

AXANA SOLTAN, J.D., LL.M, MP.P

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EDUCATION:

MP.P, University of Oxford, Blavatnik School of Government Oxford, United Kingdom

Master's in Law and Public Policy, Supervisor in Law: Philippa Webb, International Law Expert, President's Senior Appointee at OXFORD UNION 2024-2025, U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower Scholar 2024-2025

Honors: Oxford Union Speech, Advocating for International Courts at OXFORD UNION
Senior Appointed, Chief Legal Advisor at OXFORD UNION
Senior Appointed, Chair of Access at OXFORD UNION
Research Assistant, Blavatnik School of Government
Editor, OXFORD POLITICS REVIEW

JD and LL.M, The George Washington University School of Law, Washington, DC

GW Law Merit-Based Scholar 2022-2024, Washington D.C., United States

University of the District of Columbia School of Law, Washington D.C., United States

Honors: Editor, GEORGE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL LAW REVIEW
Editor-in-Chief of GEORGE WASHINGTON LATIN LAW BRIEF
GW Law Merit-Based Scholar 2023-2024
Research Associate to Prof. Christopher Yukins
Martin Luther King Jr. Award Recipient

B.S, Honors College, Virginia Commonwealth University, VCU Wilder School, Richmond, VA

Baccalaureate Degree in Criminal Justice from Honors College, May 2017

Douglas L. Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs

Major GPA: 4.0 GPA, Top 10%, *Summa Cum Laude*

Honors: Selected as a University Commencement Speaker 2017
Made history as a Top 10 under 10 Alumni
Excellence in Virginia Government Award Scholarship
Accepted to Honors College, Top 10% graduates

WORK EXPERIENCE:

The Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office, The Hague, Netherlands
Counsel Team, Specialist Prosecutor v. Pjetër Shala

- Supported counsel in proceedings before the Specialist Chambers, contributing to legal research, case strategy, and drafting related to international criminal procedure and evidentiary analysis.
- Conducted in-depth analysis of witness statements, procedural filings, and jurisprudence from international tribunals, including the ICTY and ICC, to inform defense submissions.
- Assisted in comparative research on due process rights, fair trial standards, and international humanitarian law to strengthen defense arguments in complex, high-profile cases.

United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Legal Advisor to the General Counsel (UN fellowship)

- Drafted legal opinions and review Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with partner organizations, ensuring consistency with international law and UNHCR's mandate
- Conducted research and analysis on Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD), Environmental and Social Governance (ESG), and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) frameworks, with attention to their intersections with international human rights and humanitarian
- Supported the development of innovative mechanisms for embedding human rights safeguards in digital humanitarian action.

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Arusha, Tanzania

Amicus Curie

- Granted leave by the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to appear as *amicus curiae* in Advisory Opinion No. 001/2025.
- Submitted legal observations to assist the Court in its consideration of issues of regional and international law.
- Participated in advisory proceedings involving leading international organizations, academic institutions, and legal experts, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

Presiding Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Washington D.C.

Honorable Judge Michael J. Ryan

Judge's Chamber, Law Clerk (Extern), Criminal Law Division

- Drafted legal memoranda and bench briefs on criminal and civil matters, including evidentiary issues, motions practice, and constitutional claims.
- Observed courtroom proceedings and provided detailed case analysis to support judicial decision-making.
- Conducted in-depth legal research on procedural and substantive issues to assist in drafting judicial opinions.

Institute of Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA), Banjul, The Gambia

Pro Bono Counsel, Nigeria v. Guinea

- Advise on legal issues concerning forced displacement, refugee protection, asylum, and statelessness under international human rights, refugee, and regional legal frameworks.
- Prepare legal analyses, memoranda, submissions, and litigation strategies relating to the rights and protection of refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, and other forcibly displaced populations.
- Provide legal support on matters involving access to justice, protection mechanisms, strategic litigation, and accountability for vulnerable and displaced communities.

International Criminal Court (ICC), Hague, Netherlands

Member of Counsel Team, Legal Communication to the Office of the Prosecutor | 2026

- Contributed to the preparation and filing of an Article 15 legal communication submitted to the Office of the Prosecutor, Karim A. Khan to urge for codification of gender apartheid as a crime against humanity under the Rome Statute.
- Assisted in legal research and drafting concerning issues of gender-based persecution and crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute
- Supported strategic legal analysis relating to accountability frameworks within international criminal law.

