

LISA DAVIS
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CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law

Senior Associate Dean of Clinical Programs (2024-present); (Early) Tenure & Full Professor of Law; Co-Director of the Human Rights and Gender Justice (HRGJ) Clinic (2018-present); Associate Professor of Law (2018-2023). Courses:

- *HRGJ Clinic*. Co-taught year-long clinic on international human rights and criminal law, gender and intersectional discrimination. CUNY Law consistently ranks number in the top three clinic programs for *U.S. News & World Report*, “Best Clinical Training.”
- *Pro Bono Scholars (PBS) Seminar*. Co-taught and supervised the PBS program. PBS students attend seminar and serve in externship placements for their final law school semester. The HRGJ Clinic successfully petitioned for its expansion from NYC placements to include internships nationally and abroad.

Co-Founder, Institute for Gender, Law, and Transformative Peace (2023)

- Co-founded with Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee, the Institute promotes the leadership of women and LGBTQI+ persons who face intersecting forms of discrimination in conflict and other atrocities. (Raised requisite \$2.5 million funds).

Additional Law School Initiatives Created

- [*Faces of Resilience*](#) Photo Exhibit Series of CUNY Law & LaGuardia College (2019–present), featuring human rights defenders working in conflict-affected countries.
- *Reimagining Justice for Gender-Based Crimes under International Law: Annual Experts Workshop Series* (2016–2023), bringing together legal experts in the fields of international human rights and criminal law.
- *HRGJ Academic Delegations* (2014–2023). Faculty and students travel to countries worldwide to engage in best practices on conflict-related issues. Past delegations include travel to Geneva, The Hague, Port-au-Prince, Istanbul and Bogotá.
- *The Abraham & Rachel Slatkin-Belsky Distinguished Lecture Series* (2014-2018). This five-year annual lecture series presented the CUNY Law School Dean’s Social Justice Award.
- *Sorensen Center on International Peace & Justice* (co-founding faculty advisor). The Center trains social justice lawyers on instability, conflict, and repression.

University-Wide Service

- Faculty Representative, CUNY LGBTQI+ Council, 2021–2023

- Faculty Member, Human Rights Hub at CUNY, of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, 2022–2023
- Advisory Board Member, LGBT Social Science & Public Policy Center, Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, Hunter College, 2015–2019
- Advisory Board Member, Chancellor’s CUNY-Wide Initiative on Haiti, 2011–2014

APPOINTMENTS

U.S. Department of State

Senior Advisor to U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice (2024)

(Secondment). Senior Policy Advisor to Ambassador Beth Van Schaack, Biden Administration. Advised on issues related to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide; assisted in the formulation of U.S. policy on the prevention of, responses to, and accountability for mass atrocities. Other duties included:

- Worked on a new [State Department policy](#) recognizing abuses of women and LGBTQI+ persons in Afghanistan as gender persecution. This is the first time the U.S. government has described an abuse situation as gender persecution.
- Developed policy recommendations on reparations, persecution, conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, children born in war and intersectional discrimination.
- Member of the White House Atrocities Prevention Task Force, the Sub-Interagency Policy Committee on Haiti; Advised the White House Gender Policy Council.
- Organized with the United States Institute for Peace the first experts roundtable on LGBTQI+ victims’ participation in transitional justice mechanisms.

International Criminal Court

Special Advisor on Gender Persecution (2022 – 2023). Duties: Advise ICC Prosecutor and Office staff on legal issues relating to the commission of gender and other discriminatory crimes at all stages of prosecutorial procedure, including preliminary examinations, investigations, trials and appeals. Serve on delegations, conduct evidence reviews, in-country trainings and seminars for accountability mechanisms and staff. Other duties include:

