

## RUBEN WISSING

### Contact

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### Professional experience

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- Mar. 2017 - present     **PhD Research Fellow**  
Ghent University, Faculty of Law and Criminology, Department of European, Public and International Law, Migration Law Research Group  
*'Safe with the neighbours? Refugee protection and EU external migration policy in Turkey and Morocco'*
- Jan. – Dec. 2017       **Teaching Assistant to Prof. dr. Ellen Desmet, Migration Law (20%)**  
Ghent University, Faculty of Law and Criminology, Department of European, Public and International Law
- Practical assistance
  - Teach on international protection
  - Assist master students with their master theses
  - Research and service delivery in the domain of asylum and migration law and policy
- July – Dec. 2017       **Coordinator (60%)**  
NANSEN vzw, (ULB Campus, Av. F.D Roosevelt 50, 1050 Brussels)
- Asylum legal aid and expertise centre, national UNHCR partner
  - Daily management
  - Project coordination
  - Fundraising
  - Communication, external relations
- May 2016 – June 2017   **Associate Protection Officer on Detention (consultancy)**  
UNHCR, Protection Unit for Belgium & Luxemburg, Regional Representation Western Europe (Av. Louise 385, 1050 Brussels)
- Develop, implement and coordinate a monitoring program for detention facilities in Belgium and a national detention strategy
  - Intensive monitoring through visits and interviews with asylum seekers in detention facilities
  - Monitor and analyse the development and implementation of legislation, policy and practices related to detention at the border and on the territory
  - Provide policy guidance and legal advice on detention-related matters to internal and external interlocutors
  - Assist in the development, implementation and reporting of
- Nov. 2015 – Dec. 2016   **Freelance Consultant**  
BxlConsul (independent)
- Counseling on migration and asylum law, practices and policy
- Jun. 2009 – Jan. 2016   **Legal and Policy Officer**  
BCHV-CBAR (Belgian Refugee Council) (Paleizenstraat 154, 1030 Brussels)
- Legal assistance to asylum seekers and lawyers; drafting advisory opinions to Belgian asylum authorities (UNHCR operational partner)
  - Reporting and publishing on Belgian asylum and migration law and practice (Asylum Information Database national expert)

- External relations, strategic collaborations (UNHCR, ECRE, Belgian NGOs, academics, press)
- Monitoring, policy and advocacy activities (consultation by Belgian asylum authorities and ministerial cabinets, EU institutions)
- Training to different publics (on aspects such as credibility assessment, unaccompanied minors, vulnerability, protection status eligibility, EU law, Dublin)
- Copy writing, fundraising

Oct. 2008 – Jun. 2009 **Legal Officer**  
 Flemish Minorities Centre (VMC – Kruispunt Migratie-Integratie) Anthropology

- International private law
- Legal Counseling
- Online publications
- Training

Jun. 2004 – Dec. 2007 **Lawyer**  
 Kati Verstrepen Law Firm (Rotterdamstraat 53, 2040 Antwerp)

- Migration law
- Legal counseling, attending clients, legal procedures
- Drafting legal requests and appeals
- Pleading before courts and administrative authorities

Jan. – June 2004 **Campaigner**  
 Red Cross, Madrid, Spain

- Fundraising

## Education

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2003 – 2004	<b>Candidate in Philosophy</b>	KU Leuven
1999 – 2003	<b>Licentiate in Law</b>	KU Leuven Complutense University of Madrid
1997 – 1998	<b>Candidate in Law</b>	KU Leuven, Kortrijk Department (KULAK)
1991 – 1996	<b>Latin-mathematics</b>	Sint-Jozefinstituut, Kortrijk

## Publications

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### Journal articles without peer review and editorials

- Wissing R. (2017). 'Artikel 3 EVRM beschermt ernstig zieke vreemdleingen tegen een verwijdering van het grondgebied en beidt hen procedurele garanties (EHRM-arrest Paposhvili)', *Tijdschrift voor Mensenrechten*, jg. 15, no. 1, 15-16
- Wissing R. (2015). 'Eerste land van asiel – een nieuwe grond om vluchtelingen van bescherming uit te sluiten?', *Tijdschrift voor Vreemdelingenrecht*, no. 2, 74-85
- Wissing R. (2014). 'Grenzen aan het grensbeleid? Fort Europa doorgelicht door de VN', *Tijdschrift voor Mensenrechten*, jg. 11, no. 4, 8-11

