subjects Taught at Penn Law and Harvard Kennedy School: International Women’s Human Rights; Women Law and Leadership; Workplace Sexual Harassment; Women, Peace and Security; Policy Lab on AI and Bias; Academic Director of the Global Institute for Human Rights; Global Institute for Human Rights- Building Back Better- within a Gender Equality Framework.

Academic Director of Advancing Inclusive Leadership Forum.

**Main professional activities:**

* Founded the Global Women’s Leadership Project- Platform for global women leaders and Multilaterals on SDG 5 (<https://www.law.upenn.edu/international/global-womens-leadership-project/>;
* Under the auspices of UN Under Secretary General Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, ED of Women, developed the first Mapping of Family Laws from around the World. **Fact finding Project with support from the Gambian Minister Tambadou-** [**Access to Justice in The Gambia • International • Penn Law (upenn.edu)**](https://www.law.upenn.edu/live/blogs/46-access-to-justice-in-the-gambia)**;**
* **Afghan Women’s Project** with Hon. Naheed Farid and Dr. Sima Samar of Afghanistan.Brown Journal of World Affairs- “Where is my Name? Where is my Education- Expanding the WPS Agenda to Cover Education for Women and Girls”
* Hillary Rodham Clinton Distinguished Fellow on Global Gender Equity Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security
* Faculty Director, Cherie Blair Institute for Global Leadership (for Afghan women), Asian University for Women
* Nonresident Leader in Practice at Harvard Kennedy School of Government’s Women and Public Policy Program (2019-2021)
* Fellow, Private Capital Research Institute, Harvard Business School (co-authoring study on inclusion and diversity in venture capital and business)  [https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en-us/posts/legal/diversity-pledges-venture-capital-private-equity/](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thomsonreuters.com%2Fen-us%2Fposts%2Flegal%2Fdiversity-pledges-venture-capital-private-equity%2F&data=04%7C01%7Crdesilva%40law.upenn.edu%7Cf0f52ed56bf84a1120b808d976e82061%7C6cf568beb84a4e319df6359907586b27%7C1%7C0%7C637671561625276697%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=udm%2Bf0d94rgjoAK5qxMOOZQtubAwSKDf3%2FSNqLlGzU8%3D&reserved=0); [https://wappp.hks.harvard.edu/news/measuring-equity-preliminary-analysis-diversity-and-inclusion-statements-venture-capital](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com_-3Furl-3Dhttps-253A-252F-252Furldefense.proofpoint.com-252Fv2-252Furl-253Fu-253Dhttps-2D3A-5F-5Fnam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com-5F-2D3Furl-2D3Dhttps-2D253A-2D252F-2D252Furldefense.proofpoint.com-2D252Fv2-2D252Furl-2D253Fu-2D253Dhttps-2D2D3A-2D5F-2D5Fnam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com-2D5F-2D2D3Furl-2D2D3Dhttps-2D2D253A-2D2D252F-2D2D252Furldefense.proofpoint.com-2D2D252Fv2-2D2D252Furl-2D2D253Fu-2D2D253Dhttps-2D2D2D3A-2D2D5F-2D2D5Fnam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com-2D2D5F-2D2D2D3Furl-2D2D2D3Dhttps-2D2D2D253A-2D2D2D252F-2D2D2D252Fwappp.hks.harvard.edu-2D2D2D252Fnews-2D2D2D252Fmeasuring-2D2D2D2Dequity-2D2D2D2Dpreliminary-2D2D2D2Danalysis-2D2D2D2Ddiversity-2D2D2D2Dand-2D2D2D2Dinclusion-2D2D2D2Dstatements-2D2D2D2Dventure-2D2D2D2Dcapital-2D2D2D26data-2D2D2D3D04-2D2D2D257C01-2D2D2D257Crdesilva-2D2D2D2540law.upenn.edu-2D2D2D257C9096055a5a8346e734db08d948700777-2D2D2D257C6cf568beb84a4e319df6359907586b27-2D2D2D257C1-2D2D2D257C0-2D2D2D257C637620468295643695-2D2D2D257CUnknown-2D2D2D257CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0-2D2D2D253D-2D2D2D257C1000-2D2D2D26sdata-2D2D2D3DFPHixr-2D2D2D252B10tBg1mx-2D2D2D252BVLVOFm08ejmaQgRna3WPbuf1M0I-2D2D2D253D-2D2D2D26reserved-2D2D2D3D0-2D2D2526d-2D2D253DDwMF-2D2D2Dg-2D2D2526c-2D2D253DWO-2D2D2DRGvefibhHBZq3fL85hQ-2D2D2526r-2D2D253DH-2D2D2D70eabVnJfCyJi1UudqkxtgEeEeZ4qnXHUi56Sg9xQ-2D2D2526m-2D2D253DXDLRChmRtQxLKV2ckMBPX2wJX5mWSJWbduCZLyYJFv4-2D2D2526s-2D2D253DNqsbY9dxcIY7BwcchhCY9R-2D2D5FbWQibM9MJNA4ufwrXdkM-2D2D2526e-2D2D253D-2D2D26data-2D2D3D04-2D2D257C01-2D2D257Crdesilva-2D2D2540law.upenn.edu-2D2D257C4f99c1308d9947187e1308d9488e3a60-2D2D257C6cf568beb84a4e319df6359907586b27-2D2D257C1-2D2D257C0-2D2D257C637620597974481735-2D2D257CUnknown-2D2D257CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0-2D2D253D-2D2D257C1000-2D2D26sdata-2D2D3D8T1Y0dl6h7bwlUyfvGsaZ21gSpD6iUQ-2D2D252FEK-2D2D252BC9feWwYo-2D2).
* Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Center on the Legal Profession, Harvard Law SchoolConducted Study with UN Under Secretary General Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka on Leadership in the Age of the SDGs <https://clp.law.harvard.edu/leadership-in-the-age-of-the-sdgs/>
* Thomson Reuters Inclusion Director (Penn Law) 2020-2022. Conducted seminal study on gender bias [How allyship paves the way for overcoming women’s self-censorship - Thomson Reuters Institute](https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en-us/posts/legal/women-self-censorship-penn-law/)
* Fulbright Professor, Asian University for Women, Bangladesh, 2012
* Faculty, Hong Kong University Law School- Taught International Women’s Rights (2017 and 2018)