Senior Human Rights Fellow, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs

Brown University

Global Fellow (Selected as one of 12 cohort to advancing interdisciplinary research in human rights)

- Selected as the first cohort of 12 global changemakers in the world for a very competitive fellowship advancing interdisciplinary research and fieldwork in human rights and humanitarian policy.
- Designed and contributed to high-impact projects at the intersection of education, democracy, and human rights in conflict-affected regions.
- Collaborated with academics, policymakers, and practitioners to develop actionable strategies for global justice and social transformation.

Chief Legal Advisor, Oxford, UK

University of Oxford, Oxford Union – Presidential Senior Appointment

- Provides expert guidance on legal advocacy and ethical decision-making, ensuring compliance with professional standards while advancing the Union’s mission to foster thought-provoking debates and discussions.
- Advises on complex ethical challenges in speaker selection, debate topics, and organizational practices, balancing zealous representation of diverse perspectives with professional responsibilities.
- Drafts and reviews policies that promote inclusivity, fairness, and ethical advocacy, ensuring alignment with the Union’s objectives and legal obligations.

The Honorable Judge Gregory D. Carr

Presiding Judge, Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court of Virginia

Judicial Fellow, Clerk’s Office, Joseph L. Rauh Fellow

- Conducted legal research and case review on juvenile justice, child custody, and domestic violence matters to assist court staff and clerks.
- Drafted summaries, observed proceedings, and supported the preparation of case materials for hearings.
- Gained practical experience in courtroom procedures, family law, and judicial administration within a high-volume court.

Institute of Gender, Law and International Justice, Geneva, Switzerland

Centre for International Criminal Law and Gender Justice

Director and Lead Counsel

- Lead the Centre’s legal and policy initiatives advancing accountability for gender-based persecution, gender apartheid, and mass atrocity crimes under international law.
- Direct strategic legal research, expert submissions, and institutional engagement before international courts, tribunals, and multilateral bodies on issues relating to international criminal law and gender justice.
- Convene and collaborate with legal scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and civil society actors to advance normative development and global dialogue on gender justice and international accountability.

Senior Research Associate, Center of Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies

Brown University

Research Associate, Brown University, Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) policy report in the MENA Region

- Lead author of a forthcoming policy report on the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda in the MENA region at Brown University, analyzing gendered dimensions of conflict, peacebuilding, and security governance.
- Conduct policy-oriented legal research on UN Security Council Resolutions and international legal frameworks relevant to WPS, with a focus on implementation gaps and accountability mechanisms.

- Contribute to interdisciplinary publications advancing gender-inclusive approaches to peace, security, and humanitarian response in fragile and post-conflict settings.

Governor Terry R. McAuliffe's, Governor of Virginia
Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia
Research Associate Fellow

- As a legal policy fellow, I drafted a comprehensive children's policy proposal addressing juvenile justice reform, child welfare access, and trauma-informed services in underserved communities.
- Conducted legal and policy research to support youth advocacy initiatives led by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, with a focus on equity and protection for at-risk minors.
- Advised on intersectional strategies to advance gender and child-sensitive governance, reinforcing state-level legal protections in line with international human rights norms.

Trial Litigation Assistant, Criminal Law & Civil Law, U.S. Law Firm
Reid Goodwin, PLC

- Drafted pre-trial legal memoranda, managed discovery workflows, and prepared evidentiary exhibits used in depositions and pre-trial proceedings.
- Participated in litigation strategy development, client interviews, and trial preparation in a high-stakes, plaintiff-centered practice.
- Gained early, practice-intensive exposure to the litigation process at a top regional firm renowned for courtroom excellence.

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Richmond, Virginia
Legal Intern, Criminal Law Division

- Mentored justice-involved youth through rights-based rehabilitation programs, fostering agency, accountability, and reintegration in alignment with international juvenile justice principles.
- Conducted research and advocacy on legal protections for minors in state custody, contributing to procedural reforms and dignity-centered approaches in institutional care.
- Supported legal and public interest initiatives aimed at improving access to justice, due process, and non-retributive sentencing practices for vulnerable children and adolescents.

U.S. Appellate Juvenile Litigation Clinic, Amicus Andrus v. Texas
Andrus v. Texas, Youth and Appeals Justice Initiative, Clinic

- Drafted amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court advocating on behalf of a juvenile offender
- Developed and implemented case strategies and plans
- Advanced youth-centered arguments in appellate courts and other settings.