### Reports

Wissing R., ECRE (2013), *Asylum Information Database: Country Report Belgium*, <http://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/belgium>

Wissing R., ECRE (2014), *Asylum Information Database: Country Report Belgium*, First Update  
Wissing R., ECRE (2014), *Asylum Information Database: Country Report Belgium*, Second Update  
Wissing R., ECRE (2015), *Asylum Information Database: Country Report Belgium*, Third Update  
Wissing R., ECRE (2015), *Asylum Information Database: Country Report Belgium*, Fourth Update

Unpublished:

Wissing R., UNHCR (2017). *“Is this jail?” / “C’est comme prison” – Monitoring Detention in Belgium, Findings & Recommendations*

Wissing R., UNHCR (2017). *National Action Plan Global Strategy Beyond Detention, April 2017*

## **NGO publications**

Wissing R. (2014). ‘Biedt India ‘reële bescherming’ aan Tibetanen? – Welke ‘reële bescherming’ is vereist om van een ‘eerste land van asiel’ in de zin van artikel 48/5 §3 van de Vreemdelingenwet te kunnen spreken?’ voor CBAR-BCHV

Wissing R., Daem G., Lepoivre C. (2013). ‘Kinderen in asiel: rekening houden met hun kwetsbaarheid en hoger belang’, voor CBAR-BCHV

Wissing R. (2013), Belgian case Summaries for European Database of Asylum Law (EDAL) (<http://www.asylumlawdatabase.eu/en/case-law-search>)

Wissing R. (2012). ‘Het behoren tot een sociale groep’, ‘Uitsluiting’, en ‘Het specifieke probleem van recent verblijf’ in *60 Jaar Vluchtelingenverdrag – Analyse van de Belgische Praktijk en het Internationale en Europese kader* (Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen, CIRE, BCHV-CBAR).

Wissing R., e.a. (2012). ‘Nieuwe gegevens voor de Raad voor Vreemdelingenbetwistingen in volle rechtsmacht: in lijn met het Europees recht?’, voor CBAR-BCHV

Wissing R., e.a. (2011). ‘Is de vrees gegrond? Het gebruik en de toepassing van landeninformatie in de asielaanvraag’, voor CBAR-BCHV

Wissing R. (2010), ‘Demandes d’asile multiples : ‘element nouveau’? – Application de l’article 51/8 de la loi du 15 décembre 1980 au regard de la directive ‘Procédure’ et du cadre constitutionnel’ in CBAR-BCHV, *L’accès à la procédure d’asile en Belgique*

Wissing R. (2009), ‘Ouderlijke Verantwoordelijkheid’ voor Steunpunt IPR, VMC op vreemdelingenrecht.be (<http://www.kruispuntmi.be/thema/vreemdelingenrecht-internationaal-privaatrecht/familiaal-ipr/ouderlijke-verantwoordelijkheid>)

Research and preliminary drafting for:

Sheridan C., Taylor A., van Krimpen I., Zelvenska J, ECRE (2017), *Preliminary Deference? The impact of judgments of the Court of Justice of the EU in cases X.Y.Z., A.B.C. and Cimade and Gisti on national law and the use of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights*

## **Fellowships, grants and funding**

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- UNHCR project ‘Legal and administrative assistance to asylum-seekers in Belgium’ (2017), by the consortium CESSMIR (promoters Katrijn Maryns and Ellen Desmet) and NANSEN vzw (64.000 euro).
- ERF and AMIF projects; MINERVA project proposal AMIF Community Action 2015 (not approved)
- UNHCR projects
- Fedasil projects

## **Research related activities**

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Presentations at national conferences, (expert) seminars and study days

- ‘De Asielaanvraag van Niet-Begeleide Minderjarigen: van de Theorie naar de Praktijk - COI: hoe vindt men adequate informatie over het land/de regio van oorsprong?’, Platform Kinderen op de Vlucht, 13 oktober 2016

