



Gehan Gunatilleke

EDUCATION & ACADEMIA

- **St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford** – DPhil in Law, 2020
 - Thesis topic (supervised by Prof. Nazila Ghanea): 'Justifying Limitations on the Freedom to Manifest Religion or Belief and the Freedom of Expression under the ICCPR'
 - Thesis examined by Prof. Catherine O'Regan and Prof. Christof Heyns
 - Faculty of Law graduate research scholarship (2018-2020)
 - Kenny Lam graduate scholarship in law (2019-2020)
- **New College, University of Oxford** – MSt in International Human Rights Law, 2017
 - Graduated with Distinction
 - Commonwealth Scholarship (2015-2017)
- **Harvard Law School** – LL.M (Concentration in human rights law), 2010
 - Fulbright Scholarship (2009-2010)
 - Dean's Scholar award for International Human Rights (2010)
 - Dissertation (supervised by Prof. Michael Klarman): 'Quitting While Ahead: Advocating the Right to Die in America'
 - Member of the Harvard Human Rights Clinic litigation and advocacy team that worked on issues relating to the torture of detainees at Guantánamo Bay
- **Faculty of Law, University of Colombo** – LL.B (Hons.), 2006
 - Graduated top of the Class of 2006
- **Harvard Law School** – Visiting Fellow (2020/21)
 - The fellowship supported a book project on ethno-religious violence and constitutional practice in Sri Lanka
- **Pembroke College, University of Oxford** – Junior Research Fellow (January 2022 onward)
 - The research fellowship will be part of the Religion and Frontier Challenges programme at Pembroke College

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Attorney at Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka** – Called to the Bar in December 2007
 - Founding partner of LexAG (www.lexag.co), a law firm specialising in advisory services in intellectual property law, civil rights, public law, corporate law, and family law

- Advisor and consultant to clients from overseas jurisdictions including the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Hong Kong, Oman, and Lebanon
- Legal counsel in constitutional determinations and fundamental rights applications before the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, and writ applications before the Court of Appeal of Sri Lanka
- Legal counsel in RTI applications and appeals before the RTI Commission and Court of Appeal of Sri Lanka

- **Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, University of Oxford** – Researcher (2017-present)
 - Early Career Fellow (2021-present)
 - Author of the competition cases for the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition (2018-2021)
 - Author (2018-2020) and co-author (2017) of the bench memorandum for judges of the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition

- **Verité Research** – Senior Analyst (2011-2013), Research Director (2014-2020)
 - Co-author of the *Sri Lanka Strategic Assessment 2016* commissioned by The Asia Foundation
 - Conducted the Mid-Term Review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (Sri Lanka) for 2015/16
 - Peer reviewer for Peacebuilding Context Assessment Sri Lanka (2016)
 - Senior editor of *The Media Analysis* (2018-2020)
 - Research, advocacy, fundraising, and project management experience in legislative reform, human rights, media reform, labour, and humanitarian affairs

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka** – Advisor (2015-2018)
 - Served on the technical working groups that prepared concept notes and draft legislation for the Office for Reparations, and a truth-seeking commission in Sri Lanka
 - Served on the technical committees that drafted Sri Lanka's Enforced Disappearance Act, and the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021
 - Served on the European Union-Sri Lanka Working Group on Governance, the Rule of Law, and Human Rights (2015-2018)
 - Advised the Ministry on the ratification of international human rights treaties, preparation of treaty body reports including the state party report on the ICCPR, and the preparation of the national report for the Universal Periodic Review
 - Served on the national delegations of Sri Lanka at the 61st Session of the UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, and at Sri Lanka's Universal Periodic Review (2017)

- **University of Sydney, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences** (2013-2016)
 - Regional Academic Coordinator of the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation programme
 - Responsible for regional research coordination, curriculum development, institutional capacity building and coordinating the examination of student theses and research papers

- **University of Colombo, Centre for the Study of Human Rights** (2011-2016)
 - Academic coordinator of the regional (Asia Pacific) and local Master of Human Rights and Democratisation programmes

- **International Commission of Jurists** – National Associate (March 2011-February 2012)
 - Carried out a study on human rights in Sri Lanka, which resulted in the ICJ publication ‘Authority without Accountability: The Crisis of Impunity in Sri Lanka’

- **Training and Lecturing**
 - Visiting Lecturer, Master of Human Rights and Democratisation programme, University of Colombo (2016-present)
 - Graduate Tutor in Human Rights and Constitutional Law, St. Catherine’s College, University of Oxford (2018-2020)
 - Lecturer, Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific) programme, University of Sydney & University of Colombo (2011-2016)
 - Lecturer, M.A. in Development and Policy, Open University of Sri Lanka (2010-2016)
 - Visiting Lecturer in Family Law, University of Peradeniya, Department of Law (2010-2012)
 - Conducted training in international human rights and labour rights in jurisdictions including Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bahrain, Thailand and the Maldives (2012-present)