Civil Rights and Legislation Clinic, Washington D.C.
 University of the District of Columbia School of Law Clinic

- Drafted amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court advocating on behalf of a juvenile offender
- Developed and implemented case strategies and plans
- Advanced youth-centered arguments in appellate courts and other settings.

Research Associate and Teaching Assistant, Virginia Commonwealth University,
 Richmond, Virginia

- Drafted amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court advocating on behalf of a juvenile offender
- Developed and implemented case strategies and plans

- Advanced youth-centered arguments in appellate courts and other settings.

LAW REVIEWS AND SHORT ESSAYS PUBLICATIONS:

CAMBRIDGE JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, Closing the Rome Statute’s Gender Gap: Why Gender Apartheid Demands Codification (Published August 7, 2025)

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY LAW REVIEW, Ethical Advocacy in International Human Rights Litigation: Navigating Integrity Across Legal Systems, Vol. 102, Issue 3 (Published May 2025)

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI KANSAS LAW REVIEW, From the UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous people to the Paris Agreement, Vol. 94, Issue 3, Published September 2025.

UNIVERSITY OF LOYOLA NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC INTEREST LAW REVIEW, Navigating Uncharted Territories: Human Rights Implications of Emerging Technologies in Unrecognized States – Lessons from the Nagorno-Karabakh Crisis, Vol. 26.1 (Published April 2025)

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY (WPS) AGENDA, Re-imagining the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Feminist Resistance and State Power in Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, and Turkey, Brown University, Policy Report (Published Feb 2025)

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, BLAVATNIK SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, Afghan women and the ICC: A test of international justice, University of Oxford, (Published April 8, 2025)

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Cited by the UN Special Rapporteur Mama Fatima Singhateh, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, Human Rights Council (February 27 – March 31)

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Cited by the UN Special Rapporteur Reem Alsalem, Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences (February 27 – March 31)

Harvard Journal of International Law, “From Persecution to Apartheid: Gender Domination as a Structural Crime in International Law” (online perspective work-in-progress), July 2026

Soltan, Axana, “The Future of Global Social and Economic Progress,” UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO), (forthcoming publication 2026)

Brown University, WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA, Re-imagining the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Feminist Resistance and State Power in Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, and Turkey, WATSON INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

Soltan, Axana, “From Persecution to Apartheid: The ICC’s Next Legal Frontier for Women’s Rights”, *Opinion Juris*, Nov. 10, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI LAW REVIEW, Breaking Barriers: Innovations in Access to Justice for Vulnerable Populations, (Accepted for Publication), August 2026

Quinn, Mae and Soltan, Axana, “Children’s Rights in the Digital Environment,” UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS ONLINE PUBLICATION, August 20, 2021 (co-authored with law professor)

Soltan, Axana, “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children,” UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS, Comment, August 20, 2021.

Soltan, Axana, “Racism by Design: Where We Live, Why We Live There, and Why It Matters,” WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF LAWYERS, October 22, 2020.

Soltan, Axana, “Business enterprises, planetary boundaries and the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,” UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS ONLINE PUBLICATION, August 20, 2023 (co-authored with law professor)

Soltan, Axana, “A Conversation with Kids About Immigrants and Fairness,” WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF LAWYERS, October 22, 2020.

Soltan, Axana, “Right to Access and take part in Scientific Progress for Marginalized Communities,” UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS ONLINE PUBLICATION, August 20, 2023

International Bar Association Human Rights Institute, *Inquiry into Nagorno-Karabakh Cultural Heritage Destruction* — Selected Independent Expert Submission, INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION (Feb. 18, 2026).

African Union Human Rights Organs, *Joint Analytical Study on the Challenges of Litigating Women's and Girls' Rights Before African Union Human Rights Organs* (2026).

FEATURED MEDIA & PRESS

HUFFINGTON POST, Guest Contributor, “Story of a Refugee: I Went to A Secret Underground School for Girls in Afghanistan. It's Happening Again” (March 2022)

FORBES WOMEN, “The Taliban's Grip on Females Tightens, Some Women Fight Back” (Sept. 2020)

WALL STREET JOURNAL, “Afghan Teachers Defy Taliban by Secretly Schooling Teenage Girls” (July 2021)

FOREIGN POLICY, “In Taliban’s New Afghan Emirate, Women Are Invisible” (June 2021)

CNN, “Gender-Based Violence and Women’s Rights”, Commentary addressing women’s education, gender-based discrimination, and the impact of systemic restrictions on women and girls, (January 2021)

