

# ANTONIA MULVEY

Antonia Mulvey is the Founder and Executive Director of Legal Action Worldwide (LAW). A British international lawyer, she is specialised in international human rights law, international criminal law, and refugee law, with over 25 years of professional experience. She has represented victims and survivors from Syria, Occupied Palestine, Lebanon, Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Somalia. She has been repeatedly appointed to conduct multiple UN investigations, having served with UN Women, UNDP, and OHCHR, and was appointed as an investigator to the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, where she worked on sexual violence and crimes against children. She has also held various academic positions including as a Visiting Fellow at LSE and Visiting Scholar at Columbia University. She is an SGBV expert for UN Women and the UK FCDO on the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI). Antonia obtained her Bachelor's degree from Sussex University, and her Master's degree from the University of London.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Legal Action Worldwide (LAW)**

*(July 2013 – Present)*

*Founder and Executive Director*

Heads and oversees an independent non-profit organisation comprised of more than 85 human rights lawyers and jurists which works across 14 countries within Africa, Middle East and South Asia with 30 partners providing legal assistance and representation to survivors and victims of international crimes and human rights violations, including SGBV. In its first decade, LAW provided legal information to more than 100'000 individuals in conflict contexts and supported more than 4'000 individuals with legal representation. The organisation has initiated landmark cases, provided critical interventions, and advocated for the views of its clients at the International Criminal Court, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women – and in other courts and justice mechanisms, including national courts in Somalia, South Sudan, and Lebanon. More information can be found at [www.legalactionworldwide.org](http://www.legalactionworldwide.org).

### **UN International Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar**

*(June 2017 – Sept. 2018)*

*SGBV Investigator*

Interviewing and collecting statements from hundreds of women and children refugees from Myanmar in order to determine whether violations of international law relevant to women and children took place and who might be responsible for the crimes. Analysis of the evidence collected for inclusion in UN reports. Drafting a report for the UN Human Rights Council on SGBV and violations against children in Myanmar.

### **UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

*(2016)*

Appointed by the OHCHR to assist in the preparation of the Report on the Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, under UN Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/RES/29/21, with a focus on SGBV.

### **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)**

*(Oct. 2010 – May 2013)*

*Senior Justice Advisor*

Advising country offices on the application of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and the use of UN Human Rights Mechanisms in conflict contexts. Established first international law programme for NRC focusing on the use of strategic litigation in national, regional, and international forums for violations of human rights in conflict contexts.

### **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt)**

*(Mar. 2009 – Oct. 2010)*

*Programme Manager*

Established the first justice programme for the NRC in the oPt (Gaza, West Bank including East Jerusalem) specialising in providing legal assistance for Palestinians on complex individual and public interest cases and stopped the eviction of more than 20,000 Palestinians from their homes. NRC is now recognised as the leading

legal organisation on housing, land and property caases. Provision of technical advice to the Palestinian Ministry of Justice on access to justice issues.

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Somalia**

*(Jul. 2007 – Feb. 2009)*

*Rule of Law Chief Technical Advisor*

Responsible for establishing the security sector (judicial, prison, human rights and gender) project of \$8million a year with a multi-discipline team of lawyers, prison specialists, and human rights advisers. Provided technical guidance to the Ministry of Justice in Somalia, the Supreme Court and key justice institutions and the Transitional Federal Government for the re-activation of the Judiciary. Advised justice institutions on how to investigate and prosecute sexual violence crimes. Creation of six new legal aid centers and establishment of nine mobile courts and juvenile justice project. Established the first law faculty in Puntland and the first women lawyers association in Somalia.

**United Nations Development Programme, Sudan**

*(May 2006 – May 2007)*

*Rule of Law Project Manager, Darfur*

Responsible for the UNDP access to justice programme in North Darfur, including management of a team of 40 international and national staff and direct programming and planning of \$3 million a year budget and working with victims of sexual violence. Established and chaired the first UN Rule of Law Steering Committee in Darfur. Devised and implemented a strategic legal aid program addressing legal needs of victims of the conflict. Established the first legal aid mobile clinics in Darfur and overall management and strategic decision making of 3 legal aid clinics in North Darfur.

**International Rescue Committee, Sudan**

*(May 2005 – Apr. 2006)*

*Rule of Law Manager, North Darfur*

Established the first Rule of Law programme in Darfur for IRC/UNDP. Established 2 legal aid centres working with victims of international crimes - including sexual violence - located in IDP camps in North Darfur to provide legal advice and assistance to IDPs. Devised and implemented a paralegal system to run the legal aid centres. Managed, trained, supervised and mentored 7 legal staff and 50 paralegals. Organised and conducted human rights and rule of law workshops for over 5,000 participants including: judiciary, prosecutors, military, national security, police, civil society, authorities and IDPs in North Darfur.

