***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 6 APRIL 2022 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME****Note: The appointment of the mandate holder will be made provided the mandate itself   
is extended by the Human Rights Council.*

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-0)*** *(*[*https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/893271*](https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/893271)*)  
  and****(2) application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-1)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC50.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC50.aspx)*)*
* *Once fully completed, in English or French only, the Word application form should be submitted by email to* [*ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org*](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)
* *A maximum of up to three optional reference letters may be attached to the email (in Word or PDF format).*
* *No additional documents (e.g. CVs, resumes or additional reference letters) will be accepted.*
* *Applicants will receive an acknowledgment email when both parts of the application process, i.e. the data submitted through the online survey and the Word application form, have been received by the Secretariat.*
* *Applications will only be considered if both parts and all sections of the Word application form have been completed and received by the Secretariat before the expiration of the deadline.* ***No incomplete or late applications will be accepted****.*
* *Eligible for Working Group mandates are only nationals of the States belonging to the* [*regional groups*](https://www.un.org/dgacm/content/regional-groups) *for which specific vacancies have been advertised.*
* *General description of the selection process and answers to frequently asked questions are available at* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx) *and* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx)
* *In case of technical difficulties or problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by email (*[*ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org*](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)*) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

| **1. Family (last) name:**  Ochab | **5. Year of birth:**     1986 |
| --- | --- |
| **2. First (given) name:** Ewelina Urszula | **6. Place of birth:**      Poland |
| **3. Other name, if any:** | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):**      Polish |
| **4. Gender:**       Female | **8. Any other nationality:**      British |

**II. MANDATE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCE / QUALIFICATIONS / KNOWLEDGE**

**NOTE: Please describe why the candidate’s competence / qualifications / knowledge is relevant in relation to the specific mandate:**

1. **QUALIFICATIONS** (200 words limit)

**Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights; good communication skills (i.e. orally and in writing) in one of the six official languages of the United Nations (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.)**

In 2020, I obtained a PhD in international law, medical law and medical ethics from Kent Law School, Canterbury, UK. My thesis delves into the question of the accountability of medical professionals involved and complicit in torture at US detention centres.

In 2018 I attended a course on freedom of religion or belief and the rule of law which was run jointly by BYU and Oxford University. I obtained a Religion and the Rule of Law Certificate upon completion.

I have been involved in a wide variety of projects including, but not limited to, the Daesh genocide against minorities in Syria and Iraq, Boko Haram atrocities perpetrated in West Africa, and the persecution of religious or belief minorities in Myanmar, Pakistan, China, India, and many more.

I have excellent communication and presentation skills, evidenced through frequent speaking engagements and publications.

1. **RELEVANT EXPERTISE** (200 words limit)

**Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles. (Please state how this was acquired.)**

**Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the United Nations or other international or regional organizations’ work in the area of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate. (Please state how this was acquired.)**

**Proven work experience in the field of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate. (Please state years of experience.)**

I have an excellent knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles, acquired both in theory and practice. My knowledge was obtained through a combination of my education and my professional engagements, having participated in several HRC sessions, the Forum on Minority Issues and several intersessional meetings.

I have an excellent knowledge of institutional mandates related to the United Nations or other international or regional organisations’ work.

I have significant experience working with a broad range of domestic and international bodies engaging with international law. In recent years, I have been conducting research on various aspects of human rights, and especially issues pertaining to the right to freedom of religion or belief, including where violations may manifest are atrocity crimes; the rights of minorities; and the situation of women and girls.

Since 2015, I have been conducting research for Governments, politicians, universities, and non-governmental organisations.

Since 2021, I have been working as a programme lawyer for the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute with specific focus on atrocity crimes, working on projects on justice and accountability.

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE** (200 words limit)

**Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired.)**

I have been working with governments and parliaments on the topic of freedom of religion or belief, atrocity crimes, and the situation of women and girls since 2015.

In 2015, my research paper on the Daesh genocide was used during debates at the UK House of Commons which focused on whether the government should recognise these atrocities as genocide (April 2016). Following on from this, I produced similar briefings for the Dutch Parliament and Government and contributed to the Dutch recognition of the Daesh atrocities as genocide. I worked with a Dutch Parliamentarian on considering the issues surrounding returning Daesh foreign fighters. The aim of my work in this area is to ensure that an effective mechanism is created for the prosecution of these individuals.

