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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Post Graduate Researcher – Digital and Technology Cluster

NATIONALITY: British

LANGUAGES: French, Mandarin, Swahili

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Digital innovation, technology for development, empowerment of women, financial inclusion, social justice and human rights.

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: China, Hong Kong, Japan, Kenya, Myanmar, Palestine, Rwanda, Tanzania

OVERVIEW

Sarah Stephens is a human rights lawyer with international development experience, and is a current post-graduate researcher in the Digital and Technology cluster at IDS. Sarah has over 20 years strategic and programme experience in social justice, empowerment of women and human rights. She has worked on projects in partnership with DFID, British Council, DANIDA, GIZ, Irish Aid, Save the Children, SIDA, UNOPS, UNICEF, World Bank.

She is currently engaged in doctoral research at IDS to explore the role of technology to increase access to justice for women in Tanzania; exploring social, cultural, and technical barriers to digital access.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2020 - ongoing	PhD Institute of Development Studies, UK Topic: The opportunities and challenges of technology to increase access to justice for women in Tanzania
2020	Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Association (Certificate in Teaching at Higher Education Institutions) University of Sussex, UK
2007 - 2010	LLM Human Rights Law University of London, UK
2000 - 2001	License to Practice Course (solicitor) College of Law, UK
1999 - 2000	Post graduate diploma in law College of Law, UK
1996 -1997	Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language Multilingua Language School, UK
1993 - 1996	Psychology B.Sc. University of Leeds, UK

DETAILS OF CONSULTANCIES AND RESEARCH ENGAGEMENTS

Jan 2021 ongoing	Researcher, British Council, Palestine Topic: Factors impacting female inclusion in the digital economy in Palestine
Oct 2020 ongoing	Researcher, United Nations Office Project Services, Myanmar Topic: COVID-19 and gender – a human rights-based approach to programme adaptation
Nov – Dec 2019	Researcher, International Budget Partnership, Tanzania Topic: A road map to increase government accountability for public spending in schools infrastructure and resources
July – Oct 2019	Researcher, GIZ, Tanzania Topic: Identifying the challenges and opportunities for Civil society organisations as public accountability actors
Feb – March 2019	Researcher, GIZ, Tanzania Topic: A strategy for the National Audit Office of Tanzania to improve their methodology for reporting on transparency and anti-corruption
Aug – Oct 2018	Researcher, Act2, Tanzania Topic: A communication strategy for sharing lessons learned on Act2
Feb – March 2018	Researcher, GIZ, Tanzania Topic: Engaging with civil society organisations to improve transparency and accountability in Public Financial Management
Feb – March 2016	Researcher, British Council, Tanzania Topic: Developing a tool kit to improve contract procurement with local government authorities from 5 regions in Tanzania
Sept – Dec 2015	Researcher, Save the Children, Tanzania Topic: Business and Human Rights: An agenda for Good Corporate Business in the extractives industry in Kenya and Tanzania
Aug – Sept 2015	Researcher, CLEAR Legal Centre, Kenya Topic: A framework for monitoring, evaluating and learning

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2016 - 2018	Head of International Development Programmes, KPMG, Tanzania
2003 - 2013	Lawyer, Kennedys LLP, UK
2001 – 2003	Lawyer, Linklaters LLP, Hong Kong
1999 – 2000	Paralegal, Clifford Chance, China

AFFILIATIONS

Trustee, Access to Justice Foundation, UK (Chair of Development Committee)

Steering Committee Member, Network for Justice (Technology and Digital Inclusion), UK

REFEREES

Dr Becky Faith, Researcher and Co-Lead of Digital and Technology Cluster, Institute of Development Studies, UK

Dr Stefan Ehrentraut, Head of Civil Society Component, Good Financial Governance Programme, GIZ, Tanzania

Mr Ketan Shah, Partner, KPMG, Tanzania