

Peter O'Neill (Northern Ireland) is the Manager of the NUS-USI Northern Ireland Student Centre, the umbrella body for Student's Unions in Northern Ireland which encompasses the services provided by both the National Union of Students UK (NUS) and the Union of Students in Ireland (USI). Formerly, he worked for the Law Centre, Northern Ireland and the Belfast Centre for the Unemployed. He has contributed to a wide range of initiatives in conflict transformation and tertiary education provision, notably through the Northern Ireland Higher Education Council and Further Education Consultative Committee. A former President of Queen's University Students' Union, he recently completed a MSc degree programme in European Integration studies and has authored a number of publications including *Promoting and Managing Diversity in Tertiary Education*, *The Student Community Relations Handbook* and a manual on conflict transformation strategies for European youth organisations. He is an associate lecturer at the University of Ulster and a member of the BBC (N. Ireland) Broadcasting Council and the Structural Committee of the Community Relations Council (N. Ireland). NUS-USI delivers a wide-ranging student community relations programme, funded by the European Union, and facilitates a number of student exchange programmes with South African and USA partner organisations.

Khaled Quzmar (Israeli Occupied Territories) is a lawyer at the Defence for Children International/Palestine Section (DCI/PS), as well as Coordinator of the DCI/PS Legal Program. Since joining the organisation in 1995, Quzmar has been responsible for representing Palestinian minors detained, arrested, and tried before the Israeli Military Courts in the West Bank, in addition to conducting visits to detention centres and prisons. Quzmar graduated with a BA in Law from the University of Oran, Algeria, in 1987. After completing two years of training in the Occupied West Bank, Quzmar spent six years representing Palestinian political prisoners. Quzmar has been an active member of various working groups for draft legislation to be submitted to the Palestinian Legislative Council, including the Labour Law, the Bar Association Law, and the Judge's Law. In addition, he has been involved in efforts to establish a juvenile justice system in the Palestinian Territories, which will safeguard the rights of Palestinian children. Quzmar is a member of the Palestine Bar Association as well as a member of the Board of Trustees of Addameer Prisoner Support Center in Ramallah, West Bank.

Andrée Ruffo (Canada) has been a judge at Quebec's Juvenile Court since 1986. Before her appointment, Judge Ruffo practised as a lawyer in child protection, from 1974-1986. In addition, she has been a Professor of law and is the author of several articles and books on the topic of children's rights. Judge Ruffo is a renowned spokesperson and an active advocate of children's rights both in the Canadian and international context. Judge Ruffo founded the International Bureau for Children's Rights in 1994, responding to the growing need for advocacy on behalf of children and the protection of their rights nationally and globally.

Marie Smyth (Northern Ireland) is a Research Fellow at INCORE, The Initiative on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity of the United Nations University and the University of Ulster. She currently holds the position of Project Director of the Community Conflict Impact on Children, a two-year investigation on the experiences and effects of Northern Ireland's Troubles on children and young people in Northern Ireland. Previously, she founded and directed The Cost of the Troubles Study, a 30-month investigation into the effects of the so-called 'Troubles' on the population of Northern Ireland.

Abubacar Sultan (Mozambique) Abubacar Sultan was National Director of Save the Children Federation (SCF) – Mozambique's Project on Children of War, a counselling program working to heal child-soldiers forced to serve in Mozambique's civil war. Abubacar trained over 500 workers in 50 of Mozambique's worst war-torn areas in community-based therapy methodologies. He also wrote a manual to facilitate the training. In addition, Mr. Sultan conducted seminars to sensitise the army and the police to children's issues, and personally reunited children with their parents by flying into war zones to trace missing relatives. His project reunited more than 4,000 children with their families. Currently, Abubacar is working with the Foundation for Community Development, headed by Mozambique's former First Lady, Graça Machel. Called *Wona Sanana*, his new initiative combines community education with the gathering of data on the welfare of children and aims to promote improved policies on children's rights.