- 'Dublin III Verordening (EU) nr. 604/2013 van het Europees Parlement en de Raad van 26 juni 2013', Foyer, Brussels, 31 maart 2015
- 'La Crédibilité dans la Directive Qualification' on Colloquium *La Seconde Génération du Droit Européen de l'Asile en Droit Belge : Le Temps des Juges*, UCL, Louvain-la-Neuve, 5 December 2014
- 'De Asielrechtspraak betreffende Niet-Begeleide Minderjarige Vreemdelingen', Platform Kinderen op de Vlucht, 18 juni 2013
- 'La Jurisprudence en matière d'asile concernant les Mineurs Etrangers Non-Accompagnés', Plate-forme Mineurs en Exil, 21 juni 2013
- 'La crédibilité pendant les interviews d'asile', Seminar *La Convention de Genève aujourd'hui: les risques*, CIRE, VLuchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen, CBAR-BCHV, 16 December 2011
- 'Basisvorming familiaal IPR advocatuur', VMC, Brussels, 13, 20 mei 2009
- 'Voortgezette Vorming IPR', VMC, Ghent, Brussels 2009

#### Panels and workshops

- 'UNHCR Detention Monitoring and Global Strategy Beyond Detention', presentation of Etat des Lieux closed centres, Transit Group (JRS, CIRE), at Federal Parliament, 23 January 2017
- 'The Refugee Crisis – What role for EU law vs. politics?', European Law Academy (ERA), 18 November 2015
- 'The challenges of a European Response', presentation of Van Reisen M., Estefanos M., Rijken C., (2014). *The Human Trafficking Cycle: Sinai and Beyond*, at European Parliament, 4 December 2013
- Participation in workshops CGRS 'Hoger belang van het kind in de asielprocedure', 20 November 2014
- Participation in ICJ Roundtable 'Asylum claims based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, 27 June 2014

#### Expert consultancy and advice: Policy advice documents and consultations

- Justice Ministry, on the proposed reform of the legal aid system, 24 June 2015
- Kinderrechtencommissariaat, Luistergroep Heen & Retour, 14 October 2013
- State Secretary on Migration and Asylum, protection and return policy Afghans, 2 October 2013
- Dublin reform consultation stakeholders meeting, DG Home European Commission, 11 December 2015
- Evaluation of Qualification Directive, ICF for DG Home, 2015
- NGO consultation during periodic country visit of Mr Nils Muiznieks, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe, on deficiencies in the asylum system and the reform of the legal aid system, 14 September 2015
- Intervention for the Belgian Refugee Council at European Parliament, LIBE preparatory meeting delegation to Greece, 10 October 2012, 15h
- ECRE, Asylum System Core Group, 2012-2014
- CGVS, Overleg beschermingsbeleid Afghanistan – UNHCR Richtlijnen augustus 2013, 6 November 2013
- Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen, Report 'Holebi's op de vlucht – een analyse van beslissingen door de asielinstanties', mei 2013
- Expert consultative panel UNHCR 'Mapping Statelessness in Belgium', 2011-2012, Report presented in Federal Parliament on 6 February 2013
- European External Policy Advisors (EEPA), Prof. Van Reisen (Tilburg University) on the application of the Dublin Regulation for refugees from the Horn of Africa (for the book *The Human Trafficking Cycle: Sinai and Beyond*), 2014
- Written note to Aliens Office (DVZ-OE) on ECtHR Tarakhel judgement impact on Dublin procedure, 14 November 2014
- NGO Consultation by DG Home on Belgian transposition of EU Asylum Acquis, September 2013
- Written note to Parliamentary Commission Internal Affairs on proposed changes of the Aliens Act related to multiple asylum applications, 5 February 2013
- Asylum Information Database (AIDA) national expert, 2013-2015
- Bi-annual meeting with Federal Ombudsman on asylum related affairs, 2013-2015

- Platform Justice pour Tous/Recht voor Iedereen, 2014-2015
- Coordination Contact meeting (monthly exchange platform asylum authorities and NGOs), 2010-2015
- Coordination Protection meeting UNHCR-National NGOs, 2013-2015
- Input for UNHCR policy notes, 2010-2015
- Journalist Dalton M. 'Europe Departs more Iraqis' in Wall Street Journal, 2010
- Justice Ministry, overleg Aanpak schijnhuwelijken, 23 November 2008 (VMC)
- Ministry of the Flemish Community, Department of Wellbeing, Public Health and Families, overleg Eergerelateerd geweld, 9 February 2009 (VMC)

