COMMISSIONERS OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AT OXFAM

The remit of the High Level Independent Commission on Sexual Misconduct, Accountability and Culture Change at Oxfam is to conduct a confederation-wide review of Oxfam’s culture; accountability; and safeguarding policies, procedures, and practices.

The Commission is led by nine independent experts who represent a cross-section of civil society, government, multilateral institutions, international organizations, and the private sector. The commissioners all have deep expertise in forensic accounting, human resources, humanitarian protection, women’s rights, survivor support, law, and civil society. Their different yet complementary areas of expertise ensured a holistic and innovative approach to carrying out their mandate.

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CO-CHAIRS: ZAINAB BANGURA AND KATHERINE SIERRA

ZAINAB BANGURA

Ms. Bangura served as the Special Representative of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, with the rank of Under-Secretary-General of the UN.

She is a former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone. She is an experienced human and women’s rights activist and has a long-standing commitment to accountability and anti-corruption work.

She was a founder of the Campaign for Good Governance (CGG) and the National Accountability Group (NAG) in Sierra Leone.

“I have long admired the work of aid agencies; whose staff often risk their lives to help those in terribly difficult situations. As a Commissioner I put the survivors of abuse at the heart of our inquiries as we work to understand how the aid sector can become a safer place for all.”

KATHERINE SIERRA

Ms. Sierra is a non-resident senior fellow in Global Economy and Development at The Brookings Institute, an American research group, and has served in executive roles at the World Bank including Vice-President for Infrastructure, Vice-President for Sustainable Development and Vice-President for Human Resources.

Ms. Sierra has more than 30 years’ experience as a development professional. She co-led the World Bank’s Global Task Force to Tackle Gender-Based Violence in World Bank supported projects, following the sexual misconduct scandal at a large World Bank infrastructure project in Uganda.

“As Commissioners, we believe it is completely unacceptable for humanitarian and development organizations to allow the abuse of power and exploitation of their own staff and of the communities they serve. We want Oxfam, and other organisations in the humanitarian and development sector, to build inclusive and supportive cultures governed by mutual trust and where everyone feels they can speak up and be heard.”
THE COMMISSIONERS

JAMES COTTRELL

Mr. Cottrell, a Director at the US based international law firm of Holland & Knight LLP, is also a retired Deloitte US partner and most recently served as the Deloitte Global Chief Ethics Officer.

He is an international governance, ethics and transparency specialist who has co-chaired the UN Global Compact Committee on Anti-Corruption and also served as a member of the World Economic Forum’s anti-corruption initiative.

As a forensic accountant, he has led over 150 investigations and reviews for different organizations, including international NGOs.

He sits on a wide range of boards around the world and has focused on gender and age-sensitive issues throughout his career.

DR MUSIMBI KANYORO

Dr Musimbi Kanyoro is President and CEO of Global Fund for Women, a publicly-supported Women’s Fund for gender equality with connection to more than 5000 women led organizations and networks in 175 countries represented in all regions of the World.

A Kenyan with more than 30 years’ experience leading International Organizations, Musimbi has a wealth of firsthand experience working globally on human rights issues including gender based violence.

She has served as staff, Board member or Committee Member of humanitarian organizations, Philanthropic foundations, multilateral Institutions, Women and Girl’s Organizations and Ecumenical Organizations. Examples include, CARE, Lutheran World Federation, David and Lucille Packard Foundation, World YWCA, UN Women, UNAIDS, World Health Organization, World Bank, World Council of Churches, World Association of Christian Communication and World Association of Girls Guides.

BIRGITTA OHLSSON

Ms. Ohlsson is a Swedish politician who served as Minister for European Union Affairs from 2010–2014. She also served as a member of the Swedish Parliament from 2002–2018.

Ms. Ohlsson has served as a board member for SIDA and as Chair of the Federation of Liberal Women in Sweden.

She has over 20 years of strong public commitment to multilateralism, democracy, human rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and feminism in politics and the media.
RT HON SIR OLIVER HEALD QC MP

Sir Oliver was first elected as Member of Parliament (North East Hertfordshire) in 1992. He practised as a barrister for over twenty years, specialising in employment law.

Sir Oliver has served as a Minister for three Prime Ministers: John Major, David Cameron and Theresa May. As Her Majesty’s Solicitor General (2012–2014) he superintended the Crown Prosecution Service.

He has a longstanding interest in human rights and has served on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Legal Affairs, Equalities and Rules Committees.

From 2008–2012 he was a member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life and from 2010–2012 he also sat on the House of Commons Standards Committee.

In November 2014, he was awarded a Knighthood by the Queen in recognition of his political service over the past 22 years.

Sir Oliver returned to Government when Prime Minister Theresa May appointed him Minister of State for Justice with responsibility for Human Rights.

MARIE-LAURENCE LASSÈGUE

Ms. Lassègue manages International IDEA’s programme to support democratic consolidation in Haiti. She works to strengthen political parties, parliamentary structures and electoral processes.

She has formerly served twice as Minister of Culture and Communication of the Republic of Haiti, and twice as Minister of Women Affairs and Gender Issues.

In 1995, she was Secretary-General of the Haitian Electoral Council (CEP). In 2005, she was voted “Personality of the Year” by Le Matin, one of Haiti’s two daily newspapers.

In 2016, she was decorated by the Haitian Parliament for her courage, perseverance, and commitment to the rights of women, and for international IDEA’s parliamentary support.
KATHARINA SAMARA-WICKRAMA

Ms. Samara-Wickrama is Director of the Issues Affecting Women Programme (IAWP) at Oak Foundation.

She is an Australian lawyer with over 25 years of experience in the humanitarian sector and has worked for the Division of International Protection, the Senior Advisor on Refugee Women and Gender Equality Unit, and for the Inspector General of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

She has worked extensively with NGOs on prevention and response in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries, and to ensure programmatic accountability to communities affected by conflict and crisis.

SHANNON MOUILLESSEAUX

Ms. Mouillesseaux is a humanitarian consultant based in New York. She has 15 years’ experience working in the humanitarian and development sectors in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, including 10 years at the Division of International Protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Ms. Mouillesseaux has devoted a large part of her career to advocate for survivors of sexual abuse in the humanitarian and development sectors. She is herself a survivor.

Ms. Mouillesseaux developed iSurvived, an advocacy and support group available to 10,000 UN staff survivors of kidnappings, bombings and related traumatic events. She is also the founder, developer and writer of www.globalaidworker.org, an internet platform to inform aid workers of security and protection risks and foster peer support, notably in isolated locations/post-trauma. Site content is used in MA university courses in the US and the UK, and in humanitarian security trainings and UNHCR emergency mission trainings.