***APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED: 16 April 2024 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-1)*** *(*[*https://forms.office.com/e/bHam2sbk5s*](https://forms.office.com/e/bHam2sbk5s)*), and****(2) mandate-specific application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-2)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc56*](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc56)*)*
* *Once fully completed,* ***in English or French only****, the Word application form should be saved in Word format and submitted by email to* *ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org*
* *A* ***maximum of up to three optional letters of support*** *may be attached to the email (in Word or PDF format).*
* *No additional documents (e.g., CVs, resumes or additional letters of support) 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. Please read the instructions in this form carefully and fill the form fully in accordance with such instructions.* ***No incomplete or late applications will be accepted****.*
* *Candidates 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/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/nominations*](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/nominations) *and* [*https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/basic-information-selection-independent-experts*](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/basic-information-selection-independent-experts)
* *In case of technical difficulties or problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by email (**ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org**) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family (last) name:** De Chickera  | **5. Year of birth:** 1980 |
| **2. First (given) name:** Amal  | **6. Place of birth:** Colombo, Sri Lanka |
| **3. Other name, if any:** Gonsalu Koralage Amal  | **7. Nationality (please indicate the one nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Sri Lankan |
| **4. Gender:** Male  | **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-word limit)

**Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights, and 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).**

I completed my bachelors degree (LLB) in Sri Lanka and masters degree (LLM) in the UK, maintaining specialisations in human rights law and other relevant topics. I have worked in the human rights field over the last two decades, both nationally (in Sri Lanka) and globally (with a focus on the right to nationality and human rights of stateless people). Through this work, I have secured a deep and nuanced understanding of international human rights law and its application, both in the national and international contexts. I have also developed skills and experience working with human rights defenders and working in challenging human rights environments. In Sri Lanka, I was a frontline human rights defender, documenting disappearances and abductions, and preparing files for consideration before national and international mechanisms, at the height of Sri Lanka's civil war. Internationally, I have conducted research, legal analysis and supported human rights advocacy in relation to complex and entrenched situations, such as the Rohingya in Myanmar, Nubians in Kenya, Dominicans of Haitian origin, Nepali minorities and immigration detainees in the UK. I have excellent written and spoken English language communication skills, with extensive experience documenting, speaking and writing about human rights.

1. **RELEVANT EXPERTISE** (200-word limit)

**Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles (please indicate how this was acquired). Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the work of the United Nations or other international or regional organizations in the area of human rights, and particularly in the area of the mandate (please indicate how this was acquired).**

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

I have indepth knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles, which I specialised in, through my LLM. I have over 15 years experience teaching human rights to professional (UN, government, NGO) and student audiences. This includes, co-designing and delivering the Institute on Statelessness & Inclusion’s flagship annual Course on Statelessness, and Advanced Course on the Child’s Right to a Nationality. I have lectured at numerous universities including Yale, Harvard, NYU, SOAS, Middlesex, Melbourne, National University Ireland, Oxford, Southbank, Mahidol, Colombo and Tilburg. I designed and lectured an LLM module on ‘the right to nationality, citizenship and statelessness’, at Middlesex University London. I have directly engaged several UN Special Procedure Mandates including Minorities, Racism, Violence Against Women, Trafficking and Terrorism, serving as an expert in consultations and initiatives organised by them, and supporting the mandates by convening civil society consultations and carrying out research on their behalf. I also have worked closely on the UPR, HRC Resolutions and engaged with regional and UN Treaty Bodies. In developing the Principles on Deprivation of Nationality as a National Security Measure, and as an expert to support UNHCR develop gudance on the Statelessness Conventions, I conducted indepth analysis of human rights norms and principles.

