

**PHILIP D. JAFFÉ**

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**Member, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**

**Center for Children's Rights Studies • University of Geneva**  
18 chemin de l'Institut • 1967 Bramois - Sion (Valais) • Switzerland

Date and Place of Birth : 9 October 1958, Port-of-Spain (Trinidad & Tobago)  
Nationality : Switzerland (Canton of Ticino)  
Marital Status : Married, two children (Zachary 2012, Jasper 2009)  
Language Skills : French, English, Italian (native fluency),  
German, Spanish (working knowledge)

***DEFINING PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL INTERESTS AND QUALITIES***

My vision has always been to branch out beyond the requirements for a successful academic career and to engage in the community at large as an educator, a health practitioner and in the service of upholding and promoting human rights. On a personal level, I am a strategic rapport-building and non-confrontational listener, yet media-savvy and action-oriented. Despite being a self-proclaimed and recognized workaholic, my focus has been to invest heavily into fatherhood, widen my children's horizons, and contribute to their future fulfilling lives.

***CURRENT POSITIONS***

- 2025- Chair, Supervisory Board, Child Helpline International
- 2019- Member (former Vice-chair), UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- head of task force for multiple reviews of States Parties and corresponding Concluding observations
  - coordinator of the working groups for two CRC General comments (#25 on children's rights and the digital environment and #26 on children's rights and the environment)
  - examination of complaints under the Optional protocol on communications (OPIC)
  - representation in a myriad of international fora (HRC, COP27, conferences), country visits, engagement with civil society and human rights defenders
  - social media focal point
- 2008- Professor Emeritus (formerly Full Professor), University of Geneva, cofounder and former Director, Center for Children's Rights Studies:
- directing and teaching in a wide offer of degree and continuing education programs in English such as the Massive Online Open Course *Children's Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Introduction* (over 70'000 participants), yearly editions of the Summer School *Children at the Heart of Human Rights*, , etc.
  - conducting and participating in research programs, organizing national and international conferences on various aspects of human rights



## **STUDIES AND CLINICAL TRAINING**

- 1978-83 Licence and Diploma Psychology- Univ. of Fribourg and Univ. of Geneva, Switzerland  
1983-88 Master of Arts and Doctor of Psychology *with distinction*, Ferkauf Graduate School, NYC, USA

Advanced training in clinical and forensic psychology: Bellevue Hospital, New York University; McLean Hospital, Harvard University, Cambridge; Bridgewater State Hospital, Massachusetts; Psychiatric Policlinic, University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 1994- Private practice as a psychotherapist and court-appointed expert (civil and criminal cases involving children and their families), Geneva, Switzerland  
1994-04 Senior psychologist, Head of psychologists, Division of Penitentiary Medicine, University Hospital Geneva, Switzerland (previously Institute of Legal Medicine)  
1988-92 Psychologist and (1989-92) Director of a maximum-security unit of 59 beds for mentally ill dangerous patients, court-appointed expert, Bridgewater State Hospital, Massachusetts, USA.

Since 1992, numerous mandates, research programs, as well as clinical and training consultancies for the International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Médecins sans frontières (MSF), Terre des hommes - Aide à l'enfance (Tdh), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Council of Europe (CoE), with missions to Albania, Armenia, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Nepal, Palestine, Philippines, Russia, Samoa, Senegal, South Africa, Vanuatu, etc.

## **CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS (selection)**

- 2020- *Club diplomatique*, Geneva.  
2012-24 *Pro Juventute*, Board member  
2010-22 *Swiss Center for Expertise in Human Rights*, (founding) Board member  
2009-10 Group of experts drafting the Council of Europe *Child-Friendly Justice Guidelines*  
2008-23 *International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE)*, Board member  
1998- *Swiss Society of Legal Psychology* (Founder and Past President, 1998-08)

**For an (almost up-to-date) academic CV, a list of roughly 250 publications and circa 700 conferences please consult the [website](#).**