- Drafted the [Policy on the Crime of Gender Persecution](#).
- Organized the Office of the Prosecutor [Roundtable on Gender Persecution](#).
- Initiated the [Just Security Blog Post Series](#) on the ICC Policy on the Crime of Gender Persecution, featuring international criminal law experts.
- Featured in the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG) [Experts Roundtable Webinar Series](#) on Gender Persecution.
- Served as a member of the Advisory Committees for the 2023 Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes Policy and the Policy on Children.
- Advised on Gender Persecution Charges in ICC Afghanistan Arrest Warrants

FORMER ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Fulbright Scholar, Leiden University School of Law, the Netherlands (2022)

Visiting Professor of Law, *Gender Persecution: Contemporary Theory and Practice for Advocates* course. Taught theoretical underpinnings and practical legal applications for addressing the crime against humanity of persecution on the grounds of gender.

Columbia School of International and Public Affairs (2016–2017)

Visiting Professor, *Armed Conflict: Women and LGBTIQ Advocates* course for MA and JD students. Lectures included international criminal and human rights law, gender & conflict and regional perspectives in gender in international law.

HONORS & AWARDS

LGBTQ+ Power Players in NY, Gay City News (2022). Honoring New York’s LGBTQ+ “Power Players”—leaders in government and policymaking, education, healthcare, corporate industry and civic advocacy.

Outstanding Law Professor Award. CUNY Law Review (2018). In recognition of outstanding service as a Law Review Faculty Advisor.

The People’s Choice Gavel Award (2011). Women’s Link Worldwide, Madrid, Spain. In recognition of serving as lead counsel for the Inter-American Commission petition on behalf of displaced Haitian women and girls, which resulted in the Commission’s first-ever precautionary measures decision recognizing state responsibility to prevent third-party gender-based violence.

Tribunal Symbolico Contra Violencia Sexual, en el Marco del Conflicto Armado Colombiano (2011). Humanas, Bogotá, Colombia. Served as an honorary Judge.

CASES AND U.N. DECISION CITATIONS AND LITIGATION

Special Jurisdiction for Peace, Colombia (Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz), *Case 02: Prioritizing the Territorial Situation of Recaurte, Tumaco and Barbacoas (Nariño)*, Auto No. 03 de la SRVR (July 5, 2023), fn. 3316. Trial Judgment. Finding crimes against humanity of persecution based on gender, race and ethnicity, citing Lisa Davis, *Dusting Off the Law Books: Recognizing Gender Persecution in Conflicts and Atrocities*, 20 NW. J. HUM. RTS 1 (2021).

U.N. Security Council, Special Adviser and Head of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da’esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant addressed to the President of the Security Council, para. 82, U.N. Doc. S/2019/878 (Nov. 13, 2019), citing the cooperative agreement between UNITAD and the HRGJ Clinic.

International Law Commission Seventy-first Session Geneva, 29 April–7 June and 8 July–9 August 2019, Fourth report on crimes against humanity, Sean D. Murphy, Special

Rapporteur, fn. 204, U.N. Doc. A/CN.4/725 (2019), citing a joint letter to the U.N. Secretary-General from the HRGJ Clinic, et al., (Dec. 2018).

Supreme Court of India, *Navtej Singh Johar & Ors. v. Union of India, Ministry of Law and Justice*, Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 76 of 2016, Judgment (2018), fn. 106, citing the HRGJ Clinic’s 2013 joint submission to the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, in its historic case striking down Penal Code Section 377 which criminalized specific homosexual sexual acts between adults.

U.N. Committee Against Torture (CAT), *Concluding Observations on the Initial Report of Iraq, Advanced Unedited Version*, para. 23 (d) (2015). The HRGJ Clinic filed a legal submission before the CAT Committee on behalf of Iraqi clients, arguing for state accountability in cases of private actor violence. In an unprecedented decision, the Committee determined that state agents may be held accountable for resulting third-party gender-based violence in the context of shelter services. *See also*, U.N. Security Council Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security, “Republic of Iraq” U.N. Doc. S/2016/683 (29 April 2016), calling on the government of Iraq to “issue a directive clarifying that Iraqi NGOs may provide much-needed services to survivors of gender-based violence, including shelter” in response to the CAT Committee’s Concluding Observation.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights, *Karen Atala and Daughters v. Chile* (2012). HRGJ Clinic co-authored the only amicus curiae brief to argue that sexual orientation and gender identity are protected classes under international law. The Court issued a groundbreaking decision, providing for an explicit prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *Decision Re: Women and Girls Victims in Haiti* (2010). Served as lead counsel for a petition filed by the HRGJ Clinic on behalf of displaced Haitian women and girls facing sexual assault, which resulted in the Commission’s first-ever precautionary measures decision recognizing state responsibility to prevent third-party sexual violence.

