

Ms. Felice Gaer

Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*

---

Your extraordinary contributions to the causes of international human rights and the dignity of all people have changed the lives of millions around the world. Your vital work shows your deep devotion to global justice.

You are a highly respected representative of the American Jewish community. For the past 25 years you have been the director of the American Jewish Committee's Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, which builds national and international procedures and institutions to assess compliance with international human rights standards. You were appointed to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, a federal bipartisan independent working group, on which you have served for five terms, including as chair and as vice-chair.

Your voice has been instrumental in combating the evil of torture. You are the first American elected to the Committee Against Torture, an official United Nations treaty-monitoring body. For the past 18 years, and now as vice-chair, you have worked tirelessly toward ensuring that the more than 160 nation states who are parties to the Convention against Torture comply with international law. You authored the committee's ground-breaking document outlining measures and principles to prevent torture and ill-treatment of people.

You have also served on nine US delegations to United Nations human-rights negotiations, including the Beijing World Conference on Women.

You are a prolific writer, having published more than 40 articles about human rights, women's rights, freedom of religion, and torture. You co-authored *The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Conscience for the World*. You chaired the steering committee for the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and received the First Freedom Center's National Religious Freedom Award in 2010. You are a Life Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Your work is a clarion call to all nations to end torture and to preserve and uplift human rights.