

Ligia BOLIVAR OSUNA

I. Personal information

Venezuelan, married, born in Valencia, Venezuela, August 10, 1957

II. Academic background

- Sociologist, Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, Andrés Bello Catholic University, Caracas 1975-1980
- Post-graduated studies on Human Rights, Faculty of Law, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas, 1995 - 1999
- Additional studies in the fields of Criminology, Psychology, Social Communication, Popular Education and Human Rights

III. Languages

Spanish, mother tongue

English, fluent

Portuguese, fair

IV. Working experience

- **Ministry of Justice**, Prisons Department, Social Research assistant, Caracas, 1977-1979
- **Ministry of Justice**, Crime Prevention Department, Research assistant, Caracas, 1979-1982
- **Amnesty International**, Venezuelan Section, Executive Secretary, Caracas, 1983-1985
- **Centro al Servicio de la Acción Popular**, Coordinator of Human Rights Education, Caracas 1985-1987
- **Amnesty International**, International Secretariat, Regional Liaison Officer for Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal (fix term contract), London, 1987-1988
- **Venezuelan Program for Education-Action on Human Rights (PROVEA)**, Legal and Organizational Support Project, 1988 - 1999
- **Venezuelan Supreme Court-World Bank**, Judicial Modernization Project, Manager for Civil Society Participation, 1998 - 1999
- **Andrés Bello Catholic University**, Faculty of Law, Director of the Human Rights Center, since November 1999

Consultant in the areas of project evaluation, justice, judicial reform and democratic institutions, human rights education, international human rights protection systems and feasibility studies for:

- International Human Rights Internship Program (Washington, 1985)

- Consejo de Educación de Adultos de América Latina (Santiago, 1986)
- Ford Foundation (Lima, 1989)
- Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (San José, several projects since 1998)
- McArthur Foundation (1998)
- Human Rights Office of the Archbishop of Guatemala (1999)
- Amnesty International (London, 2001)
- United Nations Development Program (Caracas, 2002 y 2004)
- Centro de Cooperación Regional para la Educación de Adultos de América Latina y el Caribe (México, 2012)
- People in Need (2016)

V. Academic activity

- Andrés Bello Catholic University, School of Social Sciences, Sociology of Deviance, Caracas, 1986-1994
- Regional Coordinator of the Inter-University Program on Human Rights Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, Association of Jesuit Universities of Latin America
- Andres Bello Catholic University, Faculty of Law, International Human Rights Systems, Caracas, since 2010 to date
- Andrés Bello Catholic University, Post Graduate Studies, Master on Values Education (Human Rights Education), since 2010 to date
- Andrés Bello Catholic University, Post Graduate Studies, Diploma on Access to justice, Human rights education (on-line), Caracas, 2003 - 2008
- Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain, Master in International Relations and Communication, International Human Rights, 2002
- Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Quito, Ecuador, Post Graduate Studies on Human Rights, 2002 - 2005
- Center for Regional Cooperation on Adult Education in Latin America, Master on Human Rights education (on-line), México, 2012
- Andrés Bello Catholic University, School of Education, Seminar on human rights education, Caracas 2015-2016
- Visiting Professor of extension courses, undergraduate and postgraduate human rights issues in Venezuelan universities Monteávila (Caracas), Cecilio Acosta (Maracaibo), José Antonio Páez and Carabobo (Valencia), Gran Mariscal de Ayacucho (Barcelona), UNIMAR (Margarita), Romulo Gallegos (San Juan de los Morros), Andrés Bello Catholic University (Guayana).

VI. Associations

- Member of **Amnesty International** since 1979, representing the organization at national and international level
- Board member, **Provea** since 1988
- Member of **Penal Reform International**, London, 1990
- Board member of **Center for Justice and International Law** (Washington D.C.);

Board secretary 1991-1996; Chair in 1996

- Member of the Steering Committee for the establishment of **International Council on Human Rights Policy** (London - Geneva) 1993, Board member since 1994, Vice Chair 1997 - 1998
- Board member **International Human Rights Internship Program** (Washington D.C.) 1994 - 1998; consultant on ESC Rights projects (Thailand, 1996 y 1998) and recent trends on human rights (Cairo, 1997)
- Board member of the **European Found for Human Rights** European Commission, Brussels, 1995 - 2001
- Advisor to the project on economic, social and cultural rights, **American Association for the Advancement of Science** (AAAS, Washington) and **Huridocs** (Geneva), 1996-1998
- Member of the Board of Trustees, **OHCHR Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights**, 2001 - 2004
- Member of the Advisory Council of **International Center for Not-for-Profit Law** (Washington) since 2015

VII. Publications

Author of a number of studies and research papers in the field of human rights education, organizational aspects of human rights work, economic, social and cultural rights, judicial guarantees, independence of the judiciary, judicial reform, access to justice and human rights situation in some Latin American countries, published by the International League for Human Rights, Latin American Council on Adult Education, Inter American Legal Services Association, Inter American Institute for Human Rights, Institute of Political Sciences (Universidad Central de Venezuela), Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sweden, University of Notre Dame, Latin American Institute for Social Research and University of Cracow.