PUBLICATIONS

Policy

Policy on the Crime of Gender Persecution, (International Criminal Court, Office of the Prosecutor) (Dec. 2022) (drafter).

Law Review Articles

Lisa Davis, *Post-Conflict Reparations: Methods for Addressing Discrimination*, 46 U. PA. J. INT’L L. (forthcoming 2025).

Lisa Davis & Kirby Anwar, *Gender and Racial Persecution in the Draft Crimes Against Humanity Treaty*, 9 HOW. HUM. & C.R. L. REV. 1 (forthcoming, 2025).

Lisa Davis, *Dusting Off the Law Books: Recognizing Gender Persecution in Conflicts and Atrocities*, 20 NW. J. HUM. RTS 1 (2021). Cited in Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz, *Case 02: Prioritizing the Territorial Situation of Recaurte, Tumaco and Barbacoas (Nariño)*, Auto No. 03 de la SRVR, fn. 3316 (July 5, 2023). Trial Judgment.

Jonathan O'Donohue, Indira Rosenthal, Rosemary Grey, Lisa Davis & Dorine Llanta, *Gender-Based Persecution as a Crime Against Humanity: The Road Ahead*, J. OF INT'L. CRIM. JUSTICE, OXFORD UNIV. PRESS (2019).

Lisa Davis, *Reimagining Justice for Gender Crimes at the Margins: New Legal Strategies for Prosecuting ISIS Crimes Against Women and LGBTI Persons*, 24 WM. & MARY J. WOMEN & L. 175 (2018), reposted by [TALKINGABOUTTERRORISM.COM](https://talkingaboutterrorism.com). Cited in [FIDH & Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice](#), *Accountability for Sexual & Gender-Based Crimes at the ICC: An Analysis of Prosecutor Bensouda's Legacy*, fns 95 & 97 (2021).

Lisa Davis, *ISIL, Sexual Violence, the Syrian Conflict, and the Way Forward: Women's Inclusion in the Peace Process*, 47 N.Y.U. J. INT'L. L. & POL. 1 (2016).

Lisa Davis, *Iraqi Women Confronting ISIL: Protecting Women's Rights in the Context of Conflict*, 22 SW. J. INT'L. L. 27 (2016).

Lisa Davis, *Still Trembling: State Obligation Under International Law to End Post-Earthquake Rape in Haiti*, 64 U. MIAMI L. REV. 2 (2011).

Julie Mertus & Lisa Davis, *Citizenship and Location in a World of Torture*, 10 N.Y. CITY L. REV. 2 (2007).

Book Chapters

Lisa Davis & Valerie Oosterveld, *Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Persecution on Grounds of*, chapter in, MAX PLANCK ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW (Oxford Univ. Press, forthcoming 2025).

Lisa Davis & Valerie Oosterveld, *Prosecuting Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes in the Context of Ukraine*, chapter in, UKRAINE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (Routledge, forthcoming 2025).

Lisa Davis & Marina Kumskova, *The Prosecutor v. Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman*, chapter in, FEMINIST JUDGMENTS: RE-IMAGINING THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (Cambridge Univ. Press, forthcoming 2025).

Lisa Davis & Danny Bradley, *Queering the Crimes Against Humanity Treaty*, chapter in, BUILDING BRIDGES: CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER, SEXUALITY AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW (Universidad del Rosario, 2025).