- **Freelance Consultancies (selected)**
 - Co-evaluator (governance) in the Mid-term Evaluation of UNDP Sri Lanka’s Country Programme Document (2018-2022) (April-August 2021)
 - Lead author of the study ‘Social Cohesion and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Sri Lanka Law, Policy, Institutions, and Interventions’ commissioned by UNDP and administered by Marga Institute (July 2021)
 - Consultant in the recalibration of UNDP’s SDG 16 Flagship Portfolio Document (June 2021)
 - Paricip GmbH (Brussels) – country expert on the assessment of Sri Lanka’s compliance with core international human rights treaties (July 2019-April 2021)
 - The Asia Foundation and National Peace Council – author of the study ‘Ethno-Religious Conflict Resolution Mechanisms in Sri Lanka’, which assessed the effectiveness of District Inter-Religious Committees in four districts in Sri Lanka (February-September 2018)
 - University of Birmingham – consultant to the Commonwealth Initiative for Freedom of Religion or Belief (June-August 2018)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- **Monographs and Reports (Sole Authored)**
 - *The Chronic and the Entrenched: Ethno-religious Violence in Sri Lanka* (2018) (Colombo: International Centre for Ethnic Studies; Equitas)
 - *The Chronic and the Acute: Post-War Religious Violence in Sri Lanka* (2015) (Colombo: International Centre for Ethnic Studies; Equitas)
 - *Confronting the Complexity of Loss: Sri Lankan Perspectives on Truth, Memory and Justice* (2015) (Colombo: Law & Society Trust)
 - *Right to Information: A Guide for Advocates* (2014) (Colombo: Sri Lanka Press Institute; UNESCO)
 - *Reporting on Human Trafficking and Forced Labour: A Practical Guide for Journalists in Sri Lanka* (2012) (Colombo: International Labour Organisation)

- **Monographs and Reports (Co-authored)**

- *The Judicial Mind in Sri Lanka: Responding to the Protection of Minority Rights* (2014) (Colombo: Law & Society Trust), co-author with Jayantha de Almeida Guneratne & Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena
- *Authority without Accountability: The Crisis of Impunity in Sri Lanka* (2012) (Geneva: International Commission of Jurists), co-author with Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena et al

- **Book Chapters and Articles**

- 'Justifying Limitations on the Freedom of Expression' (2021) 22(1) *Human Rights Review* 91-108
- 'Coexistence and Violence: The Case for Equality of Opportunity in Sri Lanka' (2020) 16(1) *Socio-Legal Review* 26
- 'Criteria and Constraints: The Human Rights Committee's Test on Limiting the Freedom of Religion or Belief' (2020) 15 *Religion & Human Rights* 20-38
- 'The Structural Limits of Depoliticisation in Sri Lanka' (2019) 108(6) *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs* 613-624
- 'The Constitutional Practice of Ethno-Religious Violence in Sri Lanka' (2018) 13(2) *Asian Journal of Comparative Law* 359-387 (Cambridge University Press)
- 'Two Faces of Sri Lankan Media: Censorship and Resistance' in (2017) S. Udupa and S. McDowell (eds.) *Media as Politics in South Asia* (London: Routledge)
- 'Can Memorialisation Generate Public Demand for Transitional Justice in Sri Lanka?' (9 May 2017) *Justiceinfo.net*
- 'The Right to Memory: The Forgotten Facet of Transitional Justice' in (2017) Bhavani Fonseka (ed.) *Transitional Justice in Sri Lanka: Moving Beyond Promises* (Colombo: Centre for Policy Alternatives)
- 'Do Recommendations to the Universal Periodic Review work? Examining Recommendations in UPR's First Two Cycles for Nepal, Sri Lanka and Indonesia' (2016) 2(2) *Journal of Human Rights and Peace Studies* 108, co-author with Mike Hayes, Salina Kafle & Joash Elisha Tapiheru
- 'Obligations, Aspirations and Justiciability: Constitutionalising Socioeconomic Rights in Sri Lanka' (2016) 27(340) *LST Review* 4
- 'GSP+: A Revaluation of Benefits' (2016) 22 *The Bar Association Law Journal* 207
- 'R2P and the Normative Accountability of the UN Security Council' (9 September 2016) *E-International Relations*
- 'The Right to Information as a Fundamental Right' in (2016) Asanga Welikala (ed.), *The Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution: Content and Context* (Colombo: Centre for Policy Alternatives)
- 'One Step Forward, Many Steps Back: Media Law Reform Examined', 'Media Education: A Curricular Review', and 'Challenges Ahead and a Call for Action' in (2015) William Crawley et al (eds.) *Embattled Media: Democracy, Governance and Reform in Sri Lanka* (New Delhi: Sage), co-author with Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena
- 'How the US made torture political' (12 January 2015) *Open Democracy*