***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 6 APRIL 2022 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-1)*** *(*[*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-2)*** *(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:** Šteinerte | **5. Year of birth:** 1978 |
| **2. First (given) name:** Elīna | **6. Place of birth:** Rīga, Latvia |
| **3. Other name, if any:** N/A | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Latvian |
| **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.)**

Qualifications: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, 2006); Master of Laws (LLM) in Human Rights Law (University of Nottingham, 2002); Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons) and Lawyers' Diploma (University of Latvia, 2001).

I am a lawyer, academic and researcher with nearly 20 years of experience in public international law and international human rights law. I have taught at numerous universities in the United Kingdom as well as in Latvia. Through research, my particular focus has been the prevention of torture and implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). I have extensive experience in advising States and other stakeholders on its implementation as well as broader issues relating to deprivation of liberty, particularly in the criminal justice and immigration detention.

In November 2016 I was appointed as member of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) on behalf of the Eastern European States, becoming the first ever Chair Rapporteur of the WGAD from this region in 2021. Consequently I also possess extensive experience and understanding of the Special Procedures system and the UN.

Languages: Latvian (native speaker); English and Russian (excellent written and spoken); French (basic).

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.)**

The prime focus of my work and research is international human rights law, torture prevention and, particularly, the implementation of the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT). Over the past nearly 20 years, I have advised numerous countries on various aspects of the implementation of OPCAT especially in calibrating domestic legislation to the ensure compliance. Additionally, I have provided expert advice and training on different other issues including strengthening the capacity of NHRIs; the designation and effectiveness of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) and various aspects of criminal justice reform such as pre-trial detention and overcrowding. I have worked closely with governments and inter-governmental agencies including OHCHR, UNHCR, UNDP, WHO, CoE, OSCE and ODIHR as well as NGOs. As part of my work I have undertaken numerous visits to detention facilities.

As a member of the UN WGAD over the past six years I have further extended my knowledge and practical experience in the field, particularly in advising States on ways to further the implementation of their human rights obligations.

The above has given me not only outstanding theoretical knowledge of international norms and standards on prevention of torture but also sound expertise on practical implementation.

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 internationally recognised competence in human rights law and torture prevention specifically. I am the co-author of the leading text on the OPCAT, The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (Oxford University Press, 2011), and my career has been dedicated to issues of torture prevention and effective implementation of associated measures, which has deepened through my serving the WGAD and prevention of arbitrary detention.

In addition to my practical detention facilities visiting experience, I have produced a series of high quality scholarly and general publications in this area and have regularly presented at international and national conferences and events in Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Furthermore, having been engaged in significant academic research projects on various aspects of torture prevention, I have worked directly with variety of national (governments, civil society), regional (e.g. CoE, OSCE and ODIHR) and international (e.g. OHCHR, UNHCR, WHO and UNDP) stakeholders. I have been and continue to be approached by a variety of stakeholders for advice on a wide range of issues surrounding torture prevention. I have consulted to a number of NGOs assisting to clarify complex legal issues or to file claims before executive, national and international bodies.

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:** The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) (with Murray, Evans and Hallo de Wolf).

**Journal/Publisher:** Oxford University Press

**Date of publication:** 2011

**Web link, if available:** https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-optional-protocol-to-the-un-convention-against-torture-9780199602193?cc=gg&lang=en&

**2. Title of publication:** The Jewel in the Crown and its Three Guardians: Independence of National Preventive Mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to the UN Torture Convention.

**Journal/Publisher:** Human Rights Law Review

**Date of publication:** 2014

**Web link, if available:** http://hrlr.oxfordjournals.org/content/14/1.toc

**3. Title of publication:** The Changing Nature of Relationship between the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and National Preventive Mechanisms: in Search for Equilibrium.

**Journal/Publisher:** Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights

**Date of publication:** 2013

**Web link, if available:** https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/016934411303100202

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

I have written extensively on the issue of torture prevention and wider criminal justice reforms. One of the key focuses of my publications has been the promotion of effective, independent oversight over the places of deprivation of liberty, a key safeguard in effective torture prevention. This has also been a particular focus of various reports I have produced through my consultancy work, for example, "Ireland and the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture" (2017) (https://www.ihrec.ie/our-work/cat/opcat/) and “Assessment of the implementation of the recommendations issued by the European Committee on Prevention of Torture (CPT) to Scotland” (2021)

(https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/npm-prod-storage-19n0nag2nk8xk/uploads/2021/08/NPM\_Executive\_Summary\_FINAL.pdf ).

Although during my serving the WGAD mandate I have been prevented from engaging with extensive academic publications, I have continued research and have a number of publications forthcoming. I have also taken part in advancing the jurisprudence of the WGAD not only through contributions especially to the thematic sections of WGAD annual reports throughout the years and WGAD’s thematic studies but also through some 500 individual Opinions concerning allegations of arbitrary deprivation of liberty worldwide.

* 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:** 'The Istanbul Protocol in the hands of the National Preventive Mechanisms'.

**Event organizer:** Istanbul Protocol Implementation: Transforming Regional Experiences into International Norms for Effective Torture Investigation and Documentation (Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic).

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 21-22 September 2016

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 'On a visit or a mission? The Mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture’. Paper delivered at the OPCAT Global Forum (Geneva, Switzerland).

**Event organizer:** Association for the Prevention of Torture.

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 10-11 November, 2011

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** ‘Pre-Trial Detention. International Standards and Practice’. Paper delivered at the Conference of MENA countries on Combating Torture and Reduction of Pre-Trail Detention (Dead Sea, Jordan).

