

# Lucy Geddes

## Barrister

Six St James Hall

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I accept briefs to advise and appear in all areas of law, however I have specialist expertise in human rights and discrimination law, criminal law, employment law, public law, and international law (international criminal and humanitarian law, international human rights law and public international law).

I have a particular interest in matters where these areas of law intersect.

### Core practice areas

- Discrimination law and human rights
- Public and constitutional law
- Criminal law
- Inquests and inquiries
- Employment law
- Disciplinary proceedings
- International law
- Sports law

### Education and qualifications

#### Admissions

- NSW Bar 2023
  - o Recipient of the Katrina Dawson Award.
- Solicitor, Supreme Court of New South Wales; High Court of Australia 2014

#### Qualifications

- MSc Women, Peace and Security, with distinction 2018-19  
The London School of Economics and Political Science
  - o Awarded best overall performance in MSc Women, Peace and Security.
  - o First in cohort: *International Criminal Law: Prosecution & Practice; Advanced Issues in Women, Peace and Security; Gender & Militarisation.*
  - o Recipient of the Lionel Murphy Foundation Postgraduate Scholarship.
- Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice; The College of Law 2014
- Bachelor of Laws; Bachelor of Arts; University of New South Wales (UNSW) 2012

### Professional experience

#### Barrister, Six St James Hall

September 2023 – present

- Member, NSWBA Human Rights Committee
- Member, NSWBA First Nations Committee

#### Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation, Justice and Equity Centre (formerly PIAC)

July 2021 – May 2023

- Had carriage of matters across PIAC's asylum seeker, and equality and discrimination practice areas, including NDIS, coronial, intentional tort and personal injury matters.
- Led PIAC's Asylum Seeker Rights Project. Media spokesperson (radio, TV and print).

#### Teaching Fellow, Research Associate + Advisor, UNSW

May 2021 – present

- I currently teach the elective Public Interest Litigation. I have previously taught core subjects Introducing Law and Justice (2023) and Court Process, Evidence and Proof (2021-2022).
- Research support for Emeritus Professor Andrea Durbach, formulating the design of a digital archive pilot project focused on Apartheid-era death penalty case ('Upington 25').
- Advisor for Diplomacy Training Programme/DFAT course 'Human Rights Leadership to Influence Policy', undertaken by 30 Indonesian human rights defenders.

#### Head of Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) Sri Lanka (Colombo)

October 2019 – June 2021

- Managed a team of five full-time staff, 10 legal consultants, partnerships with six civil society organisations and LAW's global network of SGBV experts.
- High-level stakeholder engagement, including providing strategic advice to the international humanitarian, diplomatic and donor communities in Sri Lanka.
- Provided technical assistance to Sri Lanka's transitional justice institutions.
- Designed and established Sri Lanka's inaugural Gender Justice Legal Network.
- Co-chair of the UK Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict working group (UK-GAPS).

- Legal researcher** (pro bono), REDRESS (London) February June 2019
- Research assistance for the UK universal jurisdiction prosecution of Agnes Taylor during the first Liberian civil war.
- Lawyer**, Victoria Legal Aid (Melbourne) September 2015 September 2018
- Lawyer in the criminal and civil justice teams responsible for complex file work with carriage of high-impact public interest litigation cases. Appeared regularly before all Victorian courts and tribunals.
  - Jointly represented the plaintiffs in a landmark human rights case (*PBU v Mental Health Tribunal* [2018] VSC 564).
  - Contributed to law reform submissions and parliamentary inquiries, including as a media spokesperson on national television (7.30 Report) and radio appearances.
- Research Associate**, Australian Human Rights Centre, UNSW January 2015 August 2017
- Research assistance for Australian Research Council project ‘Combating sexual violence against women post-conflict through ‘transformative’ reparations: problems and prospects’, focusing on comparative perspectives in South Africa, Peru, Guatemala, Japan, Timor-Leste and Sierra Leone.
- Solicitor**, Cater & Blumer (Griffith, NSW) October 2013 May 2014; March August 2015
- Solicitor-advocate in the NSW Local and District Courts in criminal law matters.
- Law Clerk to Chief Justice Mogoeng**, Constitutional Court of South Africa June December 2014  
Johannesburg, South Africa
- High-level legal research tasks on issues relating to South African constitutional law as well as memoranda on comparative jurisprudence.
  - Prepared summaries and analysis of parties’ submissions, contributed to the preparation of drafts of decisions, orders and parts of judgments; speech writing.
- Law Clerk to Vice-President Tarfusser**, International Criminal Court April September 2013  
The Hague, The Netherlands
- Working in both French and English, produced high-level legal research regarding substantive and procedural questions of international criminal law and international humanitarian law, including appellate processes, focusing on the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya.
  - Managed documentary evidence, including analysis of evidence and victims’ testimony.
- Intern**, Centre for Applied Legal Studies January March 2013  
Johannesburg, South Africa
- Evidence analysis for the legal team participating in the Marikana Commission of Inquiry representing the South African Human Rights Commission.

