

## Curriculum Vitae

Lucio Valerio Sarandrea  
Roma, Italy, 17 July 1973  
Married. Two children (14 and 11)  
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### **AREAS OF EXPERTISE:**

Child Protection, Rule of Law, Human Rights, VAWG, Program Management, Peace Building, Resource Mobilization, Communication

### **EDUCATION:**

- PhD, UN University for Peace, Costa Rica. Doctorate on Peace and Conflict Studies. Final dissertation on *"Rule of Law assistance programs in transitional Countries"*, San Jose' Costa Rica.
- LLM Degree Graduation Thesis Topic: *"Human rights beyond cultural relativism"* La Sapienza University, Rome.
- Executive course , *"Theory and Practice of Child Protection"* , Harvard University , Boston.
- Post University Degree *"International and National Human Rights Protection"* LUISS University/UNHCR, Rome.

### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:**

- *"Aisuluu beautiful like Luna"* Novel on Child marriage and violence against women and girls. issues written in Italian and translated into English, Kyrgyz and Russian with forewords of former Kyrgyz president Roza Otunbayeva. (All profits are donated to UNICEF)
- *"Glocalizing the Rule of Law"* *Central Asia Policy Review* July 2016
- *"Crime Prevention in the Kyrgyz Republic"* *Central Asia Policy Review* July 2015
- Blog on Child Protection, Migration and Social Justice :  
<https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/author/lsarandrea/>

### **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
**Chief of Child Protection. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

03/2018- present

- Managed the Child Protection, Youth and Peacebuilding sections including projects on justice for children ,access to justice, prevention of violence, migration, and youth governance with an average annual delivery of 1,5 million USD;
- Headed UNICEF Country office in the development and implementation of the Spotlight project on Violence against women and girls;
- Headed the Inter Agency COVID -19 Emergency pillar for Protection, Human Rights and SGBV for an overall financial envelope of 1,2 Million USD;
- Cooperated with national authorities in numerous working groups on Justice for Children issues and the development , monitoring and evaluation of the sectorial state strategy. Specifically contributed

to the reform of Child Code and annexed criminal and procedural legislation, including the prohibition of corporal punishments and establishment of a diversion system;

- Directed and coordinated a cross sectorial and cross border project (Tajikistan) for an overall amount of 3 million USD. The project received the highest evaluation grade from the donor for 2 years in a row and was awarded two financial top ups increasing the budget of 15%. Out of the outstanding achievement reached a 0% juvenile reoffending rate in modelling courts;
- Acted a UNICEF Human Rights focal point for the contribution of inputs to relevant treaty bodies as well as provided support to State authorities and civil society organizations for their reporting obligations;
- Advised the national authorities on issues pertaining to social workforce restructuring, decentralization of services and repatriation of Children from ISIL territories;
- Directly designed and delivered innovative information campaigns on prevention of violence against children, migration, youth empowerment, bride kidnapping and child marriages with over 150 media activities. A dedicated human interest story achieved over 300,000 visualizations and 1.3 million likes , double of the overall annual target of the entire office;
- Conceived, drafted and supervised an innovative multi agency project on youth and peacebuilding for a fundraised amount of 1,4 million USD.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