VIII. Honours

Grant **International Human Rights Internship Program**, 1982-1983

Grant **Inter-American Institute for Human Rights**, Costa Rica 1983

Leonidas Proaño Human Rights Award, by Latin American Association for Human Rights (ALDHU), Quito, 1992

Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, New York, 1996.

Romulo Gallegos National University, San Juan de los Morros, 2000

Rosa Teresa Pojan Human Rights Award, Los Salias Local Council, Miranda State, Venezuela, 2010

Amnesty International, 50th Anniversary Recognition button

IX. Relevant experience in the field of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights

Advocacy

Founder of the Venezuelan Education-Action Program for Human Rights (Provea), recognized for being the first human rights NGO on the continent, dedicated primarily to the promotion and defense of economic, social and cultural rights. As a member of Provea, I participated in the drafting and editing of the organization's annual report, focusing on DESCAs from 1989 to 2004; developed educational and training materials at DESCAs; participated in DESCAs campaign design; conducted research on the conceptual framework and content of DESCAs; participated in the design of litigation strategies in DESCAs at national and international level, including cases before the inter-American system that affected indigenous peoples' rights and territorial integrity, healthy environment, housing and health.

University teaching

- Professor at Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Superior Specialization Course on Human Rights. Design and development of the course "**Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and International Relations**". Quito, 2003-2005.
- Professor of the Diplomate: Human Rights, Constitutional Guarantees and International Procedures for its Protection. Universidad Monteávila, Module VI: **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**. Caracas, 2004
- Professor of the Diplomate: Human rights, constitutional guarantees and international procedures for their protection, Catholic University Cecilio Acosta. Module VI: **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**. Maracaibo, 2004
- Teacher-designer of the "**Right to education**" course for the Master of Human Rights Education Online, Center for Regional Cooperation for Adult Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, CREFAL, Mexico, 2012
- Online tutor of the "**Right to education**" course for the Master of Human Rights Education Online, Center for Regional Cooperation for Adult Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, CREFAL, Mexico, 2012

Courses and seminars

- International Workshop on National-Level Activism in Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. International Human Rights Internship Program. Chiang Mai, Thailand, 22-24 July 1996.
- The Ombudsperson and economic, social and cultural rights. Romulo Gallegos National University, San Juan de los Morros, 2000
- Scope of ESCR protection in the universal and inter-American system. Universidad Metropolitana, Caracas, 2013.
- The impact of external debt on human rights, with an emphasis on ESCR. UCAB, Caracas 2016

Publications

- *Derechos económicos, sociales y culturales: Derribar mitos, enfrentar retos, tender puentes Una visión desde la (in)experiencia de América Latina*. Estudios Básicos de derechos humanos. Tomo V, Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos San José, 1994
- *La Salud como derecho. Provea. Caracas, 1996*. Co-redactora y editora
- *Ripple in Still Water: Reflections by Activists on Local- and National-Level Work on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. International Human Rights Internship Program. Editing contribution. Washington, 1997
- *La protección internacional de los derechos económicos, sociales y culturales desde una perspectiva de género* *Revue Québécoise de Droit International* 157, 1998.
- *The Fundamentalism of Dignity. A Human Rights Message*, edited by Swedish Institute, Stockholm: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, 1998.
- *Defining the content of ESC rights—problems and prospects*. Circle of Rights: Economic, Social and Cultural Activism: A Training Resource. In co-authorship with E. Gonzalez. International Human Rights Internship Program & Asian Forum for Human Right, 2000
- *La justiciabilidad de los derechos económicos, sociales y culturales: el papel de la sociedad civil*. Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos. Memoria del I Curso Interamericano Sociedad Civil y Derechos Humanos, San José, 2000, págs. 51-66.
- *La doctrina en materia de derechos económicos, sociales y culturales: avances y dificultades en su aplicación y exigibilidad*, Democracia y derechos económicos, sociales y culturales, Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos, San José de Costa Rica, 2005, pp. 33-53.
- *El derecho a la educación*. Revista IIDH Vol. 52, Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos, San José de Costa Rica, 2010
- *La educación como derecho*. Guías didácticas I a VII para la Maestría de Educación en derechos humanos en línea, Centro de Cooperación Regional para la Educación de Adultos en América Latina y el Caribe, CREFAL, México, 2012