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE** (200-word limit)

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

I have studied, taught, published, and provided training programmes covering UN institutional mandates, regional human rights mechanisms, and domestic regimes. Internationally, I designed and led the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion’s strategy to mainstream statelessness as a human rights issue with Treaty and Charter bodies, was lead drafter of over 65 UPR Submissions and 150 country summaries, which have led to over 500 recommendations, as well as over 25 submissions to UN Treaty Bodies. I have provided strategic advice to former mandate holders (minorities & racism) and served as an expert to support the drafting of Council Resolutions on the right to nationality. Regionally, I have engaged the Inter-American, African and European Mechanisms and drafted amicus interventions on human rights before regional and national courts. I have advised and contributed to the development on national advocacy strategies in several countries including Nepal, South Africa, Malaysia, the Dominican Republic, the USA, the UK and Madagascar, leading to positive law and policy reform. I have spoken on human rights issues at the Sri Lankan, Malaysian and UK parliaments and engaged civil servants in several other countries. I have experience working in particularly challenging human rights environments such as Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

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 in which the candidate has 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:** "Addressing statelessness through the human rights and development frameworks: reforming or reinforcing the status quo?" in Foster M., Sperfeldt C., and Neo J., (eds) Statelessness in Asia,

**Journal/Publisher:** Cambridge University Press

**Date of publication:** 2024 (forthcoming)

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Title of publication:** "Statelessness in Asia: An entrenched but solveable problem" in F. de Varennes and C. Gardiner (Eds), The Routledge Handbook on Human Rights in Asia

**Journal/Publisher:** Routledge

**Date of publication:** 2019

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Title of publication:** "Unpacking Statelessness", in Bloom, Tonkiss & Cole (eds) Understanding Statelessness

**Journal/Publisher:** Routledge

**Date of publication:** 2017

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three publications, kindly provide a summary of the rest** (200-word limit):I have authored, co-authored and edited over 60 publications (books, reports, book chapters and articles) on various human rights issues including the right to nationality and statelessness, human rights in Sri Lanka, and international human rights law. These publications have provided a human rights lens to various national, regional, international and thematic human rights challenges, focusing on a range of topics from nationality rights and statelessness, to forced migration, development, child rights, conflict, genocide and international criminal law, the human rights mechanisms etc. I have also authored many human rights submissions and amicus interventions before UN mechanisms and international, regional and national judicial mechanisms. My writing has been targeted at different audiences, from specialised expert audiences, to academia, the general public and children and young readers. I have prioritised making human rights accessible to children and lay audiences, through publications, focusing on human rights and civic duty in Sri Lanka and the right to nationality and statelessness.

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

**1. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** UN Forum on Minority Issues

**Event organizer:** OHCHR

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** November 2018

**Web link, if available:** https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/forums/2018/eleventh-session-forum-minority-issues

**2. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** World Conference on Statelessness

**Event organizer:** Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (and partners)

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** 2024, 2019

**Web link, if available:** https://www.institutesi.org/pages/conference2024

**3. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** UN High Level Segment on Statelessness

**Event organizer:** UNHCR

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** 2019

**Web link, if available:** https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/high-level-segment-statelessness/

**If more than three, kindly provide a summary of the rest** (200-word limit):I have participated in, spoken at and made over 150 presentations on human rights at conferences, workshops, expert meetings, roundtables and other events - at UN and national levels. This includes speaking engagements in more than 15 countries. I have also provided many media (tv, radio, podcast, press) interviews. I have been called upon to speak about human rights, the right to nationality and statelessness, civil and political rights, international, regional and national mechanisms and instruments, authoritarianism, genocide and international criminal law, migration, refugee rights, repression, conflict, political participation, development, and other issues. I have spoken before a range of audiences, from human right defenders, to members of parliament, UN experts, diplomats, judges, civil society actors, students and members of the general public.

1. **flexibility/readiness and AVAILABILITY of time** (200-word limit)

**to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, such as participating in Human Rights Council 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 the 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.**

I serve as the co-director of the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, an international human rights NGO dedicated to promoting the right to nationality and the human rights of stateless people. The organisation - which I co-founded - is now in its 10th year of operation, and over this period, my fellow co-director and I have invested in building up the second tier of leadership within the organisation, to whom we are increasingly able to delegate work. I have the full support of my co-director and our board, and the organisation will support me to effectively deliver on the mandate, by freeing up the necessary time. I will also put on hold, independent writing and creative projects I had been planning to take on in the next year. On this basis, I will be able to dedicate around 4 months per year, to the work of the mandate.

