

SECOND PART: APPLICATION FORM IN WORD FORMAT
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity
*Appointment to be made by the Human Rights Council at its 53rd session,
provided the mandate itself is extended by the Council*

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5 APRIL 2023 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME

- ✓ The application process consists of two compulsory parts:
(1) online survey¹ (<https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/838551>)
and
(2) application form in Word format² (to be downloaded from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc53>)
- ✓ Once fully completed, **in English or French only**, the Word application form should be 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. **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](#) 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> and <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: UWASAN	5. Year of birth: 1978
2. First (given) name: RITA	6. Place of birth: NIGERIA
3. Other name, if any: OKOTIE	7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): NIGERIA
4. Gender: FEMALE	8. Any other nationality: NA

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.

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.

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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 am an LLB LAW holder with masters from the Nigerian law school BL. I specialize on human rights and minority right, to promote, protect, preserve and fulfill the human rights of rural ethnic minorities especially women and girls, I have certification on Alternative Dispute Resolutions, ongoing Msc on peace and conflict resolution, series of international human rights trainings: Professional Negotiation and Mediation (PNM) Certified Gender Advocate UN Women

2015 UN Certified Advocate on Gender Equality and Human Rights 2015.

2015 Minority Fellow UN OHCHR, Senior minority Fellow OHCHR 2023

UN Gender Equality, Human Rights and Me Certified Human Rights/Gender, 2015

UN Women Empowerment United Nations Certified Human Rights,

Every Woman Global Treaty 1000 voices 2022, I have worked with various non-state actors

The International Federation for Women Lawyers (FIDA), Civil Liberty Organization (CLO)

International Human Rights Defenders.

2. 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 16 years+ experience on human rights. as past programmes director of CCPJD's Human Rights I have partnered with American Department of States Security to implemented the Maputo protocol on womens rights adopted in 2003, the CEDAW general recommendation 19 of 1992, the UN Security Council resolution 1325 of 2000 to mainstream gender in the peace keeping to protect the rights of women and girls during and after conflict. CEDAW General recommendation 19 of 1992 on gender based violence against women in a 12 months project titled taking action to end violence against women and girls minorities in Nigeria. I have been engaging with United Nations special procedures. In 2016 I wrote an allegation letter to the Special Rapporteur on religion and beliefs by name Heiner Bielefeldt who came in after Chian Kim

3. ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200-word limit)

Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights (please explain how such competence was acquired). I have both national and international competence on minority issues and human rights. My competence has been acquired both academically and practically. I am a policy change maker, through international instruments such as UDHR, ICERD, ICCPR and CEDAW, I have facilitated the domestication of

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the CEDAW into our local laws at the state level through Consultation/mobilization of policy makers members of the State House of Assembly Rivers State and sponsored with other stakeholders a bill in the house which gave rise to the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Laws of Rivers State Nigeria 2022. I have worked with various international human rights organization such as the global coalition for Every Woman Global Treaty Seattle Washington DC: a new treaty to end sexual and gender based violence against women and girls. International Human Rights Defenders. International Federation for Women Lawyers working for the rights of women and girls. DSS American Embassy.

I have partnered with the Rivers state Judiciary to render free access to justice for minority people on pro bono basis, with an office at the customary court of appeal Rivers State, Nigeria.

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4. 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.

4.1 Enter three publications in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:

1. Title of publication: United Nations 2015 Minority Forum :Urgent rehabilitation of all the burnt villages in Warri Delta State.

2, Perpetuators of crimes in the criminal justice system of Nigeria must be brought to justic

Journal/Publisher: UN OHCHR

Date of publication: 24th November 2015.

