

**Valérie FONTAINE**

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French

**POSITION** Advisor for partnerships– Defender of Rights**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Since August 2015

**Advisor for partnerships– Defender of Rights**

Defender of Rights – Paris – France

In the Equality promotion and Access to Rights Direction, my duties are:

- to be responsible for partnerships concluded by the Institution in all its fields of competences;
- to be responsible for a new programme for teaching Law to children and young people “*Educadroit*”;
- to set up and prepare the work of the three advisory committees composed of high magistrates, experts and member of civil society, respectively competent on anti-discrimination, children’s rights and police ethics.

June 2011-August 2015

**Committee’s Permanent Secretary – Defender of Rights**

Defender of Rights – Paris – France

Under the direct authority of the General Secretary, my duties were:

- to set up and prepare the work of three advisory committees;
- to follow-up of the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Defender of Rights, after a Committee’s consultation;
- to develop a methodology for working groups with external partners of the institution;
- to coordinate various working groups aimed at proposing concrete solutions on difficulties concerning public services, police ethics, children’s rights and all types of discriminations;
- to ensure a coherent legal treatment of individual complaints received by the Defender of Rights;
- to write reports and recommendations;
- to deliver presentations of the institution to various local, national and international partners.

March 2005-June 2011

**Chief of staff – HALDE**

High authority against discrimination and for equality (HALDE) – Paris – France

- Contribution to the setting up of the overall organisation of a newly created institution;
- assistance of two successive Chairmen and the ten other members of the Commission (HALDE was a collegial authority) to develop a strategy to fight against discrimination in France and to establish priorities in the prevention of discrimination in employment, education, housing for all types of discrimination;
- transversal support to the Chairman’s management;
- coordination with the services for the follow-up of the decisions and recommendations;
- network building with administrations, non-governmental organisations and companies (national and international);
- organisation of national and international events;
- talks to national and international seminars and conferences;
- conception and organisation of training.

May 2004-March 2005

**Legal adviser for the preparation of the High authority for equality and against discrimination**

Prime minister services – Paris- France

- Consultation of experts and organisations involved in the fight against discrimination;
- follow-up of parliamentary bills for setting-up an independent administrative authority and lobbying;
- pre-recruitment of staff;
- preparation of meetings, talks, interviews of the mission's Chair;
- comparative studies and reports;
- co-writer of the final mission's report addressed to the Prime Minister.

July 1999-April 2004

**Legal adviser for international affairs and human rights**

Mediator of the Republic (Ombudsman) – Paris- France

- Direct substantive support to the Ombudsman in his activities concerning international cooperation and human rights;
- coordination of the organisation of international conferences and seminars;
- management of the Association of Francophone's Ombudsmans and Mediators (AOMF); delegate of the President of the AOMF (2001-2003);
- representation of the Ombudsman at international and national meetings in Europe, West Africa, Latin America;
- training of foreign Ombudsmans' staff (coming from Africa, Europe, South America);
- legal analyses of cases concerning both foreign administrations and foreigners' rights in France.

**1998 + 1999 Trainee**

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) – Geneva – Switzerland

- Preparation of resolutions for the UN Human Rights Sub Commission (51<sup>st</sup> session) and lobbying;
- writing of country's Human Rights Situation;
- relation with others NGOs working with UN Human Rights bodies

Jean Monnet Foundation – Lausanne – Switzerland

- Reorganisation of historical archives linked to Jean Monnet and the European construction

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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2011 + 2004

**Civil service exams: prime minister's principal officer (*attaché principal*)****Master's degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law**

1999-2000

Université Panthéon-Assas (Paris II - France)

- Public liberties
- International human rights
- International humanitarian Law
- Foreigners Rights

1997-1999

**Master's degree in International Public Law**

Université Paris X Nanterre (France) + Università Cattolica di Milano (Italy)

- International Public law
- European Union Law

1994-1997

**Bachelor's degree (Law and English)**

Université Paris X Nanterre (France)

- French civil, administrative and criminal law
- History of Law

1989-1994

**European Baccalaureate (high school)**

European school – Brussels (Belgium)

Mother tongue(s) French

Other language(s)	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C	C	C	C	C
Spanish	C	C	C	C	C
Italian	C	C	C	C	C

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user  
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

**Communication skills** ▪ good communication skills gained through many public conferences and seminars, in front of various audiences in national and international contexts

**Organisational / managerial skills** ▪ leadership (as HALDE's chief of staff)  
▪ transversal support to management  
▪ contribution to the definition of strategic orientations  
▪ identification of key issues and partners  
▪ planning, organising and follow-up of national and international meetings

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Publications** ▪ Children's equal access to school meal system, 2013  
▪ Towards a high authority against discrimination and for equality, Documentation Française, 2004  
▪ The French Ombudsman as Mediator: communication and accessibility, in "The Work and Practice of Ombudsman and National Human Rights Institutions", 2001

**Presentations** ▪ Yearly interventions for Humanity in Action summer education program (2006-2016)  
▪ Talk on the prevention of discriminations in administration (Geneva, September 2012)  
▪ Various talks at the National School for Administration (ENA), for foreign high civil servants, e.g.:  
- 27/02/17: "the fight against gender discrimination", women's management and leadership seminar  
- 01/10/10: "Gender equality", international specialised cycle of public administration on Human Rights  
- 23/09/09: "The fight against discriminations in France"  
- 27/11/02: "Common characteristics and diversity of institutions of mediation", international specialised cycle of public administration on "The institutional mediation";  
- 28/03/2003: "The Ombudsman", European Community Project on training for civilian aspects of crisis management, Democratisation and good governance course;  
- 26/09/2003: "Public services and Human rights: the role of the French Ombudsman"; international specialised cycle of public administration on "The protection of Human rights";  
- 5/12/2003: "The relations between the administration and citizens", cycle of training ENA-PHARE  
▪ Talk "El Médiateur, la defensa de los Derechos Humanos y el CEDH", at the seminar of Latin American People's Defensors (Caracas, March 2002)

- Projects**
- Expertise for the European Council at Albanian People's Advocate Office – capacity building (Tirana March 2002)
  - Development of a programme aiming at educating children and young people to Law (2017)

- Memberships**
- Fellow of German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) – study visit in 5 US cities in 2009 and member of the selection committee (2014-2017);
  - Member of the Council of Jean Monnet Foundation and of the association of Jean Monnet's friends;
  - Co-founder of the association "Regards du monde".