Honorary Positions:

* UN Special Rapporteur- Violence against Women, is Causes and Consequences- Shortlisted
* Distinguished Advisor to the Executive Director and Under Secretary General of the UN

Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka (2018-2021)

* World Bank High-Level Task Force on Technology for Access to Justice (March 2020-

ongoing) Advising the World Bank on ID4D (ID for Development).

* Senior Advisor, World Bank’s Rule of Law initiative launched by General Counsel, Sandie

Okoro (2019-ongoing)

* Senior Advisor, UN Women (Anti-discriminatory law project) (2015-2021)
* Senior Advisor, Gender Equality, UNESCO (2015-2020)
* Member, UN High-Level Working Group on Women’s Access to Justice (2018-2019)
* Global Advisor, UN SDG Fund (2016-2019)
* Madeline Albright Institute Faculty (2009-2016)
* Visiting Fellow, Human Rights Program, Harvard Law School (January 2015-December

2015)

* Fulbright Faculty, Asian University for Women, Chittagong, Bangladesh (August 2012)
* Distinguished Visiting Lecturer, Wellesley College (2012)

Worked closely on research and projects with UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, World Bank, OECD, UNICEF, IDLO, ILO, IFC, Gates Foundation, Microsoft, and other multinationals. Developed research studies and research partnerships with UN Special Procedures/UN Special Rapporteurs and UN Institutions.

**Global Institutes:** Inclusion, Investment, and Innovation with Gates Foundation, World Bank, and Microsoft (2018) Law, Diplomacy and Development with UNDP (2018)

* Special Advisor, President of Wellesley College on Women’s Leadership and Gender

Equality.

* Advisor to Global Institute for Women’s Leadership - Gender and Leadership Index at King’s College, London, appointed by H.E. Julia Gillard, former Prime Minister of Australia
* Board Member of Harvard University’s Law, Brain and Behavior at Mass General Hospital
* Board of Advisors and Advisor on Inclusion, Shatter Fund- A Venture Capital Fund for Women Entrepreneurs in Technology
* Board of Director’s at Landesa, the largest land rights organization advancing women’s rights

to land.

**High–Level Engagement with Multilaterals:**

* As Advisor to the UN SDG Fund, led the report on the role of business in Peace, Justice and

Strong Institutions [SDG Fund Report Reaches a Higher Moral Ground | Sustainable Development Goals Fund](https://www.sdgfund.org/sdg-fund-report-reaches-higher-moral-ground);

* Provided technical assistance to the drafting and the development of Goal the Convention on

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); served as an advisor to the EU on foreign policy directives combating early marriage with a special focus on early marriage during conflict; Fora with Women Leaders: [Hofdi-House-(womenpoliticalleaders.org)](https://www.womenpoliticalleaders.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Hofdi-House-Report-2.pdf);

* Helped lead the International Human Rights Day celebration of Justice Ginsburg’s Global

Legacy for Generation Equality, UN Women. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jcvkUXxaEDM&feature=youtu.be>

* Helped lead project with UNICEF, Microsoft and Ecocash (mobile money/financial inclusion

on access to virtual education: [Teamwork helps Zimbabwe pupils shut out of class by Covid-19 | Financial Times (harvard.edu)](https://www-ft-com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/content/d88ad324-b22e-11ea-94fc-9a676a727e5a)

**Educational background:**

* SJD/PhD- Harvard Law School
* LLM- Harvard Law School
* LLB Honors- University of Colombo
* Research Fellow- Harvard Human Rights Program
* Research Fellow- Harvard Kennedy School Women and Public Service Project

