



THE LANCET

SAFEGUARDING
HEALTH
IN CONFLICT

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

High-Level Side Event During the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

PROTECTING HEALTH CARE IN ARMED CONFLICT

Friday, September 22, 2017 | 11:30 am – 1:30 pm | ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor
Minister of Health, Canada



The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor was elected in October 2015 as a Member of Parliament in the riding of Moncton–Riverview–Dieppe. Ms. Petitpas Taylor, serves as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Private Members' Business of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, and is a Member of the Subcommittee on Private Members' Business of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, and of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. She also served as the Deputy Government Whip from December 2015 to January 2017. In January 2017, she was named Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance.

Ms. Petitpas Taylor has spent her entire life advocating for a fair and just society for all. She was the former Chair of the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women and a member of the Coalition for Pay Equity. She has volunteered with several community organizations, both provincially and locally, including the Coalition Against Abuse in Relationships and the Canadian Mental Health Association's Suicide Prevention Committee in Moncton.

Ms. Petitpas Taylor was the Codiac Royal Canadian Mounted Police Victim Services Coordinator, during which time she provided crisis counselling, domestic violence intervention, and domestic violence risk assessment to victims of crime. She also served on the City of Moncton's Public Safety Advisory Committee, which was commissioned by Moncton City Council in 1996 to proactively influence the community through crime prevention promotion and to help Council respond to problematic issues as they arise.

Ms. Petitpas Taylor grew up in Dieppe, New Brunswick, and graduated from l'Université de Moncton with a Bachelor's degree in social work.

H.E. Mr Christiaan Rebergen
Vice Minister for International Cooperation, Netherlands



Christiaan Rebergen is Vice Minister for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands, a position he has held since 2014. From 2010 to 2012, Mr. Rebergen was Ambassador for Millennium Development Goals and Public Private Partnerships. He has held numerous other positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2002. Previously, Mr. Rebergen worked in the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Rebergen studied Development Economics with a specialisation in finance and environmental economics at the Free University Amsterdam.

H.E. Ildefonso Castro
Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Spain



He was born in El Ferrol (La Coruña) on the 4th May 1964. He graduated in Law in University of Santiago de Compostela and joined the Spanish Diplomatic Service in 1992. Diplomatic assignments overseas include Equatorial Guinea, Paraguay, Sweden and Dominican Republic. He has been counsellor at the International and Security Affairs Cabinet in Prime Minister's Office, Head of Cabinet of the Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Head of Mission of the Spanish Embassy in Dublin. In January 2012, he was appointed

Head of the International Affairs and Security Department of the Prime Minister's Office. He became Head of the International Affairs Department of the Prime Minister's Office in August 2013.

He took office as Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain in January 2017.

H.E. Mr. Matthew Rycroft
Permanent Representative to the United Nations, UK

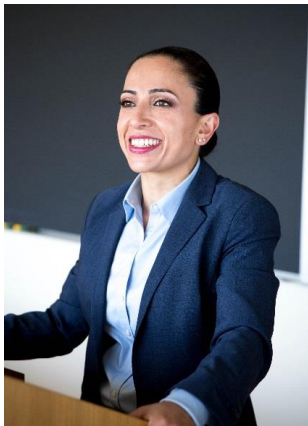


Matthew Rycroft CBE becomes the British Permanent Representative to the United Nations on 25 April 2015. From March 2011, Mr Rycroft was the FCO's Chief Operating Officer. In that role he oversaw the running of the FCO and its network of 270 posts around the world, including all the Human Resources, Finance, Estates, Security, Information Technology, Protocol, Procurement and Corporate Services. He deputised for the Permanent Under Secretary in his absence.

Mr Rycroft was born on 16 June 1968, and brought up in Southampton and Cambridge. He has a degree in maths and philosophy from Merton College, Oxford. He joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1989. After a few months at the UN in Geneva and then on the NATO desk in London, he spent four years in the British Embassy in Paris. In 1995-96 he was head of the political section of Eastern Adriatic Department in the FCO. In this role he was a member of the British delegation to the Dayton peace talks on Bosnia.

After two years in the FCO's Policy Planning Staff covering European and trans-Atlantic issues and brief secondments to the US State Department and US Congress, Mr Rycroft joined the British Embassy in Washington, following US domestic politics from 1998 to 2002. From 2002 to 2004, Mr Rycroft was Private Secretary to the Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs, covering all foreign, European, Northern Ireland and defence issues in No10. He received a CBE for this work. He was British Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2005 and the FCO Europe Director from 2008.

