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Curriculum vitae

Claire Achmad (Auckland, New Zealand, 1983) is a human rights lawyer specialising in children's rights law and policy. She obtained her Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (Political Studies major) degrees from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. During the course of her Bachelor of Laws degree, she studied on an international exchange programme at the Faculty of Law, Copenhagen University, Denmark. Claire was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand in 2007. In 2010 she was named the recipient of the CLANZ-Bell Gully New Zealand Young Corporate Lawyer of the Year Award. Later in 2010 she was awarded a Rotary Global Grant Scholarship to study at Leiden University, and she obtained her Master of Laws (*cum laude*) in Advanced Studies in Public International Law (Peace, Justice and Development specialisation) in 2011, through Leiden Law School and the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Leiden University. She obtained a Certificate of Proficiency in the subject 'Torture and Disappearances in International Human Rights Law and Practice' from the Law School of the University of Auckland in 2016.

Claire practiced as a solicitor within the National Legal Services of the New Zealand Ministry of Social Development from 2007 to 2010, first as a Graduate Solicitor and later as the Ministry's Human Rights and Litigation Solicitor. During this time, she also worked pro bono as a Solicitor at the Wellington Community Law Centre (Refugee and Immigration Legal Advice Service). She worked in the Child Rights and Advocacy Team of UNICEF Nederland from 2010 to 2011, leading work on the rights of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers in the Netherlands and Europe and advocating for the disestablishment of Dutch and European policies of forced return of separated children to countries of origin. In 2012 Claire took up the post of Senior Advisor to the Chief Human Rights Commissioner and Executive Director at the New Zealand Human Rights Commission, where she worked until 2014. Claire has worked as an international human rights and child rights consultant for a number of organisations and eminent jurists, including KidsRights, Judge Rosalyn Higgins, DBE QC (former President of the International Court of Justice), and Maud de Boer-Buqicchio (United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children). She was the Senior Policy Advisor, Child Rights at World Vision Australia from 2016 to 2017, and since 2017 is employed by Barnardos, New Zealand's leading children's charity, where she is the

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Claire is a Core Group member of the International Expert Group convened by the International Social Service to draft principles for better protection of children in international surrogacy arrangements. She is a member of the Asia New Zealand Leadership Network, currently serves as a Director and Trustee of ShelterBox New Zealand, a Steering Committee member of Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa and a member of the Children’s Convention Monitoring Group. She has taught international human rights and children’s rights law as a Visiting Lecturer at both Leiden University and the University of Auckland, and has presented on international children’s rights law topics at universities, conferences and workshops around the world.

In the range of books published by the Meijers Research Institute and Graduate School of Leiden Law School, Leiden University, the following titles were published in 2017 and 2018

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International Commercial Surrogacy (ICS) has emerged over the past decade as a modern method of family formation. ICS is unregulated internationally and domestic laws are struggling to keep pace with ICS. However, a child is at the centre of every ICS arrangement, and children conceived and born through ICS are at a heightened risk of their rights being infringed.

Comprised of a collection of articles written over the course of time when ICS has been rapidly developing, this book explores why and how the child's rights are at risk in ICS, and seeks to apply the standards and norms of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to the ICS context. This book proposes approaches for balancing the competing rights and interests of the child and other parties in ICS. It presents a framework for protecting the rights of children born through ICS, illustrating that this is achievable in practice, in the absence of international consensus on ICS as a phenomenon.

This book is relevant for child rights practitioners and academics, and useful for policy-makers, legislators and national and international decision-makers grappling with the children's and human rights issues presented by this 21st century human rights challenge.

This is a volume in the series of the Meijers Research Institute and Graduate School of the Leiden Law School of Leiden University. This study is part of the Law School's research programme 'Effective protection of fundamental rights in a pluralist world'.

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