Christine Bakker was born in The Hague, Netherlands on February 1\textsuperscript{st}, 1965, and obtained her degree in international public law at the University of Utrecht in 1990. In 1987, she participated in the United Nations General Assembly as youth representative in the Netherlands’ delegation.

After her graduation, she joined the Commission of the European Union in Brussels, where she worked in the Directorate-General for Development in several positions until 1998. Her main tasks were related to the programming of EU development cooperation with African, Caribbean and Pacific States in the context of the Lomé Conventions, including the human rights component of the cooperation programmes.

After a period of post-graduate studies and short-term consultancy assignments, she took up a PhD research in international criminal law at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, Italy in 2002 where she defended her thesis \textit{Towards the Effective Prosecution of International Crimes: Evolving Norms and State Practice in Argentina, Chile and Peru}, in June 2006. Currently, she has a position as Research Fellow at the EUI, where she manages a three-year collaborative research project with seven European universities on the regulation of private military security companies, with a view to ensuring their compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law. As part of the research under this project, she examines, \textit{inter alia}, how children’s rights can be affected by the use of these private companies.

Her current contribution to the Publication Series on Children and Transitional Justice, focusing the international legal framework of \textit{Prosecuting International Crimes against Children and Questions of Criminal Responsibility} is a follow-up to an earlier assignment by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. In 2005, she prepared a discussion paper on \textit{Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in Guatemala and Peru: the Children’s Perspective}, and participated in an Experts Meeting on Transitional Justice and Children held in Florence in November of that year.