

**MRS. MARGARETTE MAY MACAULAY
CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN
RIGHTS (IACHR)
2020-2024**



MRS. MARGARETTE MAY MACAULAY is one of Jamaica's most experienced jurists and a leading human rights advocate. She has long lobbied for and assisted in the formulation and drafting of existing laws and enactment of new legislations to ensure the protection of the human rights of all persons in Jamaica.

Mrs. Macaulay is currently a Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and its immediate past President. She has been a Commissioner since January 2016, having been elected by the OAS General Assembly during its 45th Regular Session, and served as the Commission's 2nd Vice President during the first Period of Sessions in January 2016 and became its 1st Vice President during the first Period of Sessions in February 2017.

Mrs. Macaulay was also elected to serve as a Judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for the term 2007 to 2012. She served with distinction and diligently participated in every case application for provisional measures and all monitoring of compliance of judgments and provisional measures hearings. She also contributed to the formulation of the Court's Rules of Procedure in 2010.

ACADEMIC RECORD

- Diploma in Theology, London
- LL.B Hons., London University of London
- Diploma of Comparative Law, School of Oriental and African Law, University of London
- Qualifying Certificate Council of Legal Education of the West Indies (QCCLE)
- Keith Simmonds Award as Most Outstanding Jamaican Scholar
- Training as Supreme Court Mediator
- Training as Associate Mediator

MAIN PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Mrs. Macaulay has over forty years of legal practice. Her practice covers a myriad of areas of the law including constitutional and human rights, family law including custody, care and control, access, maintenance and defence of children, divorce and maintenance of spouses, property and estate cases and conveyances of lands.
- ✓ Mrs. Macaulay has an extensive regional and international career. In addition to serving on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, she has attended sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and attended the Beijing Conference on Women. She has also presented papers and participated as an expert at conferences and meetings such as the European Union's Council of Ministers, the then United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) later renamed UN Women, Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM) and various other mechanisms of Human Rights.
- ✓ Mrs. Macaulay has also written many background papers for international, regional and national conferences on many areas of human rights as well as opinions and conclusions, and advises as a Consultant for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the then Bureau of Women's Rights now renamed the Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA) in Jamaica among others.
- ✓ Lobbyist and advocate in area of women's and children's rights.
- ✓ Newspaper Columnist - assisting the public to understand their rights and where to go for relief and justice.

NOTABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

In December 2017, Mrs. Macaulay was selected as an honoured member of the Gender Justice Legacy Group of notable women's rights advocates who have worked and effected important changes. She was also acknowledged for her work on the elaboration of the Rules of Procedure and the Elements of Crimes for the International Criminal Court during the Preparatory Sessions at the UN Headquarters in New York.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING TENURE ON THE IACHR (2016-

- ☑ Achieved some success and forward movement in the following areas:-
 - i. The inclusion of Afro-descendants in more countries' population census.
 - ii. More diversity of staff members in the Secretariat of the IACHR.
 - iii. Advocacy for the ratification by all States of the Inter American Convention on Human Rights, the Inter American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Racial Forms of Intolerance which is now in force, and the Inter American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

- ☑ Identified the notable regressions in the rights of women, especially in Violence against Women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and ensuring more attention in this area.

- ☑ Ensured the Commission works more closely with the English-speaking Caribbean countries in keeping with the Commission's Strategic Action Plan 2017-2021. In this regard, encouraged the hosting of the 172nd Period of Sessions in Jamaica in May 2019, which is a historic event for the Commission being held for the first time in the Caribbean.

- ☑ Strengthened collaboration between the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and other independent mechanisms in the international arena, especially other UN bodies.

- Collaborated with the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Intolerance to strengthen the work in this area.

PLANS FOR THE IACHR 2020-2024

1

Continue to work to advance the standards and principles embodied in the Inter American Convention and other instruments.

2

Assist with the monitoring of compliance and the follow-up procedures of the decisions and recommendations made by the Commission and participate when necessary with the provision of technical support in offering advice to State Parties.

3

Advance the use and development of the Friendly Settlement procedure to enable agreed just terms between States and Petitioners.

4

Assist the Commission to achieve the goals in its Strategic Work Plan 2017 - 2021 by working with State Parties, civil societies and citizens to achieve the goals.

5

Work respectfully with civil societies and victims to achieve justice and just reparations.

6

Continue to work in her rapporteurships to advance the rights of some of the most vulnerable groups including the poorest women and Afro descendants.

7

Work in harmony with the other Commissioners and the Special Rapporteurs to respectfully assist State Parties to achieve their goals of protection for the greatest number of their citizens and those pursuant to the SDGs by 2030.

8

Continue to act honestly and diligently at all times in the performance of her duties as a Commissioner and with respect for all parties and to continue to lobby for universal ratification of all Inter- American Instruments of Human Rights.