Web link, if available: UN Live United Nations Web TV - Addressing the root causes of ...UN Live United Nations Web TV – I am Number 27 on the list of speakers

2. Title of publication: Rivers State Child's Right Law No, 10 2019

Journal/Publisher: TGAL NIGERIA LIMITED, Barnes & Noble

Date of publication: 2018

Web link, if available: .<https://www.amazon.com> ><https://www.barnesandnoble.com> >

3. Title of publication: The Violence Against Persons (Prohibition .Act.

Journal/Publisher: TGAL NIGERIA LIMITED, Barnes & Noble

Date of publication: 2018

Web link, if available: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com> >

Books,<https://www.amazon.com> >

If more than three publications, kindly provide a summary of the rest (200-word limit):

Advocated for ethnic minorities in Delta state, Nigeria at the United Nations 2015 Minority Forum UN Live United Nations Web TV – exercise of police powers ...then cliq again UN Live United Nations Web TV – exercise of police powers ... Number 18 on the list of speakers.Date 25th November 2015

4.2 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: United Nations 2015 Minority Forum :Urgent rehabilitation of all the burnt villages in Warri Delta State.

2, Perpetuators of crimes in the criminal justice system of Nigeria must be brought to justic

Event organizer: UN OHCHR

Date of public statement/pronouncement: 24th November 2015.

Web link, if available: .UN Live United Nations Web TV - Addressing the root causes of ...UN Live United Nations Web TV – I am Number 27 on the list of speakers

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2. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement: Side Event for Urban Gender Equality, Women's Land and Habitat Rights: Bridging the Gap. Enhancing Equal Representation and Participation for Women in Decision-making Spaces for a Better Urban Future

Event organizer: HIC Women and Habitat Africa Working Group representative to the UN.

Date of public statement/pronouncement: 13th October 2022

Web link, if available:

3. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement: United Nations 2015 Minority Forum

Event organizer: UN OHCHR

Date of public statement/pronouncement: 25th November 2015.

Web link, if available: Live United Nations Web TV – exercise of police powers ... Number 18 on the list of speakers.

If more than three, kindly provide a summary of the rest (200-word limit): Human Rights Day. Extra Judicial activities, I have demanded and secured apology on air, Nigeria Info FM Radio Station from the 'Commissioner of Police, Rivers state, for human rights abuse on a victim by members of the Nigerian Police force in the year 2016.

5. 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.

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 a salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of "experts on mission".

From my childhood I have washed as my ethnic minority is being marginalized by other majority tribes, government and the multinationals. As a survivor of rape and female trafficking my lifes work has been to protect human rights, this I have done by redering free voluntary services to NGO;s and victims of human rights abuse. I have rendered free legal services to minority women and girls on proborno basis, I am enthusiastic to work as an independent expert without a fee or remuneration. I am flexible and available to perform effectively my fuctions including participating in Human Rights Sessions in Geneva and General Assembly in New york and travel visits. I can dedicate more than 3 months per year in respect of the work of a mandate

6. NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE

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

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- 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**

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

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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.

I am a Senior Fellow Minority Rights Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights UN. I am a minority from the Itsekiri ethnic minority of Warri, in Delta State, Niger Delta region Nigeria.

I would be extremely honored to serve in the position of Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity and I believe that my experience and competencies are particularly well suited to supporting the work of the mandate.

I am a trained Lawyer with strong passion for promoting, protecting and preserving the human rights of men, women and children especially the girl child in my ethnic community.

As a minority from the Itsekiri ethnic minority of Warri, in Delta State Nigeria; I am well suitable for the above position as I have lived with the human rights abuse all my life as such very well acquitted with human rights issues. I have a mandate to use human rights as a tool to ameliorate minority rights abuse.

As a mandate holder I will build on the work of the Human Rights Council and amplify issues and challenges actionable to protect human rights and dignity of victims of human rights abuse. I will foster societal reintegration by promoting human rights. From my childhood while growing up, I have washed as my ethnic minority has been marginalized and trampled upon by other majority tribes and the multinationals who took away our oils in the Niger Delta and left the land desolate and its inhabitant in abject poverty, lack of basic health amenities, homelessness and deprivations.

I am a survivor of rape and female trafficking I therefore tilted to same sex, unfortunately my country refused to sign in the LGBTQI rights into law and rather has criminalized it in our laws. I survived and went to law school. As a survivor, I have a passion to promote, protect and preserve the human rights of men, women and children; NO ONE should suffer a human rights abuse. Thus when I became a lawyer I decided to fight all forms of human rights abuse no matter the name they are called, I became a member of various non state actors like the International Federation for Women Lawyers (FIDA) I worked with Civil Centre for Peace, Justice and Development (CCPJD) an NGO where I champion an awareness raising project for school aged children in 15 secondary school for 5 communities in Rivers State Nigeria educating them on their rights as well as establishing a Gender Justice Club each for them.

