

Annahita Moradi

Call: 2016
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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Inquests, Inquiries, International Law

Annahita specialises in international law, inquests & inquiries. Annahita is ranked in inquests and inquiries by the Legal 500, described as being ‘very considered in her cross-examination and very meticulous in her approach’.

International law

Annahita acts before international human rights mechanisms and diplomatic procedures in cases concerning criminal and administrative detention abroad, state hostage-taking, diplomatic protection, consular duties, ill-treatment and torture, human trafficking and modern slavery, land, natural resources, indigenous rights, healthcare, and sanctions.

Annahita has worked on cases before the African Commission, UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, UN Committee Against Torture and other UN Special Procedures; with the Respondent States in her cases based in Western Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. Annahita is on the International Criminal Court's List of Assistants to Counsel. She has acted as a legal expert to the Council of Europe on separate matters concerning international minimum standards on administrative detention conditions.

Annahita advises on domestic civil and human rights claims associated with her international cases, where there is UK jurisdiction.

Inquests & inquiries

In inquiries, Annahita has significant experience acting for core participants and inquiry legal teams, drafting Rule 9 requests, responding to Rule 9 requests, advising on issues of privacy, advising on Rule 10 questions, and drafting legal submissions.

Annahita has particular experience acting in inquests concerning emergency, adult and paediatric medicine; mental health; social care; and health and safety.

International Law and Human Rights

Detention, ill-treatment and torture abroad

Work includes:

- *Foreign Office and UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Communications:* on behalf of individual detained in Saudi Arabia **(2025 – Present, Junior Counsel)**.
- *Foreign Ministry and UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Communications:* on behalf of individual

- detained in Saudi Arabia **(2025 – Present, Junior Counsel)**.
- Foreign Office and UN Special Procedures, Communications*: on behalf of individual detained in the Philippines **(2023 – 2024, Junior Counsel: Repatriated)**.
- X v Sweden, UN Committee Against Torture, Communication*: on behalf of individual at risk of deportation where there was a real risk of torture by the recipient state **(2023 – 2024, Junior Counsel: Deportation Order withdrawn following submissions)**.
- Advice on communication to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention **(2023, Junior Counsel)**.
- Foreign Office and UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Communications*: on behalf of individual arbitrarily detained and tortured in a prison abroad as a state-hostage **(2020 – 2022, Junior Counsel: Repatriated and UN finding of arbitrary detention)**.

Land, environment and natural resources

Work includes:

- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Communication*: concerning Egypt and Ethiopia's alleged violations of the African Charter, including the rights to development, natural resources, property, and employment, through the construction and operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam **(2022 – Present, Junior Counsel)**.

Advisory work

Work includes:

- Advice on international human rights law protections for child abuse victims and child witnesses of abuse **(2025, Counsel)**.
- Advice on indigenous language recognition rights at international law **(2025, Junior Counsel)**.
- Legal expert to the Council of Europe: Opinion on Article 3 and 5 ECHR standards in response to the EU Pact on migration and asylum implication on detention conditions **(2024, Junior Counsel)**.
- Advice on proposed EU Regulation on the protection of adults deprived of their legal capacity: [Advice published by the European Disability Forum](#) **(2023, Junior Counsel)**.
- Advice on the criminalisation of forced sterilisation at EU level: [Advice published by the European Disability Forum](#) **(2022, Junior Counsel)**.
- Advice on EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime concerning alleged torture in the Middle East **(2022, Junior Counsel)**.
- Advice on sanctions procedures concerning alleged torture in Eurasia **(2022, Junior Counsel)**.
- Advice on international human rights law compliance of Central Asian country's new law **(2022, Junior Counsel)**.
- Legal expert to the Council of Europe: drafted and presented codifying document on international laws concerning administrative detention conditions **(adopted by Member States in May 2023 and co-authored by former European Court of Human Rights judge, Judge Ledi Bianku)**.

Seminars and workshops

Annahita has trained and delivered the following talks to NGOs and public bodies on human rights issues relating to human trafficking and modern slavery:

- [‘Adjudication of sexual and gender-based violence before the specialized criminal courts’](#) – talk for International Commission of Jurists and Tunisian judges.
- [‘Support for modern slavery victims’](#) – talk for three law centres.
- [‘Police duties towards modern slavery victims’](#) – talk for victim support charities.
- [‘Youth Criminal Justice: exploitation’](#) – talk for Law Centres Network.

- 'Rights of victims' – public bodies focus group.
- 'Child sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation' – talk for education authorities and Youth Offending Team.
- 'Indicators of child sexual exploitation' – talk for Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations.
- 'Criminal and sexual exploitation' – talk for Nations of Migration Awakening the Diaspora (NOMAD).
- 'Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the non-punishment principle' – training for a law firm.

