



## **NGO Committee on Ageing, New York**

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[www.ngocoa-ny.org](http://www.ngocoa-ny.org)

### **OFFICERS:**

**Chair: Cynthia Stuen**

**Vice Chair: Frances Zainoeddin**

**Treasurer: Katharine Weiss**

**Corresponding Secretary: Maud Bruce-About**

**Recording Secretary: Sandra Timmermann**

**Past Chair: Janet Sigal**

**Members-at-Large: Erica Dhar, Ranjit Jayanti, Nelida Quintero, Susan Somers, William T. Smith**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS, NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING/NY 2021-2023**

### **CHAIR**



**Cynthia Stuen, PhD**, is the United Nations Main Representative for the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) and was recently appointed to their Board of Directors. She serves as Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing/NY since 2019. She served as Vice-chair of the NGO CoA/NY from 2016-2019 and as its Program Subcommittee Chair during that tenure. She served as Co-chair of the 2015 UN International Day of Older Persons. She is Vice President of the Board of Directors of Visions-Services to Blind and Visually Impaired. During her 24 year tenure at Lighthouse International, Dr. Stuen served in various capacities with her most recent position as Senior Vice President, Chief Professional Affairs Officer that involved advocating for policy at the national, state and local level while also maintaining involvement in international efforts to preserve sight and prevent excess disability resulting from vision impairment. . Dr. Stuen is a past Chair of the American Society on Aging (ASA), She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and also the NY Academy of Medicine. Her numerous publications, presentations and research endeavors cover topics of age-related sensory loss, evidence-based electronic records, and access to environments for older adults.

## VICE CHAIR



**Frances Zainoeddin** left Australia in 1970 to work at the United Nations, New York, and upon retirement, joined the NGO community to further promote the ideals of the United Nations, with specific interest in gender and ageing issues. Her knowledge of the United Nations system, policies and procedures, has been particularly useful to NGOs that participate in UN meetings.

Ms. Zainoeddin is currently representative to the United Nations for the International Federation on Ageing, Soroptimist International and Gray Panthers, and an elected Vice-Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing. She is also the UN Focal Point in New York for the Stakeholder Group on Ageing which was established in 2013, as part of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders involved in sustainable development issues and was actively engaged on United Nations negotiations leading to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, ensuring inclusion of the concerns of older persons.

Ms. Zainoeddin is also actively involved in advocating for the rights of older persons, particularly in the context of discussions by the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing at the United Nations on a convention to protect and promote the rights of older persons.

## TREASURER



**Katharine (Katie) Weiss** serves as the UN representative of the Global Ageing Network (formerly IAHSA) and is currently serving as Treasurer of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York. Katie spent twenty years working at Citigroup with extensive experience in product development of technology-based consumer financial services. She managed the team that designed the consumer interface for all global ATMS, online banking, telephone banking, and staff and customer service kiosks. At Citigroup, Katie also had significant experience in consumer research, strategic planning, and financial management. Prior to Citigroup, Katie worked at Time Inc. and Deloitte, Haskins & Sells. Katie is current Board Chair of Aging in America, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to serving and inspiring innovation for individuals, families and caregivers faced with the challenges and opportunities of aging. In 2007 she co-chaired a consumer cabinet for Leading Age, the national

association of not-for-profit aging services providers. She is a graduate of Wellesley College, and received an MS in Accounting from NYU.

## **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**



**Maud Bruce-About** has been a representative of The International Federation of the Associations of the Elderly (FIAPA) since 2017. She was an organizer of the 2019 IDOP for the NGO Committee on Ageing and has served on the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on Ageing since 2019.

Her experience has been in development (the OECD Development Center) and consulting (Gemini Consulting).

Ms Bruce-About has a Master in Communication of Development ( Malmö University ); MBA ( London Business School ); BSc in Business Administration and Economics (Uppsala University )

## **RECORDING SECRETARY**



**Martha C. Bial** has represented the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) at the UN for 12 years and currently serves as its main representative. In this role she has presented at conferences in the U.S., Latin America, Europe, and Asia. She has served as corresponding secretary of the NGO Committee on Ageing and currently chairs its Sub-committee on Communications. She was also chair of the UN 2020 International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP). Dr. Bial is a Faculty Research Scholar at the Ravazzin Center on Aging at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social

Service, where she has taught social policy and social work practice with older adults and their families. She was earlier a practitioner, supervisor, and consultant in the field of aging for 25 years and later served as Associate Director of Field Instruction at Fordham. Her research and teaching interests include social work in long-term care, use of oral history and reminiscence, and substance abuse in older adults. She holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard and masters and doctoral degrees from Columbia and Fordham Universities, respectively.

