

Special Adviser on Crimes Against Humanity

Short Bio. | Prof. Leila Nadya Sadat



Prof. Leila Nadya Sadat is the James Carr Professor of International Criminal Law and longtime Director of the *Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute* at Washington University School of Law. She served as Special Adviser on Crimes Against Humanity to the former Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Mrs Fatou Bensouda from 2012-2021. Prof. Sadat is an internationally recognised authority writing on public international law, international criminal law, human rights, and foreign affairs, and has published more than 150 articles, essays, and reports and 10 books in leading journals, academic presses, and media outlets throughout the world. She is a co-author of leading textbooks on international law and international criminal law.

Her award-winning scholarship includes *The International Criminal Court and the Transformation of International Law* (Brill 2002), *Never Again: Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity* (Cambridge 2011), and *Seeking Accountability for the Unlawful Use of Force* (Cambridge 2016). *Never Again: Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity* was the laureate of four film festivals. In Spring 2011, she became the first woman to hold the Alexis de Tocqueville Distinguished Fulbright Chair in Paris, France, and in 2017 received an Honorary Doctorate from Northwestern University as well as the Arthur Holly Compton Faculty Achievement Award from Washington University, the highest distinction awarded to any Washington University faculty member excluding the medical school. In Fall 2021, she will be a visiting Senior Scholar at Yale Law School.

Prof. Sadat is the Director of the Crimes Against Humanity Initiative. This ground-breaking project wrote the world's first global treaty on crimes against humanity. This effort bore fruit with the adoption of articles for a new convention by the UN International Law Commission in 2019 that are pending before the UN General Assembly's Sixth Committee. In 2017, she started the Gun Violence and Human Rights Initiative, examining the U.S. gun violence crisis from a human rights perspective. She recently published a report on COVID-19, international law and global governance that was submitted to the World Health Organization as part of its comprehensive review of the response to the pandemic. Prof. Sadat often serves as an expert in private and public litigation and consults with leading NGOs.

She is the President of the International Law Association (American Branch), a Counsellor of the American Society of International Law, Chair-Elect of the American Association of Law Schools Section on International Law, a member of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations and the American Law Institute.

Prof. Sadat clerked on the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the French *Cour de Cassation* and *Conseil d'Etat*, and holds law degrees from Columbia University, Tulane University, and the University of Paris-Sorbonne.