## Teaching

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### Previous courses

2017:

- International and national protection statuses, in Migration Law (*Migratierecht*, 30h), Ghent University, Master of Laws in Laws and Master of Science in Criminological Sciences (teaching assistant)

## Academic service delivery to society

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### Editorial boards and reviewing

- Editorial board of *Tijdschrift voor Vreemdelingenrecht* (Journal of Aliens Law), 2016 – present

### Science communication to a wider public

*Presentations and blogposts on asylum, migration, human rights*

- *Vluchtelingen crisis: hoezo? Over asiel en migratie, in België en de EU*, Vormingplus Kortrijk, 2017
- *Systematic detention of asylum seekers at the border : on the need for an individualised necessity test*, blogpost on Strasbourg Observers, 9 June 2017  
[www.strasbourgobservers.com/2017/06/09/systematic-detention-of-asylum-seekers-at-the-border-on-the-need-for-an-individualised-necessity-test/](http://www.strasbourgobservers.com/2017/06/09/systematic-detention-of-asylum-seekers-at-the-border-on-the-need-for-an-individualised-necessity-test/)
- *Turkije, het derde "veilige" land*, MO\* blog, 21 March 2016  
<http://www.mo.be/wereldblog/turkije-het-derde-veilige-land>
- *Juridisch koorddansen met Turkije humanitaire schande voor EU*, MO\* opinie, 25 March 2016  
<http://www.mo.be/opinie/juridische-koorddansen-met-turkije-nieuwe-humanitaire-schande-voor-eu>
- *Statelessness having been mapped, it's time to act now for Belgian authorities, before momentum passes*, ENS guest blog, 13 February 2013  
<http://www.statelessness.eu/blog/statelessness-having-been-mapped-it%E2%80%99s-time-act-now-belgian-authorities-momentum-passes>

## Skills

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### Language skills

- Dutch: mother tongue
- English: fluent
- French: fluent
- Spanish: good
- German: basic

### Computer skills

Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, Adobe Acrobat Professional

## Training (selection)

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- Doctoral School Ghent University, Hasselt University and VUB, 'Developing interview questions and basic interview skills', Hasselt University, 26 April 2018

- Doctoral School Ghent University, Hasselt University and VUB, 'Narrative Analysis', VUB Brussels, 19-20 April 2018
- European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), Annual General Conferences, Dublin 2012; Prague, 2013, Brussels, 2014, The Hague, 2015
- UNHCR, Tilburg University, Global Forum on Statelessness, The Hague, 15-17 September 2014
- European Database of Asylum Law (EDAL), 'Reflections on the current application of the EU Asylum Acquis', Dublin, 17-18 January 2014
- UNU-MERIT, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 'Complexities and Challenges in Afghan Migration Research and Policy', Brussels, 8-9 April 2013
- European Network on Statelessness (ENS), 'Addressing Statelessness in Europe', Budapest, 19-21 November 2012
- Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), University of Oxford, 'Palestinian refugees and International Law', 10-11 March 2012
- Chaire W.J. Ganshof Van Der Meersch, Institut d'Etudes Européennes, ULB, 'Principles of International Refugee Law' by Prof. Goodwin-Gill, University of Oxford, February-March 2011
- European Legal Network on Asylum (ELENA), 'The Common European Asylum System: Ten Years On – Developments to Date and Future Challenges', Vienna, 13-15 November 2009

#### **Societal engagement** (selection)

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- Ligue of Human Rights (*Liga voor de Mensenrechten*), 2018 – present
- NANSSEN, co-founder and board member, 2017 – present
- Globe Aroma, member of the board, 2016 – present
- Advisory Commission in Aliens Affairs (*Adviescommissie Vreemdelingenzaken*), member, 2012-2016
- Surveillance Commission Belgian Prisons (*Commissie van Toezicht op het Gevangeniswezen*), Sint-Gillis prison, member, 2010-2013
- Uit de Marge, member of the board, 2008-2013