## MEMBERS AT LARGE



**Robin Fenley, PhD, LCSW.** Dr. Fenley has worked with older persons for over thirty years, retiring as Assistant Commissioner from the NYC Department for the Aging in 2019. Robin developed NYC's first National Family Caregiver Support Program, established the first legislated Social Adult Day Ombudsman Office, and co-led NYC's first survey of informal caregivers and oversaw management of twenty-six contracted service providers. She has presented extensively on caregiving, long term care, and elder abuse, participated on numerous advisory boards, and received multiple awards for program innovation and achievement. Robin has worked in nursing homes, in-patient psychiatry, and elder abuse prevention.

Dr. Fenley is a member of the International Federation on Ageing Council on Ageing (CoA) and the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, joining INPEA and the Sub-Committee on Older Women as co-chair in 2020, and the CoA Executive Committee in 2021. Robin has presented at the UN, moderated a CSW65 panel, and co-authored briefs and statements.

Dr. Fenley has taught policy at Fordham University and is currently teaching policy at the Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work. Robin also consults with local non-profits.



**Christopher Hanway** has served as the Executive Director of Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement since 2014, a community-based social service organization in Long Island City, Queens which operates a vibrant senior center and a Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NNORC). Prior to that he was the organization's Director of Development & Communications for five years. Mr. Hanway has over 20 years of professional experience in the not-for-profit sector, most notably at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, the Institute for Classical Architecture, and the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He received his B.A. from Hunter College of the City University of New York and has a Master's in Public Administration from Baruch College. He serves on several boards, including United Neighborhood Houses of New York, the Chhaya Community Development Corporation and the International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers. Mr. Hanway is also Chair of the NGO Committee on

Migration, which advocates at the United Nations and other international organizations on behalf of migrants, refugees and asylees worldwide. A native of Long Island, Chris has lived in four of New York City's five boroughs and now resides on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with his partner, Kevin and their seven-year-old son.



**Magda Kaczmarska** is a dance artist, master teacher and creative-aging and brain health advocate based in New York City. Kaczmarska was born in Poland but grew up in the southwestern United States where she received her MFA in Dance Performance & Choreography and her BS in Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics from the University of Arizona. She spent 10 years working in neuropharmacology research and 18 years in intergenerational community-based education settings in dance and creative expression. She serves on the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) Dance & Disability Special Interest Group, supporting access, equity and inclusion in the dance education community. She also serves on the UN NGO Committee of Ageing, supporting the public voice for the human rights of older persons and is co-chairing the 2021 UN International Day of Older Persons. Kaczmarska is an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at GBHI, where she is working to design and expand access to creative aging programs that support brain health across the life span, and is a newly-appointed representative to the UN for Generations United.

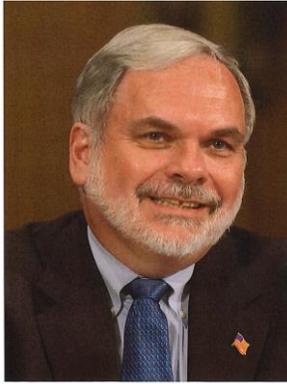


**Fredric K. Schroeder, PhD**, is the President of the World Blind Union, an organization representing the interests of the estimated 253 million blind and partially sighted people around the globe.

Dr. Schroeder leads the WBU's work to establish an international standard requiring electric and hybrid vehicles to emit a minimum alert sound when traveling at slow speeds. Electric and hybrid vehicles are nearly silent when traveling below 20 KPH, making pedestrian accidents more frequent.

Dr. Schroeder now leads the WBU's efforts to ensure that blind and partially sighted people and others with disabilities can operate autonomous and connected vehicles.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed Dr. Schroeder to serve as the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration—the federal agency that provides the majority of the funding for employment and independent living services for people with disabilities in the U.S.



**William T. Smith, Ph.D.** is President/Chief Executive Officer of Aging in America, Inc. which is the parent corporation of AIA Supportive Services, Morningside at Home, and Morningside House Nursing Home. All are non-profit, non-sectarian agencies. Dr. Smith is a licensed nursing home administrator, a certified social worker, and a certified retirement housing professional. Dr. Smith received his doctorate in Social Work (Gerontology) from Fordham University

Dr. Smith was formerly the executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY., Assistant Executive Director of Frances Schervier Home and Hospital, Bronx, NY, Assistant Professor of Public Health Administration at Pace University, and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Services at Fordham University.

He has served on the boards of the major organizations in Aging and was a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. He received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2006. He now chairs the Board of Directors of Cardinal McCloskey Community Services and continues to provide other important community services.