In recent years, I have been working with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Freedom of Religion or Belief, at the UK Parliament, authoring and contributing to reports. Similarly, I have provided research to the APPG on Pakistani Minorities, the APPG on the Yazidis and others.

In 2020, I produced a report on acts of violence based on religion or belief globally for the Polish government.

Internationally, I have been engaging several UN bodies. I have made written and oral submissions at the UN Human Rights Council, Universal Periodic Review and the UN Forum on Minority Issues. My authored initiative and draft zero resolution resulted in the establishment of the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief which is honoured annually on the 22nd of August. I have worked with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on various reports and initiatives, particularly on the atrocities of Daesh. Among others, I contributed to the drafting of a report and spoke at an expert panel on bringing Daesh to justice. I have also contributed to several reports before the European Parliament, mostly on the topic of Daesh atrocities and global persecution because of religion or belief.

1. **PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**Please list significant and relevant published books, articles, journals and reports that the candidate has written or public statements, or pronouncements that the candidate has made or events participated in relation to the mandate.**

* 1. **Enter three publications in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Title of publication:**    State Responses to Crimes of Genocide: What Went Wrong and How to Change It

**Journal/Publisher:**   Palgrave

**Date of publication:**      2022

**Web link, if available:**    https://link.springer.com/book/9783030991616

**2. Title of publication:**     Dignity and International Human Rights Law

**Journal/Publisher:**      Routledge

**Date of publication:**      2021

**Web link, if available:**      https://www.routledge.com/Dignity-and-International-Human-Rights-Law-An-Introduction-to-the-Punta/Scharffs-Ochab/p/book/9781032074580

**3. Title of publication:**    'The Iraqi Constitutional Failure to Protect the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief' in Paul T. Babie, Neville G. Rochow and Brett G. Scharffs (eds.), *Freedom of Religion or Belief. Creating the Constitutional Space for Fundamental Freedoms*

**Journal/Publisher:**      Elgar Publishing

**Date of publication:**      2020

**Web link, if available:**      https://www.elgaronline.com/view/edcoll/9781788977791/9781788977791.00021.xml

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):

I have published a number of scholarly articles and op-eds. Some of my recent publications include an academic article in the Journal of Genocide Research (Pieter Omtzigt and Ewelina U. Ochab, ‘Bringing Daesh to Justice: What the International Community Can Do’ (2018) *Journal of Genocide Research*, a chapter published with the Edinburgh University Press (‘Religious Freedom’ in Kenneth R. Ross, Mariz Tadros and Todd M. Johnson (eds) *Christianity in North Africa and West Asia* (Edinburgh University Press: Edinburgh, 2018)) and a book on Daesh genocide (*Never Again: Legal Responses to a Broken Promise in the Middle East* (Kairos: Vienna, 2016)).

I am currently working on two book proposals: on abductions, forcible conversion and forcible marriages of minority religious or belief women and girls, and on conflict related sexual violence.

I have a column with Forbes where I cover human rights violations, particularly on the situation of religious or belief minorities, atrocity crimes and others.

* 1. **Enter three public statements or pronouncements made or events that the candidate may have participated in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:**

**Event organizer:**    The International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute, the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:**    15 March 2022

**Web link, if available:**      https://www.ibanet.org/49th-UN-Human-Rights-Council-session-HRI-events

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:**

**Event organizer:**      The International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute, the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:**      11 March 2022

**Web link, if available:**    https://www.ibanet.org/49th-UN-Human-Rights-Council-session-HRI-events

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:**

**Event organizer:**      UN Forum on Minority Issues

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:**     3 December 2021

**Web link, if available:**      https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1q/k1qljucsrl

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):

I have made several oral statements, public interventions, and speeches, including at sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, UN Forum on Minority Issues, European Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Parliaments of the UK and the Netherlands, and several conferences globally.

Throughout the pandemic, I organised regular webinars on human rights, atrocity crimes, and many more. The list is available upon request.

1. **FLEXIBILITY/READINESS AND AVAILABILITY OF TIME** (200 words limit)

**to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, including participating in Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York, travelling on two country visits per year, drafting reports according to established deadlines, organizing and participating in consultations and meetings, addressing allegations of human rights violations with all concerned, providing advice to States and other stakeholders on issues related to their mandate and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. Kindly indicate whether the candidate can dedicate an estimated time of four to six months per year to the work of a mandate depending on its workload.**

**Please note that the work of mandate holders is unpaid. Those appointed as mandate holders serve in their personal capacities. They are not United Nations staff members, they are not based in United Nations offices in Geneva or at another United Nations location, and they do not receive salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.**

     I can dedicate the time to effectively perform the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements.