FORBES WOMEN, “With Taliban Rule Returning to Their Homeland, Afghan American Refugee’s Fear for Their Families” (Sept. 2020)

CBS NEWS, “From a Refugee to a Graduation Speaker: Axana Soltan Inspires with Big Heart” (June 2017)

FORBES WOMEN, “Importance of Masks to Protect the Vulnerable Populations” (Aug. 2020)

MALALA FUND, “Meet the Afghan women leading alternative learning initiatives” (Aug 2021)

UNESCO, “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children,” (Aug 2021)

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, “Afghan Women and the ICC: A Test of International Justice (Published April 2025)

THE OXFORD STUDENT, Speaks in the opposition of the motion, “this house no confidence in the international courts” (May 2025)

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, “Named Top 10 Graduates of The Past Decade” (November 2023)

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, Kellogg College for Historic Palace of Justice Lifetime Achievement Award Recognition (December 2025)

RICHMOND-TIMES DISPATCH, Meet the Afghan woman helping patients during Covid 19 with facial masks” (Sept 2021)

OPINIO JURIS, From Persecution to Apartheid: The ICC’s Next Legal Frontier for Women’s Rights (Published Nov. 10, 2025)

Advocacy (Domestic and International)

Amicus Brief, *Andrus v. Texas*, 140 S. Ct. 1875 (2020) United States Court of Appeals | Co-authored with Clinic Professor.

- Submitted on behalf of a juvenile offender, advocating for the recognition of ineffective assistance of counsel under the Sixth Amendment. The brief contributed to the Supreme Court’s decision to remand for reconsideration, highlighting failures in capital defense and due process.

***Amicus Curiae*, African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, Arusha, Tanzania**

- Served as amicus curiae before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in Advisory Opinion No. 001/2025, advancing legal observations in advisory proceedings alongside leading international human rights organizations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch

International Criminal Court, Article 15 Communication, Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC, urging recognition and investigation of gender apartheid as a crime against humanity

- The communication seeks to advance accountability for the systemic persecution of women and girls under Taliban rule in Afghanistan.

Expert Legal Submission to African Union Human Rights Mechanisms-African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), Banjul, The Gambia

- Submitted expert legal recommendations to the Joint Analytical Study on the Challenges of Litigating Women's and Girls' Rights Before African Union Human Rights Organs, contributing to efforts to strengthen regional access to justice and accountability mechanisms for women and girls.

Expert Legal Contribution to the UN Special Rapporteur Reem Alsalem on Violence against Women and Girls

- Work cited by the United Nations General Assembly (A/80/158), New York, 2025. Provided legal contribution on gender-based persecution and structural discrimination against women and girls.
- Contribution formally cited in the Special Rapporteur’s report to the General Assembly, influencing international recommendations on advancing women’s rights and state accountability.

Expert Legal Contribution to the UN Special Rapporteur Mama Fatima Singhateh on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children

- Work cited by the United Nations General Assembly (A/HRC/52/31), Geneva, 2023. Provided expert legal analysis on reparations and access to justice for child victims of sale, trafficking, and sexual exploitation. Contribution formally cited in the Human Rights Council’s 52nd Session report (Agenda Item 3), influencing international recommendations on children’s rights and state obligations.

Expert Legal Contribution to the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights Alexandra Xanthaki
United Nations Human Rights Council, 55th Session (A/HRC/55/44), Geneva, 2024, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- Provided expert legal analysis on the right to access and participate in scientific progress, with emphasis on education equity and scientific inclusion in conflict-affected settings. Submission formally received and acknowledged by the United Nations Office of High Commissioner, contributing to global human rights standards on cultural rights, innovation equity, and participatory justice

INVITED KEYNOTES & HIGH-LEVEL SPEAKING ROLES:

Featured Speaker, The Oxford Union, Debate International Criminal Court & Global Justice |
February 2025

Oxford Union, University of Oxford

- Defended the legitimacy and necessity of the International Criminal Court and international tribunals. Cited landmark cases including *Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga*, *Charles Taylor*, *Slobodan Milošević*, *Al Bashir Case* to advocate for global accountability.
- Recognized for persuasive legal reasoning and oratory at one of the world's most prestigious debating societies.
- Shared the stage with distinguished global legal figures, including:
 - **Judge Robert Spano**, Former President of the European Court of Human Rights
 - **U.S. Ambassador Stephen Rapp**, Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes
 - **Advocate Eleanor Sharpston**, Former Advocate General, European Court of Justice