## Selected publications

- [‘50 Human Rights Cases that Changed Australia’](#), *Federation Press*, with Hamish McLachlan. Foreword by Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG. February 2023
- [‘A legislative vacuum: the healthcare crisis in onshore immigration detention’](#), *Court of Conscience* 16:45. December 2022
- [“Travelling with Durbach: Notes from a trip to South Africa researching reparations for victims of sexual violence”](#), *Australian Journal of Human Rights* 27:3, 591-596. February 2022
- [‘Healthcare denied: Medevac and the long wait for essential medical treatment in Australian immigration detention’](#), *Public Interest Advocacy Centre*. December 2021
- [‘A long road to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence: the case of Dominic Ongwen’](#), *ILA Reporter*. February 2021
- [‘Compensation Is Not Enough – Afghan Victims Are Entitled Other Forms of Reparation’](#), *Opinio Juris*. December 2020
- [‘Policy Brief: UNSCR 1325 at 20: Past challenges and Future Possibilities of Implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda’](#), *Legal Action Worldwide Policy Brief Series*. December 2020

- [‘Universal jurisdiction to the rescue: a way forward for victims of Franco-era crimes of gender-based violence?’](#) *Oxford Human Rights Hub Blog*. January 2019
- [‘To shape our own lives and our own world: exploring the impact of women’s hearings on reparations for victims of sexual violence post-conflict’](#), *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 21:9, 1261-1280 (co-author with A. Durbach). August 2017

### Conference/workshop presentations/guest lectures, by invitation

- Participant in Expert Roundtable on reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, co-hosted by Matrix Chambers (UK) and REDRESS. November 2023
- Chair of ‘Healthcare Denied in Australian Immigration Detention’ forum, with Craig Foster, Thanush Selvarasa and Guy Coffey as speakers. December 2021
- *‘Memorialisation through art-making: possibilities for reparative truth-telling for women in Sri Lanka’*, presented at Performing Violence; Engendering Change conference, the London School of Economics. November 2021
- *‘Strategic Approaches to Influencing Change’*, guest lecture for Diplomacy Training Programme/DFAT course ‘Human Rights Leadership to Influence Policy’. September 2021
- *‘Strategic advocacy and human rights lawyering’*, guest lecture for UNSW LLB subject ‘International Human Rights Law’. March 2021
- *‘Gender and Transitional Justice’*, taught as part of the Advanced Diploma of Transitional Justice, Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies Sri Lanka. November 2019
- *‘The politics of absence and localisation of the Australian Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan: consequences and ways forward for settler-colonial states’*, presented at the SSSHARC Global Symposium on Gender, (In)Security, and Temporalities of Violence, University of Sydney. September 2019
- *‘Reparations for gendered harm in settler-colonial landscapes: decolonial prospects and possibilities’*, presented at Queen’s University Belfast workshop ‘Redressing Historical Institutional Abuse and Sexual Violence in Transitional Societies’. June 2019
- *‘Universal jurisdiction as a site of transitional justice: a new avenue of redress for Franco-era gendered harm’*, presented at University of Birmingham two-day conference ‘Memories of political violence, transitional justice and Europe across time and place: Interdisciplinary perspectives’. April 2019
- *‘Transitional Justice and transformative reparations for gendered harm’*, presented at the Women, Peace and Security Salon, The London School of Economics and Political Science. December 2018

### Awards

- Victoria Legal Aid “Everyday Human Rights Hero” 2017
- Victoria Legal Aid Civil Justice “Facaco” Award, awarded to a lawyer who embodies the Victoria Legal Aid values of fairness, care and courage 2017
- UNSW Law Faculty Overseas Travel Scholarship to study a subject in human rights law at Columbia University 2012