



**The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action  
Strategic Plan Launch Event  
Speakers' Profiles**

6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

**Speaker Profile, Ambassador Tine Mørch Smith, Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva**



Tine Mørch Smith is the [Permanent Representative of Norway](#) to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

Prior to her appointment to Geneva, Ms. Mørch Smith had been serving as Director General of the Department of Regional Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway since 2015. She was Deputy Director General of the Department from 2014 to 2015. She also served at the Section for Human Rights and Democracy at the Ministry from 2005 to 2010, first as Assistant Director General and then Deputy Director General; and at the Section for Humanitarian Affairs from 2000 to 2005 as an adviser.

Ms. Mørch Smith served as Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations in New York from 2010 to 2014. She was also based as an Attaché/Second Secretary at the Norwegian Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal from 1997 to 2000. Ms. Mørch Smith has a Master degree in history and a Bachelor of Science in political science and history from the University of Oslo (1987-1993). She was born in 1967 and is married with three children.

## Speaker Profile, Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR



Gillian Triggs is [UNHCR's](#) Assistant High Commissioner for Protection. She was appointed on 9 August 2019. Triggs is a highly renowned expert in international law who has held a number of eminent appointments in service to human rights and the refugee cause, including most recently as the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Vice-Chancellor's Fellow and Emeritus Professor at the University of Melbourne.

Triggs oversees UNHCR's protection work for millions of refugees, internally displaced, stateless and other people of concern.

An Australian national, she has previously held a number of leadership roles, including as President of the Asian Development Bank Administrative Tribunal, Chair of the UN Independent Expert Panel of Inquiry into Abuse of Office and Harassment in UNAIDS, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Challis Professor of International Law at the University of Sydney and as Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in London.

Triggs has been closely associated with a number of not-for-profit organizations throughout her career, including most recently as Chair of Justice Connect, an organization that connects 10,000 lawyers to provide pro bono advice to asylum-seekers and others in need of legal support in Australia. She is also the author of many books and papers on public international law.

In July 2021 Gillian was awarded a Ruth Bader Ginsberg Inaugural Medal of Honour in recognition of her fight for the rule of law and gender equality.

## INTRODUCING THE STRATEGY

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### Speaker Profile, Hani Mansourian, Co-coordinator, The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action



Hani Mansourian is the co-coordinator for the [Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#) since its launch in November 2016. Prior to his work with the Alliance, Hani has worked with children and refugee populations in development and humanitarian contexts since the year 2000. He has worked with local and international NGOs as well as different UN agencies throughout the past two decades. Hani has participated in child protection responses in over a dozen humanitarian contexts, including natural disasters, epidemics and conflict settings.

Hani holds a Bachelor's of science in Engineering, a Master's degree in International Affairs and a Doctoral degree in Leadership in Global Health and Humanitarian Systems, with a focus on prevention of child-family separation.

In his spare time, Hani enjoys beekeeping, woodworking and spending time with horses. He is a national of Iran and lives in Nairobi, Kenya with his family.



### Speaker and Organisational Profile, Zeynep M. Turkmen Sanduvac, Nirengi Association Board Member



Zeynep is an Independent Humanitarian Aid Consultant and Trainer from Turkey. She has over 20 years of experience working in Child Protection, Education, Psychosocial Support in Emergencies, Conflict and Disaster Risk Reduction and Business Continuity in Emergencies. Zeynep has worked across Central Asia, East Africa and the Middle East. She is an internationally accredited Core Humanitarian Standards Trainer, Sphere Minimum Standards Trainer and Education in Emergencies Trainer. She has authored and co-authored several books, including Basic Disaster Awareness, Children Working in the Street, Positive Youth Development against Violence and Psychological First Aid for Community Disaster Volunteers.

Zeynep is a Board Member of [Nirengi Association](#), a national NGO established in Turkey in 2015. The mission of Nirengi is to support and enable people's wellbeing and uphold and protect human dignity. Main work areas are child protection, psychosocial support and counselling- specifically focused on 'Helping the Helpers', dissemination of Humanitarian Aid Standards, such as the Child Protection Minimum Standards, Inter Agency Network for Education in Emergencies and the Sphere Standards.

Nirengi has been working in the child protection field especially focused on preventive activities and also timely intervention activities on violence against children. The Association has established "Nirengi Association Support Line Against Child Abuse". Children suffering from or at risk of abuse, their caregiver or anyone from the wider community who have concerns, may call the line for free legal consultancy and psychosocial support.

