



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION



**#ICVAConference2020**

# ICVA's Virtual Annual Conference

**Online - 18 March 2020**

**Protecting principled humanitarian action:  
an honest conversation on risk**

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



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## Introductions and Welcome Address:

### Grounding the Discussions on Principled and Effective Humanitarian Action



**Mr. Ignacio Packer**, Executive Director, ICVA

*Ignacio is the Executive Director of ICVA since January 2018. He strengthens the impact and collective voice of ICVA and leads its engagement with the highest levels of the U.N., governments, philanthropies, and civil society actors. He has been working in the field of development cooperation and humanitarian assistance for most of his professional life, in the past 10 years in CEO positions at international aid organisations. Ignacio has worked for Terre des Hommes, the Swiss Tropical Institute, the European Association for Development and Health and Médecines Sans Frontières. As a strong supporter of inter-organisational collaborations, he has led strategic partnerships with these organisations.*

## Session 1: Principles at Risk

### A setting stage of on the protection of Humanitarian Principles

The first session will frame the Annual Conference discussion to focus on the changing environment humanitarian actors are working in – highly volatile and political contexts, fast evolving situations, populism, promoters of principles are diminishing – to name some. In this context, this session will set the stage on the importance of protecting and promoting principled humanitarian action. While we hear how the blatant disregard for the Principles are putting humanitarian actors, especially NGOs at risk, we will also hear from the panelists how NGOs and partners can work together to reduce and mitigate these risks.



**Ms. Sarah Mardini**, Syrian Refugee, student, human rights defenders, cultural mediator and search and rescue swimmer

*Sarah Mardini was born and raised in Damascus in Syria. From a young age, she and her sister Yrsa, were competitive swimmers, coached by their father and hoped to compete on an international level. When violence erupted in Damascus during the Syrian Civil War, the family lost their family home, and by 2015, fearing for their safety, the family decided to flee Syria and to build a new life in Europe. The family travelled to Turkey and boarded an inflatable boat to reach Greece. Disaster struck when the heavily overcrowded boat's engine stopped working and started to sink. Many of those onboard were not able to swim. As lifeguards as well as professional swimmers, Sarah and her sister, Yrsa, along with two other men, jumped into the ocean and pushed the boat through the rough Aegean sea for the next 3.5 hours to safely in Lesbos. They saved 18 people onboard and were hailed as heroes by the international press. Once in Greece, Sarah and her sister travelled a long and dangerous journey to finally arrive in Berlin, Germany. However, Sarah was determined that no one else would experience what she had in her crossing in 2015 which led her to return to Lesbos a year later, to volunteer as a search and rescue swimmer and Arabic translator for a Greek non-profit, the Emergency Response Center International (ERCI).*



**Mr. Yves Daccord**, Director General, International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC)

*Yves Daccord is Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, a post he has held since 2010. A former journalist, TV producer and international relations expert, his ICRC career has spanned more than two decades in a variety of posts and challenging contexts – including Israel and the Occupied Territories, Sudan, Yemen, Chechnya and Georgia. Prior to his appointment as director-general, he*

*held the posts of head of communication division and director of communications. He has been the Chair of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) from 2015 to 2019 and he is also member of the Board of Trustees of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). He holds a degree in political science and an honorary doctorate in social sciences from the University of St Gallen, awarded in 2017.*



**Ms. Gloria Modong Morris**, Executive Director, Titi Foundation and Deputy Chair, NGO Forum South Sudan

*Gloria Modong Morris is a South Sudanese activist for women and children in South Sudan and the Executive Director for Titi Foundation, a national NGO, since 2014. She is also the gender focal point for national NGOs on the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund, a steering committee member for the national NGO Forum, represents the organisation as the core lead gender focal point for the fuel efficient stoves working group and is a member of the localisation steering committee in South Sudan to advocate for international partners to work with women-led national NGOs in particular. Gloria is a gender focal point for a number of clusters, including the shelter & non-food items, food security and livelihood cluster, and acts*

*as the gender cluster focal point to ensure that issues related to gender are mainstreamed in their various works. She is also a gender focal point in the resilient exchange network led by INGOs in South Sudan and the Partnership for Resilience and Recovery which is being spearheaded by UNDP since 2018 to date. Gloria has over 5 years of work experience in both humanitarian and development work and a vast experience in program management, coordination, administration, financial management, and gender analysis. Gloria holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from NIBM India. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in banking and finance from the University of Dar es Salaam.*



**Ms. Inger Ashing**, Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children International

*Inger Ashing is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Save the Children International. A respected child rights activist, Inger has been associated with Save the Children for more than 25 years, first serving as a youth advocate and later on the Boards of Save the Children Sweden and Save the Children International. Prior to her appointment in September 2019, Inger was Director General at the Swedish Agency against Segregation, a Swedish government agency, where she worked to reduce segregation and social inequality, with a special focus on improving the situation in socio-economically disadvantaged areas. She has also served as the National Coordinator for Youth Not in Education or Employment for the Swedish Government, Deputy Director General of the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society and the CEO of the Global Child Forum. Inger is also a member of the Ethics Council at The Swedish Migration Agency. She has been an expert to and board member of several authorities and committees such as the Delegation for Human Rights, the Swedish National Knowledge Centre on Violence against Children, the Delegation for the Employment of Young People and Newly Arrived Migrants, the Swedish Enforcement Authority, the National Board of Institutional Care, and the Monitoring Committee for The European Social Fund.*



