

A portrait of Rita Izsák-NDIAYE, a woman with dark braided hair, wearing a black jacket over a purple and white floral top. She has her arms crossed and is looking directly at the camera against a dark background.

IZSÁK-NDIAYE Rita

Hungarian Candidate to
the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
(CERD) for 2018-2021

SHORT BIO

IZSÁK-NDIAYE Rita (Hungary) has been working on human rights since her university years. Her main fields of focus are the elimination of racial discrimination and protection of minorities. She has been inspired by her own experiences of prejudice and discrimination, due to her partly Roma origin. Currently, she is serving her sixth and final year as UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, which function she assumed on 1st August 2011 as then Independent Expert on minority issues. Ms Izsák-Ndiaye holds a Masters in Law diploma from the Péter Pázmány Catholic University,



Budapest, Hungary. She started her career in the Budapest-based European Roma Rights Center and later became a Consultant with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Open Society Institute, the Roma Education Fund, the Association for Women's Rights in Development and the Center for European Studies, among others. She worked in Hargeisa, Somaliland/ Somalia with the Somaliland National Youth Organization, and in Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe. She

was the Chief of Staff of the Minister of State for Social Inclusion of the Hungarian Ministry of Justice and Public Administration and was responsible for several key priorities under Hungary's EU Presidency, including the establishment of the European Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. Between 2011 and spring 2013, Ms Izsák-Ndiaye was the President and CEO of the Tom Lantos Institute based in Budapest, Hungary, a research institute on human rights and minority rights. She is married with two children and is based in Dakar, Senegal.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Ms Izsák-Ndiaye is globally known as an extremely committed and devoted human rights advocate who has been closely working with victim groups, NGOs, governments and international organizations to better protect the rights of disadvantaged, discriminated and impoverished communities, with a special attention to children and women. Ms- Izsák-Ndiaye has been actively working in the areas of conflict and mass atrocity prevention, the responsibility to protect and humanitarian affairs. Her reports on criminal justice systems, humanitarian crises, hate speech and on the post-2015 development agenda played an important role in understanding the challenges of minorities in these areas. Some of her landmark reports, such as on discrimination based on caste and analogous systems of inherited status or on the human rights situation of Roma worldwide, helped the international community and others gain more knowledge on the situation of these particularly vulnerable groups. Ms Izsák-Ndiaye's official visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ukraine, Brazil, Iraq, Republic of Moldova and Sri Lanka enabled all population groups to have their voices heard and



resulted in important recommendations for better cohesion and unity of these societies. She is also well recognized for her important work in successfully guiding the work of the UN Forum on Minority Issues during 2011-2016. Her workshops, lectures and public speeches in Banjul, Brasília, Doha, Istanbul, Manila, Tokyo, New York, Oslo or San José de Costa Rica (/without being exhaustive) helped decision-makers, activists, journalists and students to advance and to have a better understanding of international, regional and national human rights protection mechanisms. We firmly believe that with her dedication, expertise and unique skills, also based on her own multicultural, multireligious and multiracial life style/way of life, Ms Rita Izsák-Ndiaye is an outstanding and excellent candidate to the CERD Committee and will make an important contribution to the work and successes of the Committee.