

CV of Ben Schonveld

Personal Details

Name: Benjamin Schonveld
Date of birth: 03/04/68
Nationality: British
Education: BA Honours Political Economy (Upper Second), Thames Polytechnic, 1988
Diploma in Education: Economics and Computing, Thames Polytechnic, 1988
Diploma in Non-Governmental Management, Open University, 1996
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Highlights

- Over 15 years' experience of advising governments, inter-governmental, regional (EU) bodies and NGOs on policy and strategy in the fields of conflict, human rights, governance and democracy
- Expert in analysing and developing complex institutional and cross departmental responses to conflict/post conflict in highly polarised operating environments
- In depth knowledge of formal and informal UN peacekeeping, political and human rights mechanisms both at headquarters and in field operations
- In depth knowledge of UK government department workings as well the international NGO world and their interface
- Expert in evaluating human rights impact of policy and proposed activities
- Experience in working with MOD (UK Ministry of Defence) in Security Sector Reform
- Experienced project manager
- Detailed knowledge of the practical application of international human rights and humanitarian law in peace and conflict/post conflict transition situations
- Expert in project and programme assessment, design evaluation and monitoring
- Experienced in direct inter-governmental negotiation

Detailed Experience Statement

Current

Own Company - Marchmont Consulting Pty, Sydney

As a consultant based in Sydney Australia the contracts have included:

- Strategic Adviser to the Country Representative Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Nepal to provide strategic guidance on institutional direction and policy advice (October-end December 2007) including transitional justice;

- Regular missions to Nepal for the UK Foreign and Commonwealth office (UK Foreign Ministry FCO) to provide analysis and policy advice on the impact on human rights of the ongoing conflict and the post conflict transition;
- Mission for the FCO to provide policy and project advice on human rights in Papua New Guinea and the wider pacific region;
- Regular project evaluation and assessment of EU human rights, democracy and conflict/post conflict transition budget lines;
- Consultant Policy Adviser to the Asian Centre for Human Rights(ACHR) advising on Maoist conflict in India, and conflict in Indian North Eastern States, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Providing ACHR with capacity building in advocacy, legal media and communications skills
- Providing practical training in civil society strengthening to a diverse range of NGO's in North East India

**September 2005 – January 2007 and September 2001 – March 2004
British Embassy Nepal, First Secretary (Human Rights)**

A wide ranging role providing policy and project advice to represented UK departments (FCO, DfID and MOD) on human rights, conflict, democracy and governance including:

Policy, Strategy, Advocacy

- Advising the Embassy on UN relations: designed and gained cross-departmental and UK Ministerial agreement for UK strategy with regard to human rights and conflict. The major outcome of this work was the introduction of UN human rights monitors in Nepal and more recently securing, (in collaboration with others) a significant UN Peace Mission
- Advising the Embassy on compliance with international human rights law
- Provided specific training and strategic guidance on UK policy response to transitional justice
- Analysing the human rights patterns of conflict and transitional period and making practical policy recommendations to UK officials on the impact on democracy and governance
- Advising Defence Section on its work in Security Sector Reform
- Fact finding field missions to monitor and assess political, conflict and human rights developments at district and local levels

Project Management and Institutional Reform

- Advising the Nepal National Human Rights Commission on its response to the emerging conflict. Very substantial reforms were implemented. The results led to a dramatic rise in the profile and credibility of the organisation
- Chairing a cross departmental conflict prevention group (MOD, DfID and FCO) co-ordinating £12m project spend
- Managing a wide range of diverse projects through the full range of project management cycle tasks

**August 2004 – August 2005
Own Company**

As a consultant based in Sydney Australia the contracts included:

- Regular missions to Nepal for the FCO to provide analysis and policy advice on the impact on human rights of the ongoing conflict and post conflict period
- Regular project evaluation and assessment of EU human rights, democracy and conflict budget lines

June - July 2005

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Political Officer (P4)

As the Political Officer for the Bamiyan region the tasks included:

- Monitoring and analysis of political events and actors
- Daily drafting of political analysis
- Fact finding field missions to monitor and assess political, conflict and human rights developments at district and local levels
- Human rights monitoring, investigation missions and reporting on specific human rights violations

February 2000 – December 2000

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, First Secretary (Human Rights)

A wide-ranging role advising and providing support to Ministers and officials on policy and strategy in relation to human rights, democracy and governance; organising and delivering human rights training; evaluating projects; In particular:

Policy and Strategy

- Designing and implementing the FCO's international strategy against torture
- Designing and implementing the FCO's international strategy on the rights of the child
- Designing and implementing a range of human rights training courses for FCO staff
- Mainstreaming human rights throughout FCO, drawing together human rights and promotion of democracy work
- Advising on bilateral human rights dialogues with other governments
- Representing the UK at a range of international human rights for a
- Reviewing country strategies submitted by FCO posts
- Co-ordinating country strategies with other government departments

Projects

- Member of Human Rights Project Funds board (preceded the FCO Global Opportunities Fund), evaluating project proposals
- Advising on and vetting proposals for funding projects submitted by FCO posts and NGOs
- Monitoring and evaluating projects funded by FCO, including carrying out country visits

Training and Development

- Developing, supervising and participating in delivery of FCO's human rights training courses

January 2001 – July 2001

European Human Rights Foundation, Co-ordinating Projects Manager

Based in Brussels as the technical support office to the European Commission, as the co-ordinating manager of a small team the tasks included:

Project Management

- Managing the EU 2001 Call for Proposals – Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture budget (€12m)
- Developing in-depth experience of in the preparation of terms of reference for service contracts and technical annexes for supply and/or work contracts for the EU in the context of assistance to third countries
- Managing the full cycle of project management tasks of the European Union's global thematic sectors; i.e. Democracy, Human Rights and Civil Society, as well as Conflict Prevention/Resolution (budget value €12m)
- Managing a team of 4 permanent staff and 12 external expert consultants
- Monitoring and evaluating projects funded by the EU, including carrying out country visits

Policy and Strategy

- Advising the European Commission on a range of thematic issues related to human rights, democracy and conflict
- Carrying out field missions to investigate and research the impact on human rights of various policies and programmes

August 1993 — January 2000

The World Organisation Against Torture, Charge de Mission

Based in Geneva as the UN representative and manager (both in New York and Geneva) the post included a very wide range of managerial, policy, project management and fund raising tasks, including:

Policy and Strategy

- Lobbying UN mechanisms and member states – this included advocacy against the death penalty
- Analysing national legislation in terms of international human rights compliance
- Designing and implementation of the strategic realignment of the organisation
- Drafting written and oral briefings to wide range of media, government and intergovernmental organisations

Project Management and Fund Raising

- Institutional fund raising and project reporting to a wide range of bilateral donors
- Managing organisation's urgent appeals, child rights and human rights defender projects

In March 1998, promoted to Charge de Mission and opened a representation office in Brussels. This position entailed:

- Managing a small staff team
- Establishing a new office
- Leading a coalition of civil society organisations with the goal of winning significant reform of the management and policy of the EU human rights budget line
- Advising the External Affairs Commissioner of the EC on human rights strategy

References

Available on request