**Chief Technical Adviser on Rule of Law, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

11-13/ 02-18

- Managed the Rule of Law, Human Rights and Peace Building cluster with an annual average delivery of 9.8 million USD;
- Directly advised the State authorities on the Judicial reform by creating the mechanism of “costed implementation plans” in order to overcome challenges in the implementation of laws. The project received the highest grade of evaluation by the donor and was publicly showed as a best practice by the Secretary General of the UK Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Directly developed projects and leveraged resources for new projects with various donors ( USAID, EU, UK/DFID/PBF, SDC) for a total exceeding 20 million USD. Noteworthy, I was the primary responsible person for drafting and negotiating and implementing projects on Prevention of Child Marriages and Access to Social Justice for vulnerable groups.
- Participated in eight State working groups for the nationalization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Among them successfully led the working group for the drafting of the United Development Agreement Framework outcome in relation to Justice , Human Rights and Good Governance. As a result of the negotiations with State authorities the agreement included the full set of principles and indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 16;
- In cooperation with the Ombudsman Institution developed an innovative model for the engagement of University students into National Human Rights Institutions and Trial Monitoring;
- Advised working groups for the drafting of legislation. Among noteworthy achievements the new Law on Free Legal Aid which for the first time in the region provides the inclusion of specialized norms for children and decentralized free Legal Assistance in Civil and Administrative cases for victims of domestic violence. Secondly the Law forbidding underage religious marriages which was passed through negotiation with religious authorities;
- Successfully led the negotiations between the Parliament and Civil Society for the withdrawal of the Law on Foreign Agents and the Law on banning propaganda for LGBTI rights;
- In recognition of the key role performed awarded the role of Chairman of the Development working group on Rule of Law and Human Rights;
- Redesigned and developed the organizational chart of the cluster in the field of Rule of Law, Human Rights and Governance leading to 30% budget savings and increased efficiency;

- Provided support to the UNDP Country Office of Tajikistan for Program Review and Implementation
- Received for three years in a row the highest evaluation grade of performance and the 2017 Office Outstanding award.

American University of Central Asia (AUCA)

**University Professor, Bishkek**

01-16/ present

- Professor for LLM and undergraduate courses on “UN efforts for Sustaining Peace”, “ Child Protection, Theory and Practice” and “Glocalizing Rule of Law and Human Rights”. Courses and quality of teaching received in the majority of cases an evaluation of “Excellence”;
- Coached students for the drafting of researches, analysis and dissertations;

*European Union, Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina*

**Legal Adviser on Rule of Law and Human Rights, Sarajevo**

8-08/11-13

- Maintained an overview of the whole range of activities in the field of the rule of law and human rights and in this context provided the Secretary-General/High Representative (SG/HR) and the European Commission with advice as necessary;
- Represented the European Commission as main lawyer in the “Structured Dialogue on Justice” The innovative instrument has been afterwards replicated in other countries of Southern Easter Europe as a mechanism for political leveraging before the official accession process;
- International member of the steering board for drafting and later for the implementation of the National War Crimes Prosecution Strategy. Noteworthy the Strategy which included specific provisions for witness protection in relation to rapes and torture was drafted after a standstill of 5 years and has included the biggest backlog of war crimes cases ever in history with over 17,000 suspects. The breakthrough was achieved through the formulation of stricter criteria for the decentralization of the caseload with relevant financial support;
- Advised the State Ministry of Justice and the Entity authorities on the Implementation of the Judicial Sector Reform Strategy including the review and implementation of the Justice for Children and access to Justice components;
- Member of the EU strategic advisory team for the selection of priorities and projects to be financed under the Instruments of Pre-accession Assistance for an overall budget of 50 million USD. Specifically advised on the division of financing between central government and local governments;
- Provided support to the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council for the redesign of Court and Prosecutor’s offices across the country ensuring a decentralized approach ensuring financial efficiency and scale economies;
- Liaised with National Human Rights Institutions and civil society organizations for the monitoring of the judicial and legal reform in compliance with relevant human rights standards.

*OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe ( Mission to Bosnia Herzegovina )*

**Legal Adviser, Judicial and Legal Reform, Head Office, Sarajevo**

1-05/ 8-08

- Conceived, devised and directed an innovative trial monitoring program of investigative proceedings including cases of war crimes, organized crime, violence against women and girls, juvenile justice and trafficking in human beings . The monitoring of investigative proceedings had been considered as an unattainable task before my tenure due to technical issues and complications;
- In cooperation with the IT department developed a trial monitoring software for the easy access and secure storage of over 17,000 hearings. The database has been exported to other countries within OSCE;
- Provided over thirty trainings to Judges, Prosecutors, prison authorities and social welfare centres on international rule of law standards and best practices ;
- As a member of the three expert OSCE commission, drafted a set of 54 amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code of Bosnia Herzegovina. The amendments accompanied by relevant analysis of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) case-law on the specific issues, aimed at the harmonization of the national legislation with the international standards;
- Advised the Minister of Justice on financial decentralization of Courts and the necessary reforms for the juvenile prison facilities according to the relevant international standards;

*OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Mission to Bosnia Herzegovina )*

**Legal Adviser, Rule of Law, Regional Centre Banja Luka** (Covering 1/3 of the territory of Bosnia Herzegovina)

12-03 /12-04

- Co-ordinated the trial monitoring of the Human Rights Officers (HROs) in the field especially in the area of trafficking in human beings, gender based violence, juvenile justice, discrimination and return related violence. Achieved the highest rate of efficiency in trial monitoring observations ;
- Monitored, analysed and reported on the Rule of Law situation in the AoR, in particular in relation to the legal and structural reforms, on the work of the judiciary, the administration of the judicial system, the legal professional community, identified problems indicative of systematic weaknesses and developed concrete solutions and recommendations to address identified problems;
- Chaired 4 Local Implementation Groups of the District and Cantonal Courts on the Implementation of the Criminal Procedure Code;
- Drafted 8 Rule of Law thematic reports and spot reports on specific cases.

8-2001 / 12- 03

*OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Mission to Bosnia Herzegovina )*

**Human Rights Officer, Head of Field Office** Livno /Drvar

- Monitored, intervened and reported on Human Rights situation in the fields of, Property rights, Children rights, Rights of ethnic minorities, Education, Right of return, Freedom of movement, Employment discrimination;
- In my capacity, my area of responsibility was the first one in the country to be certified as completed for repossession of properties while at the beginning of my tenure it was ranked at the very bottom of the property repossession rate. Figures about the achievement are available through official statistics and have been recognized by ICG reports;
- Worked with Youth CSOs for the creation of multi ethnic cluster groups with cooperation in the field of education and employment;
- Monitored trials that involved Trafficking in Human Beings, Juvenile Justice and Human Rights violation cases. First Field office in the Federation to monitor war crimes case;
- Intervened with Cantonal authorities for the implementation of Constitutional Court and Human Rights Chamber decisions in relation to vulnerable groups;
- Directed and supervised the work of 17 employees.

3-2001 / 8-2001

*OSCE Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe ( Mission to Bosnia Herzegovina)*

**Human Rights Intern** Doboj

- Monitored, and reported on issues pertaining to Rule of Law, Property Rights and Education Rights;
- Provided legal assistance in the field of Human Rights to NGOs and individuals.

1999/3- 2001

*Mirri Press office*

**Press officer** Roma

- Promoted social welfare events and exhibitions for the Municipality of Rome;

*Various newspapers, magazines,*

1992- 2000

**Free Lance Journalist,** Roma

- Articles on topics related to legal issues and social welfare

#### **OTHER SKILLS:**

##### **Languages**

- Italian: native speaker
- English: fluency in spoken and proficient in written
- Spanish: fluency in spoken and proficient in written
- Serbo-Croatian: fluency in spoken and advanced in written
- Russian: Intermediate
- French: Basic

##### **Others**

- Visiting professor for 8 Universities in 4 different countries
- EU Security clearance : Level SECRET
- Member of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law
- Member of the Italian Journalist register since 1994
- Chess player ( 2050 ELO rating)
- Marathoner

#### **References :**

Roza Otunbayeva:

Former President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Special Adviser to the UNSG ,”Club of Madrid” member  
[rozahanum@hotmail.com](mailto:rozahanum@hotmail.com)

Alejandro Alvarez:

Head of Rule of Law Section at the UN Office of the secretary General  
[aalvarez@un.org](mailto:aalvarez@un.org)

Paola Pampaloni:

Head of European External Action Service for Europe and Asia

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