



Dr. Jelena Aparac

Dr. Jelena Aparac has over 15 years of professional experience in the field of international peace and security and human rights. Having witnessed the suffering of the war in the former Yugoslavia, Jelena has been engaged in promoting peaceful resolution of conflicts and intercultural dialogue. She is the author of the book "Business et droits de l'homme dans les conflits armés" and many other publications.

Jelena is the former member and Chair-Rapporteur of the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries. She led the drafting of several UN rapports presented to the UN HRC and UN GA and the work on the situations of Wagner Group in Central African Republic and Mali, the use of mercenaries and PMSCs in Libya. In 2022 Jelena was selected as a member of the UN Senior Women Talent Pipeline promoting women in UN senior leadership positions.

As a leading expert on Business and Human Rights in Armed Conflicts, she is a member of the editorial board of the Business and Human Rights. She is also a co-editor of the Armed Groups and International Law blog. In her academic capacity, Jelena has given lectures and conferences at leading academic institutions around the world. As a member of the International Expert Group on International Criminal Law and Climate Change she contributed to drafting the crime of ecocide together with the leading experts on criminal law. Prior to this, Jelena worked for Doctors Without Borders as legal advisor and in field missions in situations of armed conflict. She holds a PhD from the University of Paris Nanterre and an LLM from the Geneva Academy. She is the proud mum of Mia.