### Speaker and Organisational Profile, Jonas Habimana Seruvugo, Founder and Executive Director at BIFERD (Bureau d'Informations, Formations, Echanges et Recherches pour le Développement)



Jonas is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), born in 1979 from a village called Rwanguba. He has six children and lives in Goma city in North Kivu Province. He has a post graduate in Community Development at the Great Lakes Institute for Rural Development (ISDR GL) and sits on the Steering Committee of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

Jonas is the Executive Director of [BIFERD](#) a National NGO founded in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2004 working on Humanitarian and Development Response, a member of the NEAR Network, the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction and a Sphere focal point.

The organisation supports implementation of the Child Protection Minimum Standards and conducts Child Protection monitoring. This includes collecting and sharing information on abuse and violence towards children and engaging in coordination mechanisms such as the cluster meeting and the child protection working group at country and local levels.

BIFERD also supports more than 200 families where vulnerable children (orphans, IDPs) live in poverty. During COVID-19 pandemic, BIFERD has educated more than 68,000 children from 208 schools on COVID-19 prevention measures and has distributed more than 1,600 masks. They also work to educate parents and schools' teachers on the prevention of violence and abuse against children.

### **Speaker and Organisational Profile, Simon Kangeta, Executive Director at AJEDI-Ka (Association of Youth for Integrated Development - Kalundu)**

Simon Kangeta holds degrees in Social Sciences and Anthropology from the University of Lubumbashi, Province of Katanga, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and graduated in judicial law from the University of Namur in Belgium within the framework of the Addis program (Distance learning rights).



Simon has more than 20 years of experience in child protection in humanitarian action, including in Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) and community reintegration. He is a member Alliance Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Steering Committee, CAFAAG Task Force, Localization Task Team, and the Child Protection Minimum Standards Working Group, where he provides technical support to the development of tools and guidance, including the 'Strengthening Together Programme' a parental education program aimed at supporting the reintegration of children and preventing their recruitment.

Simon is the focal point of resolution R1612 of the United Nations Security Council in DRC as well as an Initiator with Child Soldiers International of the National Group to promote community acceptance of young girls formerly associated with armed groups

Simon is the Executive Director of the National NGO, [AJEDI-Ka](#) (Association of Youth for Integrated Development - Kalundu), based in Uvira, Province of South Kivu, East of the Democratic Republic of Congo. AJEDI- Ka's mandate is to promote, defend and protect the rights of children in general and in particular children affected by armed conflict in the Territories of Fizi, Mwenga, Uvira, Kalehe, in the East of the DRC.

### **Speaker and Organisational Profile, Riyad Al Najem, Co-founder, Board Member and Chief Executive Officer of Hurras Network**



Born in 1991, Riyad's interest in human rights in general, and in children rights in particular, began when he volunteered at the Center for Creative Activities for Children at the Syrian Red Crescent in 2008. Riyad received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration - Human Resources Management - in 2013. He has since managed a number of projects in the commercial and non-profit sectors.

Since 2011, Riyad has served as a human rights defender and an advocate for children rights. He also worked as a consultant for Syrian civil society organizations in the fields of Management, Human Resources and Administration. Throughout his career, however, Riyad's main focus remained children rights within the context of Syria.





Currently, Riyad serves as the CEO of HRS, a steering committee member and coordinator of Localization Task Team in The Alliance for Child Protection In Humanitarian Action, coordinator of Syrisk-Svenska demokrati förbundet and a co-chare of the CPHA-EIE Advisory Group. Riyad believes that protecting children’s rights is the basis of any healthy society. He always reminds his co-workers at HRS that they are human rights activists before they are employees. Riyad is married and a father of two children.

## A CLARION CALL TO THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM

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### Speaker Profile, Sanjay Wijesekera, Director of Programme Division, UNICEF



Sanjay Wijesekera became Director of Programme Division at [UNICEF](#) Headquarters in New York in January 2020.

Before taking up this role, Mr. Wijesekera was UNICEF Representative in South Africa and prior to that he was Chief of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Section and Associate Director of Programmes in New York.

Before joining UNICEF, from 2005 to 2011, Mr. Wijesekera worked at the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), where he was responsible for managing overall policy and global programmes related to achieving the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals. He also worked for DFID in Ghana as an infrastructure adviser, where he helped coordinate a joint assistance strategy for the donor community and was the lead donor representative for the water sector.

Between 2003 and 2005, Mr. Wijesekera worked for UNICEF as a water and sanitation adviser in Nigeria. From 2000 to 2002, he worked for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in South Africa, supporting newly formed local governments to take on the responsibility for delivering water and sanitation services, and helping to regulate public and private sector service providers. He also worked on emergency programmes in Rwanda for Oxfam in 1994 and for UNICEF, supporting post-tsunami reconstruction in Sri Lanka in 2005.

Mr. Wijesekera is a national of Sri Lanka. He is a Chartered civil engineer and holds a Master’s degree in Water and Environmental Management from the University of Loughborough, UK.