Featured Speaker, University Commencement Speaker in 2017, Graduation Keynote Speaker

Virginia Commonwealth University | May 2017

- Selected to deliver commencement remarks on behalf of the graduating class in recognition of academic achievement, leadership, and public service. The first Afghan-American woman to serve as a student commencement speaker at the university

Featured Speaker, The Oxford Union, U.S. Foreign Policy and National Security

Oxford Union, University of Oxford | November 2025

- Defended the legitimacy of U.S. national security policy and democratic safeguards in the context of counterterrorism, intelligence, and global security threats, arguing for the necessity of lawful security frameworks to protect constitutional governance.
- Shared the stage with distinguished global security and policy leaders, including:
 - **Michael Chertoff**, Former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security
 - **Michael Leiter**, Former Director, U.S. National Counterterrorism Center
 - **Peter Bergen**, National Security Analyst and Author

Keynote Speaker, President Dwight D. Eisenhower Global Scholar & Key Note Speaker

Eisenhower Fellowships | May 2026

- Selected as a Dwight D. Eisenhower Global Scholar and invited to deliver the graduation address on behalf of the global scholar cohort at the Trustee Luncheon. Delivered remarks before senior U.S. policymakers, trustees, diplomats, and distinguished leaders, including:
 - **Robert Gates**, George W. Bush, Secretary of Defense
 - **Jane Harman**, U.S. Congresswoman for California
 - **Christine Todd Whitman**, First Female Governor

Chair, High-Level Panel, Distinguished Panel on Gender Apartheid & Global Feminism Oxford Union, University of Oxford

- Chaired a high-profile international law event at the Oxford Union examining gender apartheid and the complex legacy of Western feminism on women in the Global South.
- Led a powerful, solutions-driven discussion with globally recognized experts in law, diplomacy, and international human rights.
- Featured speakers included:
 - Dr. Rangita de Silva de Alwis, UN CEDAW Candidate & Global Gender Policy Expert
 - Ambassador Shukria Barakzai, Former Afghan Parliamentarian & Diplomat
 - Attorney Kimberly Motley, International Human Rights & Rule of Law Advocate
 - Dr. Lina AbiRafeh, Former UN Women Senior Advisor & Gender-Based Violence Expert

Featured Speaker, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford — Selected to Deliver Address on Gender Apartheid as a Crime Against Humanity Under International Law | 2025

- Delivered a public address examining the legal recognition and codification of gender apartheid as a crime against humanity under international criminal law, with a focus on accountability frameworks and protections for women and girls under the Rome Statute.

AWARDS & INTERNATIONAL HONORS

Selected as Forbes 30 under 30 Honoree

- Selected for the prestigious *Forbes 30 Under 30* list in recognition of my achievements as a human rights lawyer and advocate for women's and children's rights. Honored for my commitment to social justice, policy reform, and impactful advocacy in underserved communities, with a focus on advancing educational opportunities and legal protections for marginalized populations.

International Law Association (ILA), Practitioner Scholar, Athens, Greek

- Selected through the International Law Association (ILA) to represent United States in the 81st Biennial International Law Conference as a practitioner in international law.

Palace of Justice, Lifetime Achievement Award, Vienna, Austria

- Lifetime Achievement Award—a rare and distinguished recognition awarded for extraordinary contributions to international human rights law and lifelong dedication to justice, gender equity, and global legal reform.

University Student Commencement Speaker in 2017, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs

- Made history as the first Afghan-American women to deliver a Commencement Address in the history of Virginia Commonwealth University.

U.S. President Eisenhower Global Scholar in Oxford, 2024-2025

- Selected as an Eisenhower Global Scholar, a prestigious honor recognizing exceptional emerging leaders committed to making a global impact through public policy, social change, and innovation

Top 10 under 10 in the history of Virginia Commonwealth University

- Recognized for my noteworthy and distinct achievements as a human-rights lawyer. Recognized for my professional success, community contributions, and commitment to public service.

Malala Yousufzai's pick for Education Champion in 2023

- Noble Peace Prize Winner Malala Yousufzai organization recognized me for my democracy, education, and human-rights efforts in Afghanistan and beyond.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Global Scholar, Selected Keynote Speaker | 2026

- Delivered remarks before senior U.S. policymakers, trustees, diplomats, and distinguished leaders, including Robert Gates, Jane Harman, and Christine Todd Whitman and others at Eisenhower Fellowships.