Lisa Davis & Danny Bradley, *Victory for Women and LGBTIQ Rights under International Criminal Law: Gender in the Draft Crimes against Humanity Treaty*, chapter in, GENDER AND

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW (Oxford Univ. Press, 2022), winner of the [Women in International Law Group](#) of the American Society of International Law Book Prize.

Lisa Davis & Jessica Stern, *WPS and LGBTI Rights*, chapter in, THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY (Oxford Univ. Press, 2019), cited in, U.N. General Assembly Resolution, [Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity](#) fn. 63, U.N. Doc. A/75/235 (July 27, 2022).

Lisa Davis & Cassandra Atlas, *Grassroots Women's Participation in Addressing Conflict and Genocide: Case Studies from the MENA Region and Latin America*, chapter in, WOMEN AND GENOCIDE (Indiana Univ. Press, 2018).

Lisa Davis, *The Gendered Dimensions of Torture: Rape and other Forms of Gender-Based Violence as Torture under International Law*, chapter in, TORTURE AND ITS DEFINITION IN INTERNATIONAL LAW: AN INTER-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH (Oxford Univ. Press, 2017).

MADRE, CUNY School of Law, BAI, IJDH, & Lisa Davis, et al, *Our Bodies Are Still Trembling*, chapter in, TECTONIC SHIFTS: HAITI SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE (Kumarian Press, North Am. Congress on Latin America, 2012).

Journal Essays

Lisa Davis, *Third Party at the Table: Afro-Colombian Women's Struggle for Peace and the Inclusion of a Racial-Gender Justice Analysis in Colombia's Peace Process*, COLUM. HUM. RTS L. REV. VOL. 4, NO. 363 (2020). Mentioned in, CNN, [Colombia needs a leader who'll implement the peace accord. For women, it's a matter of life and death](#) (June 19, 2022).

Lisa Davis, *Afro-Colombian Voices in the Colombian Peace Process: How a Group of Afro-Colombian Women's Rights Activists and New York Law Professors Came Together to Raise Awareness*, 4 COLUM. HUM. RTS L. REV. VOL. 4.2, NO. 247 (2020) (introduction to a special journal edition).

Lisa Davis, *Countering Iraq's Anti-Shelter Policy in the Era of ISIS*, COLUM. UNIV. J. INT'L AFFAIRS, 70, 2 (2017).

Lisa Davis, *The Global Struggle for LGBTQ Rights: Legal, Political and Social Dimensions*, 37 WOMEN'S RTS L. REP. 262 (2016) (symposium transcript).

Lisa Davis, *Legacy in Action: Honoring the Life Work of Rhonda Copelon*, 14 N.Y. CITY L. REV. 2 (2012) (introduction to a special journal edition).

Lisa Davis, *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Responds to Demand for Action to End Sexual Violence in Haiti*, LOS ANDES UNIV. LAW SCH., PERIODICO AL DERECHO (Mar. 2012).

Lisa Davis & Blaine Bookey, *Fanm Ayisyen Pap Kase: Respecting the Right to Health of Haitian Women and Girls*, HARV. HEALTH & HUM. RTS J., 13.1 (2011).

Lisa Davis, *Preventing Torture: Implications of General Comment 2: Implementation of Article 2 by States Parties of the U.N. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* 11 N.Y. CITY L. REV. 179 (2008) (introduction to a special journal edition).

Editorials

Lisa Davis, *Dusting off the Law Books on the Crime of Gender Persecution*, [JUST SECURITY](#), (May 30, 2023).

Lisa Davis & Yifat Susskind, *As the Virus Unleashes Violence, Women in War-Torn Countries Organize*, [COMMON DREAMS](#) (Apr. 10, 2020).

Lisa Davis, *This Is How We Won a Historic Victory for Women's and LGBTIQ Rights in International Law*, [OPEN DEMOCRACY.NET](#) (June 26, 2019).