**Please note that the work of mandate holders is unpaid. Those appointed as mandate holders serve in their personal capacity. 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 a salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.**

1. **NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE**

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

[x]  **Individual nominations (select this option if the candidate is self-nominating)**

**[ ]  Governments**

**[ ]  Regional groups operating within the United Nations human rights system**

[ ]  **International organizations or their offices**

[ ]  **Non-governmental organizations**

[ ]  **National human rights institutions**

[ ]  **Other human rights bodies**

**For third-party nominations, please provide the name of the nominating entity and additional information about the nomination** (200-word limit)**:**

**III. Motivation Letter, INCLUDING YOUR VISION FOR 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 an other stakeholder. Please include your vision for the mandate.

My life's work has been dedicated to promoting and championing human rights in the most challenging and marginalised situations. From documenting such abuses in the context of civil war and natural disasters; to promoting the rights of minorities subject to systemic discrimination, persecution and genocide; to working on gender-based discrimination; to articulating human rights challenges in the face of authoritarian and repressive authorities; to working on behalf of the rights of those denied political participation and made stateless; to critiquing citizenship deprivation as a counter-terrorism mechanism, my twenty+ year human rights career has focused on some of the most challenging human rights issues in the world. I have experience working in different socio-political, religious and cultural contexts, exposing me to human rights work in the Middle East, South and South-east asia, Southern and Eastern africa, Central and Western europe and the Americas.

I have found ways to engage wide-ranging stakeholders, from government officials, civil servants, to members of parliament and judiciaries, UN experts and representatives, diplomats, academics, NGOs, human rights defenders, activists, media, academics and members of the general public. My work with directly impacted groups - from families of the disappeared in Sri Lanka, to stateless communities around the world - has reinforced for me, the immediacy and relevance of international human rights principles, norms and mechanisms, to the daily lives of ordinary people.

I have fine-tuned my technical skills along the way - on the rights framework, legislative, judicial and policy mechanisms at national, regional and international levels.

This application for UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, is based on my expertise and engagement with inter-governmental organisations, governments, judiciaries, advocates, policy makers, civil society and students over two decades. In considering my candidature I sought and received assurances from organisations, experts and human rights defenders I have worked alongside, who indicated their enthusiasm about my strong human rights expertise, integrity, independence, openness to cooperation with a variety of stakeholders and an ability to understand and handle the political dimension of the mandate, which they believe, make me a strong candidate for this important position.

My vision for the role, is one which centres the people of Iran, and endeavours to capture their priorities, document human rights challenges in relation to these priorities, and works with them to envision how the mandate can support the articulation of their rights. I also aim to make the work of the mandate more accessible to the people of Iran, by creatively presenting findings and recommendations in ways that are more easily consumed by non-expert audiences. I will also prioritise breaking down barriers for people to access the mandate. While prioritising and centring the people of Iran in this way, I will not lose sight of the importance of engaging with Iranian authorities and seeking space for meaningful collaboration and partnership among states, civil society groups and UN partners, including the Independent Fact Finding Mission on Iran, in order to move collectively towards strengthening human rights in the country.

I am acutely aware of the political challenges, and will zealously guard the independence of the mandate, to ensure that it isnt unduly influences or seen to be influenced by politically motivated lobbies. I intend to go into the position with an open mind, a keeness to listen and a willingness to learn, so I can objectively apply my human rights expertise to the specificities of the mandate.

I hereby request consideration of my application, trust you have adequate material to assess my skill and gauge my motivation for this post, and promise to make myself available for interview should you consider me a suitable candidate.

