

5TH WORLD CONGRESS ON JUSTICE WITH CHILDREN

“ADVANCING CHILD-CENTRED JUSTICE:
Preventing And Responding to Violence Affecting Children In Child Justice Systems”



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

PROF. ANN SKELTON

Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child



Professor Ann Skelton is an internationally renowned child rights expert. She is a Professor of Law at Leiden University, where she holds the Chair in Children's Rights in a Sustainable World. She is also currently a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and was appointed Chairperson in May 2023, for a two-year term.

Professor Skelton has worked as a children's rights lawyer in South Africa for over 30 years. She played a leading role in child law reform through her involvement with the committees of the South African Law Reform Commission that drafted the Child Justice Act and the Children's Act. Ann was the Director of the Centre for Child Law for ten years, where she initiated its strategic impact litigation work. She is currently also a Law Professor at the University of Pretoria, where she holds the UNESCO Chair: Education Law in Africa. She is an internationally recognised researcher and has published widely on children's rights, education law and restorative justice.



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She is a visiting professor at the University of Strathclyde, and receive an Honorary Doctorate from that University in June 2023. She was the first holder of the Rotating Honorary Chair: Enforcement of Children’s Rights at Leiden University.

Professor Skelton is an advocate and has appeared as counsel in many landmark child law cases in the South African superior courts, including 12 cases in the Constitutional Court. Her awards include the Honorary Worlds’ Children’s Prize, presented by Queen Sylvia of Sweden (2012) and the Juvenile Justice Without Borders award presented by the International Observatory on Juvenile Justice (2017) and she is currently an International Ambassador for the British Society of Criminology. She was the chairperson of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty.

Publications

- Skelton A.M. & Witting S.K. (22 February 2024), A child rights-based approach to adolescents’ sexuality. Leiden Law Blog. Leiden (Leiden University). [blog entry].
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