Lisa Davis, *New Draft of 'Crimes Against Humanity' Treaty Affirms Protection for Women and LGBTIQ Persons. The Fight Wasn't Easy—and It Isn't Over Yet*, [COMMON DREAMS](#) (June 24, 2019).

Lisa Davis, *Will the New Crimes Against Humanity Treaty Protect Women and LGBTI Persons?* [OPEN DEMOCRACY.NET](#) (Sept. 21, 2018). Reposted by [TRUTHOUT.ORG](#) (Sept. 30, 2018).

Lisa Davis, *Survivors Need Shelter, But Shelters Need Legal Protection in Iraq*, [COMMON DREAMS](#) (Mar. 21, 2018).

Lisa Davis, *Prosecuting ISIS Crimes Against Women and LGBTIQ People Would Set a Crucial Precedent*, [OPEN DEMOCRACY.NET](#) (Feb. 1, 2018), cited by *The Me Too Movement in the Middle East*, [INTERNATIONAL VIEWPOINT](#) (Feb. 19, 2019).

Yifat Susskind & Lisa Davis, *Standing Our Ground at the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)*, [OPEN DEMOCRACY.NET](#) (Feb. 4, 2017).

Lisa Davis, *To Protect People Fleeing Mosul, Undo Iraq's Anti-Shelter Policy*, [THE HUFFINGTON POST](#) (Oct. 21, 2016).

Lisa Davis, *Who's Missing From Syria's Peace Talks?*, [OPEN DEMOCRACY.NET](#) (Jan. 29, 2016).

Lisa Davis, *John Kerry, Where Are Women's Voices in the Syria Peace Talks?*, [OPEN DEMOCRACY.NET](#) (Dec. 18, 2015).

Lisa Davis, *Lifting the Ban on Women's Shelters in Iraq*, [OPEN DEMOCRACY.NET](#) (Oct. 14, 2015).

Lisa Davis, *Why Are So Many Syrian Children Being Left Stateless?*, [OPEN DEMOCRACY.NET](#) (July 1, 2015).

Lisa Davis, *Syrian Women Refugees: Out of the Shadows*, [OPEN DEMOCRACY.NET](#) (June 15, 2014).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

JRR-U.N. Women, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Justice Experts Roster

Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, Peer Review Committee Member, 2023-present

Fulbright U.S. Student Program, National Screening Committee, 2024-2026

Fulbright, Binational Commission in Egypt, Fulbright Egyptian Student Program, 2024

American Society of International Law, Annual Meeting Committee Member, 2023-2024

Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI), Steering Board Member, U.K. Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), 2022–2023

W7 Group of the G7 Process, Accountability Working Group Member, 2022. The W7 (Women 7) Group is the official “engagement group” on women and LGBTIQI+ issues for the G7 (Group of Seven) government discussion forum.

Fulbright The Netherlands Student Program, Selection Panel Committee Member, 2022

Murad Code: Global Code of Conduct for Documenting Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, Commentator, 2021 & 2022

USAID, Human Rights Advisory Group for Evidence Gap Map, Member, 2021

Clooney Foundation for Justice, Legal Expert, 2021

The International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict (PSVI Protocol), Commentator, 2014 & 2017

American Bar Association, International Human Rights Committee Member, 2011–2013

New York City Bar Association, International Human Rights Committee Member, 2010–2012

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Distinguished Lectures and Keynotes Addresses

- University of Tasmania, Faculty of Law, *Gender Persecution as an International Crime*, Mar. 2023
- University of Sydney Law School, *The Crime Against Humanity of Gender Persecution*, Mar. 2023
- University of Queensland, Faculty of Law, *Holding Gender-Based Crimes Accountable Under International Law*, Mar. 2023
- Leiden Law School, *Inaugural Spring Lecture*, The Hague, the Netherlands, Feb. 2022

- Guest Lecturer, Embassy of Australia to the Netherlands, *Prosecuting Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes at the ICC*, June 2019
- Universidad Militar Nueva Granada Law School, *Tensiones Transformadores del Derecho*, Bogotá, Colombia, Sept. 2018
- NYU Law School, *Law Women's Fifth Annual Summit*, Feb. 2018