**Mr. Philippe Besson**, Head Multilateral Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Swiss Humanitarian Aid

*Philippe Besson started his assignment as Head, Multilateral Division at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (FDFA - SDC) in August, 2017. His unit primarily is in charge of Switzerland's relations with, and contributions to UN humanitarian organisations, as well as the Red Cross-Red Crescent Movement. Moreover, it manages and coordinates Switzerland's contribution to disaster risk reduction and the promotion of resilient societies. Philippe Besson has been with SDC since 1990. He carries a degree from the Geneva Graduate Institute of Development Studies. He combines experience in the field with expertise in development policies, in particular as regards development effectiveness. Mr. Besson was stationed over the years in Berne, Dhaka, Niamey, Paris (OECD-DAC) and Juba (South Sudan). He managed SDC programmes in India, Turkey, Poland and Palestine.*

**Moderator: Mr. Ignacio Packer**, Executive Director, ICVA

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## Session 2: What Risk?

### An honest conversation on what is at risk by putting the principles at risk

The second session will follow on from the discussion from Session 1 and focus on the risks that NGOs are facing due to the principles being put at risks. NGOs often operate in volatile conflicts and extremely complex humanitarian settings and are placed under even more pressure to deliver better with less resources and under increased legal, bureaucratic, security and political restrictions.



**Mr. Jeremy Rempel**, Head of Humanitarian Finance and Coordinator Less Paper More Aid, ICVA

*Mr. Jeremy Rempel serves as the ICVA Senior Policy Officer for Humanitarian Finance. In this role, he coordinates ICVA's Less Paper More Aid initiative, which is currently focused on the harmonisation and simplification of donor conditions for humanitarian financing. Jeremy has worked with NGOs over the past twenty years in roles linked to accountability, capacity assessment, and audit. Prior to joining ICVA, he spent eleven years with World Vision International where he led the operations audit group and helped to develop capacity assessment processes for national offices. Jeremy holds a*

*bachelor's degree in Diplomacy from Occidental College, and a master's degree in Public Policy from the University of California Los Angeles.*



**Ms. Hibak Kalfan**, Executive Director, Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR)

*Hibak Kalfan is the Executive Director of Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR). NEAR is a network of southern local and national NGOs who have come together to reshape the global response to economic, human and environmental threats. Kalfan has more than 12 years' experience and worked with several stakeholders in the Humanitarian, Media, Development and Government sectors in the Horn of Africa and Middle East. Kalfan began her career as the founder of The African Future (2007), a non-profit organization hoping to*

*improve the education and healthcare in Somalia. She has since held several senior positions within Internews, World Bank Group, ACTED, Relief International among others.*



**Mr. Jean-François Riffaud**, Executive Director, Action Against Hunger France

*Jean-François Riffaud, is an expert in international humanitarian and development issues. After 5 years at Radio France Internationale and 2 years at the French Embassy in Lebanon, Jean-François Riffaud participated in the creation of the French National Blood Service in 1998 as Director of the President's cabinet before becoming Director of international affairs and communication. He led numerous development aid programs in the medical and health sector in Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. He then spent 9 years as Director of Resource Development, Communication and Innovation at the French Red Cross and took*

*part to humanitarian emergency responses in Haiti, Lebanon and Libya in particular. Consultant for several NGOs, and for a year with UNESCO, Jean-François Riffaud joined Action Against Hunger in 2016 as Director of Development and Communication before being appointed Executive Director of the NGO in June 2019. Jean-*



*François Riffaud holds a Master II in International Economics and Development Law from the University of Paris and is lecturer at Sciences Po Paris.*



**Mr. Khaleel Desai**, Head of Governance, Islamic Relief Worldwide

*Khaleel is IRW's Head of Governance and Company Secretary. He sits on the Board of Directors and is an advisor to the Trustees, to whom he has a direct reporting line. Since January 2018 he has headed up a newly created Division within IRW which includes IRW's legal team, internal audit function and our compliance and security group. He joined IRW from Save the Children International where he was a member of their Legal and Compliance Team focusing on compliance and managing risk. Prior to that, Khaleel was a legal advisor to various central UK government departments over 10 years including the Department of Health, Education, the Treasury Solicitor's Department and the Home Office. As a public administration lawyer he advised on policy, regulation, legislation and human rights. He was also the assistant solicitor to the Leveson Inquiry, a judicial inquiry into the UK press. Khaleel qualified as a lawyer with Allen & Overy LLP in 2004, a global commercial law firms operating out of London.*

**Moderator:**



**Dr. James Munn**, Director, Geneva & Humanitarian Policy, Norwegian Refugee Council

*James Munn is the Director of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Geneva where he leads the humanitarian policy programme and is the representative to the United Nations and its member states. James joined NRC in 2016 from ICVA, where he held the role of Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific. He has more than fifteen years' experience in the humanitarian sector having previously worked with UNOCHA in Myanmar. He has managed humanitarian and development programme delivery in Pakistan and Afghanistan, with earlier experience covering country, regional and head office positions in various organisations. James holds a PhD from the University of Exeter in the UK and is a published author on humanitarianism, IHL and the humanitarian principles, post-conflict societal reconstruction, and constructed gendered identities.*

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### Session 3: What next?

