

Special Adviser on Sexual Violence in Conflict

Short Bio. | Prof. Kim Thuy Seelinger



Prof. Kim Thuy Seelinger is an expert on sexual violence in the context of armed conflict and forced displacement. Prof. Seelinger's teaching and scholarship focus on the complexities of providing protection from, and accountability for, conflict-related sexual violence. Drawing from her legal and social science research in over a dozen countries, Prof. Seelinger provides technical assistance to international and national actors working on war crimes trials, legislative reform, and support services for survivors. At the policy level, she served as an inaugural member of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' Advisory Group on Gender, Forced Displacement, and Protection and an expert commentator on the *International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict* (2014, 2017).

She co-founded the *Missing Peace Initiative*, which connects academics, policymakers, and practitioners focused on conflict-related sexual violence. Prof. Seelinger chairs the Board of *Civitas Maxima*, a Geneva-based organisation that conducts war crimes investigations in partnership with African human rights defenders, and serves as technical advisor to the Global Survivors' Fund, established by 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winners Dr Denis Mukwege and Ms Nadia Murad. Prof. Seelinger's writing appears in peer-reviewed and mainstream journals, including the *Journal of International Criminal Justice*, the *California Law Review* (online), the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*, *Foreign Affairs*, the *Washington Post*, and *PLOS*

Medicine. She has authored several book chapters focused on the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence as an international crime, and is a co-editor of *The President on Trial: Prosecuting Hissène Habré* from Oxford University Press. She has won various honours for her teaching and service, including a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Residency in 2015.

At Washington University in St. Louis, Prof. Seelinger is a Research Associate Professor at the *Brown School of Social Work, Public Health and Social Policy*, as well as a Visiting Professor at the School of Law. She also directs the *Center for Human Rights, Gender, and Migration* at the *Institute for Public Health*. Prior to joining Washington University in 2019, she taught at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, where she directed the award-winning *Sexual Violence Program* at the *Human Rights Center* from 2010-2019.

She earned her JD from New York University School of Law and began her legal career representing low-income immigrants and survivors of gender-based violence. She remains an active member of the New York State bar.

