

## LIV HALPERIN GERSTEIN

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Swiss, Canadian, Israeli  
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Married +2



## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Economic Cooperation Foundation (ECF Thinktank):** 04.2021 – current, Tel Aviv, Israel

Director, Research and Policy

- Develops policy on the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Initiates and takes part in Israeli-Palestinian Track II negotiations.

### **Embassy of Switzerland:** 08.2011 – 03.2021, Tel Aviv, Israel

Senior Advisor (Political and Legal Affairs)

- Advised the Ambassador and the Deputy Head of Mission on political and legal issues. This included maintaining up-to-date and comprehensive knowledge of the political and legislative landscape, key players and emerging trends.
- Identified, built and maintained relationships with relevant Israeli and Palestinian partners/NGOs, for cooperation in Embassy-led and other peace promotion, mediation and human rights initiatives, in collaboration with the Human Security Advisor based in Ramallah.
- Contributed to the design, development and implementation of strategies of the Embassy, the Representative Office in Ramallah, and the Swiss Development Agency in East Jerusalem.

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):** 01.2009 – 07.2011, Tel Aviv, Israel

Community Services Associate, 02.2011 – 07.2011

- Built and coordinated UNHCR's "Community Services" Unit dealing with asylum seekers/refugees' access to basic rights and services in Israel; managed staff of four.
- Supported Israeli authorities and partner organizations to increase services for asylum seekers/refugees. Developed UNHCR's strategy related to sexual and gender-based violence, child protection, and psycho-social health.

Protection Associate, 01.2009 – 01.2011

- Oversaw the establishment of a national asylum procedure and facilitated the handover of Refugee Status Determination responsibilities from UNHCR to the Government of Israel.
- Coordinated training activities for external stakeholders: military and detention authorities, judges, lawyers and NGOs.
- Prepared legal assessments, defended cases before National Status Granting Body.
- Engaged in protection activities in detention centers.

### **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):** 2004 - 2008

Protection Delegate/ Regional Protection Coordination, 02-06.2008, Medellin, Colombia

- Promoted respect for IHL: visited detained persons and affected civilian population, oral/written interventions to relevant authorities;
- Liaised with weapon carriers and regional authorities, negotiated access to restricted areas and evacuation of wounded combatants.

**Protection Field Delegate, 09.2006 – 12.2007, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

- Represented ICRC to Haitian authorities, as well as NGOs, media and donors. Negotiated with gang leaders and UN peacekeepers.
- Coordinated programs in violence-affected shantytowns; monitored treatment/conditions of detention in civilian prisons and police stations; oral/written interventions at all levels.

**Tracing Field Delegate, 07.2005 – 07.2006, Lubango, Angola**

- Coordinated ICRC tracing programs (unaccompanied minors, family reunifications).
- Promoted tracing and International Humanitarian Law to traditional, local and religious authorities, political parties and members of Army and Police.

**Research Assistant, 04.2004 - 04.2005, Geneva, Switzerland**

- Conducted research and analysis on various geographical and thematic conflict-related issues. Organized seminars on International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

**International Center for Migration and Health: 11.2003 – 03.2004, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Project Manager**

- Managed a study on migrants/refugees' access to social and health services.
- Moderated focus groups; interviewed health/social workers and migrants.

**World Relief – Fundo de Credito Comunitario: 06-08.2003, Maputo/Nampula, Mozambique**

**Program Evaluator and Analyst**

- Evaluated micro-credit programs targeted at refugee populations.

**EDUCATION**

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**Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel**

October 2018 – current

**PHD Candidate, Department of Conflict Resolution and Management**

Thesis title: "The Meaning of Hope in Peace Movements: The Case of Standing Together and Women Wage Peace"

Proposal and methodology approved by Doctoral Research Studies Committee on 23.07.19

Recipient of the 2021 "Dan Bar-On Prize" for Academic Research

**The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, USA**

August 2002 - June 2003

**Master of Arts in Law & Diplomacy, Certificate in Human Security**

Fields of study: Conflict Resolution, Human Rights Law and Forced Migration

Full scholarship from the MacJannet Foundation.

Thesis: "The Physical Security of Refugees in Kenyan Camps: Legal and Human Rights Implications"

**Graduate Institute of International Studies (GIIS), Geneva, Switzerland**

October 1998 - June 2002

**BA and MA in International Relations**

International Law, Political Sciences, International Economics and Contemporary History

## LANGUAGES

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French	native	German	highly proficient
English	fluent (UN certificate)	Portuguese	highly proficient
Spanish	fluent (UN certificate)	Arabic	basic
Hebrew	fluent	Russian	basic

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES

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- Member of the Swiss Women in Peace Processes (SWIPP) network since 2021
- Jury Member in International Humanitarian Law Competition organized by ICRC for Israeli university students, 28-31 October 2019, Jerusalem
- Elected Board Member of Bona Terra Foundation since June 2018, Geneva
- Certificate of General Mediator, Jun-Aug. 2016, Tel Aviv University Conflict Resolution and Mediation Center
- UNHCR/IRC Professional Program (Protection and Law), 2012, Budapest
- UNHCR Refugee Status Determination Learning Program, 2009, Amman
- UN National Competitive Examination 2005 (Humanitarian Affairs)
- Concours Européen des Droits de l'Homme René Cassin, 2002, Strasbourg

## PUBLICATIONS

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Halperin, L. 2003. "The Physical Security of Refugees in Kenyan Camps: Legal and Human Rights Implications." MA dissertation, Tufts University (The Fletcher School).

Halperin, L. 2004. "Refugee Protection" (chapter 6) in: Meeting the Challenges of Migration: Progress since the ICPD, Geneva, 2004, Co-publishers IMP and UNFPA.