Throughout the day, we have been hearing from NGOs and partners alike on the challenges and issues faced and some of the recommendations on how NGOs and partners could protect principled humanitarian action and better manage risks. This session will look at some of the ways forward and initiatives taking place that can mobilise collaborative and collective action among NGOs, Member States, Donors, UN and other partners, including youth, in achieving some of the recommendations.



**Anna de Courcy Wheeler**, Advisor, Article 36 and International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW)

*Anna previously worked as a Senior Analyst at International Crisis Group, where her work focused on international humanitarian norms, law, and conflict prevention, and at The Freedom Fund, an anti-slavery organisation. Prior to that, she was a Fellow at Columbia's School of International Political Affairs where she worked on conflict prevention, and NYU's Law School, where she worked as part of a team supporting the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions. Anna began her career in Rwanda, investigating and documenting crimes committed during the 1994 genocide, and working on post-genocide access to justice.*



**Ms. Diane Goodman**, Senior Coordinator for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment

*Diane Goodman has been appointed as Senior Coordinator for Sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment as of April 2018. Prior to this, Ms. Goodman was Deputy Director of the Bureau for Europe of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at UNHCR Headquarters since 2013 and the Head of Operations for the European refugee and migrant crisis from June 2015 to November 2017. Ms. Goodman came to UNHCR's Headquarters from Nepal, where she was Deputy Representative for four years. She has also worked with UNHCR in Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya and with the United Nations missions in Cambodia and Haiti. Throughout her career Ms. Goodman has also held positions with civil society organizations and was Refugee Policy Director for Human Rights Watch, Women's Refugee Commission and a research fellow at the Norwegian Institute of Human Rights and at the Institute of Women's Rights at the Faculty of Law of the University of Oslo. A Canadian national, Ms. Goodman holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Western Ontario and Bachelor and Masters of Law degrees from the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto, and has also worked as a lawyer in private practice.*



**Marten Menger**, Desk Officer, German Federal Foreign Office, Division for Humanitarian Assistance – Policy, International Organisations, Multilateral Coordination.

*Marten Menger works in the Division for Humanitarian Assistance – Policy, International Organisations, Multilateral Coordination of the German Federal Foreign Office. Before his current assignment as a desk officer in Berlin, he was posted to the German Embassy in Kosovo. He is a political scientist by training and holds an M.A. in International Relations.*



**Ms. Roxanne Tajbakhsh**, Global Focal point for the Migration Working Group, UN Major Group for Children and Youth

*Roxanne is a recently graduated Junior Doctor based in Leeds, England. She has worked with refugees and migrants for many years locally and internationally, having volunteered in Greece in both Lesbos and Idomeni through the peak of the European refugee crisis. Currently, she is a Global Focal Point for the Migration Working Group within the UN Major Group for Children and Youth, who's work is focused around the Global Compact for Safe, and Orderly, Migration (GCM). Her body of work has subsequently led her to develop an interest in disaster medicine management and emergency response, and she aims to pursue the topic in the humanitarian field in parallel to her future clinical speciality.*

#### Moderator:

**Ms. Mirela Shuteriqi**, Director of Policy, ICVA



*Mirela Shuteriqi is Director of Policy at the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), where she leads a policy team focusing on forced migration, humanitarian financing, and coordination. Ms Shuteriqi has over 15 years of professional experience in human rights, migration and refugee law, working both for NGOs and UN Agencies. In 2015-2017 she worked with UNICEF as advocacy coordinator on the rights of refugee and migrant children in Europe. Prior to UNICEF, Ms Shuteriqi served for over 8 years as global protection adviser for the Swiss NGO, Terre des hommes, covering programmes aiming at preventing child exploitation, trafficking and other forms of violence against children. For few years she provided direct legal services to vulnerable families and Albanian children exploited or living in the streets of Albania and Greece. She is holder of an LLM degree and author of various publication on human rights and migration law.*

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#### Wrap-up: Food for thought and next steps



**Mr. Roger Yates**, Chair, ICVA Board

Roger Yates is Regional Director for Plan International covering East and Southern Africa and the Middle East. Previously he worked in Plan as Director for Disaster Risk Management. He has worked in both development and emergencies since 1984, working mostly in Africa. He has worked for local and international NGO's, UN and governments of developed and developing countries.

Roger is qualified as an engineer, he became a chartered engineer in 1990. He was a member of the UN Humanitarian Coordinators Pool and of the UN Inter-agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction.