

## CURRICULUM VITAE: NIKKI VAN DER GAAG

### SUMMARY

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Nikki van der Gaag is an independent gender consultant. Until January 2019 she was Director of Gender Justice and Women's Rights at Oxfam GB. She specialises in men and boys and gender equality, in particular around parenthood, and in work with, and writing about, adolescent girls and boys.

She has a proven track record in shaping the debate on women's rights and gender justice in the UK and globally. She has worked with a wide range of organisations; from UN Women to the corporate sector, small local NGOs, donor organisations and the media. She has authored six of Plan International *State of the World's Girls* reports, including one on boys, and has been co-author on the first two *State of the World's Fathers* report and lead author on the 2019 report. She is a Senior Fellow at Instituto Promundo, one of the leading organisations in the world working on men and boys in the context of gender equality. She held senior posts in the voluntary and non-profit sector and has engaged with a wide variety of audiences through many different channels; from writing books (*Feminism and Men*, the *No-nonsense guide to Feminism*) to delivering a Tedx talk and speaking at the United Nations.

**Nationality:** British

**Languages:** English (native speaker); French and Dutch (fluent spoken)

### Main professional skills:

- Writer and researcher specialising in gender and development
- Speaker, assessor and rapporteur
- Evaluator and facilitator

### ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

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- Coaching and Mentoring certificate with the Institute of Leadership and Management
- Managing for the voluntary and non-profit sector, the Open University
- BA and MA in English Language and Literature, Oxford University

### TRUSTEE AND DIRECTORSHIPS

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Senior Fellow, Instituto Promundo, Washington DC/Brazil (2015 -); Advisory Panel for the Good Lad Initiative (UK), (2018 -); Member of the International Advisory Board for Young Lives, an Oxford University research project into child poverty (2011 - 2018); Director and Advisory Trustee of the Mandala Theatre Company (2015 -); Trustee for Asylum Welcome a refugee support organisation (2004 -2013); *New Internationalist* (2002 -2015), and 'Just Change', a fair trade project working with *adivasis* (tribal people) in India and the UK (2000 -2015).

### COUNTRY EXPERIENCE:

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Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, The EU, The Gambia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda.

## EMPLOYMENT RECORD

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**February 2019** - Independent consultant

**September 2016 – January 2019** Director of Gender Justice and Women's Rights, Oxfam GB

**2002 – 2016:** Independent consultant

**2000 – 2002:** Editorial Director, the Panos Institute, UK

**1993 – 2000:** Editor and Director, New Internationalist Ltd, Oxford, UK

**1987 – 1993:** Managing Editor, Oxfam Youth and Education, Oxfam, UK.

**1986 – 1987:** Researcher, Images of Africa project, Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome

**1985 – 1986:** Manager, Interlink project, World Council of Churches

**1984 – 1985:** Journalist in Lebanon

**1982 – 1984:** Development Officer, Minority Rights Group, UK

**1981 – 1982:** Journalist in India

## SELECTED RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND PUBLICATIONS

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### 2005 – 2019

- Gender equality and social inclusion adviser to Maintains, a 6 country programme looking at system resilience to shocks (June 2020 - )
- Gender Advisor on the Young Marriage and Parenthood study, Child Frontiers, IDCR and Young Lives, March 2019 -
- Member of the Corporate Task Force on Paternity Leave, June 2019 -
- Organising team for the global MenCare conference in Morocco, helping to shape content (March- November 2019)
- *Engaging male caregivers in promoting positive gender norms in early childhood* with ViaEd, Scoping study for the Oak Foundation (March- December 2019)
- Rapid analysis report to inform Paung Sie Facility Exploratory Call on Positive Masculinities in Myanmar (August/September 2019)
- *The State of the World's Fathers*, lead author, with Brian Heilman, Taveeshi Gupta, Che Nembard and Gary Barker (June 2019)
- *The No-nonsense Guide to Feminism* (2017) New Internationalist
- *The State of the World's Fathers*, (June 2017)
- *Capturing a picture of change' How does Young Lives use research to engage with policy?* Research and writing (2016)
- *The State of the World's Fathers*, with Ruti Levtoy, Meg Greene, Michael Kaufman, and Gary Barker (June 2015)
- *Feminism and men*, Zed Press (2014)
- *Because I am a Girl: State of the World's Girls 2014: Pathways to Power*, Plan UK. Main author (October 2014).
- Evaluation of MenCare, a global project on fatherhood (2012 – 2015)
- *Because I am a Girl: State of the World's Girls 2013: girls and disasters*, Plan UK. Main author.
- Expert assessor on Children and Violence evaluation Challenge Fund for Oak Foundation (March 2013)