Inquests & Inquiries

Annahita's inquiries experience includes:

- Lampard Inquiry – currently acting for over 100 affected families
- Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan
- Undercover Policing Inquiry

Annahita's inquests experience includes:

- Family Counsel at forthcoming inquest into the death of KW following mental health service discharge.
- Family Counsel at inquest into the death of EC in hospital after contracting COVID-19. Narrative conclusion. Human Rights Act 1998 claim settled post-inquest.
- Family Counsel at inquest into the death of JE in hospital from liver disease. Factual finding of unsafe hospital discharge prior to final admission. Prevention of Future Deaths report sent to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.
- Family Counsel at inquest into the death of LNC following mental health service discharge. Factual finding of GP prescription failure. Narrative conclusion.
- Family Counsel at inquest into the death of Baby S at home birth. Prevention of Future Deaths report sent to the NHS Trust.
- Family Counsel at inquest into the death of JC in scaffolding fall. Following the inquest the HSE imposed a Prohibition Notice on the scaffolding company prohibiting all operations until systemic concerns addressed.

Qualifications & Awards

- Finalist, 'Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year' (2024)
- Winner, 'Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year', Advocate (2022)
- Finalist, 'International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year', Advocate (2022)
- Scholar, Prince of Wales Scholarship, Gray's Inn – £16000 (2015)
- Recipient, Performance Award, University of Law – £1000 (2015)

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- BPTC, University of Law (2015 – 2016)
 - MA Legal and Political Theory, University College London (2014 – 2015)
 - LLB, School of Oriental and African Studies (2011 – 2014)

Appointments

- Equality and Human Rights Commission – Panel of Counsel **(2024 – Present)**
- International Criminal Court – List of Assistants to Counsel ____

Testimonials

"[Client] is clearly delighted ... can see how brilliant you've been on this matter and how happy the client is." –
Instructing Solicitor (2025)

"You [both] really worked hard to ensure [the Defendants] sit up and take note ... your efforts are very much appreciated." – **Lay client (2025)**

"It was a pleasure to have to you on the team ... your tireless and committed approach ... speaks volumes about you ... as a barrister" – **Professional client (2025)**

"[Y]ou have a very good way of setting things out and explaining things so that we are all on the same page!" – **Instructing Solicitor (2025)**

"In my capacity as the Inquest caseworker, Annahita is always one of the first barristers I seek to instruct...She is a fantastic barrister ... [Our] matters are often some of [the] most difficult cases ... Annahita has taken on many of my cases ... [and] is an excellent advocate" – **Caseworker (2024)**

"Thank you for today. You are really across this case in such detail." – **Instructing Solicitor (2024)**

"You continue to do an immense job." – **Instructing Solicitor (2024)**

"[A]n amazing effort Annahita" – **Instructing Solicitor (2024)**

"You have argued eloquently"– **Client (2024)**

"As always, you have gone above and beyond what we would expect and that made all the difference ... your flexibility and dedication set a high standard" – **Instructing Solicitor (2024)**

"[Annahita] demonstrated an exceptional level of expertise, thoroughly understanding our ... needs and the challenges [faced]. Her responses to our enquiries were meticulous, providing strong legal arguments crucial for ... negotiation success. ... [S]he revealed remarkable professionalism by delivering timely advice, further contributing to our [success]." – **Client (2024)**

"[Y]ou did a great job today. ... we did much better than expected." – **Instructing Solicitor (2024)**

"[Annahita is a] reliable junior for cases [involving] individuals and communities suffering serious human rights violations." – **Lead Counsel (2024)**

"This is such an incredible outcome in an extremely difficult case ... but we won because you cared and worked so hard on this." – **Instructing Solicitor (2023)**

"[D]uring the hearing it was clear she left no stone unturned and fought tooth and nail to put my case forward. I couldn't have asked for better representation. Sound advice and a force to be reckoned with in the courtroom." – **Client (2023)**

"[Annahita] ... was super thorough in going through the case documents and she was able to flag potential issues and highlight further documentation we needed. She provided advice to the client in a clear and compassionate way and she was especially considerate of our client's vulnerabilities ... She was extremely communicative and easily reachable throughout the case – it was an absolute pleasure to work with her! Our client was truly delighted with the outcome and with all of [Annahita's] work on his case." – **Instructing Solicitor (2023)**

"The preliminary work you carried out for my client was ... extensive [and] shows that you really care about the client's situation ... [The client] is very lucky that a hearing was scheduled for the day that you were [available] as without your hard work and deep understanding of the law I can very much imagine things would have turned out differently." – **Instructing Solicitor (2023)**

"[Annahita] proved to be a Godsend to our family [...] [F]or everything she has done for us [...] we are eternally grateful. She is a shining beacon in the legal industry." – **Client (2022)**

"[Annahita] always makes herself available to assist with our most complex and often, last minute requests [...]" [She]

has been disarmingly proactive when approaching a case, carrying out a meticulous review of evidence and ensuring that all legal arguments are considered and evidenced. [...] We are consistently impressed by [Annahita's] dedication to her casework. [...] All our legal staff agree that she is a marvel" – **Instructing Solicitor (2022)**

"[We] work with numerous ... barristers ... but [Annahita's] conduct stood out. ... [Annahita] has been communicative, personable and reassuring ... I was extremely well impressed by her commitment to the client [and] dedication to the case [and] her ability to grasp complex information in a short period of time. ... [W]hen engaging with the client following the hearing, he told me that he was very grateful to have [Annahita] fighting for him and that he felt that that made all the difference" – **Instructing Solicitor (2022)**

Directories

She is very considered in her cross-examination and very meticulous in her approach. – Legal 500, 2026