



Evelien Wauters

PHD RESEARCHER, HUMAN RIGHTS AND
REFUGEE LAW EXPERT

Personalia

Published lawyer with over 4 years of experience in the field working on women's and refugee rights. Innovator at heart and a team player recognised for management and interpersonal skills, and a problem-solving mindset.

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🌐 [Evelien Wauters](#)

Education

PhD in International Law
KU Leuven, Belgium, 2016-2020 (ongoing)

Advanced Master in Human Rights (Master de spécialisation en droits de l'homme)
Université de Saint-Louis, Belgium, 2018

Master of Laws - Magna Cum Laude
KU Leuven, 2016
Master's thesis: "EU border agency Frontex and Human Rights"

Certificate of Legal Studies - Magna Cum Laude
King's College London, United Kingdom, 2015

Bachelor of Laws - Cum Laude
KU Leuven, 2014

Latin and Modern Languages (High School)
Sint-Godelieve-Instituut Lennik, Belgium, 2011

Training

Certificate Humanitarian Field Work Training and Gender Mainstreaming
Women Refugee Route, Greece, 2017

Summer School on EU Migration and Asylum Law and Policy (Ecole d'été Odysseus 'Droit et politique de l'immigration et de l'asile de l'UE')
Free University of Brussels, Belgium, 2019
(Coordinator of the French language group)

UNHCR Self-Study Modules (online), 2020
Protection Starter Kit (including Refugee Status Determination, Country of Origin Information, SGBV Prevention and Response, and Statelessness), and Emergency registration in refugee operations

Experience

LEGAL OFFICER

Women Refugee Route (WRR) (Denmark)
January 2017 - ...

- Training and education

Developed training curricula on GBV, self-care, human rights, gender mainstreaming, refugee-volunteer relationship, etc. Facilitated modules on human rights and gender for volunteers and displaced persons (in emergency settings).

- Data collection and policy work

Drafted policy papers and represented the NGO (eg, at GCM process in New York) on the topic of refugee women's rights and participation in decision-making.

Contributed to legal briefs for asylum appeals in Belgium.

- Fundraising and project implementation

Successfully applied for 10+ grants, among others with Open Society Foundations and the EU, and oversaw their implementation and evaluation, in close cooperation with refugee women in our network ('alumni network').

- Organisational development, capacity-building and management

Supervised and supported teams, organised meetings, and developed work plans and strategy. Networked with partner organisations and government for fundraising, collective advocacy, and data collection. Organised team capacity-building on the Global Compact on Migration and Global Compact on Refugees processes.

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Leuven Centre For Global Governance Studies (Belgium)
October 2016 - September 2020
Prof Dr Jan Wouters (promotor)

- Data collection and legal writing

Designed and implemented a successful PhD project on responsibility sharing between states in the protection of refugees and displaced persons.

Drafted and published academic articles and studies (including for the European Parliament and the Council of Europe); held presentations at conferences and workshops on said topics.

- Supervision and project management

Supervised and supported a team of authors for an international handbook project for Oxford University Press; a team of researchers for case law reporting as part of the Oxford ILDC project.

- Teaching and coaching

Taught a thematic tutorial to master students as an introduction to international refugee law; teaching public international law classes to bachelor and master students.

Coached master students in the writing of their thesis (topics related to asylum and migration); coached pioneer university students (first generation to go to university).

- Fundraising

Drafted research project proposals (including a successful Horizon 2020 proposal).

Languages

Dutch: Native language

French: C1

English: C1

Spanish: A2

German: A2

Arabic: A1-A2

Key Publications (Academic and Policy)

- Jaf, M., Johanssen, S., and Wauters, E.,
'Don't Abandon Migrant and Refugee Women during the COVID-19 Crisis'
Ms. Magazine (15 April 2020).
- Cogolati, S., Wauters, E.,
'Crossing the Mediterranean Sea: EU Migration Policies and Human Rights'
in N. Vavoula, V. Vistilegas and V. Moreno-Lax,
Securitisating Asylum Flows: Deflection, Criminalisation and Challenges for Human Rights
(Brill, Leiden) (2020).
- Wouters, J., Wauters, E.,
'The UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Some Reflections'
in *Liber Amicorum Prof. Paul Lemmens* (Intersentia, Antwerp 2019).
- Wauters, E., Wouters J.,
'Moeders en kinderen van Syriëstrijders: over de volkenrechtelijke verplichtingen van de Belgische Staat'
(2019) | *Tijdschrift voor Jeugd- en Kinderrechten* 72.
- Marx, A., Wouters, J., Bright, C.,
'Study on Access to legal remedies for victims of corporate human rights abuses in third countries'
(European Parliament, February 2019).
- Jaf, M., Wauters, E., Sidenius, K., Notebaert, A.,
'Breaking Stereotypes: Structural change for female refugee advocates'
OECD Forum (29 March 2018).
- Wauters, E., Andersen, K., Roth, R., Notebaert, A.,
'Making the invisible visible – why EU policy makers need to address unequal access of refugee and migrant women to services, information, representation and decision making power'
Friends of Europe (31 October 2017).
- Wauters, E.,
"Europe: fortress, or beacon of human rights?"
The role of the EU Border Agency in the European Union's Border Policy
and its Impact on the Fundamental Rights of Migrants'
2016-2017 *Jura Falconis* 53 (3).

Find the complete academic list at: <http://lirias.kuleuven.be/cv?Username=U0112180>

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANT

Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Belgium)

March 2016 – August 2016

- Data collection and policy work

Wrote, among others, the ROE-OHCHR position papers on the drafting of the new Frontex Regulation.

- Networking with partner organisations and officials

Coordinated, among others, advocacy on the new Frontex regulation with our interlocutors in the European Parliament.

LINGUISTIC EDITOR

The European Law Students' Association (Belgium)

2014-2015

- Research and editing

Edited ELSA report on the Protection of Journalistic Sources in Belgium, written at the request of the Council of Europe and published in July 2016.

LEGAL ASSISTANT

Office of the Belgian State Secretary for Asylum and Migration

August 2015 – September 2015

- Data collection and policy work

Conducted research and wrote briefings on legal issues within the field of asylum and migration for the drafting of new legislation, the possible adoption of ad hoc measures, etc.

- Legal writing and counselling

Drafted answers to legal questions by individuals or state officials sent to the Office (often individual cases).

VOLUNTEER LEGAL ADVICE

Refugee Action Flanders (Belgium)

May 2015 – December 2015

- Protection monitoring and information management

Monitored the arrival of new asylum-seekers: their number, demographics and protection needs.

Managed the said information, and briefed superiors.

- Legal Writing

Contributed to legal briefs for asylum appeals in Belgium.

- Legal Counseling

Gave information about the Belgian asylum procedure to newly arrived asylum-seekers.

ASSISTANT PRO BONO CASES

Nelissen Grade Leuven (Belgium)

Mid November 2013 – May 2014

- Case management

Kept an overview of the information and legal steps taken in clients' cases (asylum cases, family law cases, criminal law cases, etc.).

- Legal writing

Contributed to legal briefs in asylum, family and criminal law cases.