Academic Speaking Engagements (Since 2019)

- Presenter & Panelist, Leiden Law School et al, Gender & Int'l Criminal Law Conference, *LGBTQI+ inclusion in the potential recognition of gender crimes & breaking the continuum of structural discrimination: prosecuting gender persecution*, Jan. 2024
- Guest Lecturer, Leiden Law School, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in International Law: Human Rights and Beyond Summer Course, 2016–2023
- Panelist, International Law Association, The ICC's Gender Persecution Policy: Definitions; Implementation; Way Forward, Oct. 2023
- Panelist, American Society of International Law, Women in International Law Interest Group, *The ICC Policy on Gender Persecution*, Apr. 2023
- Panelist, Georgetown Law School, Samuel Dash Conference on Human Rights, *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*, Apr. 2023
- Panelist, American Society of International Law, *A Hopeful Conversation: Overcoming impunity for sexual and gender-based violence*, Apr. 2023
- Presenter, American Society of International Law, Mid-Year Meeting, *Gender Persecution Under the Rome Statute*, Nov. 2022
- Panelist, George Washington University Law School, Gender, Sexuality & International Law Seminar, *Denying International Law: LGBTQI Rights Mobilization*, Oct. 2021
- Panelist, American Association of Law Schools, 2021 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, *From #MeToo to #RealChange: Addressing Gender Violence at the Community Level*, Apr. 2021
- Panelist, American Society of International Law, Annual Meeting, *Has International Law Lived Up to Its Promise in Advancing the Rights of Women and Girls*, June 2020
- Panelist, Oxford Handbook of Women, Peace and Security, book launch, *Contributors WPS Toward 2020: Challenges and Opportunities Workshop*, Apr. 2019
- Commentator, NYU Law School, the 16th Annual International Law and Human Rights Emerging Scholarship Conference, *Reparations for Violations of Reproductive Rights: A Conceptual Re-Evaluation*, Apr. 2019
- Panelist, Universidad de Los Andes Law School, *Protección de los Derechos de las Mujeres y Personas LGBTI Bajo el nuevo Tratado de Crímenes de Lesa Humanidad* Oct. 2018
- Panelist, Princeton University, Lichtenstein Institute, *Building a Gender Inclusive Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict*, May 2018

United Nations, Government and Accountability Mechanisms Speaking Engagements (Since 2019)

- Panelist, Embassies of the U.K. and Australia, Office of the Prosecutor, Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, *The Gender Persecution Principles: Increasing prevention and ensuring the protection and participation of survivors*, Dec. 2024