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **Sinhala**

**2. Knowledge of the six 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: **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. EDUCATION**

**Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating the type of degree and field of study, academic institution and whether full- or part-time). If space in the table is insufficient, more than one degree may be listed in the additional 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): | **Degree obtained** (please indicate YES or NO): | **Place and country:** |
| Name of degree: LLMField of study: LawAcademic institution: University College LondonFull or part-time: Full Time  | 2007 - 2008 | YES | London, UK |
| Name of degree: Bar examField of study: LawAcademic institution: Sri Lanka Law CollegeFull or part-time: Full Time  | 2006 | YES | Colombo, Sri Lanka |
| Name of degree: LLBField of study: LawAcademic institution: University of ColomboFull or part-time: Full Time  | 2001 - 2005 | YES | Colombo, Sri Lanka |
| Name of degree:      Field of study:      Academic institution:      Full or part-time:        |       |       |       |
| Name of degree:      Field of study:      Academic institution:      Full or part-time:        |       |       |       |
| Additional:       |  |  |  |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT**

**Please list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with the candidate’s current (or most recent) occupation. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one position may be listed in the additional cell below, separating them by a blank line. Please be as precise as possible since this section will be used for assessing the eligibility of candidates in terms of professional experience in the field of human rights.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of employer,****functional title,****main functions of position (brief description), full- or part-time** (please complete ALL fields): | **Years of work**(provide a range from-to, e.g., 05/1999-10/2005; for ongoing activities, please put, e.g., 08/2018-present): | **Place and country:** |
| Name of employer: Institute on Statelessness and InclusionFunctional title: Co-Director Main functions of position: Jointly responsible for developing the Institute, setting its strategic direction, recruiting and managing staff, financial oversight and fundraising, developing and implementing the Institute’s programme - focused on international human rights advocacy, movement building, discrimination and other thematic priorities Full- or part-time: Full time | 2014 - present | London, UK |
| Name of employer: Middlesex UniversityFunctional title: Lecturer and Visiting Fellow Main functions of position: Designed, developed and taught an LLM module on ‘the right to nationality, citizenship and statelessness’, deliver lectures across various human rights modules, conduct workshops for Phds, provide work experience placements for students.Full- or part-time: Part time | 2016 - present | London, UK |
| Name of employer: The Equal Rights TrustFunctional title: Head: Statelessness and Nationality Projects (previously other titles) Main functions of position: Provided the lead on ERT’s statelessness work including research, advocacy, network building, training and capacity building and fundraising. Managed projects and conducted research in over 12 countries. Full- or part-time: Full time | 2008 - 2015 | London, UK |
| Name of employer: Law and Society TrustFunctional title: Research Officer Main functions of position: responsible for documenting disappearances, abductions and killings in Sri Lanka. Monitored legal proceedings and made written representations to the Presidential Commission on Disappearances.Full- or part-time: Full time | 2006 - 2007 | Colombo, Sri Lanka |
| Name of employer: Human Rights Commission of Sri LankaFunctional title: Research Officer Main functions of position: Monitored post-tsunami relief and rehabilitation work from a human rights perspective. Investigated complaints, conducted surveys. Wrote and edited research papers and reportsFull- or part-time: Full time | 2005 - 2006 | Colombo, Sri Lanka |
| Name of employer: International Labour OrganisationFunctional title: Consultant Main functions of position: Rapporteur, editor, researcher, coordinatorFull- or part-time: Part time | 2002 - 2004 | Colombo, Sri Lanka |
| Name of employer: International Centre for Ethnic StudiesFunctional title: Research Assistant Main functions of position: researcher, editor, project coordinatorFull- or part-time: Full time | 2000 - 2001 | Colombo, Sri Lanka |
| Name of employer:      Functional title:       Main functions of position:      Full- or part-time:       |       |       |
| Additional:       |  |  |

**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. 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 paragraphs 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, and provide 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 a 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 that the candidate will take in this regard.**

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.***

 **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****).**

**I hereby certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete and 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.**

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

**Name:** Amal de Chickera

**Date:** 16/04/2024

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1. The **online survey** is used to collect information for administrative 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 **mandate-specific 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)