



Human Security Centre

Advisory Board Member

Dr. Roberta Cohen



Dr. Roberta Cohen is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow in the Foreign Policy Program at Brookings. She is a specialist in human rights, humanitarian and refugee issues, and a leading expert on the subject of internally displaced persons and on human rights conditions in North Korea.

She co-founded and co-directed the Brookings Institution 'Project on Internal Displacement' for over a decade, and also served as senior adviser to the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons (1994-2010). Additionally, she co-authored the first major study on internal displacement, *Masses in Flight: The Global Crisis of the Internally Displaced* (Brookings Institution Press, 1998) with Francis Deng, and went on to co-edit its second volume, *The Forsaken People: Case Studies of the Internally Displaced* (Brookings Institution Press, 1998). For her efforts, she was co-winner of the Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order. In 2006, a special issue of the *Forced Migration Review* (University of Oxford) was devoted to her work.

Dr. Cohen has had extensive experience working with governments and international organisations, serving as consultant to governments, UNHCR, World Bank, the National Academy of Sciences, and a variety of non-governmental organisations. In 2003, she served as Public Member of the US Delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and in 1998, she was Public Member of the US Delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights. During the Carter Administration, she served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights in the Department of State's first human rights bureau and as senior adviser to the US Delegation to the UN. She has also served as Honorary Secretary of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group in the UK and as Executive Director of the International League for Human Rights in New York. In 1985, she received the US Information Agency Superior Honor Award for reopening US educational, cultural, and information programs in Ethiopia during a difficult political period.

She has published more than 100 articles on human rights and humanitarian issues and a series of op-eds in leading newspapers. In 2002, she was awarded the DACOR (Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired -- State Department) Fiftieth Anniversary Award for Exemplary Writing on Foreign Affairs and Diplomacy, in particular on "refugees and internally displaced persons." In 2005, she received the Washington Academy of Sciences Award for Distinction in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Most recently, Cohen is author of:

China's Forced Repatriation of North Korean Refugees Incurs United Nations Censure (International Journal of Korean Studies, 2014)

Protection of IDPs: National and International Responsibilities, (Research Handbook on International Law and Migration, 2014)

Human Rights in North Korea: Addressing the Challenges (International Journal of Korean Unification Studies, 2013)

Lessons Learned from the Development of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (Georgetown University, 2013)

World Food Day: The Challenge of North Korea (Brookings Northeast Asia Commentary, 2013)

From Sovereign Responsibility to R2P (Routledge Handbook on the Responsibility to Protect, 2012)

Disasters and Displacement: Gaps in Protection with Megan Bradley (Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies, 2010)

Improving the US Response to Internal Displacement: Recommendations to the Obama Administration and the Congress with Dawn Calabria (Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, 2010)

Reconciling R2P with IDP Protection (Global Responsibility to Protect, 2010)

Mass Displacement from Conflict and One-Sided Violence: National and International Response with Francis Deng (SIPRI Yearbook, 2009).

Dr. Cohen is also a Senior Fellow at Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of American University's Washington College of Law. She is Co-Chair of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, past Vice-Chair of the International Human Rights Law Group (now Global Rights) and serves on the Administrative Council of The Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights and on the Committee on Conscience (US Holocaust Memorial Museum). She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and is on the Editorial Board of Global Responsibility to Protect and on the International Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of Refugee Studies (Oxford).

She has an honorary doctorate from the University of Bern Faculty of Law (Switzerland), an M.A. "with distinction" from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (Washington DC and Bologna, Italy) and a B.A. from Barnard College (Columbia University, New York), which awarded her its Distinguished Alumna Award in 2005.