



CATHERINE PAULET

France's candidate

for the United Nations Subcommittee
on Prevention of Torture

2019 ■ 2022

Current responsibilities in international human rights protection mechanisms

- Member of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) since January 2014
- Expert to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) since 1999

Current positions

- Chief physician at the Psychiatry, Medicine and Addiction Care in Detention - Forensic Medicine Unit of Marseille's hospitals
- Member of the Difficult Patient Medical Care Unit of the Montfavet Hospital Centre

International cooperation and field missions

- 6 field and advisory visits in several States Parties to the OPCAT (Benin, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Togo), including as head of delegation
- 26 routine and ad hoc visits in several States Parties to the CAT as part of her duties as a CPT expert

Other activities of interest for the SPT mandate

- Participation in some 15 seminars and conferences relating to the prevention of torture, the protection of persons deprived of liberty and the implementation of national preventive mechanisms (NPMs)
- Founding member and honorary president of the French Association of Prison Psychiatric Wards (ASPMP) which brings together mental health professionals working in prisons
- Participation in ministerial (health and/or justice) and parliamentary working groups on healthcare for detained persons and persons suffering from psychiatric problems
- Teaching, essentially on the legislative and ethical aspects of medicine
- Various publications on prison care

Working languages

- French and English

A recognized practitioner in healthcare for persons deprived of liberty

■ Catherine Paulet has extensive and practical knowledge on issues relating to healthcare for persons deprived of liberty. As chief physician at the Psychiatry, Medicine and Addiction Care in Detention - Forensic Medicine Unit of Marseille's hospitals, she works with prison and administrative detention centre populations in particular. She is a founding member and honorary president of the French Association of Prison Psychiatric Wards.

An extensive knowledge of international anti-torture mechanisms

■ For more than 20 years Catherine Paulet has put her skills to work in international anti-torture mechanisms. She has been a member of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment since 2014 and expert of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment since 1999.

An unwavering commitment to the rights of persons deprived of liberty

■ As part of the CPT and SPT, Catherine Paulet has participated in more than 30 field and advisory missions in States Parties to the CAT and the OPCAT and in many seminars and conferences on torture prevention, thereby contributing to the implementation of the universal standards and promotion of a culture of prevention in places where liberty is deprived. She also contributes to this cause through her research and teaching endeavours.

■ **“Over the past thirty years, a great deal has been done internationally to protect against torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.**

163 States are Parties to the Convention against Torture and 88 are now Parties to its Optional Protocol. The Committee against Torture and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture have worked steadily and produced results.

Yet, many challenges remain before achieving effective universal protection against torture.

It is still too prevalent in many countries throughout the world. However, in just ten years, 88 States have ratified the Optional Protocol and have worked to address the challenge of prevention. The SPT is now a key actor in the strategy to fight torture thanks to its action on the ground – visits of places of detention and systemic analysis of the causes of ill treatment – and thanks to its commitment to States Parties, based on dialogue and cooperation in the operational implementation of the Protocol and the national preventive mechanisms.

By presenting my candidacy to renew my term at the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, **I would like to pursue my commitment to work on the Optional Protocol and its related challenges.**

My candidacy builds on the activities that I have conducted for more than 20 years to protect the rights of people deprived of their liberty.

During my long experience as a practitioner in healthcare for people deprived of liberty, I have directly encountered specific problems of places where liberty is deprived.

I have extensive knowledge on how the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and its activities are run, as I have been a particularly active member since 2014. My experience working on the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment since 1999 is also valuable.

Lastly, **my personal commitment** to the defence of the rights of persons deprived of liberty, and more generally, to the progression of fundamental rights, **has led me to become increasingly more dedicated to taking forward this cause in which I believe so deeply.**

I am convinced that my expertise and commitment will continue to be a useful addition to the work of the Committee and **I will fulfil my mandate rigorously and independently.”** ■