

ICOS THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT



Norine MacDonald QC, President and Founder of the International Council on Security and Development (ICOS)

Norine MacDonald QC is the President and Founder of the International Council on Security and Development (ICOS), a policy think tank working to combine grassroots research and policy innovation at the intersections of security, development, counter-narcotics and public health.

Since 2005 Ms MacDonald QC has worked and travelled extensively in Afghanistan and witnessed at first hand the terrible effects of the country's past and current conflicts. Her field research has helped to direct ICOS' analysis and investigation into the relationship between counter-narcotics, military, and development policies and their consequences for Afghanistan's reconstruction efforts. The Council's field research reports and video footage provide a unique insight into the deteriorating development and security situations on the ground, especially in southern Afghanistan, and make policy recommendations to a broad audience of senior policy-makers and experts in NATO countries.

Since 2007, ICOS has broadened the scope of its work, and Ms MacDonald's research for the Council has also taken her to other 'War on Terror' hotspots in Iraq and Somalia.

Ms MacDonald's international experience in law, academic research, policy, advocacy and philanthropy, endows the Council with an exclusive perceptivity into the synergies between development, security, public health and counter-narcotics policy. She has previously testified before the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development and Standing Committee on National Defence in Canada, and the House of Commons' Defence Committee in the United Kingdom.

Ms MacDonald is also a member of the International Advisory Council of the International Crisis Group. In February 2007, she was awarded the First Class Medal of Merit of the Italian Red Cross for outstanding contribution to international humanitarian cooperation.

Ms MacDonald's work has been featured in a long list of publications including the Sunday Times, The Globe and Mail, The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Daily Telegraph, while she has also appeared on CNN, BBC World, CBC, CTV and Al Jazeera International.

In 2008, Ms MacDonald co-edited "Philanthropy in Europe: A rich past, a promising future" with Mr Luc Tayart de Borms, Managing Director of the King Baudouin Foundation.

Ms MacDonald is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Member of The Frontline Club.

Before founding ICOS, Ms MacDonald was a partner in the law firm Bull, Housser and Tupper. Ms MacDonald was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1997.

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