- U.N. Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran, Closed-door Consultation on the Crimes of Gender Persecution and Normative Developments on Gender Crimes, Nov. 2023
- U.S. Institute for Peace, Missing Peace Global Symposium on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: *A Tenth Anniversary Convening of Scholars, Policymakers, Practitioners & Survivors and Victims*, Nov. 2023
- Permanent Mission of Germany to the U.N., “Gender-based violence in international law” panel event, Oct. 2023
- U.S. Institute for Peace, Roundtable on Documentation of Human Rights Violations in Afghanistan, July 2023
- Presenter, Gender Persecution as a Crime against Humanity, United Kingdom, PSVI Unit and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, June 2023
- Speaker, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *A Conversation with ICC Special Adviser on Gender Persecution, Professor Lisa Davis*, Apr. 2023
- Panelist, Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Crimes against Humanity Treaty, U.K. Foreign Service Office, Wilton Park, Mar. 2023
- Presenter, *Prospects for Accountability for Human Rights Violations in Afghanistan* Experts Round Table, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law & the U.N. Office of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Feb. 2023
- Panelist, Embassies of Sweden, Canada & Colombia and the ICC, *Advancing Accountability for Gender-Based Crimes: The New Policy Paper on Gender-Persecution*, Dec. 2022
- Panelist, ICC, *Roundtable: Crimes Against and Affecting Children*, Nov. 2022
- Speaker, Special Jurisdiction for Peace (Colombia) (Jurisdicción Especial Para La Paz), *Persecution by Gender, Racism and/or Ethnicity in Transitional Justice*, Nov. 2022
- Independent Association of Accountability Mechanisms Network (IAMNET), 20th Annual Meeting, Session Three Plenary: Gender-Based Violence, “Taking a Community-Centric Approach to Independent Accountability Mechanisms,” Oct. 2022
- Panelist, W7 Group to the G7, *2022 Women in Review*, Oct. 2022
- Panelist, Permanent U.N. Missions of Sweden, Canada and the Netherlands, *Launch of the Gender Strategy of the Int’l, Impartial and Independent Mechanism Syria*, Oct. 2022.
- Speaker, Special Jurisdiction for Peace (Colombia) (Jurisdicción Especial Para La Paz), *Questions on the Crime of Gender Persecution* Sept. 2022
- Facilitator, United Kingdom, *Strengthening the International Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*, Wilton Park, U.K. May 2022
- Panelist, International Criminal Court & Embassy of Sweden, Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute Conference, *Fighting Against Impunity for Gender-Based Crimes: A Policy Paper on Gender Persecution*, Dec. 2021
- Panelist, Paris Peace Forum, *Prevent and Heal: Addressing Physical and Digital Violence Against Women in Times of COVID-19*, Nov. 2021
- Panelist, International Criminal Court, *Violence Based on Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity: Synergies between int’l human rights and int’l criminal justice*, June 2021
- Speaker, Special Jurisdiction for Peace (Colombia) (Jurisdicción Especial Para La Paz), *En el marco de la conmemoración del Día del Orgullo LGBTI*, June 2021
- Speaker, International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) of the U.N. Human Rights Council, *Gender-Based Persecution in Conflict and Atrocity*, June 2021

- Panelist, Embassy of Finland and Embassy of Argentina, Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, *Accountability for the Crime of Gender Persecution in Conflict as a Pathway to Survivor Participation in Peace Processes*, Dec. 2020
- Moderator, U.N. Women, *Film Screening and Discussion: The Prosecutors*, Nov. 2020
- Speaker, Obama Foundation, Girls Opportunity Alliance Network (GOAN), *Confronting Twin Pandemics: Domestic Violence and COVID-19*, Oct. 2020
- Guest Lecturer, The International Institute on Criminal Investigations, *Investigation of Conflict Related Sexual and Gender Based Crimes Course*, Feb. 2020
- Panelist, Embassy of Canada, Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, *The Aftermath of ISIL: Gender-Based Violence Survivors and their Communities in Iraq*, Dec. 2019
- Moderator, U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *A Roundtable Discussion on Accountability for Da'esh Crimes in Iraq and Syria*, Sept. 2019

EXPERT TESTIMONY AND BRIEFINGS

- European Parliament, Meeting of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, Briefing on Afghanistan, Nov. 2022
- U.N. LGBTI Core Group of States, Briefing on the Forthcoming Policy Paper on Gender Persecution from the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court, Closed, High-Level Briefing, co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Colombia, Costa Rica and the United Kingdom, Sept. 2022
- U.N. Security Council, Informal Experts Group on Women Peace and Security Briefing, Update on Women, Peace and Security in Mali, Apr. 2021
- U.N. Security Council, Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security Briefing, Update on Women, Peace and Security in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mar. 2019
- U.N. Committee Against Torture, Experts Statement for the Thematic Briefing on Domestic Violence as a Form of Torture, Dec. 2018
- U.K. House of Lords, Committee on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Evidence Session, Oct. 2016
- U.N. Security Council, Open Debate on the Use of Sexual Violence in Conflict Situations, June 2016
- U.N. Human Rights Committee, 115th Session, Fifth Periodic Report of Iraq, Oct. 2015, expert testimony on state accountability for third-party violence
- U.N. Committee Against Torture, 55th Session, Initial Report of Iraq, Aug. 2015, expert testimony on state accountability for third-party violence
- U.S. Congress, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, Hearing on aid Delivery and Development Strategies in Haiti, Dec. 2014
- U.N. Committee to End All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Pre-Session Working Group, 58th Session, Experts Statements on the Draft General Comment No. 30, Oct. 2013
- U.N. Committee to End All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 53rd Session, Experts Statements on the Implementation of Articles 21 and 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Oct. 2012
- U.S. Congress, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Informal Briefing: Haiti Elections, 2011