I am also United Nations 2015 Global Champion for Women Economic Empowerment, and a United Nations certified professional on "Gender Equality, Human Rights and Me". I am a prolific writer and author. I have published various documents to create awareness of Human and women's Rights.

I have supported activities against gender discrimination, campaign on violence against women, child abuse, protected minority and indigenous peoples rights, demonstrated strong commitment to human rights with a global feminist perspective. I am a policy change maker,

Now I want to effect change in the status of human rights victims and I want that to happen right NOW.

I have litigated and won cases for minorities who cannot afford litigation and rendered legal aid supports on pro-bono basis at the Customary Court of Appeal Rivers State, I am one of the very few Lawyers who made representations to United Nations training and research (UNITAR) on the environmental pollution in Ogoni land of Rivers State which gave rise to UNESCO recommendation and thereat Ogoni Clean up.

I will bring to the Human Rights Council not only these professional skills, but also a positive, cooperative attitude that I have displayed throughout my career.

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IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)

Please indicate all language skills below.

1. Mother tongue: English

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

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

Read: Easily or not 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: **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:

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V. EDUCATION

NOTE: 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; for example, *Masters in Law, University of XXX, part-time, 1975-1977, place and country*). 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: Masters Field of study: LAW BL Post bachelor of law Academic institution: Nigerian Law School Full or part-time: FULL TIME	2006 to 2007	YES	Abuja Nigeria
Name of degree: Graduate degree Field of study: Law:LLB Bachelor of Law Academic institution: Ambrose Ali University AAU Full or part-time: Full time	1997 to 2003	YES	Edo State Nigeria
Name of degree: Alternative Dispute Resolution Field of study: Alternative Dispute Resolution PNM/ADR Professional Negotiator/Mediator Academic institution: Deacon Consult Full or part-time: Full Time	2006 to 2006	YES	Rivers State Nigeria
Name of degree: Human Rights Field of study: Human Rights Academic institution: United Nations OHCHR Gender Equality, Human Rights Certification Full or part-time: FULL TIME	2015 to 2015	Yes	Geneva United Nations
Name of degree: Human Rights Field of study: Human Rights Academic institution: United Nations OHCHR. Fellow Minority Issues Full or part-time: FULL TIME	2015 to 2015	YES	Geneva United Nations
Additional: UNDSS BSAFE BSAFE Certificate	2022	YES	Online

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VI. EMPLOYMENT

NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with the candidate's current (or 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 the additional 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:
Name of employer: UN OHCHR Functional title and main functions of position: Senior Fellow minority rights: Support the implementation of the mandate and programme of work of OHCHR Regional/Country Office Full- or part-time: part time	2022 to 2023	Nigeria
Name of employer: Civil Centre for Justice Peace and Development "CCPJD" NGO. Functional title and main functions of position: Programms Director: Oversea the day to day running of the organization. Develop with the board and implement program activities Financial management. Full- or part-time: Full time	2016 to 2022	Rivers Nigeria
Name of employer: Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Functional title and main functions of position: Programms Manager Oversea the day to day running of the organization. Develop with the board and implement program activities Financial management. Full- or part-time: Full time	2010 to 2015	Rivers Nigeria
Name of employer: International Federation for women lawyers Functional title and main functions of position: Human Rights litigation officer. Program planning, operations, management and physical appearance in court on pro-bono basis for victims and survivors of human rights abuse Full- or part-time: Full time	2007 to 2010	Rivers Nigeria
Name of employer: Functional title and main functions of position: Full- or part-time:		
Name of employer: Functional title and main functions of position: Full- or part-time:		
Name of employer: Functional title and main functions of position: Full- or part-time:		

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Name of employer: Functional title and main functions of position:		
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Full- or part-time:		
Additional:		

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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. 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 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.

Not Applicable

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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).

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

Name: RITA OKOTIE UWASAN

Date: 20/03/2023
