



HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME

Values Made Visible

Witness Biographies

Ambassador Lamberto Zannier

Former Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Secretary General and High Commissioner on National Minorities

Ambassador Lamberto Zannier of Italy took up the mandate of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities on 19 July 2017. His three-year tenure ended on 18 July 2020. Before taking up the position of High Commissioner, Zannier was OSCE Secretary General for two consecutive three-year terms, from 1 July 2011 until 30 June 2017.

Amb. Zannier joined the Italian Foreign Ministry as a career diplomat in 1978. From June 2008 until June 2011 he was UN Special Representative for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). From 2006 to 2008 he was Coordinator for CFSP and ESDP (now CSDP) in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dealing inter alia with EU foreign policy issues and with Italy's participation in EU operations. From 2002 to 2006, he was the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE, where he focused on political-military issues, as well as crisis management, and was responsible for managing the OSCE's field operations.

Amb. Zannier holds a law degree and an honorary degree in International and Diplomatic Sciences from the University of Trieste, Italy.

H.R.H. Maria-Esmeralda of Belgium

Journalist and Documentary Filmmaker

Princess Maria-Esmeralda is a member of the Belgian Royal family and the aunt of the current monarch, King Philippe. She prefers to be known simply as Princess Esmeralda.

She is a journalist, documentary-maker, keynote speaker and author writing under the pen name Esmeralda de Réthy. Princess Esmeralda started her journalistic career in Paris as a freelance writer for international magazines before moving to Milan and then, London where she currently lives. She has written numerous articles on politics, arts, science and sports for the European press.

During her career Princess Esmeralda has also co-produced three documentaries and written several books about her family, environmental issues and female Nobel Peace Prize winners.

She is currently working on a new exciting documentary highlighting some exceptional women around the world.

Princess Esmeralda is also a passionate human rights' campaigner and an environmental activist and has spoken out on a number of sensitive issues. She believes that we all have a responsibility to confront the past and build a better society in the future.

In June 2020, Princess Esmeralda voiced her support for the #blacklivesmatter campaign in the wake of the death of George Floyd. She was interviewed by broadcasters around the world, including by the BBC's flagship programme « Newsnight ».

She spoke about Belgium's colonial past and its rule over the Congo when millions of Congolese died during the reign of her great grand-uncle, King Leopold II. She argued vehemently that we need to address the institutionalised racism in our society, which still exists.

Princess Esmeralda also dedicates a lot of her time to environmental issues and took part in the Extinction Rebellion protests in 2019. She was one of 1,200 people to be arrested, but was later released without charge.

A Greenpeace supporter for several years, Princess Esmeralda also joined their Global Ocean Treaty campaign in April 2019 and their EU Arctic Dialogue in 2015.

Kevin Gover

Acting Under Secretary for Museums and Culture, Smithsonian Institution

Kevin Gover is the director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and a citizen of the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. Since he began as director in 2007, the museum has opened four critically acclaimed exhibitions: "Fritz Scholder: Indian/Not Indian," an exhibition that opened concurrently in Washington, D.C., and New York in 2008, the largest retrospective ever of the seminal 20th-century modern painter and sculptor; in October 2009, the museum opened its first solo exhibition of a living artist, "Brian Jungen: Strange Comfort," a major exhibition of the prominent Canadian artist (Dunne-za First Nations/Swiss-Canadian); the museum's George Gustav Heye Center in New York opened "Infinity of Nations: Art and History in the Collections of the National Museum of the American Indian," a permanent exhibition of 700 works in October 2010; "A Song for the Horse Nation" opened in October 2011 and featured objects presenting the epic story of the horse's influence on America Indian tribes. The museum's Collections Search was launched online to provide digital access to the museum's objects and photographs and, most recently, the museum opened the imagiNATIONS Activity Center providing a dynamic space for young visitors. and "Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations," which opened at the museum's Washington, D.C. location in 2014.

Gover served as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior from 1997 to 2000 under President Bill Clinton where he won praise for his efforts to rebuild long-neglected Indian schools and expand tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs police forces throughout the country. His tenure as Assistant Secretary is perhaps best-known for his apology to Native American people for the historical conduct of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

After leaving office in 2000, Gover practiced law at Steptoe & Johnson LLP in Washington. In 2003, he joined the faculty at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University and served on the faculty of the university's Indian Legal Program, one of the largest such programs in the country.

His legal career began in 1983 at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Kampelman in Washington, and in 1986, he founded Gover, Stetson & Williams in Albuquerque, N.M. His practice areas included federal Indian law, commercial transactions, environmental and administrative law, and legislative affairs.

In addition to his professional work, Gover has served on several boards and committees, including the Federal Bar Association and the American Bar Association, the Southwestern Association for Indian Art, Futures for Children, the Grand Canyon Trust, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas and the Salt River Development Co., an enterprise of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Gover received his bachelor's degree in public and international affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and his juris doctor degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law. He was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Princeton in 2001.

Dr. Wes Bellamy

Author and former Vice-Mayor of Charlottesville, VA

Dr. Wes Bellamy, Author of "Monumental: It Was Never About a Statue" is a former Vice-Mayor and City Councilman in Charlottesville, Virginia, the Political Science Department Chairman at Virginia State University, the national Co-Chairman of the newly developed *Our Black Party* – a political platform focused on advancing the needs of Black people in America, and one of the Global thought leaders of the Millennial Generation. Dr. Bellamy is the Managing Partner of New Emergence Consulting, an Equity and Policy consulting firm, and the National Public Policy Chairman of the 100 Black Men of America. He is the youngest individual ever elected to the Charlottesville City Council post, and he came into the national spotlight after helping to lead the effort to remove statues of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson from City Parks.

He developed a comprehensive plan, the "Equity Package," which included nearly \$4 million in aid for marginalized communities, and pushed it through city council. He is the founder of the Black Millennial Political Convention, a Convention focused on bringing together African American millennials from across the country to collectively use their power to create change. He has been featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Huffington Post, and has made appearances, on CNN, MSNBC, PBS News Hour, NPR, and On One with Angela Rye.