1. **NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE**

**Indicate whether the candidate has been nominated by (check all that apply):**

X **Individual nominations (indicate this if the candidate is self-nominating)**

**☐ Governments**

**☐ Regional groups operating within the United Nations human rights systems**

☐ **International organizations or their offices**

☐ **Non-governmental organizations**

☐ **National human rights institutions**

☐ **Other human rights bodies**

**Name of the nominating entity and additional information about the nomination (use if applicable, for third-party nominations only)** (200 words limit)**:**

Baroness Kennedy QC, Peer at the UK House of Lords

Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London

**III. MOTIVATION LETTER, INCLUDING YOUR VISION OF THE MANDATE**(600 word limit. Must be typed in the space below; cannot be sent in a separate email or as an attachment. To be written by the candidates themselves even if nominated by another entity.)

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It would be an honour for me to take the role of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. For this role, I would utilise my significant experience working with a broad range of domestic and international bodies engaging with international law.

I have a passion for the topic of freedom of religion or belief, and especially those minorities who are persecuted globally. My interest in this area began when I visited the UN Forum on Minority Issues in 2015. A Yazidi man spoke during the session and called for action to protect the Yazidis who were subjected to genocide by Daesh. The issue grabbed my attention and compelled me to engage with the topic. I researched the atrocities and produced a legal analysis against the definition of genocide in Article II of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In the years since, I have been working on establishing legal avenues to bring about justice and accountability. This led to my interest in the plight of other persecuted religious minorities including the Rohingyas and other religious minorities in Myanmar, Christians in Nigeria, Uyghurs in China and many more.

As I have been engaging on these topics, I identified numerous issues that require attention.

***Prevention.*** We, as the international community, always act too to prevent atrocities from materialising. For example, despite the legal duty to prevent genocide established by Article I of the Genocide Convention, only a few countries have mechanisms that would effectively monitor and analyse risk factors to spot the early warning signs of genocide. Similarly, only a few countries have mechanisms that monitor and analyse violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief globally.

To address the issue, I propose to work with governments on identifying practices which would equip them with the tools to monitor and analyse these risk factors and to act on them effectively, whether to protect the right to freedom of religion or belief generally, and to prevent such atrocity crimes as genocide.

***Promotion.*** The right to freedom of religion or belief is not a popular topic. Despite some growing attention, it is often neglected or not given the attention it requires. There is very little understanding of the right and ever less general engagement. Among others, media outlets cover the topic less and less. The coverage usually focuses on topics that make the headlines, often over-sensationalising. Furthermore, censorship, misinformation and disinformation prevent information from reaching people, and present a distorted picture of the world around them (including dehumanising certain groups, inciting violence and many more).

To address the issue, I propose working with journalists and media outlets on training and guidelines for journalists, editors and producers to help them to navigate the information and ensure verified, fact-based news and analysis.

I also would like to work towards establishing a UN Forum on Freedom of Religion or Belief, modelled on the UN Forum on Minority Issues, to give the voice to survivors, experts, and NGOs, who ordinarily would have limited access to the sessions of the HRC. This could be a great opportunity to engage the younger generation on the topic of freedom of religion or belief.

**Justice and Accountability.** Victims of violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief can rarely access justice. To address this issue, I would like to review access to justice of people who’s right to freedom or religion or belief has been violated, globally, and identify how the failings could be addressed.

The above are only a few proposals of the work I would like to engage on to bring about change. And change is urgently needed.

I would humbly welcome the opportunity to explain my proposals further.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ewelina Ochab

**IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)**

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **Polish**

**2. Knowledge of the official languages of the United Nations:**

**Arabic:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily orNot easily:   
**Write:** Easily or Not easily: **Speak:** Easily or Not easily:

**Chinese:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**English:** Yes or no: **Yes** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **yes  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **yes  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **yes**

