

# Victim Representation in International Tribunals

## 1. Speakers

*Megan Hirst – Doughty Street Chambers*

Megan Hirst practices in international criminal law, and international human rights law. She has over 15 years of experience in international institutions and courts, with a particular focus on victims' representation and the post-conflict protection of human rights.

Although Megan has significant experience in various aspects of international criminal proceedings, she has a particular interest in victims' representation before international criminal tribunals and is known as the expert who literally "wrote the book on victim representation". She is International Lead Co-Lawyer for victims participating as civil parties in Case 002/02 at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. At the International Criminal Court (ICC), she is representing victims in pre-trial proceedings concerning crimes against the Rohingya in Myanmar, and the opening of an ICC investigation on Afghanistan. She has also previously represented victims in the ICC case against Dominic Ongwen, a former LRA commander in the conflict in Northern Uganda. Previously Megan worked in-house for both the ICC and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon on victims' participation issues, in which capacity she undertook litigation and played a key role in the development of policies and legal frameworks.

*Eva Buzo – Black Chambers*

Eva Buzo is a barrister practicing at the NSW Bar and the Executive Director of Victim Advocates International ("VAI"). Eva works internationally as a victim participation and protection in conflict specialist, with a particular focus on children and victims of sexual violence. Eva has worked across East Africa and South Asia on human rights and international criminal law matters. Eva is a certified expert in international criminal law investigations on the Justice Rapid Response roster. Eva was the Protection Lead for BRAC in Bangladesh at the onset of the Rohingya crisis in 2017 and was responsible for establishing protection facilities in the world's largest refugee camp as 700 000 people fled across the border from Myanmar in the space of three months. In 2019 Eva founded VAI to connect victims of serious international crimes with accountability mechanisms including the International Criminal Court, the International Court of Justice and other UN investigative and Human Rights bodies. Eva oversees VAI teams working in South Asia and East Africa. Eva is currently a member of the NSW Bar Association Human Rights Committee and is a legal expert on the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Advisory Committee.

*Kate Gibson – St Philips Chambers*

Kate Gibson is an Australian international criminal lawyer, and is Senior Counsel to Victim Advocates International. Kate has been representing accused and victims before the international criminal courts and tribunals since 2005, including as co-counsel to former Liberian President Charles Taylor, co-counsel to former Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of Congo Jean-Pierre Bemba, and co-counsel former President of the Republika

Srpška, Radovan Karadžić. Kate currently represents Bosco Ntaganda before the International Criminal Court, is part of the defence team of Kosovan President Hashim Thaçi before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers. In 2018, Kate was appointed as a legal consultant to the UN Fact Finding Mission for Myanmar, working to document crimes committed against the Rohingya in Rakhine state, and now represents a group of Rohingya victims in Cox's Bazar. Kate holds an LL.M in International Law from Cambridge University. She is published and teaches in international criminal law and transitional justice, and lives in Geneva.