**Hodge Jones and Allen Law Firm, London, UK**

*(Sept. 2002 – Apr. 2005)*

*Lawyer: specialising in criminal and human rights legal aid law*

*Criminal Law:* Represented clients at the criminal courts including trial, sentencing, appeal and bail applications. Conduct of criminal cases up to Court of Appeal level. *Discrimination Law:* Conducted successful litigation at employment tribunals and prepared cases for the Court of Appeal. Specialised in racial, sexual, disability and religious discrimination cases.

**Howe & Co Law Firm, London, UK**

*(June 1998 – June 2002)*

*Senior Refugee Legal Advisor*

Supervisor for 3 refugee legal advisors responsible for a caseload of 2,500 asylum seekers advising on all immigration procedures for representation before the Home Office. Specialized in SGBV cases.

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Washington DC, U.S.A**

*(Jan. 2000 – Aug. 2000)*

*Legal Officer (intern)*

Prepared briefings on judicial and administrative decisions that affected refugees. Drafted advisory opinions on refugee legal issues for UN.

**British Red Cross HQ, Sussex, UK**

*(Aug. 1996 – Aug. 1997)*

*Community Services Officer*

Organization of Community Services Office including fundraising for the Sussex area. Responsible for dealing with international tracing inquiries for missing persons in the Sussex area.

## **ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS/AFFILIATIONS**

- SGBV expert, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI)
- Rule of Law expert, UK Stabilisation Unit
- Criminal Justice expert, European Union Security Sector Reform Section
- Part-time Faculty, Lebanese American University (LAU) (2025-Present)
- Visiting Fellow at Women, Peace and Security Center, London School of Economics (LSE) (Oct. 2016-19)
- Visiting Scholar at Columbia Law School (2012-13)
- Both taught and been a guest lecturer at a number of institutions and law schools: University of Leicester; The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, University of London); American University of Beirut; University of Sussex; the University of Nairobi, and elsewhere.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*“Rohingya Genocide Victims Finally Confront the Myanmar Military”* The Diplomat, 2026

*“One Year After the Fall of Assad, 1,101 Syrians Speak Out About Their Demands for Justice”* Opinio Juris, 2025

*“Lebanon’s Fight Against Trafficking: How One Judge’s Decision Could Help Preserve the Country’s Standing”* Opinio Juris, 2025

*“What Kind of Court Is This? Perceptions of International Justice Among Rohingya Refugees”* Human Rights Quarterly, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024

*“Syrian Torture Victims Deserve a Hearing Before the ICJ”* Just Security, 2023

*“Ethiopia’s Atrocity Victims Broaden UN Appeal After Human Rights Council’s Failure”* Just Security, 2023

*“Using International Criminal Law to Curb Discriminatory Practices Against Females: The Case of Female Genital Mutilation,”* in Indira Rosenthal, Valerie Oosterveld, and Susana Sá Couto (eds), GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW (Oxford University Press 2022)

*“Rohingya Symposium: Victims, Survivors, Advocates—The Multiple Justice Journeys of the Rohingya”* Opinio Juris, 2020

*“Landmark case against S. Sudan for sexual violence against women, girls”* Nation, 2018

*“By balancing Sharia law and the new Sexual Offences Bill, Somalia is legislating for the 21st century”* LSE, 2018

*“Women’s Access to Justice and Security Forces”* LSE, 2018

*“FGM: The Case for Calling it Torture and a Crime Against Humanity”* 2018, UN Today

*“Female Genital Mutilation should be recognised as a form of torture”* two-part series LSE, 2017

*“Assessing the Role of Security Forces on Women in Conflict Zones”* LSE, 2017

*“Challenges Faced by Legal Practitioners on housing, land and property cases”* Birzet University, 2010

*“Intimidation in Turkey: Human Rights Activists, Lawyers and Politicians”* Kurdish Human Rights Project, 1999

*“Policing Human Rights Abuses in Turkey”* Kurdish Human Rights Project, 1999

## **EDUCATION**

- Legal Practice Course – Distinction, College of Law, London (2001-02)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Law, College of Law, London (2000-01)
- MA, Understanding and Securing Human Rights (international law), Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London (1997-99)
- BA Honors Degree, History (upper class), University of Sussex, UK and University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands (1992-96)