**French:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**Russian:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**Spanish:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating the type of degree and field of study, and whether full- or part-time; for example, *Masters in Law, University of XXX, part-time, 1975-1977, city and country)*. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one degree may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

| **Name of degree, field of study and name of academic institution, full or part-time:** | **Years of attendance**  (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003;  for ongoing education, please put e.g. 2018-present): | **Place and country:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PhD in international law, medical law, medical ethics, Kent Law School, part-time | 2014-2020 | Canterbury, UK |
| Certificate in Religion and the Rule of Law, BYU/Oxford University, full-time | 2018 | Oxford, UK |
| Certificate in Human Trafficking Law and Policy, St Thomas Law School, part-time | 2017 | Miami, US |
| Certificate in Law, War and Human Rights, LSE, part-time | 2014 | London, UK |
| BPTC, Post-graduate Diploma in Law, City Law School, full-time | 2011-2012 | London, UK |
| LLB (Hons) in Law, Kent Law School, full-time | 2008-2011 | Canterbury, UK |
| Diploma in Law, German-Polish Law School, Humboldt Uni/Breslau Uni, part-time | 2006-2008 | Berlin, Germany |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with the candidate’s current (most recent) occupation.** **Also, indicate whether positions held were full-time or part-time. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one position may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

| **Name of employer,**  **functional title,**  **main functions of position, full- or part-time:** | **Years of work** (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2005;  for ongoing activities, please put e.g. 2018-present): | **Place  and country:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| IBA Human Rights Institute, programme lawyer, research and programmatic work on atrocity crimes, sexual violence in conflict, FoRB and other, full-time | 2021- present | London, UK |
| Refcemi, Deputy Director, programmatic work on FoRB, part-time | 2019 - present | London, UK |
| Coalition for Genocide Response, Co-founder, research and advocacy on atrocity crimes, part-time | 2019-2021 | London, UK |
| Self-employed, Legal research, research on atrocity crimes and FoRB, part-time | 2016-2021 | London, UK |
| International NGO, Legal Counsel, research on atrocity crimes and FoRB, full-time | 2015-2016 | Geneva, Switzerland and Vienna, Austria |
| Osbornes Solicitors, Litigation Executive, case work on medical negligence and personal injury, full-time | 2012-2015 | London, UK |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS   
(of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)  
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on the candidate’s behalf.***

**1. To your knowledge, does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause the candidate to limit the extent of inquiries, to limit disclosure, or to weaken or slant findings in any way? If yes, please explain.**

     No

**2. Are there any factors that could either directly or indirectly influence, pressure, threaten, or otherwise affect the candidate’s ability to act independently in discharging the mandate? If yes, please explain:**

     No

**3. Is there any reason, currently or in the past, that could call into question the candidate’s moral authority and credibility or does the candidate hold any views or opinions that could prejudice the manner in which the candidate discharges the mandate? If yes, please explain:**

     No

**4. Does the candidate comply with the provisions in paragraph 44 and 46 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1? (Please answer YES if the candidate complies, NO if the candidate does not comply, together with an explanation.)**

***Para. 44: The principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions at a time shall be respected.***

***Para. 46: Individuals holding decision-making positions in Government or in any other organization or entity which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to the mandate shall be excluded. Mandate holders will act in their personal capacity.***

     Yes

**5. Should the candidate be appointed as a mandate holder, the candidate will have to take measures to comply with paragraphs 44 and 46 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1. In the event that the current occupation or activity, even if unpaid, of the candidate may give rise to a conflict of interest (e.g. if a candidate holds a decision-making position in Government) and/or there is an accumulation of human rights functions (e.g. as a member of another human rights mechanism at the international, regional or national level), necessary measures could include relinquishing positions, occupations or activities. If applicable, please indicate the measures the candidate will take.**

N/A

**VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION  
*To be completed by the candidate. The candidate’s name below should match how it is entered on the first page of the form and in the online survey.***

**I hereby certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete and are made in good faith. I understand that falsifying or intentionally withholding information will be grounds for not being selected or appointed or the withdrawal of any proposed appointment or, if an appointment has been made and accepted, for its immediate cancellation or termination.  
  
Kindly note that whilst no changes can be made after this application form has been submitted and the deadline for applications has expired, any relevant change of current occupation, employment, or position, or any other relevant fact or circumstance should be brought to the attention of the secretariat by   
email (**[**ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org**](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)**).**

**Please review the application before you insert your name and date to indicate your agreement.**

**Name:**      Ochab

**Date:**      29 March 2022

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1. The short **online survey** is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate applying for and, if appropriate, nominating entity. The same name, gender and nationality must be used both in the online survey and in the Word application form. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. The **application form in Word format** includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words (section III of the form). The application form should be completed in English or French only, the two working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. The application form will be used as received to prepare the public list of eligible candidates who applied for the vacancy. The application forms of eligible candidates will also be posted as received on the OHCHR public web page for the selection process. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)