

Laïla Demirdache - Biography

Laïla Demirdache has been working as a staff lawyer with Community Legal Services (CLS) in Ottawa since 2002. Ms. Demirdache has also taught immigration and refugee law at the Faculty of Common Law, University of Ottawa.

Prior to her work at CLS, Ms. Demirdache worked as a Protection Delegate in Ethiopia with the International Committee of the Red Cross. As a Protection Delegate, she was in charge of visiting persons in detention as well as monitoring their judicial guarantees.

Ms. Demirdache is a member of several committees including: the RPD/RAD Working Group of the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers; the Canadian Council for Refugees' Legal Affairs Advisory Committee; the Ottawa Legal Aid Area Committee; and the Ottawa Immigration Conference Organizing Committee. Ms. Demirdache was a member of a legal team representing Amnesty International Canada (English) on several occasions before the Supreme Court of Canada. She also appeared yesterday on behalf of another intervener in the *Kanthasamy* case which was heard yesterday by the Supreme Court of Canada.

In recent years, Ms. Demirdache has been acting as a Designated Representative for minors and persons with mental disabilities.