

Name and first name: Yasmeen Muhamad Shariff (Yasmeen)

Date and place of birth: 13th August 1957 / Selangor

Working languages: English, Bahasa Malaysia, Fair Command of Punjabi and Urdu

Current position/function:

(5 lines maximum)

Advocate & Solicitor, Principal & managing partner of law offices of Yasmeen Hajar & Hairudin; Council member of Malaysian Bar; Council Member of National Advisory & Consultative Council on Children; Council member of National Coordinating Council for the Protection of Children; National Women's Advisory Council member, Member of the Bar Council's Human Rights Committee; Executive Council member of the Malaysian Council for Child Welfare.

Main professional activities¹:

(10 lines maximum)

Managing law office; interviewing clients; drafting cause papers; attending court and litigating cases in the area of Family law (maintenance, custody, guardianship, access) as well as other areas; attending to NGO work in the area of women and children; conducting training on the UNCRC for NGOs, students, teachers, schools and government personnel; working on improving the Juvenile Justice system by introducing alternatives to custody; conducting Legal Aid clinics for children in conflict with the law at prisons and remand centers; reviewing the Child Act 2001, Domestic Violence Act 1996, Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 and other legislation which is discriminatory to women and children; lobbying for amendments and better laws; conducting general advocacy work on women and children's issues; empowering women & children and defending the rights of children.

Educational background:

(5 lines maximum)

LLB (Hons), University of Buckingham, UK 1985; Masters In Comparative Law, International Islamic University, Malaysia, 1992; Mediation Course University of Florida, USA in 2000 & 2007; Post Degree Executive Diploma in Islamic Law (Islamic Banking & Finance) 2009; 2 Post Degree Diploma's in Islamic law; Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights 2009-2010, completed 8 modules (pending finalization of thesis).

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

(10 lines maximum)

Working with Malaysian Women Lawyer’s Collective: Reviewing of the Child Act 200; providing legal aid for children in conflict with the law and lobbying for change to the Juvenile Justice system by introducing alternatives such as diversion and restorative justice to the current Juvenile Justice System; presenting papers on children’s issues; rescued kidnapped children and secured their safe return. **Working with Association of Women Lawyers:** Reviewing laws that were discriminatory towards women and children; initiated the child friendly court process for the Children’s Court; actively involved in the Collaborative Action Towards the Preparation of Children for Court Proceedings; trained volunteers for the Vulnerable Witness Program; lobbied the government to remove and relocate juveniles from prisons to government run homes; presented papers on Children & Child Rights to various different groups; drafted and lobbied for the Domestic Violence Act with the government; introduced the UNCRC to children; trained and still training children on the UNCRC. **Working with the National Council of Child Welfare:** Making cities child friendly and safe and creating awareness on Trafficking of Children; promoting the UNCRC; working with children with disabilities. **Working with Malaysian Children’s Aid Society:** Providing monthly financial and medical assistance to children. **Working with the Malaysian Government:** Advising the government on children’s policies and assisting in the plan of action for children.

List of most recent publications in the field:
(5 lines)

Article on Child and Family: A Children’s Rights Approach; Manual on Establishing a Child Friendly Court Process; Comments on article ‘A global Journal of Child Research - Special Issue: Childhood Rights in International Development’; Book review entitled ‘Child’s competence: Special reference to Education and Welfare’; Training Booklet on Women and the law, know your rights; Manual for Court Advisors for Children’s Court; numerous articles on Domestic Violence, the Role of the Shariah Family Support Unit, role of the Shariah Lawyers, Children’s Rights in Islam and custody of children in both civil and shariah law.

¹ It should be noted that membership in the Committee on the Rights of the Child requires participation in three (winter, spring and autumn) sessions of three weeks duration each per year; in addition, pre-sessional working groups are held immediately after each session during five working days in order to prepare the following session. The total number of weeks during which the Committee meets in Geneva therefore amounts to 12 weeks per year.