



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 60: Progress on Its Promise?

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Joanna Weschler, a native of Poland, has lived in the U.S. since 1982. In Poland she was a reporter for the Solidarity Union press agency, in charge of covering most meetings between Union President Lech Walesa and the communist government, and meetings of the executive leadership of the union.

She is currently the director of research of the Security Council Report, a recently established organization affiliated with Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

From 1994 until 2005, Ms. Weschler was the United Nations representative for Human Rights Watch. As the first person appointed by Human Rights Watch to this position, Ms. Weschler developed and articulated HRW's strategy toward the U.N. Her responsibilities included overseeing and coordinating HRW's staff work with the U.N. bodies, its diplomatic community and the U.N. press corps; speaking to the media on U.N. and human rights related issues; and participating as a speaker in public events and regularly representing HRW at the United Nations Human Rights Commission and several U.N. meetings in New York, Geneva and other locations.

Previously, she was the Poland researcher for Helsinki Watch; Brazil researcher for Americas Watch; as well as director of HRW's Prison Project. She has conducted human rights investigations in countries on five continents and written numerous reports and articles on human rights. She has a master's degree in Spanish and Latin American Studies from the University of Warsaw and a master's in journalism from Columbia University.