**Event organizer:** DIGNITY, the Danish Instuitute against Torture, under the patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, King Of The Hashemite Kingdom Of Jordan.

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 25-26 June 2013

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):Noting that the prevention of torture often necessarily involves issues surrounding the deprivation of liberty, I have continued to engage with the issues of torture prevention also throughout my time with the WGAD. I have thus spoken publicly on a variety of topics relevant to the mandate at numerous international forums. These include, but are not limited to, transparency and publicity of systems of monitoring places of deprivation of liberty; preventive visiting of places of deprivation of liberty; national human rights institutions and the challenges of regular monitoring of places of deprivation of liberty. As part of my work, I have also formulated and delivered dedicated presentations relating to the national legislative frameworks of a number of countries implementing UNCAT and OPCAT.

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”.**

My current work allows flexible and part-time arrangements as is evident from my ability to serve the WGAD. Whilst I travel regularly travel for research I remain available remotely as may be necessary and regularly participate in overseas calls and video conferences. I will be available as necessary to effectively perform the functions of the mandate and respond to is requirements including, but not limited to, upon any attendances required in Geneva or New York or elsewhere and with regard to the preparation of reports and liaising with stakeholders. I am able to dedicate the time necessary to properly fulfil the requirements of the mandate.

1. **NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE**

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

**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)**:**

N/A

**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.)

It is an honour to be considered as a candidate for the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. I firmly believe my expertise and experience are well suited to advancing the mandate. I am also strongly convinced that my appointment to the mandate would bring not only much needed gender diversity but also the vitally required equitable geographical representation.

For nearly 20 years I have actively worked on the broader issues of prevention of torture and ill-treatment as well as on the implementation of OPCAT specifically. In relation to the latter, I have worked with OPCAT-related processes in numerous countries. I have provided expert advice on, among others, the content of implementing legislation, the designation and establishment of NPMs and given expert training. I have also advised on the operational modalities of NPMs and the interaction of different inspection and complaints handling bodies. Further, given the focus of OPCAT on the role of independent oversight mechanisms in ensuring prevention of torture, I have worked not only with NPMs but also with other bodies including NHRIs, ombudsman offices and civil society bodies. In this regard, I have provided expert advice and training on a variety of criminal justice issues including matters concerning pre-trial detention and the reduction of overcrowding as well as immigration detention, including independent oversight of such places of deprivation of liberty. I have authored a number of publications on the topic, including the leading text on OPCAT, The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (Oxford University Press, 2011).

I completed my LLB (Hons) at the University of Latvia when the country was still in transition from the former Soviet legal system. During this time I also worked for the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Latvia, heading the International Treaties Division. My legal studies and professional experience in Latvia allowed me to gain a great insight into the former Soviet legal system, as well as an appreciation of the complexities pertaining to overseeing legislative and institutional transition. This experience has been instrumental in my work in the region and beyond. My fluency in the Russian language (in addition to Latvian and English, the language in which I completed my LLM and PhD) combined with an in-depth understanding of the post-Soviet arena have proven invaluable when I have advised various national governments of the region including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. This advice has addressed a broad range of criminal justice issues including the establishment of independent oversight over places of deprivation of liberty and practical measures underpinning institutional prevention of and response to torture and ill-treatment.

Since my appointment to the WGAD, while serving the mandate to prevent arbitrary detention, I have noted the linkages between this work and prevention of torture and ill-treatment. I have worked tirelessly to strengthen the safeguards against arbitrary detention worldwide while at the same time engaging actively in promoting safeguards against torture and ill-treatment. I recognise that breaches of the absolute prohibition of torture do not occur in an isolated manner but are intrinsically linked with other human rights violations. As such, they require concerted effort and a coordinated response from the international human rights law and other mechanisms, including and especially the system of the UN Special Procedures. Consequently it will be my aim to ensure that through serving this mandate, the engagement with issues of torture and ill-treatment will focus upon effective cooperation and coordination with the wide variety of human rights mechanisms, and constructive dialogue with the States.

Thank you.

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **Latvian**

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

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

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

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

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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **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:** |
| Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)  Robert Gordon University (full time) | 2002-2006 | Aberdeen, United Kingdom |
| Master of Laws in Human Rights (LLM) University of Nottingham (full time) | 2001-2001 | Nottingham, United Kingdom |
| Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons) and Lawyer's Diploma  University of Latvia (full time) | 1996-2001 | Riga, Latvia |
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**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:** |
| Independent Consultant in international human rights. | 2016- present | The Bailiwick of Guernsey and United Kingdom |
| Senoir Research Associate, Human Rights Implementation Centre, Law School, University of Bristol. | 2009-2016 | Bristol, United Kingdom |
| Visiting Professor for the LLB International Protection of Human Rights course with the Institute of Law, Jersey. | since 2012 | The Bailiwick of Jersey |
| Research Associate, Law School, University of Bristol. AHRC Research Project on the Implementation of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture. | 2006-2009 | Bristol, United Kingdom |
| Head of the International Treaties Division of the International Relations and European Affairs Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Latvia. I was responsible for all bilateral and multilateral international agreements falling within the competency of the Ministry of the Interior; was involved and responsible for the drafting, negotiating, concluding and ratification process of the aforementioned agreements. | 2000-2001 | Riga, Latvia |
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**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. My mandate with the WGAD expires on 31 October 2022.

**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:** Elīna Šteinerte

**Date:** 5 April 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-1)
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-2)