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:**

Faculty with UNITAR Gender Equality International Rights in Building Back Better: [https://www.unitar.org/event/full-catalog/gender-equality-international-rights-framework-building-back-stronger-unitar-penn-law](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.unitar.org%2Fevent%2Ffull-catalog%2Fgender-equality-international-rights-framework-building-back-stronger-unitar-penn-law&data=04%7C01%7Crdesilva%40law.upenn.edu%7C2851f05e967c43418d1808d8da7af9f0%7C6cf568beb84a4e319df6359907586b27%7C1%7C0%7C637499569013968403%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=YWzJHXXiEDfa32bgZVSmuGzZYMWSmHDDzJ07KhsiQAo%3D&reserved=0)

**United Nations and World Bank Reports**

Editor, <https://www.law.upenn.edu/live/files/7759-making-laws-breaking-silence> UN Women, UNESCO publication. Women’s Voice, Agency, and Participation: The Role of Laws and Legal Institutions in Fostering Women’s Voice and Agency for *World Bank,* Fall 2013. [Women's Voice and Agency : The Role of Legal Institutions and Women's Movements (worldbank.org)](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/21029); Disability Rights, Gender and Development: Joint Publication by the *United Nations DESA/UNFPA;* Advancing Equal Rights for Women and Girls: The Status of CEDAW Legislative Compliance in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, *UNFPA Publication*, 2009; New Developments in Gender-Based Law Reform: The Impact on Children, *UNICEF,* November 2009; Child Marriage and the Law, *UNICEF Publication*, June 2007; Gender Analysis of Domestic Labor, *UNICEF Publication,* June 2006; Co-author, Women’s and Children’s Rights in a Human Rights Based Approach to Development, *UNICEF Publication,* June 2005*.*

* Columbia Transnational Law Journal (See link) 2021 and High-level Roundtable at Columbia Law School, 2021. [CEDAW Roundtable — Columbia Journal of Transnational Law](https://www.jtl.columbia.edu/cedaw-roundtable-discussion)
* UNICEF- legislative Reform on Selected Issues of Anti- Gender Discrimination- [unice\_2009.pdf (adapt.it)](http://old.adapt.it/adapt-indice-a-z/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/unice_2009.pdf)
* Keynote Conversation on CEDAW at Harvard University Kennedy School of Government- Spring 2021[International Women's Day: A Conversation with Ambassador Melanne Verveer and Rangita de Silva de Alwis | Women and Public Policy Program, Harvard Kennedy School](https://wappp.hks.harvard.edu/event/international-womens-day)
* [Women and girls with disabilities | United Nations Enable](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/issues/women-and-girls-with-disabilities.html); [UN Enable - Ad Hoc Committee - Rights of Persons with Disabilities](https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/paneldesilva.htm)
* Women Inspiring Change: Harvard Law School Honoree (2015)- for work on global gender equality

Delivered more than 200 talks on gender-based law reform including at World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, Division for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) UNFPA, UNDP, WHO, and around the world.

**Regional and Global Network Development:**

* Asia Cause Lawyer Network (under the auspices of the Ford Foundation) 2009-2012
* Women Leading Change: A Network of Women Leaders in the Muslim Communities 2010-2012
* Breaking Laws/Breaking Silence - Global network of women’s human rights advocates (2016)

Gender Equality lawmaking support for the Vietnam Women’s Union/ UNDP support

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights:**

1. **de Silva de Alwis, Rangita, and Verveer, Melanne. “’Time Is A-Wasting’: Making the Case for CEDAW Ratification by the United States”, COLUMBIA. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 60 (Fall 2021)**
2. [de Silva de Alwis, Rangita, and Amanda M. Martin. "Long Past Time: CEDAW Ratification in the United States." *U. Pa. JL & Pub. Aff.* 3 (2018): 15.](https://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1023&context=jlpa)

1. Goal 5 and Gender Equality in the Oxford Handbook on Sustainable Development Goals, 2022.
2. Study on Redefining Leadership in the Age of the SDGs: Accelerating and Scaling up Delivery Through Inclusion, Harvard Law school, Center on the Legal Profession. [**Redefining Leadership - Harvard CLP**](https://clp.law.harvard.edu/leadership-in-the-age-of-the-sdgs/)**.**
3. [de Silva de Alwis, Rangita. "Examining gender stereotypes in new work/family reconciliation policies: The creation of a new paradigm for egalitarian legislation." *Duke J. Gender L. & Pol'y* 18 (2010): 305.](https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1190&context=djglp)
4. [de Silva de Alwis, Rangita. "Mining the intersections: Advancing the rights of women and children with disabilities within an interrelated web of human rights." *Pac. Rim L. & Pol'y J.* 18 (2009): 293.](https://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2698&context=faculty_scholarship)

1. [de Silva de Alwis, Rangita. "Domestic violence lawmaking in Asia: Some innovative trends in feminist lawmaking." *UCLA Pac. Basin LJ* 29 (2011): 176.](https://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/faculty_scholarship/1683/)
2. [de Silva de Alwis, Rangita. "Why women's leadership is the cause of our time." UCLA J. Int'l L. Foreign Aff. 18 (2013): 87.](https://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2691&context=faculty_scholarship)