

Jean ZERMATTEN

Main professional activities

Jean ZERMATTEN was President and Dean of the juvenile Court of the Canton of Valais (Switzerland) since 1980 to 2005; he is also the Founder and Director of the International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE) in Sion/Switzerland (www.childsrightrights.org) and has been Lecturer at the University of Fribourg (Arts Faculty, Social Work and Law Faculty).

He has initiated and launched the Executive Master on Children's Rights, in collaboration with the University of Fribourg and the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch and various academic Diploma and Certificates on children's rights issues for professionals.

He is used to work in different continents, including in Africa and is Member of the WAN (West Africa Network for children on the move, with the International Social Service

He is Dr h.c. from the University of Fribourg

He is Member of the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child since 2005, Vice-Chair since 2007, and

Chairperson since May 2011.

Other relevant activities

- Charged by the Swiss Confederation to draft a Project for the 1st unified Law for the criminal Procedure for Minors (PPMin)
- Charged by the cantons from the Latin part of Switzerland to draft an inter-cantonal concordat on the implementation of measures for young offenders. This concordat has been accepted in October 2005
- Collaborated to the creation of the first Swiss children's rights network gathering more than 50 Swiss NGO
- Expert for different NGOs, in Juvenile Justice, Child Protection...

He was the President of the Swiss Society for the Juvenile Judges as well as the President of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (IAMYF) from 1994 to 1998.

Most recent publications in the field

- 2012 **Children in the context of international Law**
With Nevena Vuckovic-Sahovic and Jaap E. Doek, Staempfli, Berne
October 2012
- 2012 **Climate change : Impacts on children and their rights**
IDE, June 2012
- 2011 **Les jeunes abuseurs sexuels,**
With Philip Jaffé, IUKB, 2011

- 2011 **Harmful Practices and Human Rights,**
IDE (Editor), 2011
- 2010 **20 ans de Convention des droits de l'enfant. Essai d'un bilan...**
IDE, 2010
- 2009 **Le droit des enfants de participer. Norme juridique et réalité pratique :
contribution à un nouveau contrat social**
With Daniel Stoecklin
IDE, 2009
- 2008 **Children in street situations. Prevention, Intervention, Rights based approach**
IDE (Editor), 2009
- 2007 **Realizing the rights of the Child**
Editor with Carol Bellamy, 2007
University of Zürich, Chair of Political Philosophy
- 2007 **18 Candles. The Convention of the Child Reaches Majority**
Editor with Jane Connors (OHCHR)
IDE (Editor), 2007
- 2007 **Life on the streets. Children and Adolescents on the Streets. Inevitable
Trajectories ?**
IDE (Editor)
- 2007 **The rights of children with disabilities**
IDE (Editor)
- 2006 **The Right to education. Solution to all problem or problem without solution ?**
IDE (Editor)
- 2005 **Les Jeunes et le suicide en Valais**
Sarah Oberson Foundation
- 2005 **Child trafficking : a fatality ? From Field reality to better practices**
IDE (Editor)