U.S. Congress Literacy Award, United States Congress, September 2019

- Awarded by the U.S. Congress for visionary leadership in promoting democracy, literacy, and inclusion in underserved communities.

White House Presidential Service Award, Washington D.C.

- Organization selected as an official certifying organization for the White House President's Volunteer Service Award and bestowed with the honor of distributing service award certificate to volunteers contributing in the diversity, equity and inclusion arena.

Eligible Nominee for Independent Expert Nominee to the 55th session of the United Nations Human Rights on Democratic and Equitable International Order

- Recognized as an eligible nominee for the UN Human Rights Council mandate on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order.

Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Award, George Washington University School of Law

- Recognized for exemplifying the spirit of civil rights activism and embodying the ideals of equality, justice, and social change championed by Dr. King. Honored for advocating tirelessly for marginalized communities and advancing the cause of civil rights through legal expertise and activism.

USA Youth Observer Semi-Finalist 2019

United Nations Association of the United States of America, June 2019

- Selected as a *Top 10 Shortlisted Finalists* by the U.S. State Department and the United Nations Association for a position as a United States Youth Observer to the United Nations for year 2018-2019.

U.S. Congressional Recognition, U.S. Senator Mark Warner, United States Congress, September 2019

- United States Congressional Recognition from United States Senator Mark Warner for demonstrating exemplary leadership, professional achievements, and community involvement in the democracy, human-rights and inclusion arena.

Forbes Women, Listed as a Women's Right Fighter Against Taliban Regime

Forbes Magazine, June 2021

- Featured in *Forbes Women* as one of only two Afghan women—alongside former Afghan Parliamentarian Fawzia Koofi—recognized globally as a leading voice in the fight against Taliban oppression. Celebrated as a champion for human rights, education, and women's empowerment.

Excellence in Virginia Government Award, Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Commonwealth University, September 2019

- ○ Honored for making noteworthy contributions through public service to the practice of government and human-rights in the state of Virginia.

Distinguished Global Fellow – Global Fellows in Courage Program, Brown University

- One of 12 global changemakers selected for this distinguished fellowship recognizing courage, leadership, and commitment to global social justice.

Selected and Cited by UN Special Repertoire Reem Alsalem in Official Report to the United Nations General Assembly (A/80/158) | 2025

- Expert legal contribution on gender-based persecution and structural discrimination against women and girls, formally cited in an official report submitted to the United Nations General Assembly.

Presidential Senior Appointment – Oxford Union (Two-Times Presidential Senior Appointee)

- Appointed to a senior leadership position by the President of the Oxford Union—one of the world's most esteemed debating societies—becoming the first Afghan woman in the institution's history to receive this honor. This historic appointment reflects exceptional distinction in public service, leadership, and global advocacy.

TESTIMONY

UK Parliament Justice Committee, *Legislative Scrutiny: Courts and Tribunals Bill* — Published Written Evidence Submission accepted by the Committee and entered into the parliamentary record, UK PARLIAMENT JUSTICE COMMITTEE (Mar. 11, 2026).

UK Parliament House of Commons, *Nagorno-Karabakh Inquiry* — Parliamentary Testimony Submission, UK PARLIAMENT JUSTICE COMMITTEE (January 15, 2026).

European Commission, *Marine Strategy Framework Directive Revision (EU Policy Process)* — Author of Formal International Legal Submission to the European Commission (Ref. F33379143), EUROPEAN COMMISSION (Feb, 2025).

International Bar Association (IBA), *Inquiry into Nagorno-Karabakh Cultural Heritage Destruction* — Selected Independent Expert Submission, INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION (Feb. 18, 2026).

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Appropriations, *House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies* — Expert Written Congressional Testimony on Federal Appropriations Priorities (May 8, 2026), U.S. CONGRESS, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

UK Parliament Education Committee, *Inquiry into the Use of Artificial Intelligence and EdTech in Education* — Submitted Parliamentary Evidence (Under Committee Consideration) (Apr. 10, 2026), UK PARLIAMENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Languages / Skills

- **English** – Fluent
- **Russian** – Fluent
- **Farsi (Persian)** – Native/Fluent
- **Spanish** – Proficient
- **Hindi** – Proficient
- **Pashto** – Proficient
- **Uzbek** – Proficient
- **Dari** – Fluent