Consulting

- Member of the advisory team on the joint project of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (Washington, D.C.) and Huridocs (Geneva) on economic, social and cultural rights 1996-1998
- Amnesty. International. International consultation on the relevance of extending AI's mandate in the area of economic, social and cultural rights. 1999-2000
- Excubitus. Training in documentation system of violations of the right to education. Venezuela, 2016 - 2017

X. Other human rights experience

- Volunteer work at General Penitentiary, San Juan de los Morros, 1978
- Team member of the Project on Enforced Disappearances, Fundalatin, Caracas,

1979-1982

- Intern at the International League for Human Rights, New York 1982-1983
- Coordinator, Venezuelan Network on Human Rights Education, Venezuela 1985-1987
- Participant at several human rights seminars and conferences in Europe (West and Eastern), North America, Latin America, Caribbean, Asia and Middle East
- First Interdisciplinary Seminar on Human Rights, Inter American Institute for Human Rights, San José, 1983
- Participant in a number of human rights fact finding and high level missions to Nicaragua, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, United States, Cuba and the Philippines
- Member of the Venezuelan Commission for the International Year for Peace, 1985-1986
- Guest Speaker at I, II and III Latin American Seminars on Human Rights Education, Caracas 1985, Buenos Aires 1986 and Santiago 1988
- Guest Speaker at Interdisciplinary Seminar on Human Rights, Inter American Institute for Human Rights, San José, in nine occasions since 1991 to 2010 and Guatemala 1996
- Trainer for Amnesty International membership development projects in Ecuador, Guyana, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and the Philippines
- Advisor of the Human Rights Program of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Caracas, since 1993
- Assistant to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the case of El Amparo Massacre before the Inter American Court on Human Rights, 1993
- Invited as an independent expert to the interregional meeting of the Council of Europe, preparatory to the World Conference on Human Rights, Strasbourg 1993
- Participant in hearings before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights since 1995
- Invited as an independent expert to the meeting on the future of the inter-American system for the protection of human rights, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Washington, 1996
- Invited lecturer at the Training Seminar "Application of international human rights instruments in the domestic courts" for judicial personnel in Latin America; Inter-American Development Bank / American University, Washington 1997
- Panellist invited to the international conference The (Un) Rule of Law and the Underprivileged in Latin America, University of Notre Dame, 1999
- Organizer, facilitator and guest lecturer in various training courses on international human rights law for personnel of the Venezuelan judicial system, School of the Judiciary, 1991 – 1995
- Trainer of the Project on Human Rights Training for Police Forces, Network for Support for Justice and Peace, Caracas, 1998
- Responsible for the presentation of a training proposal on human rights for members of the military justice subsystem, Martial Court, School of the Military Judiciary, Caracas, 1999
- Invited lecturer at the World Conference on Judicial Reform, World Bank, St. Petersburg, 2001

- Participant in Ripple in Still Water: Reflections by Activists on Local- and National-Level Work on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1997, and Circle of Rights: Economic, Social and Cultural Activism: A Training Resource, 2000. International Human Rights Internship Program y Forum Asia.
- Member of the jury of the Order Father Olosco in Human Rights, Metropolitan Cabildo of Caracas, since 2009.
- Jury Member of the Embassy of Canada Human Rights Award, 2013
- Participant as representative of Civil Society Organizations before the Universal Periodic Review on Venezuela to the United Nations, Geneva, 2011
- Participant as representative of Civil Society Organizations before the Committee against Torture on Venezuela at the United Nations, Geneva, 2014
- Participant as representative of Civil Society Organizations before the Human Rights Committee on Venezuela to the United Nations, Geneva, 2015
- Speaker at the Pre-session of the Universal Periodic Review on Venezuela, Geneva, 2016
- Invited as an expert to the regional consultation on the strengthening of the System of United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies, San José 2016
- Consultant for Excubitus in design and training in documentation system of violations of the right to education. Venezuela, 2016 - 2017
- Member of the team representing the victims of the San Miguel case and others before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, San José, 2017
- Invited as an expert to the consultation on the report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression on the right to protest, Washington, 2017.
- Facilitator / guest lecturer on human rights in projects in various countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, North America, Asia and the Middle East.