Naz K. Modirzadeh
Director, Harvard Law School Program on International Law and Armed Conflict



Naz K. Modirzadeh is the founding Director of the Harvard Law School Program on International Law and Armed Conflict (HLS PILAC). In May 2016, she was appointed as a Professor of Practice at Harvard Law School, having previously joined the HLS faculty as a Lecturer on Law in Fall 2014. In the Spring 2018 term, she will teach International Humanitarian Law and Public International Law. At HLS PILAC, Modirzadeh is responsible for overall direction of the Program, collaboration with the Faculty Director and other affiliated faculty, development of research initiatives, and engagement with key decision-makers in the armed forces, humanitarian organizations, government, and intergovernmental organizations.

In addition to taking part in several expert advisory groups for UN research initiatives, Modirzadeh is a non-resident Research Associate in the Humanitarian Policy Group of the Overseas Development Institute. She is also on the Board of Trustees of the International Crisis Group, on the Advisory Board of Geneva Call, and on Board of Directors of the International Association of Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP). She received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Iman Nuwayhid

Co-Chair, Lancet-American University of Beirut Commission on Syria



Iman Nuwayhid is a Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon. He received his MD from AUB and his MPH and DrPH in Occupational Health from The Johns Hopkins University. He is an elected fellow to the Collegium Ramazzini since 2004, and was inducted into the Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars in 2012. He is a co-editor of the landmark book on *“Public Health in the Arab World”* published by Cambridge University Press in March 2012. His professional career and research interests have mostly focused on the impact of work and the work environment on the health of

workers, especially working children and marginalized populations. Dr. Nuwayhid co-chairs [“The Lancet-AUB Commission on Syria: Health in Conflict”](#). In his capacity as Dean, he oversees and is engaged in the substantial research, practice, and policy work of FHS faculty members on conflict and health, mostly led and facilitated by FHS’s [Center for Public Health Practice](#), [Center for Research on Population and Health](#), and [Knowledge to Policy \(K2P\) Center](#).

The FHS at AUB is a leading school of public health in the Arab/Eastern Mediterranean Region. Founded in 1954, it is also the oldest stand-alone school. The FHS’ Graduate Public Health Program is the first such program to be accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) outside the Americas.

Leonard Rubenstein

Chair, Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition



Leonard Rubenstein is a lawyer who has spent his career in human rights, and now focuses particularly on health and human rights, especially the protection of health in armed conflict, and the roles of health professionals in human rights. At Johns Hopkins he is core faculty of the Center for Public Health and Human Rights and the Berman Institute of Bioethics. Prior to coming to Johns Hopkins he served as Executive Director and then President of Physicians for Human Rights, as a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace, and as Executive Director of the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. Mr.

Rubenstein’s current work includes advancing protection of health facilities, patients, and health workers in situations of conflict, developing a screening tool to identify survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in refugee settings, and exploring ethical responsibilities of health professionals to advance human rights. Mr. Rubenstein founded and chairs the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition

Ahmad Tarakji
President, Syrian American Medical Society



Dr. Ahmad Tarakji is the President of the Syrian American Medical Society. SAMS has more than 2000 medical professionals who operate 200 medical facilities in Syria, Middle east, and Europe. In 2016, SAMS treated more than 3 million Syrians. He is a cardio-thoracic surgeon in California and a Commissioner of the Lancet-American University of Beirut Commission on Syria. At SAMS, Dr. Tarakji leads

the partnerships with UN agencies and NGOs to expand the Whole of Syria (WoS) humanitarian response plan. SAMS oversaw the humanitarian response plans for many humanitarian crises in Syria including the starvation in Madaya, chemical attacks in Khan Sheikhoun and Idleb, and the besiegement of Aleppo, Homs, and suburban Damascus. SAMS treated half a million refugees in 2016 and contributed to many initiatives to address the refugee health crisis. SAMS trained healthcare professionals to document and report human rights violations related to the health sector. Dr. Tarakji testified before the US Congress, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Homer Venters
Director of Programs, Physicians for Human Rights



Homer Venters, MD, is a physician and epidemiologist and a nationally recognized leader in health and human rights. As PHR's director of programs, he oversees research, investigations, monitoring and evaluation, documentation, advocacy, and capacity-building projects and supervises work ranging from PHR's U.S. Asylum Network to international programs focused on documenting and addressing sexual violence and mass killings. Prior to joining PHR, Dr. Venters led health services in the New York City jail system as Assistant Commissioner and Chief Medical Officer. In this capacity, he developed an evidence- and human rights-based framework for correctional health services that included major

modifications to the jail electronic medical record, staff trainings and quality improvement projects regarding solitary confinement, use of force, and surveillance, as well as care for vulnerable groups of patients. Dr. Venters has also worked to promote these innovations internationally through collaboration with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Dignity Institute, and the International Red Cross.