

Curriculum Vitae

Erika Schläppi

Dr. iur. Attorney-at-Law

Date and place of birth: 4 November 1959, Lenk, Switzerland

Working languages: German (first language), English, French, Spanish

Current position

Senior expert consultant and managing co-director of Ximpulse Ltd, a consulting company working on human rights incl. women's rights and gender, state organization and governance, in a variety of countries, often in conflict or post-conflict situations. Ximpulse is also in charge of managing PolitExchange, the competence center of the Capital Region Switzerland for study visits on governance in Switzerland.

Main professional activities and experience

Vast experience in short- and long-term expert support, capacity building and advice relating to governance, human rights, the human rights-based approach, women's rights and gender, the rule of law, to governmental and non-governmental stakeholders

For example,

- Context analysis, advising on support strategies of reform, design and planning, implementing and evaluating interventions in the field of development cooperation, policy dialogue and peace building, in a big variety of country contexts in Central, South and East Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Balkans, and the Middle East,
- Key advice, conceptualising as well as implementing the strategy for the development of the national human rights institution NHRI in Switzerland,
- Advice for development cooperation support in the field of human rights reporting,
- Experience as a staff lawyer at the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for diverse international human rights policy issues, representing Switzerland in various human rights bodies.

In particular, multiple assignments on CEDAW, women's rights, and gender

For example,

- Substantive contribution to the first, second/third, and fourth/fifth reports and several interim reports of Switzerland to the UN CEDAW Committee, assigned by the Swiss Federal Department of Internal Affairs and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs,
- Design, elaboration and updating of an online tool for legal practitioners to use CEDAW in legal practice, on behalf of the Federal Commission on Women's Issues of Switzerland,
- Co-drafting of the first report of Switzerland to the GREVIO Committee on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence,
- Advice to Swiss Development Cooperation SDC's gender desk on a new gender guidance for Swiss Development Cooperation,
- Diverse assessments and reviews on the gender dimensions of development cooperation interventions (e.g. on decentralization, access to justice, water and sanitation and violence against women),
- Support to the monitoring of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs' strategy on gender equality and women's rights.

Numerous capacity building and training activities

For example,

- Co-design and contribution to several trainings and workshops on CEDAW as well as human rights and development, particularly the human rights-based approach namely for SDC and various NGOs,
- Design, organisation and evaluation of governance study visits for government authorities, parliamentarians, NGOs, from various country contexts to Switzerland.

Diverse engagements in academic research and education

For example,

- Co-initiating, co-editing and co-authoring the first full Commentary on CEDAW in German, including an in-depth analysis on CEDAW's implementation in Switzerland and Austria,
- Various scientific articles on human rights, CEDAW and women's rights, access to justice and governance issues, lectures in post-graduate courses at the Universities of Bern, Fribourg, Geneva and at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich,
- Work-package leader on "citizens participation" under the EU funded project "Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay", a Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (MSCA-RISE) programme.

Educational Background

Dr. iur., University of Bern, Switzerland, 1998

Doctoral thesis "Human Rights in Bilateral Development Co-operation: Opportunities and Risks from an International Law Perspective" was awarded the 1999 Walther Hug Prize for outstanding legal research.

Attorney-at-Law (Rechtsanwältin), University of Bern/Bernese High Court, 1985

General legal education (civil, criminal and public law), including practical training in courts and law firm.

Most Recent Publications in the Field of Women's Rights

- Erika Schläppi, Common goals – different universes: Gender equality in human rights, the CEDAW Convention and the transformative agenda for sustainable development (in German), in: Silvia Ulrich/Elisabeth Greif/Karin Neuwirth (eds), Universität Linz/Institut für Legal Gender Studies, Kritisches Rechtsdenken II, Publikation zum 10-jährigen Bestehen des Instituts, Linz 2022.
- Erika Schläppi, From voting rights to effective political participation: formal and substantive equality – and the need for positive measures (in German), in: Juristinnen Schweiz (Hrsg.), Recht und Geschlecht, Herausforderungen der Gleichstellung, Zürich/St.Gallen 2021.
- Judith Wytenbach/Erika Schläppi, Women's rights and children's rights: Which international complaint procedure? (in German), in: FamPra.ch 2018/2, pp 429-465.
- Erika Schläppi/Judith Wytenbach/Silvia Ulrich (eds.), Commentary on the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women CEDAW (in German), Bern/Wien (Stämpfli/Manz) 2015 (1380p), co-editor and (co-)author of various sections.
- Erika Schläppi/Jeanne DuBois, Overcoming discrimination against women in family law: approaches and possibilities (in German), in: FamPra.ch 2012/3, pp 601-626.