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Media Highlights

- Lexinter Law, [10 Best Law Schools for Human Rights Law](#), Aug. 2, 2024
- Rockefeller Foundation, [“Once You See, You Can’t Unsee” Lisa Davis on Fighting Gender Persecution](#), Mar. 21, 2024
- NY Times, [Wear It or We Will Beat You to Death](#), Mar. 15, 2024
- The Progressive, [Holding the Taliban Accountable](#), Aug. 14, 2023
- Human Rights Watch, [This Is Why We Became Activists: Violence Against Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer Women and Non-Binary People](#), pp. 50–51 (2023).
- CNN, [Colombia needs a leader who'll implement the peace accord. For women, it's a matter of life and death](#), June 19, 2022
- In The Centre Podcast, [Exploring the impact of U.N. mechanisms in addressing conflict-related sexual violence against LGBTI+ populations](#), Mar. 1, 2022
- CCNY Podcast, [Gender Persecution: Women and LGBTIQ Persons in Armed Conflicts with CUNY Law Prof. Lisa Davis](#), July 5, 2021
- BuzzFeed News, [The Secret Battle to Save LGBT People From ISIS — And Bring Their Persecutors to Justice](#), June 24, 2019
- Talking about Terrorism, [Legal Strategies for Prosecuting ISIS Crimes against Women and LGBTIQ Persons](#), Nov. 2018
- BuzzFeed News, [These Lawyers Have A Case For Charging ISIS With Killing LGBT People](#), Nov. 8, 2017

Quoted in: The Nation, NY Times, Al Jazeera America, New York Law Journal, Reuters, PBS Newshour, BuzzFeed, New York Daily News, The Washington Blade, The Bay Reporter, Essence Magazine, South Florida Gay News, Inter Press Service (IPS) News, U.N. News, Women News Network, Rewire, Trust Law, Earth Times, Monsters and Critics, Pass Blue, Mundo Hispanico, Hispaniola, El Periodico de Mexico, Jornal do Brasil, Comunidade Segura, La Estrella, La Prensa Grafica, Le Figaro, Noticias 24, El Universal, Diario Comercio Industria & Servicios, Agencia Imagen del Golfo, El Manana and Administradores

Interviewed on: The Brian Lehr Show, Levant TV, WBAI Radio, WBAI Sunday News, WPFW Radio, GW on the Hill, Progressive Radio Network and Rights Talk at CCNY Downtown

Mentioned in: National Law Journal, HuffPost Impact, NewsRoom, U.N. News, GHRtv, El Tiempo (Colombia), Caribbean Life News, World Pulse, Free Speech Radio, Queens Chronicle, Common Dreams, Bethel Patch, Haiti Rewired, Paz Con Mujeres and IntLawGrrls

EDUCATION

City University of New York School of Law, J.D., May 2008

Editor-in-Chief, CUNY Law Review

Teaching Assistant for Evidence & Torts

Vice President, International Law Society & Outlaws Member

American University, M.A., International Politics, May 2005

Research Assistant, Professor Julie Mertus

St. Mary's Public Honors College of Maryland, B.A., Anthropology/Sociology, May 1999

Honors: VISTA*Americorps Scholarship Award

Russell Sage College (Albany) Sociology, May 1997

Honors: Chavez-King Award & Excellence in Sociology Award

Editor-in-Chief, The Vernacular

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York State; U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York; U.S. Supreme Court