

Dr. Victor Essien

Fordam University School of Law

Title: *International Responses to Slavery and its Contemporary Forms: A Survey of Anti-Slavery International Instruments*

Victor Essien holds an LL.B. (Hons) and LL.M from the University of Ghana, as well as an LL.M. (Int'l) and a J.S.D. from New York University. He was called to the Ghana Bar in 1977 and the New York State Bar in 1985. He was also admitted to the Bars of the United States District Court, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the United States Court of Appeals, 2nd and 3rd Circuits. He taught torts and property law at the University of Ghana, Legon from 1976-1977 and at the University of Jos in Jos, Nigeria from 1977 to 1981. He served as legal assistant to the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal in the Hague and the Netherlands in 1986 and as consultant to the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations in New York, New York from 1989 to 1993. Professor Essien is a partner at the law firm of Victor Essien & Associates in New York City where he specializes in natural resource development law, among other areas. From 1989 until July 2018, he was an adjunct professor of law at Fordham Law School and taught subjects including multinational corporations law, international oil and gas law, international investment law, advance legal research in international humanitarian law, and international and comparative law. In 2017 he was appointed as rector of Nyansapo College in East Legon. He has published widely in learned journals on international and comparative law. His chapter "Regulating Transnational Corporations Law: An Unending Quest for Global Economic Justice" appeared in a Festschrift to Dr. Samuel K.B. Asante in August of last year.

Melissa Upreti, LL.M.

Member, Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner

Title: *Linking Local Activism to the Global Human Rights Discourse: A Case of Child Marriage in Nepal*

Melissa Upreti is a human rights lawyer and women's rights advocate who has spent nearly two decades advocating for the recognition and fulfillment of women's rights through the use of national, regional, and international law and mechanisms. She has led fact-finding missions, undertaken strategic litigation, built the capacity of civil society organizations and provided technical support for law reform to governments in Asia.

Ms. Upreti started her career working for a feminist legal advocacy organization and The Asia Foundation in Nepal. Upon receiving her LL.M. from Columbia Law School in the United States, she joined the Center for Reproductive Rights where she was the founding attorney of the Asia program; building on the success of a series of capacity building initiatives on strategic litigation in India and Nepal, she led the conceptualization and launch of the South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability Initiative, which has resulted in the filing of precedent setting cases on contraceptive access and obstetric fistula in Asia.

She actively facilitated and participated in the first CEDAW Special Inquiry in Asia in 2012 and was co-petitioner in the landmark case, *Lakshmi v. Nepal*, which recognized access to abortion as a constitutionally protected right. She has worked closely with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to strengthen regional commitments to end child marriage and played a key role in bringing about the adoption of the Kathmandu Call for Action to End Child Marriage in South Asia in 2014. Ms. Upreti has written and lectured extensively about women's reproductive rights and the importance of legal accountability. Her articles and other publications on women's reproductive rights and discriminatory practices such as child marriage have been used by activists to develop legal strategies and in courses on human rights.

Ms. Upreti is a Fellow of the University of Toronto Law Faculty's International Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Program and currently serves as senior director of Program and Global Advocacy at the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University.

Dr. Demelash Kassaye

Assistant Professor for Social Work and Social Development
Addis Ababa University

Title: *Human Trafficking as an Endemic Problem in Ethiopia*

Dr. Demelash Kassaye is a former police commander in the Federal Police of Ethiopia. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Addis Ababa University. He has published a number of articles in reputable journals and teaches courses in human behavior and the social environment, substance abuse, forensic social work and criminology. He is a visiting professor at Bahradar, Gonder and Woelga Universities.

Dr. Ashraf Adeel

Kutztown University

Title: *Epistemic Injustice against Communities, and an Epistemology of Communitarian Contextualism*

Dr. Adeel is currently a professor of philosophy at Kutztown University. He is the former vice chancellor of Hazara University in Pakistan, former director of the Institute of Education and Research for the University of Peshawar in Pakistan, former professor of philosophy at the University of Peshawar, former senior visiting fellow at Linacre College of Oxford University, and the former president of the Pakistan Philosophical Congress.

State Representative Mark Rozzi

Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 126th District

Title: *Safeguarding Our Children from Predators: Legislative Response*

Mark Rozzi was elected to serve as state representative for the 126th Legislative District in November 2012. The Berks County legislator is a lifelong resident of the district. He

graduated in 1989 from Muhlenberg High School where he was a three-sport athlete and member of the Political Science Club and Model UN. Rozzi went on to receive a bachelor's degree in political science from Kutztown University with a concentration in pre-law and constitutional law. Rozzi resides in Muhlenberg Township where he remains active in the community. His legislative priorities include education, property tax relief, improving the commonwealth's aging infrastructure system and safeguarding children from predators.

Karen Hinkle, Kim Checkeye, Christi Dominguez, and State Representative Mark Rozzi

Varying Organizations in the Lehigh Valley

Title: Local Responses to Modern Day Slavery: Community Agencies discuss the needs, responses, challenges, and implications for our Local Community

Karen L. Hinkle,
Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Karen Hinkle has worked in the field of Victim Services for over thirteen years. Ms. Hinkle currently works for the Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley in Allentown, PA as the supervisor of Legal Advocacy and Victim Services. As supervisor, she oversees Victim Advocates in Northampton County and serves as the agency's human trafficking advocate. As one of her job duties, Ms. Hinkle took the lead role in organizing CVC's first conference (Human Trafficking Hiding in Plain Sight) held this past June. Additionally, she represents the CVC on several coalitions including the Northeast Pennsylvania (NEPA) Task Force Against Human Trafficking, Eastern Pennsylvania against Trafficking (EPAT) and the Lehigh Valley Coalition (VAST). In 2016 Ms. Hinkle was elected as executive secretary to Crime Victims Alliance of Pennsylvania and sits on the Rally Committee, which organizes the state rally every year during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Prior to working for the Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley, Ms. Hinkle spent ten years working as a victim witness coordinator in the York County District Attorney's Office. In this role she served as a liaison between victims and witnesses and the assistant district attorneys. Ms. Hinkle earned her Bachelor of Social Work from Alvernia College.

Kim Checkeye
Vice Chairman and Executive Director of Truth for Women

Kim Checkeye is the executive director of Truth for Women, a faith-based nonprofit organization recognized for providing restorative care for sexually exploited women and increasing awareness. Checkeye has a passion for educating and training people on sex trafficking, the fastest growing criminal activity in the world, to eradicate and remove the

demand. In 2014 Truth for Women opened the Truth Home, a therapeutic residential home for rescued victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Aside from her position as executive director, Checkeye is on the coaching staff of the Southern Lehigh High School Girl's Lacrosse Team and is a member of Life Church.

Christi Dominguez,

Executive Director of the Valley Against Sex Trafficking (VAST)

Dominguez is the executive director for Valley Against Sex Trafficking (VAST), a start-up anti-trafficking non-profit organization with a 5-year grassroots organizing history. As a social work advocate for the past ten years, she has gained a wealth of knowledge in administrative social work, coalition's collective impact, and community capacity building. Her position as executive director of VAST focuses on engaging survivors, stakeholders and community members in conversations about commercial sexual exploitation. While honing trauma-informed practices, she employs empowerment, education, collaboration, and advocacy tactics to address the nexus of social problems surrounding local human trafficking.

She holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in communication and social work from Kutztown University.