

THE CONTRIBUTORS

Kiser Barnes is currently a member of the Universal House of Justice, the international governing body of the Bahá'í community. His contributions have enriched the work of institutions such as the International Teaching Centre, one of the main organs at the Bahá'í World Centre, the Board of Continental Counsellors and its Auxiliary Board for Africa, as well as the National Spiritual Assembly of Benin. His experience in the area of human rights stem from his work as a civil rights lawyer in the United States of America, his directorship for Community Relations of the Maryland Human Rights Commission, as well as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Maryland Affirmative Action Program. Mr. Barnes's academic achievements include: Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife, Nigeria; and Professor at Charles Hamilton Houston Lectures in Human Rights, Faculty of Law, Université du Bénin in Lomé, Togo. Having published a number of children's books, Mr. Barnes is also interested in the promotion of literature aimed at the moral education of children.

Greg Duly moved to Africa, with his family in 1982 where he served on the National Spiritual Assemblies of the Bahá'í community of Mali (1985 to 1988), Zambia (1994 to 1997) and Rwanda (1998 and 1999). He has worked for the Non Governmental Organization, CARE International, as Deputy Director and Director in the above-mentioned countries as well as Kenya. Currently, he lives in Uganda where he works as Director for Save the Children based in United Kingdom. Most recently, he completed his graduate studies at Landegg International University in the field of Consultation and Conflict Resolution. His thesis, "Creating a Violence-Free Society: The Case for Rwanda," has been published by the Journal of Humanitarian Assistance for their feature on "The Future of the African Great Lakes Region" which can be located at www.jha.ac.

Cheshmak Farhoumand-Sims holds a B.A. degree in peace and conflict studies, a M.Sc. degree in conflict analysis and resolution and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at York University, Canada. Her dissertation is entitled "Implementing Universal Values in a Multicultural World: The UN and Protecting the Rights of Women." She has studied at the European Peace University in Austria, participated in the UN graduate studies program at the United Nations in Geneva, and has worked as an intern at the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy in Washington DC, United States and the International Service for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland.

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Graham Hassall is the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies at Landegg International University in Switzerland. He has degrees in education (B. Ed) and history (B.A. Hon, Ph.D.). From 1990 to 2000 he was Research Fellow and Director of the Asia-Pacific program in the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies, at the University of Melbourne Law School. He has a particular interest in electoral systems, conflict resolution, and methods of constitutional dialogue and change. In recent years he has been an official observer at general elections in Cambodia (1998) and Indonesia (1999), and in 1999 undertook research on governance issues in Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Japan.

Darren Hedley has worked with an international Non Governmental Organization in Zambia for the past seven years, as manager of poverty reduction programs, and recently as director of Urban INSAKA, a regional research, training and consultancy unit. With a background in community development, resource management and international policy, Mr. Hedley is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol, UK, focusing on intersectoral policy networks for urban water and sanitation in Africa. His previous work experience includes community development work in Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, health promotion work with a First Nation organization in Canada, and two years of working on health research and AIDS programs in Russia.

Nazila Ghanea-Hercock is a lecturer in international law and human rights and Convenor of the M.A. in Understanding and Securing Human Rights at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London. A graduate of the University of Leeds and Keele University, her doctorate addressed "The interaction between the UN human rights machinery and the Bahá'ís in Iran (1980-1998)." Her publications to date have addressed freedom of religion or belief, religious minorities in Iran, and apostasy and human rights law.

Chichi Laylor holds a Masters degree in the Theory and Practice of Human Rights from University of Essex Human Rights Centre, in Colchester, Essex, United Kingdom. She currently works on refugee issues. Other organizations with which she has worked include: One World Trust and All Party Parliamentary Group for World Government, Institute for War and Peace Reporting in United Kingdom, the Office of Social and Economic Development, Bahai World Centre in Israel and Guardian Newspapers Limited in Nigeria. Ms. Okoye is the author of *Break Every Rule* by Delta Publications (Nigeria), 1989, and *Leopards, Oracles and Long Horns* by Panther Creek Press (USA), 2001.

Michael L. Penn is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Franklin and Marshall College in the United States and Landegg International University in Switzerland. He holds a B.A. degree in psychology, history and religion from the University of Pennsylvania and Ph.D. Degree from Temple University in Clinical Psychology. He

has published a number of articles in the fields of clinical and cross-cultural psychology. He is a Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellow (1986-1989) and Aspin Institute Wye Faculty Fellow (1995). His contributions to the Bahá'í community in recent years include service as a member of the Auxiliary Board to the Continental Counsellors in the Americas, lectures at the Wilmette Institute, and active support of Bahá'í-inspired academic conferences and publications.

Martha L. Schweitz is a lawyer (J.D. 1981, New York University School of Law) who practiced international business law for several years before becoming a law professor at the University of Oregon. She lived in Japan for 11 years, working first as a Fulbright lecturer and then as a professor in the Seinan Gakuin University Law Faculty in Fukuoka. Her teaching areas include international organizations, human rights, and international economic law. Her field of academic scholarship and of public service is the relationship between intergovernmental organizations and civil society. She is currently with the Office of Governance Studies at the U.S. Bahá'í National Center.

Tahirih Tahiriha-Danesh spent the first years of her life in one of the newly established Bahá'í communities near Tihran, the Capital of Iran. Faced by the same wave of persecutions that affected many Bahá'ís in the 1980s, she witnessed the loss of many of her loved ones. She has worked in the fields of human rights research and social and economic development in Asia, Europe, and America and has recently completed a combined Masters degree in Conflict Resolution and Education at Landegg International University. Her professional life is dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the history of the persecution of the Bahá'ís through various media, and to help establish new approaches in Bahá'í-inspired and inter-faith human rights education.