

# **INTERNATIONAL FAMILY LAW SYMPOSIUM IAFL WITH EALS AND CLA 2 September 2025**

## ***Session Resources Pack Session 5: Child Rights' Implementation, Data, Identity and Protection***

*Tuesday 2 September 2025  
14:00 – 15:15*

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## RUTH JULIET NYAMBURA GACHANJA

**Child Justice and Anti- Human trafficking Expert**  
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Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a trailblazer in child rights, with 12+ years of leadership in child protection and anti-human trafficking. She holds LLMs from Leiden(International Children Rights) and Middlesex(Minorities, Rights and the Law) universities and lectures law at Kabarak University. As Child Justice Advisor to the Chief Justice of Kenya, she led the development *Judiciary Child Justice Strategy*. Ruth played a key role in enacting the Children Act, 2022, and Chaired the development of *the delta 8.7 Justice Policy Guide* on ending modern slavery. She chairs the boards of the African Institute for Children Studies and Love Justice International – Kenya. Her work drives Child justice reform in Kenya and beyond.

## **NANKALI MAKSUD**

**Child Protection Regional Advisor, UNICEF  
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Nankali Maksud has served as UNICEF's Regional Advisor for Child Protection in Eastern and Southern Africa since April 2024. She brings over 20 years of experience working across development and humanitarian settings, with a focus on strengthening child protection systems, policies, and services for children and women.

Prior to her current role, she coordinated the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage -the largest global initiative addressing harmful practices under SDG 5.3. In this role, she led cross-regional efforts to influence policy, mobilize partnerships, and accelerate national action in support of adolescent girls.

A committed advocate for child rights, Ms. Maksud has contributed to reforms that have improved national care systems and legal protections for children affected by violence, child marriage, and female genital mutilation.

## **MIA DAMBACH**

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Mia Dambach is an Australian trained lawyer working on children's rights. Starting as a children's lawyer in Sydney, she moved to Switzerland, where she has undertaken evaluation missions; mostly on behalf of UNICEF, in Cambodia, Cameroon, Denmark, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Senegal, Sudan, Ukraine and Viet Nam. She has provided technical support (legal reforms and training) in over 20 countries focusing on birth registration, alternative care, adoption, children on the move, assisted reproductive technology and surrogacy. Recently, she co-founded Child Identity Protection and started her doctoral studies on mass reparation schemes for children under Ann Skelton and Ton Liefwaard.

## **EVERLYNE SIMIYU**

**Directorate of Strategy, Planning &  
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Everlyne Simiyu is an accomplished Economist with over 17 years of dedicated service in the Kenyan Judiciary, currently serving in the Directorate of Strategy, Planning & Organizational Productivity. She holds a First-Class Honours degree in Economics and Statistics and a Master's degree in Economics, both from the University of Nairobi. Throughout her career, Everlyne has played a pivotal role in analyzing children-related statistics, providing critical insights to guide policy formulation. Her expertise blends data-driven analysis with strategic planning to support judicial transformation and evidence-based decision-making. She also offers technical expertise in implementing the Judiciary's Performance Management and Measurement Understanding framework.

## **DIAHANN GORDON HARRISON**

**Children's Advocate of Jamaica, Office of the  
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Mrs. Diahann Gordon Harrison is Jamaica's Children's Advocate and National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons (the first to hold this post in the Latin American & Caribbean Region) and an Attorney-at-Law by profession.

Her current roles provide a platform from which she promotes the rights of children and vulnerable people from a victim-centred and rights-based orientation. She is passionate about accountability frameworks through which persons violating the rights of children and vulnerable persons can be held responsible for their actions.

She is an Associate Tutor at the Norman Manley Law School; certified to the Geneva-based Justice Rapid Response Roster of global experts in International Criminal Law; and a serving member of the Board of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

## **RACHAEL KELSEY**

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Rachael is President of the IAFL- the first Scot and the only woman from the UK in the thirty-nine year history of the Academy. She is a founding Partner of SKO Family Law Specialists, which is the largest niche family practice in Scotland. She is the only 'Star Individual' in Scotland in Chambers and Partners and the only Scottish lawyer in Band 1 of the UK-wide HNW Guide. She was the recipient of the 'Private Client Lawyer of the Year 2023' Award at the Legal 500 Scottish Law Awards, from a shortlist of ten lawyers including tax, rural property and family law specialists.

Rachael currently sits on the Family Law Committee of the Scottish Civil Justice Council, having been appointed by the Lord President to sit for a third term, and is the only Scot to sit on the UK Ministry of Justice International Family Law Committee. She splits her time between Edinburgh and London.