- Author and researcher *Changing Lives in a Changing World: Young Lives children growing up* (2012) Young Lives
- Researcher and co-author with Sandy Ruxton of a Europe-wide study for the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) commissioned by Men for Gender Equality Sweden. Published by EIGE and also in the Gender and Development Journal - Sandy Ruxton and Nikki van der Gaag *Men's involvement in gender equality – European perspectives* in Gender & Development Volume 21, Issue 1, 2013 Special Issue: Working with men on gender equality, Routledge and Oxfam
- *The Changing face of Masculinity: how women stand to gain* New Internationalist issue no 444 July 2011 Editor
- *Because I am a Girl: State of the World's Girls 2011: So what about boys?*, Plan UK. Main author and report writer.
- Evaluation of TRIALOG, a network of non-governmental organisations working on development education awareness in Eastern Europe (2012)

## 2008 – 2010

- Communications consultant to Young Lives, an Oxford University study on child poverty in India, Vietnam, Ethiopia and Peru (ongoing since 2007)
- Evaluation of Stop Child Labour, an EU funded campaign on child labour (May – July 2010)
- *Because I am a Girl: State of the World's Girls 2010*, Plan UK. Main author and report writer
- Communications expert on the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID) Review of its Research Communications Programmes (2009)
- Communications consultant for Oxford University's Refugee Studies Programme (2009)
- *Because I am a Girl: State of the World's Girls 2009*, Plan UK. Contributions from Senegal and the Philippines.
- Rapporteur for global meeting of IRC, the International Water and Sanitation Committee, June/July 2009
- Communications assessor for DFID Development Awareness Fund in the UK (2007-2009)
- Evaluation of Single Parent Action Network UK. Participative evaluation of policy project involving the training of single parents to communicate with policymakers.
- *Because I am a Girl: State of the World's Girls 2008: conflict and disaster*, Plan UK. Chief author and report writer.
- Gender adviser for Peacechild, running a workshop with young people and writing the introduction to: *Gender Journey: a youth empowerment toolkit*.
- *Who Answers to Women? Gender and accountability: Progress of Women 2008*, UNIFEM, editorial support.
- *Speaking Out: How the voices of poor people are shaping the future* Oxfam's experiences of working with the poor. Practical Action/Oxfam, November 2009

## 2007

- Media and Communications expert on DFID governance and transparency fund assessments (Autumn 2007). Core assessor, appraisal of project proposals.

- Young Lives: an Oxford University DFID-funded 15 year study on child poverty in Peru, India, Ethiopia and Vietnam (December – May 2007). Working with the team to produce a communications strategy.
- Communications expert on DFID Mid-Term Review for EdQual Research Consortium (Autumn 2007).
- Lead rapporteur and report writer for the First World Congress on Communication for Development, Rome, Italy (October 2006- March 2007)
- Evaluation of 'Voices of Experience: eradicating women's poverty through policy'; a two year participatory research project exploring the experience of women living in poverty and supporting their capacity to engage in the policy context (ongoing November 2005 – April 2007).
- *Because I am a Girl: State of the World's Girls 2007*, Plan UK. Main author and report writer
- *How the World Came to Oxford: refugees past and present*. Book from a participatory project with young refugees and asylum seekers published by the Oxford Literary Festival, March 2007

## 2006

- Evaluation of TRIALOG, a network of non-governmental organisations working on development education awareness in Eastern Europe.
- *Living Gender in African Organisations and Communities: Stories from The Gambia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia*, Transform Africa, editor.
- *A stronger voice*, report for the Migrants Resource Centre, London, editor.
- *Walking the Talk: communities on communities First*, Anti-Poverty Network Cymru, editor.

## 2005

- Lead rapporteur and report writer for the 9<sup>th</sup> UN Roundtable on Communication for Development, Rome, Italy
- Evaluation of the Stop Child Labour: School is the best place to work' campaign in Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands.
- Evaluation of the Europe-wide Development Education Exchange in Europe Project, assessing the overall functioning and operation of DEEEP 1,
- Advocacy document on girls' education in South Asia for UNESCO.

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